THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Largest Evening Newspaper In The Two Carolinas

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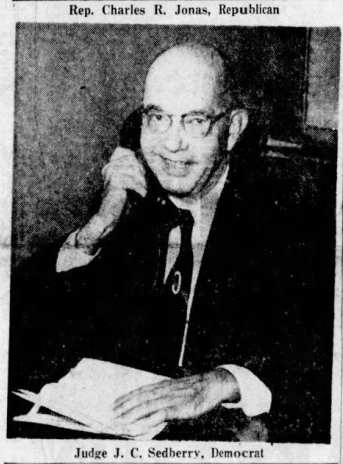
Congress Control At Stake

BALLOTING HEAVY ACROSS NATION

Rep. Charles R. Jonas, Republican



Judge J. C. Sedberry, Democrat

Mecklenburg's Voting Heavy By Mid-Day

Turnout Of 35,000 Or More Indicated

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Following an early hour splurge which saw Mecklenburg County voters going to the polls in on-year fashion, the weather and off-year trends balanced the books around noon today.

However, voting continued heavy for an off-year election in most precincts with indications of the largest off-year vote in county history. Upwards of 35,000 or more voters may go to the polls today with 10,362 voters already finished with their voting by 12 o'clock.

(See tabulation of early voting by precincts on page 6-A.)

Total registration is set at 87,962 and more than 12 per cent of the registered voters have already voted. The 10,362 voters represent 40 precincts with registration at 61,810. That means that at noon today one-sixth of the registered voters reported have already cast their votes.

CONGRESSIONAL RACE

The torrid race between Congressman Charles Raper Jonas of Lincolnton and Democratic candidate Judge J. C. Sedberry of Charlotte is credited with bringing out the vote.

Both candidates worked overtime during the last days of the campaign in an effort to bring out the vote.

Today's inclement weather cut the vote during the mid-morning hours. In the first two hours of balloting, the voting was heavy. After two-hours the count in 21 of 52 precincts showed 3,196 had voted.

However, light drizzle turned to heavy rian. Around noon the weather cleared here and the sun broke through the heavy, overcast skies.

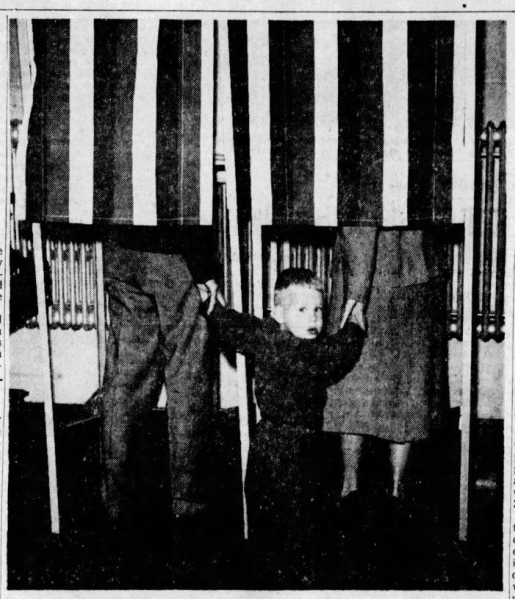
In the rest of the district rain fell in most places and in the mountain counties there was rain and light snow in some places.

The biggest voting this morning took place at Myers Park High School. A total of 2,633 voters are registered here and 688 turned out during the first five hours the polls were opened.

This box gave Mr. Jonas a wide margin (786-151) over Democratic incumbent Hamilton Jones last time. However, the precinct has been consolidated with another in the rearrangement of precincts.

Other large votes this morning were at Elizabeth School (550), Myers Park Elementary School (539), Sharon School (528) Dilworth

See EARLY on page 6-A



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin's—Franklin)

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT about anyway? Little Charles Shaw just can't get excited about the hustle and bustle of election day. While his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Shaw of 1829 Cochran Pl., cast their votes, 20-month-old Charles waits patiently outside the booths at Plaza School.

Fears Of Voter Apathy Lifted

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON—(AP)—America's millions chose today between Republicans and Democrats to control the new Congress. And first reports from the polling places indicated neither party had reason for concern over voter apathy—something both had said they feared.

How much the last minute get-out-the-vote prodding by President Eisenhower, Adlai Stevenson and other leaders on both sides had to do with it was uncertain, but fragmentary early surveys suggested heavy ballot boxes. Both parties had insisted in advance that such reports would be good news for them.

Actually there was no certainty that even the heat of the closing drives by the two parties had much to do with it. All along there had been some observers who clung to the view the voters had already made up their minds and were indifferent only to the politicians' pleas.

Whatever the reason, there were indications of a heavier than anticipated vote in eastern population centers soon after the pools opened. And the trend appeared to be running that way westward across the country.

30 PER CENT BY 11

In New York City's Manhattan and Bronx districts, 30 per cent of the registered voters had cast ballots by 11 a.m. although it was raining and cold. The percentage was the same as had voted at that hour in ideal weather in last year's mayoralty election.

In Brooklyn, voting started at a slower pace but soon picked up speed.

Leading figures in both parties took the view that disagreeable weather throughout New York state would not affect the voting materially.

"Extremely heavy" was the report on early voting in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs of Washington. The capital itself is voteless.

In the 10th Virginia congressional district just across the Potomac from the capital, the early balloting was reported much heavier than normal for an off year with no presidential race. There was a bitter contest for the district's House seat between Republican Joel T. Broyhill and Democrat John C. Webb.

Some election judges were predicting a voting record there.

From the biggest precinct in Prince Georges County, Md., just outside the District of Columbia, came a report of "terrificaily heavy" balloting with over 200 votes in the first hour out of a registration of about 3,000.

A judge at one of the boxes in populous Silver Spring, Md., said the first hour count was the highest he had ever seen. At another box over 20 per cent of the eligibles had voted in the first hour.

In the Baltimore metropolitan district, election officials described the vote as "unexpectedly heavy."

In Chicago, the first hour's voting

See BALLOTING on page 6-A

MR. THURMOND

MR. BROWN

Write-In Race Will Feature S. C. Election

COLUMBIA (AP) — A hard-fought U. S. Senate race was decided today by the voters in a contest unprecedented in South Carolina politics.

Two write-In candidates opposed the Democratic nominee, with the race developing between former Gov. Strom Thurmond, write-in candidate, and State Sen. Edgar A. Brown, Democratic party nominee.

Florence and Dillon lumberman Marcus A. Stone was in the race, also as a write-in candidate. Only Brown's name was on ballots and voting machines as people began voting at 8 a.m. Polls in the state's 1,569 precincts closed at 6 p.m.

The closest thing to an official estimate of the vote was Secretary of State O. Frank Thornton's guess of not more than 200,000. It was the first time in state history that a formidable write-in vote was in prospect in a state - wide race.

PROTEST

Thurmond and Stone announced as write-in candidates in protest after the State Democratic Executive Committee selected Brown as the party nominee.

The selection came Sept. 3, deadline for filing candidates' names with election officials, and three days after the unexpected death of Sen. Burnet R. Maybank, who had been renominated without opposition in the June Democratic primary.

The committee said there was

See WRITE-IN on page 6-A

9th District Charges Seem 'Coincidence,' Says Jordan

Commenting on charges that local election boards in North Carolina's 9th District are "absolutely defiant of the law," former State Democratic Chairman B. Everett Jordan said today it is "something of a coincidence" that the charge should be made on election morning just as voters are going to the polls.

The charge was made last night in Washington by Samuel H. Still, staff member of the House Campaign Investigations Committee.

Still, who investigated Republican complaints of irregularities in the district's election machinery, also said he had been "intimidated as to my further federal employment" by Democratic sources since he returned to Washington Sunday.

He declined to name who had intimidated him but said he was told via telephone that the sources would exert effort to block his further employment in Washington. He said he has reported the incident to the FBI.

As to the boards being "defiant," Still said he was not allowed to see certain records in parts of the 9th District despite rulings by state-level officials.

Still specifically said county officials in Taylorsville refused to allow him to see absentee voter applications on "the very day that the State Election Board had said the records were public property."

He added, "They pleaded ignorance of the ruling."

Mr. Jordan said that he was not familiar with the details of Still's charges or with the Republicans' massive vote challenge in the 9th District.

He pointed out that Still was the agent of a committee of a GOP - controlled Congress. "I don't know what sort of credentials Still presented," said Jordan. "But any election official would be perfectly justified in demanding proof of proper authority before opening up the books to anyone who walks in from Washington and asks to look at them."

Jordan added that he believed the average politician and the average election official were honest. He called it "fantastic" that the Republicans should challenge 14,000 votes in one district. "I never heard of such a thing in my life," he said.

S. P. Kimmel, head of the committee staff, said as a result of Still's investigation, the committee was telling all county election boards in the district to impound absentee ballots and related records. Incumbent Rep. Hugh Q. Alexander Jr. (D-NC) is opposed by William E. Stevens Jr., Republican. GOP officials have challenged between 10,000 and 14,000 registrations in the 9th District.

After his investigation, Still reported that the committee had been told there was a 10 per cent absentee ballot in some rural sections of the district.

Some of the boards have reported

See HASSLE on page 6-A

Snow Hurts GOP In 9th

BOONE (AP)—Snow fiel in Western North Carolina during today's voting and Clyde R. Greene of Boone, State Republican secretary, said this would work against Republicans in the Ninth Congressional District race.

He predicted that the district vote would be 75,000, down 15,000 from pre-election estimates.

Early this afternoon Greene said there was a "near blizzard" in Boone with four to five inches of snow on the ground and the fall continuing.

He said the weather would hamper the Republicans, who are normally strong in the western mountain counties, some of which are in the district.

Rep. Hugh Q. Alexander seeks his second two-year term as the Democratic candidate against Republican William E. Stevens Jr., Lenoir furniture executive.

Up To 8 Inches Snow Falls In Mountains

ASHEVILLE (AP) — A snowfall ranging up to eight inches in depth halted travel at higher elevations in western North Carolina early today as the Weather Bureau predicted more snow and subfreezing temperatures for Asheville.

The city escaped with half an inch of snow last night but Frank C. Hood, official in charge of the bureau, said up to four inches of the white stuff would be recorded before the day is out.

A low temperature between 18 and 24 degrees is expected here tonight as winter threw its preliminary blows.

The Blue Ridge Parkway was closed all the way to Roanoke, Va., early today and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was virtually "snowed in" by a blanket of white ranging up to an unofficial eight inches.

IMPASSABLE

The highway across Newfound Gap was impassable even with chains, according to officials at park headquarters at Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Snowfall had reached between four and six inches at the gap by 9:30 a.m. and it was still snowing at last reports.

Soco Gap had a fall of 4½ inches by 9:30 a.m. and the fire lookout at "High Rocks," deep in the Smokies, reported eight inches of snow there.

It was snowing hard at Gatlinburg by mid-morning but only half-an-inch of snow had covered the ground there by early morning. It rained during the night.

The ranger station at Cataloochee reported more than 4½ inches by 8 a.m.

Blue Ridge Parkway rangers said up to eight inches of snow had fallen at Doughton Park with lesser amounts at other points along the route.

Mt. Mitchell had six inches of snow on the ground.

Wind Warnings Up On Southeast Coast

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Small craft warnings were ordered posted today at 11 a.m. from Cape Hatteras, N.C., south to Vero Beach, Fla., and on Florida's west coast east of St. Marks to Fort Myers.

The Weather Bureau, in its advisory, predicted "increasing southwest and west winds becoming fresh to moderately strong, from 20 to 30 miles per hour, shifting to northwest and north this afternoon and tonight."

CATALOOCHEE DEMOCRATIC IN 7-0 VOTE

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. (AP)— Tiny Cataloochee Precinct in the Great Smoky Mountains reported all of its seven registered voters cast straight Democratic ballots this morning. It was the first western North Carolina precinct to report.

The returns were obtained from the snow-covered mountainside by telephone, with the conversation relayed over Forest Service lines and finally through Tennessee to Waynesville.

Snow was expected to keep many registered voters away from the polls. At Soco Gap this morning, a 4½ - inch blanket covered the ground. Max Patch reported 5½ inches at 9:30 a.m., Mount Pisgah 4 inches and Fines Creek 4 inches.

(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin's—Franklin)

MRS. KEITH MRS. SNELL

They could have used a little heat at the Fireman's Hall this morning. Mrs. R. J. Snell and Mrs. E. R. Keith kept as warm as possible as they worked at the polls. The oil stove conked out, so they rigged up the electric heater.

VOTERS GET COLD POLL AT THE FIREMEN'S HALL

Where there was smoke there was no fire—and that was the trouble at Firemen's Hall this morning.

Precinct 17's Firemen's Hall location actually turned out to be the drill tower this morning when Registrar Mrs. R. J. Snell reported for duty. The tall, drafty brick structure, used as a practice fire fighting building for the firemen, was mighty cold.

Mrs. Snell lighted a kerosene stove to warm the place, but minutes later she and her crew were smoked out.

Firemen gallantly rushed to her aid. They provided an electric heater, she sent home for one more, and the pollsters worked in relatively—smoky smelling—comfort the rest of the morning.

W. C. Harris, Ex-Judge, Dies

RALEIGH (AP)—Judge W.C. Harris of Raleigh, senior Superior Court judge in point of service at the time of his retirement about a month ago, died at a Raleigh hospital early today.

Judge Harris, 68, had been in poor health for some time. In the past year, he underwent surgery twice for a throat ailment.

Gov. Umstead placed Harris on the retired list effective Oct. 1. The veteran jurist had served as a Superior Court judge for more than 27 years. In his request for retirement, Harris said he was leaving the bench because of poor health.

Harris, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, was elected judge of Raleigh City Court in 1912. He held that post until Jan. 1, 1927, when he took the oath as judge of the Seventh Judicial District.

He was a leader in the movement which resulted in the establishment of a state probation commission in 1937, and served on the commission until several years ago.

Judge Harris was married to the former Juliet Crews, who died in 1951. He is survived by two children, W. C. Harris Jr., a Raleigh attorney, and Mrs. A. S. Badger of Raleigh.

OUR WEATHER

Clearing this afternoon. Fair and colder tonight. Fair and continued cold tomorrow.

Low temperature this morning, 43 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight, 28 degrees.

High temperature yesterday, 58 degrees.

High temperature expected today, 52 degrees.

High temperature expected tomorrow, 56 degrees.

Sunrise 6:45 a.m.; sunset 5:28 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 6-A

WHAT'S INSIDE

TEAM OF THE WEEK is Duke's Blue Devils, according to The News' sports writers. Read about Bill Murray's team on page 4-B.

Business	3B	Obituaries	10B
Classified	7-9B	Radio & TV	3B
Comics	6B	Serial	12A
Crossword	2B	Sports	4-5B
Editorials	4A	Theaters	6A
Features	2B	Women	10-11A

EVENING PRAYER

Wonderful God, from whom we have come, by whom we live, to whom we go, remind us of Thy great power which made the heavens and the earth. Remind us of Thy great love, which in tenderness watches over us. Save us from the sin of forgetting Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Give The United Way Through Your United Appeal — Give Once And For All