

Two Persons Perish in Mecklenburg Fire

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

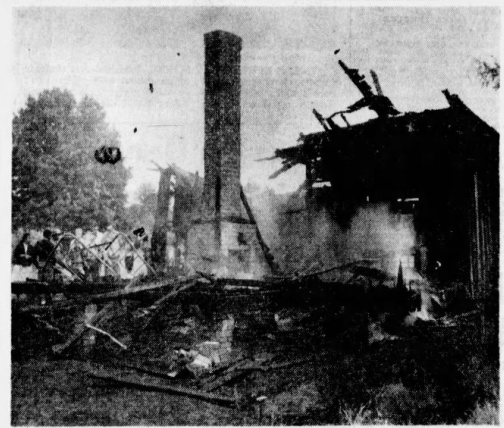
FINAL

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EARLY COUNTY VOTE RETURNS LIGHT



Crowd Gathers Today Around Home Where Two Died Early This Morning

Interest Varied In Statewide Primary Vote

Judgeship Holds Local Attention

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Interest in a statewide primary campaign today was as varied and unpredictable as June's first day in school.

Like the weather man's predicted scattered showers, voter enthusiasm was scattered in widely separated parts of the state.

In Mecklenburg County, where the voters shuffled slowly to the polls this morning, good weather was seen for voting in at least two stormy battles.

Most interest locally was in two campaigns, one for a Superior Court judgeship and the other for a seat in the State House of Representatives.

Candidate Arthur Goodman, a veteran legislator, made a determined bid for a seat held by Judge Hugh B. Campbell. In a race which simmered, then boiled over, and finally, simmered in the last days, voters found it the most provocative of a long slate.

WHAT ABOUT LOVE?

Rep. Jack Love was the center of a behind-the-scenes campaign and today's vote is expected to indicate whether it broke into the voters' booth.

Following his direction of a score of power in the Democratic party organization here, Love became the target of the "outs" who figure they may be able to slip him down in the primary today. He seeks one of four legislative seats.

Others on the ballot include James B. Voelker, Frank Snep Jr., Malbon Chandler and A. G. Brown.

Otherwise, things were drab during the county's campaign.

It was not always the same story on a statewide level.

The gubernatorial race was calm with Gov. Luther Hodges the far



Young Daughter Helps Mother Vote at Midwood School Polling Place.

Afternoon Upswing Expected

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Although local voters didn't go to the polls in numbers this morning, estimates remained firm today for a total turnout of more than 20,000.

More than 4,000 voters cast their ballots by 11 a.m. in Mecklenburg County, according to a News survey which gathered returns from 33 of 57 city and county precincts.

See voting table on page 2-A

Since Saturday morning is traditionally a "light" vote period, advance predictions of 20,000 or more votes appeared to be well grounded.

A post-morning upswing is expected despite the apathy displayed in the early morning hours.

The 33 precincts showed a total vote of 4,279.

LARGEST TURNOUT

The precinct showing the largest turnout was Myers Park High School where 394 voted by 11 a.m. At Chantilly School, where 2,975 are registered, only 250 voted this morning.

At Double Oaks School 133 voted in a precinct where 2,801 are registered.

With 300 registered to vote, only 52 showed up at Marie Creek School in the county and only 52 showed up at Marie Davis School.

Workers at the polling places, in most cases, had little trouble handling the voters with ease. There were few jam-ups and crowds as the voters came to the precincts spasmodically.

A few of the candidates made the rounds of precincts this morning.

LOVE ACTIVE

The most active campaigning, it was reported, apparently was that of Rep. Jack Love's work. Reports from several precincts indicated a number of Love workers at most of the polling places.

Love, a candidate for re-election to the State House of Representatives, is involved in a hot contest. Interest was spurred in the campaign when he led a movement to reorganize the Democratic party in the county three weeks ago.

It was impossible on the basis of early reports, to pinpoint the location of the heaviest vote. However, indications were of a very light Negro vote, although this is traditional. The largest Negro vote usually comes in the late afternoon.

The vote was understandably larger in the big Myers Park-Dilworth boxes.

Evening Prayer

O Heavenly Father, Thou dost constantly seek for Thy lost children when they wander away from Thee. Thy love will never let us go. So bring us back to Thee today that we may ever abide in Thy love. In Christ's name. Amen.

Husband, Wife Die As Blaze Levels York Road Dwelling

By DONALD McDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A Negro construction worker and his wife were burned to death early today when flames destroyed their four-room frame house on Cama St., just outside city limits off York Rd.

Neighbors tentatively identified the couple as John Howard, and his wife, Eugenia Howard, both believed to be about 40 years of age.

The Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Dept. and County Police were called to the scene at 2:40 a.m., but the house was almost destroyed by that time.

Police were called by T. D. Sutton, who is an employee of Harvey B. Hunter Dairy.

County Police said the couple's bodies have been removed to Grer & Thompson Funeral Home. An effort is being made to contact relatives to make positive identification.

face down with arms outstretched toward the body of the woman. It appeared, Lt. Kelly said, that both made an effort to escape the burning building but were overcome by smoke.

ORIGIN MYSTERY

How the fire started is a mystery. Police said the couple had been visited by friends the night before, but by early morning officers had not contacted the visitors.

The dead man worked for John Crosby Construction Co., according to the neighbors who tentatively identified the bodies.

Dr. W. M. Sumnerville, county coroner, was notified to view the bodies at the funeral home.

Shorter Work Week Sought By Auto Union

DETROIT (AP)—With uneven employment and layoffs continuing to mount in the auto industry, the 500-man General Motors Council of the United Auto Workers Union today threw its support behind a drive for a shorter work week.

On the layoff front, there were these developments:

Studebaker-Packard Corp. announced yesterday it was shutting down its Studebaker assembly operations at South Bend, Ind., for a week, beginning Monday. It said "several thousand" would be idle.

Chrysler Corp. said 13,500 employees would work only Monday and Tuesday next week. The shut-downs will affect all Plymouth plants and most of the firm's body-making plants. All the latter are in the Detroit area.

Only yesterday, the Michigan Employment Security Commission reported the state's unemployed stood at 220,000, with 128,000 of them in auto-manufactured Detroit, and predicted the idle would average 200,000 for the remainder of the year.

The UAW's GM Council voted unanimously in Detroit yesterday

for "a substantial reduction in the work week with full 40 hours pay" to end what it described as the "morale-breaking short work weeks."

VOTE UNANIMOUS

Spokesman for the council said the resolution won unanimous endorsement, "even if it means more layoffs." Walter P. Reuther, UAW president, supported the resolution at a news conference.

Neither the council nor Reuther spelled out any specific aims.

Under existing contracts, nothing can be done until 1958. Current agreements between the UAW and auto-makers do not expire until then. The average hourly wage of auto workers now is around \$2.19 under three-year pacts signed in 1955.

Under these contracts, however, workers laid off after May 2 will become eligible June 1 for supplemental unemployment compensation from company-financed trust funds in states which approve or do not object to payments on top of regular state unemployment compensation.

Supplemental benefits will be limited in weekly duration to the first year to permit trust funds to grow. After that they are designed to give laid-off workers up to 60 to 65 per cent of normal take-home pay for up to 26 weeks.

All layoffs thus far have been attributed to what the companies describe as "an endeavor to balance production with the retail market." Retail dealers have in recent months ordered 900,000 new cars.

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Meter Reader Admits Killing

CINCINNATI (AP)—Police said today Robert Lyons, 43-year-old water meter reader, admitted fatally stabbing a young Cincinnati woman last April 11.

They said Lyons told them he became incensed at Mrs. Audrey Evers, 34, and stabbed her after she told him to use a door into the garage to read the water meter rather than entering through the rear door of the house itself.

Mrs. Pugh's body, with 24 stab wounds, was found inside the front door of her home in a fashionable Hyde Park district by her husband, William Worthington Pugh.

Lyons was one of the first suspects questioned in the case. He was released but has been questioned at various times since then. Questioning of him was resumed yesterday after police said they noted several discrepancies in his stories.

Detective Chief Henry Sandman and Police Chief Stanley Schrotel said Lyons told them he became incensed at Mrs. Pugh when she told him, "Don't make a fool of yourself."

He said Mrs. Pugh made the remark after she had told him to use the garage door.

Glad It's Nearly Over

What Candidates Are Doing

The Little Baron of N. Tryon St. summed it up:

"It's more than the usual Saturday; I'll be glad when it is over."

Sid Y. McAden, chairman of the county board of commissioners, is an old pro. He's been going through long Saturdays such as today every two years since 1940.

But his personal feelings never change. There is anxiety and nervousness and excitement on a primary election day for him, just as there is for scores of other candidates.

Around noon he was expected to vote in his precinct, First Ward, and there were other chores to do around the big house on N. Tryon. There were no plans, as yet, for listening to returns, but he'll probably do it at home.

Political Tides Get Test In Italy Voting

By JAMES M. LONG

ROME (AP)—Some 30 million Italians are expected to vote tomorrow in local elections that will show whether the country's majority center bloc can halt the political tides to the far left and far right.

Balloting will be for 7,604 town or provincial administrations from south Tyrol to Italy.

The election will be a major test of Mosca's new existence line in the country with the biggest Communist party in the West. Italy has more than two million Communists.

A flood of letters from Italian-Americans in the United States urged their kinklok to reject the Communists.

The vote will have no direct effect on Premier Antonio Segni's national government. His center bloc headed by the Christian Democrats holds a thin majority won in the 1953 elections.

The center bloc has lost strength in the last two elections.

In the 1953-54 local administrative elections the Communist-Socialist alliance of the left held its own in the north and gained 200,000 votes in the poverty-ridden south.

The Monarchists doubled their strength in the south then and the Fascist Italian Social Movement nearly tripled the vote there.

In the 1953 general elections, the center bloc dipped to 49.7 per cent

Small Sports Car Given New 'Home'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—David Cantor, 24, an engineering student at the California Institute of Technology, reported to police that his small sports car had disappeared.

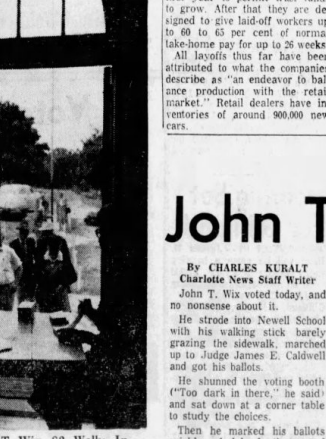
The little car showed up yesterday in a basement of the school's Throop Hall. It had been disassembled, hauled into the building and reassembled.

Evening Prayer

O Heavenly Father, Thou dost constantly seek for Thy lost children when they wander away from Thee. Thy love will never let us go. So bring us back to Thee today that we may ever abide in Thy love. In Christ's name. Amen.



"It's A Free Country": John T. Wix, 82, Walks In...



...And Casts His Ballot, As Judge H. C. Harris Watches

---'It's A Free Country'---

John T. Wix Voted Today

By CHARLES KUBALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

John T. Wix voted today, and no nonsense about it.

He strode into Newell School with his walking stick barely grazing the sidewalk, marched up to Judge James E. Caldwell and got his ballots.

He shunned the voting booth ("Too dark in there," he said) and sat down at a corner table to study the choices.

Then he marked his ballots quickly, folded them and

dropped them into the ballot boxes with a whack of his hand for good measure.

"I read the paper and I made up my mind," John T. Wix said. "I believe in the mass of the people ruling."

Mr. Wix is 82 years old. He has voted in every Mecklenburg election since March 21, 1908. He was carried to the polls today by Mrs. John Miller, director of the County Home, where Mr. Wix lives.

Mrs. Miller has been ferrying Home voters to Newell School, headquarters of Crab Orchard Precinct Box No. 2, for 19 years.

About 20 went over today, not as many as usual because many were not physically able to go, and there was not much interest.

Mr. Wix, however, was both able and interested.

"I've voted in every election since I left Knoxville," he said.

"I was a contractor, you know, until Hoover got me.

"And I've voted Democratic all the way. It's hard for a Southern man to be a hypocrite."

One of the women who rode over to Newell with him took a Republican ballot and voted.

"That's all right too," Mr. Wix said. "It's a free country, and I'll vote for a hypocrite."

The hundreds of other Mecklenburgers who also marked ballots today will know exactly what he meant.



...And Casts His Ballot, As Judge H. C. Harris Watches

What's Inside

Books	.....7B
Classified	.....18C
Comics	.....3B
Editorials	.....4A
Features	.....2B
Obituaries	.....5A
Radio-TV	.....5A
Serial	.....2B
Sports	.....4A
Theaters	.....10-12A
Women	.....6-7A