



DEAD MAN CALLED 366,000 VOTES IN NOV. ELECTION FOR KEY N.C. JOB

By JULIAN SCHEER Charlotte News Staff Writer

A dead man polled 366,752 votes for a high state office in North Carolina last month. The News learned today.

Grover C. Robbins, a Republican from Blowing Rock who ran for Secretary of State, died on June 24. Robbins' name was never withdrawn by the Republican Party in the state and ballots with his name were printed two months after his death.

Robbins received 366,752 votes, running second to Democratic winner Thad Eure who got 737,266 votes.

Robbins was a prominent developer in the state and owned the famous scenic attraction, Blowing Rock. His death on June 24 was given prominence in the state press.

Raymond Maxwell, chairman of the State Board of Elections, was informed of the unique situation by The News today.

"I was not aware of it," he said.

Mr. Robbins carried 13 of the state's 100 counties in the November general election, including his home county of Watauga in which he was best known.

He received 23,176 votes in Mecklenburg County as compared to Eure's 40,344.

He carried Watauga by 4,092 to 3,775 votes. Other counties which gave him the margin were Avery, Alexander, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Graham, Henderson, Mitchell, Randolph, Wilkes and Yadkin.

The ballots with Mr. Robbins' name on them were not printed until last August. The first printing was the absentee ballot, followed in September by the printing of the November general election ballot.

Despite the two months which elapsed from the time of Mr. Robbins' death to the printing of the ballots, apparently no one notified the Elections Board.

Had notification come to the board, the Republican executive committee in the state either could have named a successor to Mr. Robbins or left the position

vacant on the ballot.

Ray Jennings of Taylorsville, state chairman of the party, told The News he knew of Mr. Robbins' death and "thought" the State Board had been notified. He did not notify the board, he said, and was under the impression that J. E. Holshouser had notified the board.

Mr. Holshouser lives in Boone, not far from Mr. Robbins' home, and is a Republican member of the State Board of Elections. He told The News he, too, knew of the death but said it was not his responsibility to tell the board.

One of Mr. Robbins' sons, Harry Robbins, postmaster at Blowing Rock, told The News today he "understood" that Marcus Hickman, chairman of the Republican Party in Mecklenburg, was to notify proper authorities.

Mr. Hickman was out of town today and could not be reached for comment.

Under the state's election laws, according to Mr. Maxwell, the votes cast for Mr. Robbins are officially recorded. Had he died after the ballot had been printed

and another person named as his successor on the ballot (but though Robbins' name still appeared), the votes cast would count for the successor.

Mr. Maxwell said he knew of no other case such as this in the state's history, although candidates have died or resigned between primaries and general elections.

Maxwell also added he did not know what the Attorney-General's ruling would be had Mr. Robbins won the election.

"It was up to the Republican Party to let the Elections Board know of this," he said. "It looks like they're passing the buck now."

Chairman Jennings told The News he thought, at the time of Mr. Robbins' death, it was "too late" to do anything because he thought the ballots had already been printed.

"Besides," he said, "it (news of Mr. Robbins' death) was in all the papers." Eure said today he was not aware Mr. Robbins was dead until after the general election.



GROVER CLEVELAND ROBBINS (AP Photos)

N. C. Press Noted Death Of Robbins

The death of 78-year-old Grover Cleveland Robbins received prominence in the state's newspapers.

Mr. Robbins, a former mayor of Blowing Rock, died in a Blowing Rock hospital of a heart attack on Sunday June 24 and was buried in the cemetery of the Reform Church of Blowing Rock the following Tuesday.

Mr. Robbins, who was educated in a one-room schoolhouse and later for two years in high school, was a leader in civic, business and school development in the area.

He served as mayor of Blowing Rock for nine terms and was

SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR U. S. SENATOR, STATE OFFICERS AND CONGRESSMAN

- INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER
1. To vote a straight party ticket, make a cross (X) mark in the circle of the party you desire to vote for.
2. To vote a split ticket, or in other words for candidates of different parties, omit making a cross mark (X) in the party circle at the top of the ballot and mark in the voting square opposite the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom you wish to vote.
3. If you should mark in the party circle at the top of the ballot and also mark opposite the name of any candidate of any party, such ballot shall be counted as a straight party vote for all of the candidates of the party whose name the cross mark (X) is placed in the party circle.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN FOR A STRAIGHT TICKET
MARK WITH THIS TICKLE
LUTHER H. HODGES
LUTHER E. BARNHARDT
THAD EURE
HENRY L. BRIDGES
MARK WITH THIS TICKLE
KYLE HAYES
JOE A. DINN
GROVER C. ROBBINS
WILLIAM WHITE

Robbers Win With Kidnap

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Two bandits kidnaped a young bank teller and his wife early today, held them captive for nearly six hours, then forced them to hand over an estimated \$20,000 from a night depository.

The two men fled in the bank employee's auto with weekend deposits from the College Park branch of the Suburban Trust Co. An FBI investigation was launched immediately.

The teller's wife, Mrs. Donald E. Bischoff of Hyattsville, Md., was hysterical from the ordeal and cried, "it can't be true. It's like a fairy tale."

Neither Mrs. Bischoff nor her husband had been harmed.

William R. Reading, president of the bank, said weekend deposits usually run between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Though bank officials had not yet checked with depositors, Reading said the amount stolen likely was larger because many of the deposits came from Christmas trade at College Park stores.

College Park, home of the University of Maryland, is a suburb of Washington, D. C.

The two bandits, one described as tall and the other as short, abandoned the Bischoffs' auto two hours after the kidnap, the FBI reported.

Bischoff, 34, and his wife, 27, told police this story: The family had returned for the night when the men knocked at the apartment door. Bischoff responded and was told by one of the men that the pair thought they might have struck his car parked outside.

Bischoff then was confronted with a pistol and forced back into the living room and made to sit beside him on a sofa while the gunman sat across the room, facing them.

At the demand of the gunmen, Bischoff talked about the layout of the bank.

Later, the four watched television.

Little Diane stirred once and Mrs. Bischoff was ordered to go to her room and quiet her.

The bandits had ripped out the telephone line. They were gloved. His companion, about 6 feet 4, made no attempt to disguise himself. He carried the third weapon.

After sitting for five hours with out making a move Bischoff was directed to open about 25 money bags, which the man dumped in a shopping bag.

LONG WALK After Bischoff entered the bank with his key and, at the direction of his captor, opened the depository and handed over about 25 money bags, which the man dumped in a shopping bag.

The Bischoffs gave these descriptions of their captors: The tall one was in his late 20s, weighed 180 to 190 pounds, had dark brown hair and eyes and heavy eyebrows. He wore a tan overcoat, light gray suit and brown hat.

The other was about 30, 5 feet 8, weighing about 155. He had black hair and brown eyes and wore a gray overcoat and a blue pin-striped suit.

Police and the Mercer County prosecutor's office continued their investigation today. It was Welsh who declared the fires were "definitely arson" and his statement was seconded by another officer, Lt. Lawrence Blocking.

"This is apparently the work of a religious fanatic firebug," said Blocking.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER smiles as he poses in the rear of his car with Indian Prime Minister Nehru just before the two leave Washington on a visit to the

President's Gettysburg, Pa., farm. The two were to confer alone at the farm today and tonight. Ike called for Nehru at Blair House.

Ike, Nehru Talk In Gettysburg Privacy

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — President Eisenhower brought Prime Minister Nehru of India to his farm home here today for an overnight stay and intimate private talks on matters of concern to the two nations.

Their motorcycle of nine cars arrived shortly before 11 a.m. (EST) after two hours of leisurely driving from Washington, 30 miles away.

The President and the visiting Indian leader were in the lead car, a black limousine. The other cars carried secret service agents and aides.

The weather was sunny and mild — "Typical Eisenhower weather" as one old time resident put it.

PARTY STOPS The Presidential party stopped briefly at the gates of the Eisenhower farm to permit photographers to take pictures.

The motorcade then swept into the grounds.

Nehru and the President are

remaining here overnight so they may talk over the world situation away from the protocol and social obligations of the capital.

Their basic aim is the achievement of closer relations and better understanding between the United States and India—not the working out of specific agreements.

Nehru, who arrived in Washington yesterday, spent the night at Blair House, the government's guest residence.

Eisenhower called at 9 a.m. to pick up the Indian leader for

the trip to Gettysburg. Eisenhower was smiling broadly as he alighted from the automobile at Blair House, across from the White House, to greet his guest.

"Good morning, your excellency," Eisenhower said. Nehru shook hands vigorously, and Eisenhower escorted him to the limousine.

They climbed in, posed briefly in the back seat for photographers, then sped away.

About 200 spectators gathered to witness the departure.

Nehru, who recently entertained Premier Chou En-lai of Red China, was expected to tell the President that Chou sincerely wants to clear away Washington-Peking antagonisms. Nehru himself would like the United States to accept Communist China in the United Nations and eventually recognize it.

In a talk to fellow countrymen at the Indian Embassy last night, See IKE on page 2A

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Our Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today and tonight. Scattered showers and turning colder Tuesday.
Low this morning 54
Low tomorrow morning 55
High today 68
High yesterday 68
High tomorrow 70
Sunrise today 7:25 a.m.; Sunset today 5:15 p.m.
More Weather Data on Page 1A

Evening Prayer

O God, help me to realize Thou canst lead me only if I will follow Thee, and that Thou dost lead me whenever I will follow. Do Thou lead me now to the rock that is higher than I. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT
BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS
Christmas Seal
Select Foremost Milk Products at your favorite store—Adv.

'Religious Firebug' Puts Torch To Two Churches

TRENTON, N. J. — Police here termed as "definitely arson" two church fires and attempt to stamp blazes in two other churches here early Sunday.

Police and the Mercer County prosecutor's office continued their investigation today.

It was Welsh who declared the fires were "definitely arson" and his statement was seconded by another officer, Lt. Lawrence Blocking.

"This is apparently the work of a religious fanatic firebug," said Blocking.

The blazes came nine months after St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral was destroyed in a three million dollar fire. The lives of Msgr. Richard T. Cream and two women housekeepers were lost in that disaster

which is still listed as suspicious.

Some 125 firemen answered the general alarm for the Methodist Church fire at 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

Four suffered minor injuries and four others narrowly escaped injury or death when a metal dome and roof collapsed into the two-story Sunday School section.

With them at the time was the Rev. J. Stanley Wagg, pastor, who came here from Ocean City about 18 months ago. "We were about to enter my office to get the church's history which is still listed as suspicious."

At the Church of the Living Bible, gasoline was poured and ignited in the rear vestibule but died out after blackening a door.

The church founded in 1722, is the denomination's oldest in New Jersey and third oldest in the United States. Firemen kept flames from reaching the main part, erected in 1885.

The congregation of the church numbers about 1,400. Radio announcements told them yesterday that regular Sunday services had been canceled. The fires fizzled out at the two smaller churches and damage was minor.