

RALEIGH ROUNDUP

BY TOM OUTLAW

GREETINGS! . . . Do you feel a draft on your neck? If so, it isn't a summer breeze, it's Uncle Sam blowing greetings in your direction. State draft officials here are requesting all county draft boards to go through their files and to look with loving care on the Class 1-A registrants—particularly those born since August 31, 1924.

ONLY YESTERDAY . . . That date seems only yesterday to thousands of people in North Carolina. John W. Davis was running for the Presidency against Silent Cal Coolidge; William Jennings Bryan was lecturing on temperance to Chautauqua groups about the country; Rudolph Valentino was the rave of the women; disarmament talks were well underway, and Russia was not even recognized by the United States as a viable Government. The Scopes trial in Tennessee was still a year away, Floyd Collins ("the man we loved so well") was still alive and breathing, and Franklin D. Roosevelt was an incurable paralytic with his best years behind him. Angus W. McLean of Lumberton had won the Democratic nomination for Governor.

It seems only yesterday—August of 1924—and yet the little ticks born that year may soon be on their way to far-flung battle fronts across the world.

WAR CASUALTY! . . . The folks in Western North Carolina—up around Haywood, Buncombe, Ashe, Watauga, and Alleghany counties—up through there—have been quietly figuring on a visit from President Harry Tru-

man within the next two months. Congressman Bob Doughton has been working on the matter and a month ago they felt confident. Now there is some fear he may not be able to make it—what with the Korean incident and the national emergency brought on by it.

Report is that President has thrown in the sponge on his plans for some whistle-stop campaigning this fall and the proposed trip to North Carolina may be included in the deletion. Not that he was planning to do any fence-mending in those areas, but he is just going to find it hard to get away from Washington for anything, even Key West. If he does get to make the trip, there are some fine old Democrats who could certainly use him along about frost for a few crossroad speeches in Wilkes and Yadkin counties, not to mention Mitchell, Avery, Madison and Cherokee.

NOW THE CITIES . . . Gov. W. Kerr Scott looked with kindness on the cities last week and brought signs of relief from civic officials hard pressed to make ends meet. He said—and the statement came like a bolt from the blue—that he thought it might be a good idea for the State to take over the business of keeping up city streets. This is not exactly in keeping with plans to route heavy traffic around cities, but is in line with Scott's left-handed approach and is certainly something new.

MORE TAXES . . . Of course, there is the little matter of money involved. The gas tax, which took a sharp jump last January when we started paying on the road bonds, must be hiked about three quarters of a cent per gallon. Now as to what the people in the rural areas will say—that's a gray horse of a different color. They don't use city streets much. However, the Governor says he thinks he can swing them along on the idea. After all, he points out, didn't the city people help in passing the huge \$200,000,000 bond issue which is converting grass root pig paths into all-weather highways? It will take a vote of

CREATE BAHAMAS PROVING GROUND



SECRETARY OF STATE Dean Acheson (left) looks on in Washington as British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks signs an agreement covering the creation of a long-range proving ground for guided missiles in the Bahama Islands. Witnessing the signing of the 25-year pact between the U. S. and Great Britain are Sir George Sandford (standing, left), the Governor of the Bahama Islands, and Brig. Gen. William L. Richardson, Commanding General of the Florida proving ground. (International)

the Legislature to bring about the change—and maybe a vote of the people. Its success will depend to a great extent on how much influence the Governor will have with his 1951 General Assembly.

NOTES . . . Tar Heel Evangelist Billy Graham, whose father-in-law lives at Montreat . . . will hold a big revival in Greensboro in September of next year . . . When you were a kid, old hemp sacks were as necessary around the place as that big gallon lard bucket to milk in . . . Ag. Comm. L. Y. Ballentine last week kicked around on hemp sacks just as vigorously as you used to when you came in from feeding the stock and had to

get the mud off your shoes before you could get in the house . . . He said farmers should demand their fertilizer delivered in cotton bags . . . This would be another use for cotton . . . and would require 40,000 acres of land to produce the cotton which would be used in these bags . . . And, since N. C. uses one-sixth of all fertilizer sold in the United States, farmer could supply a lot in demand for cotton by turning their backs on those old hemp sacks . . .

CITY OF RALEIGH . . . Will Smith, after the Primary, went to Morehead City for a few days . . . Came back to Raleigh and then hurried on to New York and into

New England . . . Sen. Frank Graham is in Washington in the middle of the Korean talks . . . C. A. Upchurch, Jr., who handled Graham's publicity, is back as chief of the beer division of ABC . . . Hoover Adams, who so ably looked after Smith's newspaper and radio outpourings, has just returned to Dunn from his father-in-law's ranch out in Nebraska . . . Judge Jeff Johnson, Graham's manager, is back in Sampson county . . . and Charles Green has returned to Franklin County . . . All safely accounted for . . . Both Adams and Green may go to Washington with Sen. Willis Smith . . . And don't be surprised if Sen. Graham comes up any day with an important appointment from Pres. Truman . . . There seems to be some chance, also, that Judge Johnson will move to the State Supreme Court if a vacancy occurs while W. Kerr Scott is Governor.

FAREWELL! . . . Remember that Baptist minister in your old hometown who delivered an even dozen "farewell sermons" before old age finally kept him out of the pulpit? He was like Charlie Justice, who, if you remember, used to play a little football for Carolina. Choo Choo has played at least three "this-is-the-last-time" football games, the most recent one being a practice to-do last spring which attracted 25,000 people to Kenan Stadium. Well, he's not through yet. He will play in the famous All-Star game now in about three weeks . . . just can't let it alone, as they used to say about the fellow who would, absently-mindedly, hand you his

glass when at dinner you asked him if he would have a little corn.

ROADEO . . . The N. C. Truck Rodeo (to select N. C. safest truck drivers) to be held in Greensboro on Saturday may attract approximately 50 drivers this year . . . and will be the biggest rodeo ever held in North Carolina. Practice sessions in first aid, mechanical, trouble shooting, driving, and fire fighting begin early this week. Conducted by the N. C. Motor Carriers Association, the N. C. Rodeo winner will represent this State in the American Trucking Association Rodeo in New York this fall. A North Carolinian, Grayson Thomas of Burlington, won the national championship two years ago . . . The champion driver has to know his stuff . . . He has to be a champion in appearance, be well-mannered and courteous and particularly he must be skilled in the use of his equipment—accurate

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