

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Repeal Absentee Ballot Law

IN 1939 the North Carolina Legislature reacted to the abuses of the absentee ballot law by abolishing it in the primary election. No absentee voting in North Carolina primaries has been permitted since except for men and women in the armed services.

The wisdom of that action of the Legislature was emphasized again this week by the Graham County scandal, a situation which Secretary of State Thad Eure has characterized as a "disgrace to the State of North Carolina." Eure raised the question by charging that absentee ballots are being sold for as much as \$85 a piece in a hotly contested race for sheriff in Graham County.

While outlawed in the primaries, absentee voting in a general election is permitted for those who are ill, those who will be away on election day and service people. In Graham County elections are held under a special act which allows any one who may be unable to vote on election day to obtain and cast an absentee vote.

Although Graham County has a small population, the election board reports that 342 absentee ballots had been delivered to civilians and 84 to members of the armed services through October.

By contrast, W. C. Davis, chairman of the Mecklenburg Election Board, reports that his office had issued only 40 absentee ballots up to yesterday afternoon, the 40 including ballots requested by service people. The comparison becomes more impressive when compared with Graham's total of 2,970 votes in the 1952 general election while Mecklenburg was casting 77,388.

Attorney General McMillan moved with commendable dispatch in sending the State Bureau of Investigation into action in Graham County. Those guilty of buying and selling absentee ballots or otherwise resorting to election fraud should be prosecuted and punished.

And, in order to remove the invitation to fraud that the absentee ballot offers, the system should be repealed by the next Legislature. Only service men and women should be allowed to use the absentee ballot in any North Carolina election.

Protecting The Tar Heel Worker

THAT twitch of alarm over proposals for a reduction in workmen's compensation insurance rates in North Carolina was uncalled for. The recommendations simply meant that loss ratios have been reduced somewhat—due to a large extent to fewer industrial accidents in the state. The changes, if approved, will not decrease benefits. The actual amount of compensation is set by statute.

Proposed rate reductions average 2.8 per cent and would save policy holders an estimated \$429,000 a year. Hearings on the new schedule will be held Oct. 11 in Raleigh.

If current loss ratios are such that rate reductions are possible, appropriate changes should be made in the insurance schedules. But something that calls for even greater concern is Tar Heels' is the woefully inadequate scale of benefits the law now allows in this state.

For total disability, the present act provides payment of a weekly compensa-

tion to an employee of "not more than \$30 up to a maximum of \$3,000. In modern times, this sum comes nowhere near offering the worker the protection he needs and deserves—to maintain himself and his family and regain his health.

When misfortune strikes and a man is injured on the job, a crushing weight falls upon his shoulders. As things stand now, when the worker has no savings, he may even have to become dependent upon private charity or public relief.

This outdated law needs a complete overhaul job when the General Assembly meets in 1955. One Mecklenburg legislator, Arthur Goodman, has already announced that he will renew his support of liberal changes. We hope other members of the county's delegation will follow suit. Needless to say, North Carolina needs a new schedule of benefits even more than it needs new workmen's compensation insurance rates.

Do Write-In Candidates Ever Win?

THE ANGRY voices echoing out of South Carolina's political combat posts today are attracting an audience throughout the South. Political scientists as well as politicians are awaiting the outcome. What began as a family feud within the state's Democratic Party has developed into a wide-open, free-swinging brawl of historic proportions.

At stake, of course, is the Senate seat of the late Burnet R. Maybank. Sen. Maybank died Sept. 1 after winning renomination without opposition in the regular June 6 primary. But instead of calling a new primary before the November 2 general election, the State Democratic Executive Committee simply named State Sen. Edgar A. Brown as the party's official candidate on the November ballot.

An immediate howl went up and former Gov. Strom Thurmond entered the race as a write-in candidate. Ordinarily, this would be a cut-and-dried matter. In Democratic South Carolina, the party's standard bearers usually win automatic rubber stamp approval in general elections.

But this is no ordinary race. Mr. Thurmond has attracted powerful support throughout the state. Some political pundits are predicting that he will win in November.

This is what is raising eyebrows throughout Dixie and the nation. Library of Congress files can produce no example of a successful write-in campaign in a major race since 1900. If Mr. Thurmond wins he will be making modern political history.

There have been some famous attempts to stage write-in victories in the past. The most spectacular try came in 1952 in the Minnesota presidential primary.

Gen. Eisenhower received 108,372 write-ins versus 128,134 for Harold E. Stassen, whose name was on the ballot. Two weeks ago 80 voters in Colorado's Pitkin County reached all the way across the country for a write-in candidate. They used the name of Republican Rep. John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania in what was an organized protest to the upper Colorado River development. Cards had been distributed prior to a congressional primary naming Saylor as "Pitkin County's best friend in Washington in the water diversion fight."

Rep. Wm. Askin of Colorado just before an election in 1946. After his father died in 1946, the Georgia General Assembly named young Herman governor. But the State Supreme Court decided later that M. E. Thompson was Georgia's legal governor and that the legislature had no authority to rule otherwise. Herman had to wait another year to become an official candidate for the office.

This is not the first time South Carolina has been faced with the death of a member of Congress just before an election. Rep. Hampton Pitts Fulmer died Oct. 19, 1944, after being renominated without opposition. But the governor, then Olin Johnston, ordered a primary in the state's second district for Nov. 2, 1944, before the general election. He could do it in 1944. John Jacob Riley won out in a three-way race.

Today the cards have been shuffled a different way. Mr. Thurmond will not only be battling Mr. Brown. He will be battling tradition too.

WE GOT SHOES

YOU can find Southerners about almost anything, but not about shoes. We are sensitive about our feet. The citizenry of Hickory is described as "miffed" (and so remarks made by Mrs. Hilda Widner Yoder to a Broadway columnist. Mrs. Yoder is a native of Catawba County but is now a resident of New York City and the originator of the Yoder Reading Improvement Center in that city's fashionable East Side.

Her idea—and we think we can prove it—is that the men who made the best footprints on those sands didn't wear shoes. A shoe is hardly the criterion of a civilized man. Take David, Solomon, Pericles, Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Caesar, Asoka, Gautama Buddha, Mohammed, St. Francis of Assisi, Gandhi and so on; they didn't wear shoes—sands may be that they could scuff off at a moment's notice, but not shoes. On the other hand Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin were confirmed shoe-wearers, but you would hardly call them civilized. We wear shoes down South because pavements are hot in summer and cold in winter. But there's no sense in our equating shoes with culture or bare feet with barbarity.

Lives of great men all remind us. We can make our lives sublime, And departing leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time.

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Like Father, Like Son

By BILL MAULDIN In The Reporter

HAROLD ROSS, the late editor of the New Yorker, once told me how he managed to stay off radio programs. "I'm a pro-life... by nature," he said, "and whenever one of those literary round tables or something would call up, I'd say, 'Who told you I'll be glad to sit on your panel or whatever the hell you call it.'"

"I'd go on like this for a couple more sentences — it didn't take much—and the... never would call back. The word got around that I couldn't draw a breath without cursing and I haven't been bothered in years." The former was just a canny, old hand to Ross because he had years of practice on me. But having known a number of copywriters and migrant fruit pickers in my tenderest youth, having lived in several boarding houses during my years, and having spent five years in the Army's finishing school, I can turn the atmosphere a fair shade of purple myself. Without any conscious effort that is, it just rolls out conversationally, so that the listener doesn't think until three or four harmless words later.

My wife is understanding about my affliction and appreciates how hard I sit on my tongue in mixed gatherings containing few or a few strangers, even though I might let go a little when I've known them for an hour or so. However, she has been warning me for years that the real embarrassment would become mine, not hers, when our children are growing up.

She was right. BADDY IS NUTS I managed to get my eldest son, now a first grader, pretty well straightened out last year, before he was able to corrupt two more kindergarten playmates and precipitate my warning notes to me from his teacher. "The former was just a canny, old hand to Ross because he had years of practice on me. But having known a number of copywriters and migrant fruit pickers in my tenderest youth, having lived in several boarding houses during my years, and having spent five years in the Army's finishing school, I can turn the atmosphere a fair shade of purple myself. Without any conscious effort that is, it just rolls out conversationally, so that the listener doesn't think until three or four harmless words later.

"But I heard you say it, Daddy." "I did not say it. I said, 'Got damaged!'" "What got damaged?" "Helo, Montana." "Oh." "Or maybe I said 'Got down.'"

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON INSIDE story has never been told of how the railroads pressured President Eisenhower to cut their taxes or subsidize them as the big airlines. This led to a backstage study of the nation's transportation problems, which has already brought on suggestions to create a new Cabinet post to be called "secretary of transportation."

NAACP Headquarters In Washington, D. C.

AS a public service, please print the correct mailing address of the National Association for Advancement of White People. I am sure many in this section of the country would be interested.

—RALPH JONES The address of the National Association for Advancement of White People is 1319 F. St., Washington, D. C.—Editors, The News.

Eisenhower Team Isn't Keeping Faith

THANKS a lot for your editorial in putting the record straight on Vice President Nixon's false claims of kicking out of government thousands of Reds.

Right on the heels of this comes some more political double-crossing. The Eisenhower "hand-wagon" is loaded to the top with it.

A depressing and playing right down feed Russia's alley with this shameful, goofy desertization law.

I like and his so-called team loved America half as good as they should; you wouldn't be reading this hearing of the slanders against our public school systems are being subjected to.

Since when has it become necessary for the United States to aid and abet in civil strife to please some group of fools overseas? The Eisenhower team isn't really keeping faith with the American people.

His "hand wagon" is a false alarm. I'm sure many people already recognize it as such. For the sake of the nation, I hope enough of them do.

—S. C. McMANUS

More Information About Jerry Fowler

EDITOR, THE NEWS: REF: Mr. Donald MacDonald's article in the Monday afternoon paper about Jerry Fowler.

This is the first time that I have written a letter or note to anyone connected with a newspaper, but after reading your article in Monday's Charlotte News I just felt that I would have to write and commend you on your writing ability, your insight, and a keen sense of humor. I am of course referring to the article on the Boy Walking in his Sleep and Falling from the Window. I certainly received many hearty laughs. As I previously stated I would like to commend you on this article but as a daily reader of the Charlotte News I feel that perhaps I might be of some assistance to you on a sequel to the

A Look Into The Future

THE Vanishing Negro From Time Magazine

THE American Negro, says Zoologist Curt Stern of the University of California in his new book, "The Negro: Disappearance through racial diffusion." As a group of mankind, American Negroes are relatively young. They have existed for only 300 years, and are already notably mixed. Dr. Stern figures that about two-thirds of their genetic material (heredity) comes from Africa, about one-third from Europe. More than 78 per cent of American Negroes have some non-African genes; by 1880 there will be hardly a single U. S. Negro of pure African descent.

There will still be plenty of dark-skinned Negroes, but skin color, though the rest of the Negro is a superficial characteristic rather than a dependable indicator of racial origin. The workings of heredity produce many dark-skinned Negroes with thin lips and many light-skinned ones with thick lips. Skin type is as mixed as the person now living, says Dr. Stern, "could return at that distance time, he would ask himself: 'What became of the Negro?'"

People's Platform

previous article that was written by you. All the facts that I am now giving to you can be verified.

1. Jerry was injured in an automobile wreck on April 4, 1954 in which he spent 18 days in the hospital. He is in the hospital now for an indefinite time.

2. Jerry has been—now is—and for some time will be under a doctor's care as he was still receiving treatment when he died.

3. The injury that he received was in his forehead and required 89 stitches to close the wound.

4. Since the automobile accident he has constantly complained with severe headaches and his eyes watering. His nerves are bad and it is almost impossible to get him to eat as he has no appetite.

5. His broken left arm and a limb of a tree approximately the size of a mop handle in his right hip. It is extending approximately 5 1/2 inches deep and 3/4 inches protruding.

How do I know so much about Jerry? I have been out the window. I am his father and we are as close together as any father and son can be. I thought that possibly you might need some more information and perhaps I could fill in. Some joke don't you think.

—W. O. FOWLER

Ministers Urged To Pray For Rain

EDITORS, THE NEWS: I BEGHS charge to the ministers of the Charlotte churches do not seize this precious opportunity and privilege to call on Almighty God for their supplicants for rain—relief from this terrible drought.

Who is it that sends the sunshine and the rain and has done it all these thousands of years? Who is it that says, "Call unto me, and I will answer." (Isa. 45: 1, 2; Matt. 7: 8.)

What an opportunity for them to demonstrate their belief in praying. Let them pray until blessings to their people.

The Lord God of Elijah is not dead.

2 Kings, Chapters 17 and 18.) God have mercy on us and on His servants, our ministers.

—F. L. MARTIN

'Go Slow' Before Fluoridating Water

FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Dr. A. L. Miller, a former U. S. Surgeon General and now congressman from the State of Nebraska, was one of the two physicians of the seven-man congressional committee appointed by the Congress of the United States to investigate the question of fluoridating drinking water.

Seven days of public hearings were devoted to this question. Eighteen witnesses, qualified by training and background, representing both sides of the question, presented their views and recommendations. The committee was unanimous in its recommendation that communities GO SLOW before fluoridating water supplies.

The year before, Dr. Miller had introduced a bill in Congress to permit the use of fluorine to add fluoride to its water supply. After serving on the committee and hearing all the evidence by experts on the subject, he arose on the floor of Congress and said he was convinced that he was wrong. This is his statement: "I can say to my colleagues quite frankly that until I had the opportunity of hearing all the experts on this question, I thought fluorine added to the water supply would balance the loss and further dilute the Negro population."

After centuries, says Dr. Stern, most of the original African genes will be widely dispersed in the numerically dominant white population. Their incorporation will make no change except a slight darkening of the national skin. Eventually, there will be a few thousand black people in each generation, and they will probably have straight hair, thick lips and thin noses.

An answer has come back from the Hoover Commission on the other hand, will issue an exactly opposite report. Like can take his choice.

Quote, Unquote

Henry Peck says in his house everything he says goes. In one ear and out the other—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times-News.

Pome In Which Is Revealed How the American Government Attained Personal Equanimity: Be a man, for goodness sake, and admit a few mistakes.—Atlanta Journal.

Washington Pipeline

The courts-martial of the two corporals who were coaxed back from the Communist side in Korea after the Dickenson and Claude Batcher—only the beginning. The Army is preparing to court-martial the two corporals down from 200, all accused of aiding the enemy while they were POW's. The Justice Department has been given the case files of a dozen other men, now civilians. —The recent Soviet Hi-bomb test showered Japan with radioactivity far higher than that registered after the American tests. Yet the Japanese press was so busy stirring up anti-American frenzy over the death of fisherman Aikichi Kuboyama, the so-called American H-bomb victim, that it hardly mentioned the Russian-caused radioactivity. Actually, Kuboyama did not die of radioactive poisoning, but of yellow jaundice which he picked up from infected blood after a transfusion. This was why American doctors were never permitted to examine him.

Rails Want Airways Fed From Same Spoon

WASHINGTON Two weeks later, a confidential file of particulars, entitled "government policies adversely affecting railroads," was laid on his desk.

This complained about the "selective diversion of the better-paying government freight, passenger, and mail traffic to subsidize competitors of the railroads," meaning the airlines.

Three Government Offenders

The report named three chief offenders: The Defense Dept., General Services Administration, and Commerce Department. The railroads made three main suggestions:

- 1. The big airlines must be required to pay their own way, or the railroads must be subsidized.
2. The airlines must be taxed more or the railroads taxed less.
3. The railroads must be regulated less or at least their competitors must be regulated equally.
The President glanced over the report, then shunted it to the heads of the General Services Administration and Commerce Department. This private memo was attached.
"Memo for Gabriel Hauze: I should like you to make a careful analysis of this paper and give me a report on the entire subject. I am particularly anxious

Wilson Says No

Hauze promptly sent the report around to the three government departments that the railroads had complained about. So far, an answer has come back from Secretary of Defense Wilson denying the charges.

As evidence that the Defense Department was not against the railroads, Wilson submitted the following statistics: the railroads have handled 58.9 per cent of the defense freight traffic and 55.2 per cent of defense passenger traffic. In answer to another complaint, Wilson said he was planning to increase airfreight rentals from \$3,000 to \$12,000. It was also Wilson who suggested creating a post of "cabinet status," who should be over all phases of transportation problems, not just economic problems and economic regulations. Meanwhile, a cabinet committee has been set up to study the railroad problem. A similar study has been undertaken by the Hoover Commission under

He seemed impressed. He had the