

November, 1975

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ELECTION 1975!!!!

A friendly, small group of about 25 gathered outside the Town Hall election night, November 4th, to await results of our second election here, suspense heightening as time passed, lights burning brightly inside as the "counters" worked over the 208 votes they had unrolled from the big box at the end of the day.

ART BROWNE GOT THE MOST VOTES OF ALL: 162. Next was KEN HALLER with 151, and third was MARY CATHERINE SMITH, 140. These three will automatically serve four year terms. The next three, RUDY McBRIDE, 133; HAYES McCULLEY, 120; and JAMES W. RAMSEY, JR., 115; will serve two year terms.

Losers (darn it! somebody always loses, dampening spirits some!) were WILLIAM MACDONALD, 100; RAY G. SCOGGINS, 97; and JOHN COLLIER, 82. RUDY and JIM were incumbents.

Out of some 260 eligible voters, 247 of whom were in town, 208 voted (five were absentee ballots).

Both proposals on the ballot passed: The Town will have fire protection with an annual expenditure of not more than five cents per hundred dollars property tax value in contract with Atlantic Beach, and the Commissioners will be allowed to make operational and maintenance expenditures of more than \$10,000 but not make any capital investments of more than \$10,000. Tally on the fire protection: For, 123; against, 81, and on the other -- For, 130; Against, 75.

The following afternoon the new Commissioners were sworn in at the Court House by Clerk of Courts Mary Austen, met immediately afterwards and chose their mayor, in accordance with the PKS Charter; he is KEN HALLER and will serve a two year term.

Adding up the totals were NELL CRUMLEY, registrar, and two judges, VERA BLOOMER and LETITIA MITCHELL; also present was GEORGE NELSON of the Board of Elections, who eventually appeared on the steps of the tiny Town Hall to read aloud results to the assemblage. ED CRUMLEY was official telephone answerer for the night and had, he confided to us in a whisper, also appointed himself chief cook for a gourmet sounding feast he had put together for him and Nell following the count.

Although BILL MACDONALD did not win a term of office, he said, "I got what I wanted- I'm happy " and he referred to the fire protection referendum on which he had worked especially hard, doing much research and showing the community a rare dedication. JOHN COLLIER, visibly disappointed, nevertheless was a good sport, laughingly saying he was "still hustling", and commented as well that he was proud to know he lived in a place where a good clean campaign had been conducted. RAY SCOGGINS was not present at the Town Hall election night.

ART BROWNE, the big vote getter, as they say, who stands for careful town planning, paying attention to the fragile environment we live in here, and good communication between the Board and residents, was born in Massachusetts in 1912, spending early years in California. He served the Federal Government as an economist, part of which time he administered marketing research and marketing service programs. He and his wife, CONNIE, lived most recently in a small community in Virginia where he helped organize the town board, and served as its treasurer. (We give you these short biogs on BROWNE and SMITH because we did not have them available before we printed last month.)

MARY CATHERINE SMITH has had 17 years service in municipal work, has a certificate in Municipal Administration and a certificate in the fundamentals of property and privilege license tax collection, and was at the head of the water department in Graham, N.C. for some time. She will encourage citizens to take part in community action, favored the fire protection contract with Atlantic Beach, hopes to work to keep tax rate low. When approached by the "press", heh, heh, for comment on her election, her first outburst was, "Ooh, four years!" She was pleased, though, and proud! -- She will be the only woman on the Board.

ART BROWNE says he was genuinely surprised at his many votes because he and CONNIE are relatively new in PKS, but his pleasure is obvious, too, and he said, "I hope I'll be able to carry my share and do my part." He feels he will be working with a fine group of people who he thinks will get along splendidly.

The other newly elected Commissioners had similar comments, which, put all together, indicate good spirit, co-operative moods, and enthusiasm in full force.