



'Sure Thing' Cut For Election Board Seat

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Who'll fill the vacant seat on the county election board?
It won't necessarily be the choice of County Democratic Chairman W. M. Nicholson.
State Democratic Party Chairman John D. Larkins Jr., told The News today recommendations may come from Nicholson, the County Executive Committee (or both), or from John Q. Public.
"I will not necessarily follow the recommendation of County Democratic Chairman W. M. Nicholson in naming an election board successor to Mr. Cleve Davis," Mr. Larkins said, "nor will I necessarily follow the

recommendations of the executive committee."
His statement, exploded earlier reports that Nicholson would "personally pick" the successor to Mr. Davis, who died this week.
Larkins told The News he will accept Mr. Nicholson's recommendation as information as no indication dictates.
NO BOUNDS
Nothing, he added, binds him to follow the recommendations of any individual or group.
If there is a difference of opinion between Nicholson and the executive committee, another interparty fight in this county may break out.

There were rumblings here yesterday and today following a newspaper story that the selection is entirely up to Nicholson.
Since there have been sharp differences of opinion between Nicholson and executive committee, the outbreak could come if he fails to recommend a candidate or candidates acceptable to both factions of the party.
A similar squabble resulted between the Nicholson-backed Jack Love forces and the "old guard" supporting J. Spencer Bell for the State Senate nomination three weeks ago.
The naming of the new board member is actually tantamount to naming the chairman this

time. The new member should be the other Democratic vote, that of Ernest DeLaney, and probably the support of Republican W. T. Alexander, for chairman.
BOARD POWER
Control of the election Board could be a political plum. The board controls the realignment of precincts. If large boxes in one area favorable to a faction of the party are divided, extra strength is added to the powerful Executive Committee by the election of new precinct chairmen.
General statutes of the state including Chapter 17, Secs. 11, 12, 22 and 23, plus amend-

ments—clearly state the State Board of Elections (or the chairman of the State Board of Elections) must accept two elections recommended by the state party chairman.
The statutes do not, however, bind the state party chairman—Larkins in this case—to recommendations of anyone or any group.
USUAL CHOICE
Tradition has shown that Larkins usually abides by the recommendations of the county chairman or the county executive committee.
When the two are at odds, the problem falls squarely in the lap of the chairman of the

party.
"I know nothing of the situation in Mecklenburg," Larkins said today, "and I have not been officially notified of a vacancy."
"That would just be something I would have to work out," he said, "I must also determine if the persons recommended were qualified to serve."
The statutes also say the candidate cannot hold any elective public office, nor can he be a candidate in the primary or general election.
Since Larkins is not bound to the recommendations of either Nicholson or the execu-

tive committee, he may also consider recommendations from any individual.
In case of a showdown between candidates recommended by both sources, Larkins said he could pick a person not recommended by either.
THE METHOD
The machinery for filling a vacancy on a county board following these lines:
The county election board notifies the State Board of Elections of the vacancy.
The State Board then notifies the state party chairman that they desire two recommendations.
The state party chairman

then asks the party chairman and/or the county executive committee for two or three recommendations.
The recommendations to the state party chairman are accepted as information, but the State Board of Elections must accept the final recommendations of state party chairman.
Mr. Davis died Tuesday. Other members of the board are W. T. Alexander, a Republican, and Ernest DeLaney, a Democrat.
Since Mr. Davis was a Democrat, the process follows the Democratic Party machinery. Had he been a Republican, the process would have followed Republican machinery.

Child Killed As 400 Flee School Fire



Principal Phillips, Students Survey School Damage.

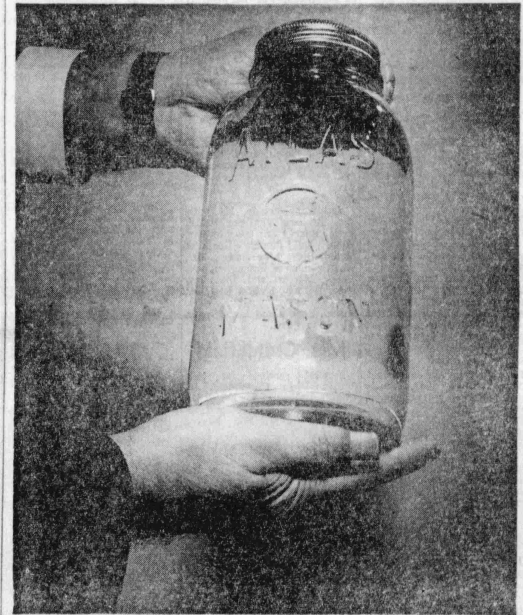
By AUSTIN ADKINSON
MOUNT AIRY (AP) — At least one of more than 400 terrified youngsters scrambled out of windows or dashed through doors as a lightning-fast fire raged through their school here yesterday.
The toll stood today at one dead and about 30 injured. The school is a smoking ruin.
Many of the grade-school children tattered fearfully on window ledges of the one-story brick building and had to be helped or pushed out.
A. P. Phillips, principal of the Flat Rock School, was proud of the way the building was cleared.
"The thing that troubles me," he reflected, a frown wrinkling his scorching forehead, "is what could we have done to keep it from happening?"
Phillips said, "We never dreamed anybody could get

Strictly Political Snapp, Shaw Busy Drafting Vandalism Bill

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Mecklenburg lost one of its favorites this week with the passing of Elections Board chairman Cleve Davis.
It was Mr. Cleve's cigar stub — was it ever a new cigar? — that became more of a Mecklenburg symbol than a hornet's nest.
IS Stashuge Lineberry going to get Judge Clarkson's appointment to the County Civil Service board?
Odds say he'll be named to take Jim McAdon's place. Jim has resigned to go south of the border.
ANOTHER puzzler: In how many countries the size of Mecklenburg in the United States will you see a court recorder taking testimony in shorthand?
WASHINGTON whirl: According to the Congressional Record, Mr. and Mrs. Rock Hudson were introduced to the Senate this week and "were greeted with applause." No soundings — except in the gallery.
QUIET Rep. Ralph Scott got in one of his few ricks in Congress this week when he inserted a cigarette tax (and, of course) editorial in the Record from a Winston-Salem newspaper.
REP. Shelton Wicker of Lee County, if it is incidental intelligence you want, became the poppa of twin boys recently.

OF THE five counties meeting their quotas for the Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Raleigh March 16, Avery County heads the list. Catawba is also one of the five. Both poll large Republican votes, and Avery is certainly one of the GOP's Tar Heel strongholds.
GOOD news from Raleigh has Gaston folks more agreeable than ever to talk about a bill which would ask the splitting of the current Gaston-Mecklenburg solicitorial district.
LOCAL stuff: Rep. Frank Snapp will confer with City Attorney John Shaw on strengthening a proposed vandalism bill suggested by the P & R Commission and J. B. Clark.
A local bar association group is working on a county office building condemnation procedure bill. And another is in the office for a change in the county auditor set up.
NEXT week is the Big Week in Raleigh. All that's gone before is so much talk as compared to the hearings joining Tuesday before the Joint Appropriations Committee.
Agencies affected by the budget will appear.
An error in the big budget book is found in operating costs for community colleges. Figure quoted was \$695,280, should have been listed as \$405,000.

US Smashes Hard At NC Moonshiners



White Lightning: A Cheap And Unholy Kick

—HARD JOB FOR THE LAW—
Moonshiners Getting Brainy
By J. P. BRADY
Special To The News
FRANKLIN — They're still laughing here in the hills about the moonshiner who came out for supplies and hasn't been able to find his still again.
Mountain moonshiners have a penchant for selecting the most inaccessible spots in the world for their operations. The last still hunt I went on required a jeep ride for some hours I thought my hip pockets were braided to the seat.
Finally, the Sheriff stopped the vehicle and announced: "We'll have to foot it from here."
To "foot it" a man needed to trace his ancestry back to about three generations of mountain goats. The ridges jutting upward like flag poles and the underbrush was thicker than Elvis' sideburns.
Between gasps for breath, the Sheriff passed on some information about mountain still-hunting:
Some moonshiners, in the more modern vein, operate chains of stills, utilizing only one copper distilling unit, lugging it from site to site as each run "gets hair on it."
Most mountain units are small ones of about 25-gallon capacity and extremely hard to detect. Coke, with its smokes, quality, is replacing wood with its telltale smoke as fuel.
The more sophisticated moonshiners scatter their purchases of supplies, particularly sugar, because large purchases at any one store draw suspicion. Most of them "travel" their supplies in no lot.
TELLTALE SIGN
A well-worn trail deep in the timber — coupled with small
See MOONSHINERS ON PAGE 7-A

401 Stills Seized In Record Roundup

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Federal agents announced today they have seized 401 bootleg whisky stills in a one-month drive on North Carolina's biggest illicit industry.
It was the largest moonshine roundup on record. Practically every county — with the notable exception of Mecklenburg — contributed to the whopping total.
Size of the stills, hit in cooperation with local officers, ranged all the way from tiny one-jar outfits to mammoth models capable of turning out thousands of gallons of corn liquor every week.
Despite the size of the dragnet, the revenuers admitted they hardly made a dent in the multi-million dollar Tar Heel bootleg business.
It is by far the largest operation in any state. Pick a month — any month — and North Carolina's eastern swamps and western thickets are likely to contribute about one-fourth of all the still seizures in America.
North Carolina stands unchallenged as the outlaw booze capital of the world, head and shoulders above Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina and Florida and such cities as New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Hundreds Pursue The 'Shiner
Some 75 agents of the Treasury Dept.'s Alcohol Tax Unit devote full time to beating the bushes for bootleggers. They receive the help of hundreds of sheriff's deputies, police officers and ABC enforcement men.
But they never succeed in damming the flow of the water-clear dynamite. The lure of fast money sends most operators back to their coke-fired boilers, back to their hopped-up saloons, back to their back-room bars as soon as they have paid their fines or served their time.
For every gallon of white liquor sold in North Carolina, the federal government loses taxes of \$10.50. In ABC counties, the state and city also lose their share of revenue.

A convicted bootlegger told a lawyer last week that sales in his dry county (which abjures Mecklenburg) average about 3,000 gallons a week.
That's \$31,500 worth of taxes being evaded in one county in one week. That's \$1,638,000 a year — in one county. That's what keeps the revenuers awake nights.
It's A Trickle In Mecklenburg
The torrent of 100-proof corn turns into a trickle in Mecklenburg. For one thing, better liquor is available in stores. For another, ABC counties also have ABC enforcers. Mecklenburg is 10, headed by knowledgeable Enforcement Chief Henry Severs.
As for illegally-sold tax-paid liquor, ABC stores have cut the traffic by cutting the incentive.
"ABC stores have removed the big-time tax-paid liquor dealers," Chief Severs says.
"It would be like carrying coals to Newcastle," adds Asst. ATU Supervisor Fred Mercer. "No point in it any more."
Still, some 35-40 arrests are made in Mecklenburg each month. Who are they? Most of them are dealers in white lightning, runners who haul the liquor into Charlotte from stills in adjoining counties. It sells to folks who like their liquor cheap and their luck unholy.
In 1956, only one still was found in Mecklenburg, a laughable little jar-and-a-half model hidden in a slum attic. Last week, one more was knocked off, a "submarine" still off York Rd. near the Catwba.
That can't compare with rural counties like Wilkes, traditional center of Tar Heel moonshining, where hardly a day goes by without a still-busting.

Miss Julia Alexander Dies; Rites Tomorrow

Funeral services for Miss Julia M. Alexander, North Carolina's first woman legislator and one of Charlotte's best known and most colorful citizens, will be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Harry and Bryant Chapel in the Oaks.
She died today at 8:15 a.m. in a local hospital after an illness of five months.
Her pastor, Dr. E. Lee Stoffel, minister of First Presbyterian Church, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Walter Walsh, Interim minister.
Miss Alexander, a member of one of Charlotte's oldest families, was born in Mecklenburg County, daughter of the late Sidsenham B. and Violet Nicholson Alexander. She lived at 1226 Myrtle Ave. A licensed attorney, Miss Alex-

Miss Julia Alexander Dies; Rites Tomorrow

ander attended the University of North Carolina Law School, University of Michigan and the Columbia University Law School. She practiced law here for a number of years.
Miss Alexander was elected the first president of the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women in 1919 and became first regent of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1924.
She had the distinction of being the first woman to be elected to the state House of Representatives. She held office for two years from 1925 to 1927.
Miss Alexander was appointed official Mecklenburg County historian and was one of a group of local citizens instrumental in having the historic United States Mint here rebuilt as the Mint Museum.
As a representative of the National Bar Association, she went to Britain as a guest of the Brit-

Abe Bogan Will Seek City Council Seat

The City Council got its first new candidate today with the announcement to The News by C. M. (Abe) Bogan that he would offer for election in the spring.
A vacancy has been created by a previous announcement by Councilman Jim Smith that he would seek the mayoralty now held by Mayor Phil Van Every. Mayor Van Every will not seek reelection.
Mr. Bogan, a native Mecklenburg who lives at 3916 Tuckasee Rd., has been active in city and county political activities in recent years but never has run for public office.
FIVE REASONS
"After much thought and consideration," he said today, "I have decided to become a candidate."
See BOGAN ON PAGE 7-A



MR. BOGAN

World News Roundup On Page 8A
See MISS ON PAGE 7-A

Our Weather
Partly cloudy today, mostly cloudy with scattered showers tonight and tomorrow.
Low this morning—32.
Low tomorrow morning—42.
High today—62.
High yesterday—59.
High tomorrow—56.
Sunrise today 6:00 a.m.; sunset today 6:13 p.m.
More Weather Data on Page 7-A

See 401 STILLS ON PAGE 7-A