

# SCOTT: THE DOGFIGHT WENT THAT WAY

BY JAMES H. SHUMAKER

IN THE DURHAM HERALD  
Overlooking and dominating the lobby of the Carolina Hotel in Raleigh is a big brass sign indicating Kerr Scott's Senate campaign headquarters. The letters are about three feet high, red on a white background. At first glance the effect is bold and startling. It's the sort of sign you would expect Kerr Scott to have hammering you on the head as it does with what it has to say. After you've seen the sign a couple of times you don't notice it anymore.

The bold simplicity ends with the sign. Behind it, in the headquarters proper, begins a faint air of conspiracy, mingled with suspicion and disgust. It's nothing you can put your finger on — just the way they watch every move you make and keep glancing out of the corners of their eyes while you're waiting. Later, after a little asking, a lot of listening, you become aware of the quiet confidence that has taken hold. On leaving, about the only thing you're really sure of is that Kerr Scott is running for the U. S. Senate.

Despite the big brass sign, Kerr Scott, former buzzsaw of North Carolina politics, has had his teeth honed. The jagged edges that once gave off sparks at the slightest touch have been put to the wheel. The explosions Kerr Scott sets off these days are few and far between and most of those accidental.

Outwardly, at least, he is not the same Kerr Scott who as governor applied the needle so expertly and relentlessly for his Go Forward program, meat-taxed state officials who

refused to support his hand-picked successor, and blandly made a last-minute grab for surplus highway funds for his home county.

He is not the blunt barenuckler many expected him to be in the Senate race. His pre-campaign promise to run like a scared rabbit with six beagle hounds after him has been discarded. To date he has seemed unaware of even being chased.

The new Kerr Scott has emerged gradually and subtly, by design and extremely expert and careful planning. So far, the only times Scott has gone astray have been when he failed to follow the script.

He started off with a recognizable heavy hand. Even before the campaign got under way he managed to get in a row with State College. The college refused to furnish him with an alumni list and he immediately reminded the college that it may need help from him some day if he made the grade to the Senate. Again, at the start of the campaign, he went beyond the script and publicly claimed the support of a Charlotte banker, only to have the banker issue a public denial.

Another ad lib on a radio program burlesqued his campaign into the Hargett's Cross Roads Calf walk. Losing 36 calves to contestants who could walk 21 miles faster than he could brought Scott a lot of publicity, but it was not in keeping with his appointed role.

Coming as early in the campaign as it did, the script wandering also had its good effect. Scott's top aides began holding the reins a little tighter.

Since these minor lapses, the campaign has run its pre-determined course.

In his first speech as an announced candidate, Scott set the tenor of his campaign with a discourse on political ethics.

"There is no proper place in politics for mud-slinging and the swapping of rabbit punches," he said. "Political fights should be governed at all times by the rules of decent conduct, fair play, and good manners, and that is just exactly the kind of a campaign that I shall conduct." He promised to "make this one of the cleanest campaigns ever conducted in North Carolina."

The next day he accused the "other side" of violating the code of ethics by sending an interne to Duke Hospital in an effort to check up on his medical records. That is the closest he has come to making a direct attack on Sen. Lennon or his supporters.

To charges of practicing demagoguery by playing rural groups against urban groups, of feathering his nest at the expense of the taxpayers, of being unfit for Senate service, Scott has turned a stone-deaf ear. Many of the charges have rankled and needed and at times Scott has been ready to cast aside his new role for the toe-to-toe slugfest many have been expecting. But his aides so far have managed to hold him in check.

Ignoring the charges, he has stuck closely to the script. He has expressed deep concern over the fiscal policy of the Treasury Department, congressional committees usurping executive powers and United States foreign policy. He has advocated 90 per cent parity support prices, a more liberal farm loan program and a world food



SCOTT SPEAKING IN DUNN

bank. His heaviest attacks have been against congressional witch-hunts ("This inflamed, growing cancer") and Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson ("the chief apostle and messenger of those forces that would grind the farmer in the dust of economic serfdom").

The issues Scott has raised and discussed have been broad and vital, but hardly calculated to bring the campaign to a fever pitch.

As for a dogfight with Lennon, Scott has made it unmistakably clear that he is not having any. In all of his campaigning, he has studiously avoided reference to Lennon by name or implication. He has shrugged off Lennon's public demands that he take a stand on certain issues and he has met Lennon's various charges with an abrupt "no comment."

One result of Scott's campaign strategy has been to leave Lennon punching vigorously at thin air. Lennon levels a charge. Scott ignores it, and soon the charge dies for lack of fuel. The only hope Lennon has been left is that one of his charges will bring forth public outcry and Scott will be forced to face it. The public outcry has not yet become noticeable.

Another result of the Scott strategy has been the generation of about as much heat and excitement as you'd find in a slow round of shadow boxing. Up to now, asking a non-political spectator who he likes in the Senate race has been roughly equivalent to asking him who he thinks will win the West Texas checker-championship. He doesn't know, doesn't care. Many are still unfamiliar with the name Alton Lennon, others are unfamiliar with Kerr Scott in the new role he has chosen.

Much of the credit for the new Kerr Scott, the design and intent of his campaign, must go to the campaign manager, Terry Sanford. Still in his middle 30's, Sanford has already polished himself to a high political luster. He was hip-deep in politics at the University of

North Carolina where he took his law degree, later became president of the State Young Democrats' clubs and turned in an impressive performance as state senator from Cumberland in the 1953 Assembly. He has a natural instinct for politics, but doesn't seem to be a politician in the usual sense. As president of the State YDC, he helped develop the code of ethics which Kerr Scott has embraced for his campaign. The code calls for "a fair and honest presentation of the issues," frowns on "falsehoods, half truths, misleading statements designed to imply rather than to inform composite and misleading pictures or distortions of fact in any manner or degree." It further suggests that charges against an opponent's character or motives "should be direct, specific and open by the candidate in person." It is emphatically opposed to "any appeal of any nature, in any degree, to racial, religious prejudices, back-street tactics, or gossip, rumor or whispering campaigns which suggest anything detrimental about an opponent."

It is Sanford's abiding belief that chance of success than one ignoring YDC code of ethics has a better campaign conducted within the code. He believes the people of North Carolina have had enough of the political brawling that characterized the bitter Frank Graham-Willis Smith senatorial primary in 1950.

The honing of Buzzsaw Scott's teeth was due in large part to Sanford's efforts. When sparks began to shower, Sanford was usually nearby with the fire extinguisher. At the times Scott has been tempted to let fly, Sanford has provided a steady influence.

But with all the help from Sanford and other aides, the solicited and unsolicited advice the inevitable pressures from all directions, Kerr Scott's campaign and his new role are essentially his own.

Long before he announced his

death and before Lennon had been appointed to succeed him Scott remarked: "Should I enter the race I wouldn't be running against anyone but would be running for the Senate. The decision I make will come regardless of who is appointed to the office, or who becomes a candidate at a later date. That's the way I've always looked upon my decision."

Those two observations have turned out to be the key to Scott's strategy. He has leaned heavily on national and international topics and his approach has been infinitely more subtle than when he ran for governor. He is not running against Lennon, he is running for the Senate.

In his first address after announcing for the Senate Scott said: "I have seen some campaigns them, for reasons of his own or for no reason at all, shoves or pokes the other. Fists start to fly. Finally, they roll in the mud and dirt exchanging rabbit punches and eye-gouging. At last, one of them wins, but having won, he has nothing of which to be proud, because in the contest he had abandoned all the rules of decency and fair play."

The new Kerr Scott also seems to be acutely concerned that, win or lose, when it is all over he will have something of which to be proud.

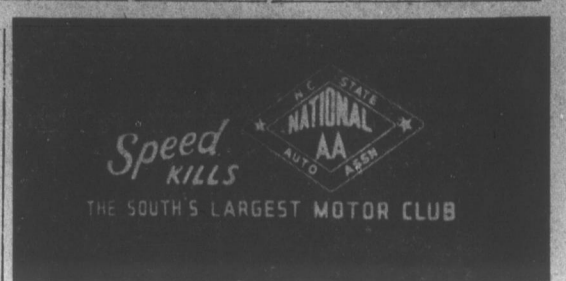
## Athletic Awards Given This Week At LaFayette

This week at the last regular assembly, athletic awards won during the past year at La Fayette High School were presented to athletes, and are announced today by Guy Daves, principle.

Basketball boys: Letters were awarded to the following boys receiving letters for the first time: Gordon Farrall, Wayne Senter, Gene Barbour, Sterling Howell, Billy Ray Hardee, and Larry Sears. Stars for more than one year of basketball went to Jerry Sears, Harold Carroll, Billy Lawrence, Walter Dean Parrish, and Rand Bailey.

Basketball girls: Letters were awarded the following for one year of basketball: Patricia Knott, Shelby Bryant, Dot Beasley, Ann Arnold, Margaret Holland, Jane Matthews, Patty Matthews, Jewel Stephenson, and Hope Harrington. Stars were awarded to: Mary Glenn Johnson, Amelia Sherman Betty Baum, Lena Smith, Shirley Dean, Nancy Hamilton, and Elizabeth Abernathy.

Baseball boys: Letters: Fred O'Connell, Donald Betts, Jeffries Wells, Larry Tutor, and Wade Tart. Stars: Glenwood Arnold, Walter



SIGN TO BE ERECTED HERE — Paul Hester of Dunn, local agent for the North Carolina Automobile Association, has announced that his company will erect one of these big Scotchlite signs on Highway 301, near Ma's Kitchen. It's part of the company's campaign in behalf of highway safety. The sign will cost about \$500.

Dean Parrish, Billy Ray Hardee, Sterling Howell, Billy Lawrence, Rand Bailey, Glenn Ballard, Gordon Farrall, Wayne Senter, Jerry Sears, Tony Smith, and Terry Tutor.

Cheer Leaders: Letters: Pat Betts, Verlene Mitchell, and Glenn Ballard. Stars: Grace Newton, chief, Sylvia Tutor, Shirley Rollins, and June Horton.

From the boys' teams Jerry Sears, Harold Carroll, Walter Dean Parrish, Rand Bailey, Glenwood Arnold, Jeffries Wells, Tony Smith, and Terry Tutor are seniors and have finished athletics at La Fayette. From the girls' teams only Lena Smith, Grace Newton, Verlene Mitchell, Shirley Rollins, and June Horton are seniors.

RECEIVES AWARD  
Gwendolyn Byrd, valedictorian of the graduating class at Plain View School, has been given the annual award of The Reader's Digest Association for students who by their successful school work give promise of attaining leadership in the community. It was announced today by F. A. Fiquett, principal.

Miss Byrd will receive an honorary subscription to The Reader's Digest for one year and an engraved certificate from the Editors. "In recognition of past accomplishment and in anticipation of unusual achievement to come."

Miss Byrd is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Byrd of Dunn, Rt. 1. Miss Margaret Stafford of Fayetteville visited friends here Saturday.

## VOTE FOR R. L. (BOB) PATE



I feel that my record of 12 years service on the board is well known to you. During my term I fought always for efficiency and economy and helped in reducing the county's tax rate.

If elected I assure you that I will again serve you to the best of my ability. Your vote and support will be appreciated.

R. L. (BOB) PATE

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## RE - ELECT CARSON GREGORY

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In The Democratic Primary May 29th

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Your Vote and Support Will Be Appreciated

THANK YOU

CARSON GREGORY

Welcome Wages Hostess

Will Knock on Your Door with Gifts & Greetings from Friendly Business Neighbors and Young Civic and Social Welfare Leaders

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The Birth of a Baby  
Sixteenth Birthdays  
Engagement Announcements  
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Mrs. R. J. Denny  
3878  
DUNN, N. C.



SCOTT SAYS: "KOREA IS A LONG WAY FROM HAW RIVER."

SENATOR LENNON SAYS: "The eyes of the world are on the United States Senate. The future peace or devastation of the world will depend in large measure on policies and actions on which the Senate must take a stand. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, and I pray that we in the Senate will have the wisdom to chart the proper course for our country and all mankind."

## VOTE FOR SENATOR LENNON

He's Not Blinded By Selfish Interests!

He Can See Beyond His Own Neighborhood!

We Need a Statesman in the U. S. Senate!

Harrett Committee  
On Senator Lennon  
(Political Advertisement)