

Candidate Arrives On Non-Whistlestop Tour

"This is anything but a whistlestop tour," declared U. S. Senate hopeful Dave McKnight soon after he arrived in Warren County for a "get-acquainted day" last week.

McKnight, better known as Walkin' Dave McKnight, was in the county during much of last Monday in an attempt to spread his shoe-leather senator campaign to all of North Carolina's 100 counties.

Since April, he has walked 1,600 miles through 60 counties in a zig-zag route that took him from Murphy to Manteo. Now, going back to more traditional means of travel, he is touring by automobile the 40 counties which he did not get to visit on his first cross-state adventure.

Expecting to finish the first series of county visits by next month, McKnight said he plans to visit each of the 100 counties a second time before the Democratic primary in May.

McKnight thinks his walking, personal tour has been effective, particularly in the small areas which he is trying most to win.

"I found early in the game that the people in the small areas are the ones who are going to give me a chance," said McKnight, 30-years-old next month, who, if elected, would be the youngest senator to ever serve North Carolina.

"One of the other candidates today is flying all around the state, hitting the big towns. Here I am walking around Warrenton. I think the people I meet today will remember me this winter."

McKnight says he has received good receptions in most places as a number of people have heard about his walking campaign and are interested in his efforts.

More difficult to gauge is the public reaction to the senatorial race for the seat in Washington now held by Republican Jesse Helms, McKnight says.

So far, four Democratic candidates have entered the field leading up to the primary. Several others are also expected to enter.

"It's an open field for us for a change," McKnight said of the race. "There has been no early favored contestant who has run before."

Acknowledging that his competitors might pose a formidable challenge, McKnight nonetheless thinks his grassroots campaign will win him votes in the hearts of the people.

"I think we need a shoe-leather senator, one who knows a little bit more about how the people across the state live and work," McKnight said.

Of particular concern in this category are the small businessman and small farmer.

"The small businessman and farmer are under a lot of pressure because of an economic and tax policy that favors bigness. I question whether bigness means better."

This questioning has led McKnight to put down two very definite planks in his senatorial campaign platform:

First, a need to overhaul the welfare system; and second, a need to simplify federal tax laws.

"It seems to me that so many of the pressures in Washington are to make things big to make them better," McKnight said. "You've got such a complicated system of laws up there that you can't help but get tangled up in them."

With regard to welfare, McKnight said the system as a whole "does not work

fairly or efficiently. We need a simplified program of direct assistance, based on need linked with jobs and with work incentives."

Another concern expressed by the youthful candidate was the apparent "lack of discipline" in Congress to move in more effective directions.

In concluding his objectives McKnight said he believed delegates from the state should do a better job of representing their people as individuals, not as part of a powerful lobbying group."

McKnight carried this message and others to whomever he met throughout the county during his visit here. His tour took him to Norlina, Macon, Wise and Liberia, in addition to Warrenton.

Later that week, he visited Franklin, Vance and Granville counties.



Mildred Shearin is one of many Warren County residents greeted by Dave McKnight, Democratic hopeful for the U. S. Senate, during a tour here Monday. McKnight is running a low-key, "shoe-leather" campaign for the office. (Staff Photo)

Gardner Announces Candidacy

Barry L. Gardner of Rocky Mount, a member of the state Republican Party Executive Committee and secretary of the Nash County Republican Party has announced his candidacy for the 2nd congressional district seat held by Congressman L. H. Fountain.

Gardner 31, a native of Wilson County, cited a need for more outspoken leadership in Washington, and a congressman from this district who will take a more

active role in making our government more responsive to the people of this district."

Gardner is married to the former Shirley Batts of Elm City and they have three children, Lisa 11, Scott 7, and Ashley 5 months.

The Gardners reside in Nash County on Rt. 1, Rocky Mount in the Coopers area.

He graduated from Lucama High School in Wilson County in 1964 and the Carolina Bible Institute of Pine Level in 1976. He has been active in fund raising events for Mount Olive College over the past several years and served as chairman for Nash County fund raising dinner for 1977.

Gardner is a member of Floods Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and an ordained minister of the Free Will Baptist Church.

Gardner is currently employed with Carolina Telephone in Rocky Mount and pastor of Floods Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Spring Hope.



GARDNER

Local News From Wise

Mr. and Mrs. Willie King and Mrs. Joe Riggan spent several days last week with their mother, Mrs. Betty Adams, who has returned from the hospital.

Mrs. Ida Bolton and Miss Dorothy Bolton attended the First Baptist Church in Stovall last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bolton and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Bolton.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sammons, Dean, Charles

and Mack attended the Shrine ceremony at Nags Head over the weekend.

Mrs. Donna Smith of Altamonte Springs, Fla., is spending this week with her son, the Rev. Jim Hebel, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Paynter attended the Shrine ceremonial for several days at Nags Head.

Mrs. Hazel Perkinson has been transferred to Duke Hospital in Durham.

Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 2) feel, are quite sufficiently taught. The diagramming was due to the fact that the first nine weeks of school are used generally as refresher courses. Literature was on the agenda for the second quarter.

The math classes are very well taught, in our opinion. If one feels that the course is too simple or too complicated, the person can always move up or down, respectively. Also, in the ninth grade, we have three algebra teachers and two general math teachers. If a student feels ill at ease with that teacher, they have other to choose from.

As far as skipping school is concerned, we feel that the school is not at fault. If

one feels that school is a bore, he or she should not be there in the first place. If a student is going to skip school, as many people who have cut school say, it is not because school is a bore, but because they are trying to escape the challenge.

We admit that our school is not perfect, but neither is any other school in the county or the state. In our minds our school is one of the best junior high schools around and our faculty is well suited.

Hopefully, the expressions of our views to this matter will deter the changing of the educational process in Warren County.

A GROUP OF INTERESTED STUDENTS

Reflections Of A Teacher To The Editor:

How appropriate for parents, or should I say a parent, to show enough concern for her daughter's education to attend a county school board meeting at the beginning of American Education Week. The inappropriateness of the situation is that this particular visiting parent has no valid evidence on which to base her conclusions or evaluations, either "pro or con," of the curriculum or methods at the Hawkins School.

It seems that this parent is attempting to evaluate the school's program on the basis of her children's outcomes. To use this method "per se" is not necessarily a poor decision, particularly if the children have done their part while at school. In this parent's case it seems obvious to wonder if this method is the most desirable - if her children have done their part in their own educational process or if the system must bear the entire blame for failure.

How can one evaluate a school's program or methods on the basis of a student who after enrolling had attended school only a few days at the time of the initial complaint. How can an evaluation be based on a student whose attendance was less than half of a 45 day grading period? How can a student exhibit good performance if attendance is poor?

How can one say a student is not being challenged without first questioning the "why" of below grade level work? Why hasn't the parent visited the teachers or a class? How is a teacher to know if a challenge is not being offered unless questions are asked and or answered in classroom discussions, after class or in special conference periods? Is not "good" work carried over - from class to class - to the home - to the community? Where is interest fostered - during ten days of school, twenty days of school, on the streets, or

Declares Dividend Action

The Board of Directors of Branch Corporation, parent holding company for Branch Banking and Trust Company, met in Wilson on Nov. 15 and took the following dividend action.

A special year-end dividend of 23-cents per share was declared and the regular quarterly dividend was increased to 20-cents per share, making the total payment for the year 88-cents, an increase of 6 per cent over 1976.

The dividends are payable Dec. 15 to shareholders of record Dec. 1, 1977.

The board also announced a revision in its dividend policy to provide for the distribution on a quarterly basis throughout the year of a greater percentage of total annual dividends, instead of paying substantial year-end special dividends as has been the policy in the past.

The declaration of regular as well as special dividends under this new policy will continue to be considered by the board based on the current year's performance.

with other drop outs?

How can literature be taught without a knowledge and application of basic grammar? How can advanced work be assigned when prerequisites are not understood? Is this not the basis of any curriculum - from the simple to the complex?

How is a teacher to assess or know a student's ability if classroom attendance and performance is below that of other peers? How can a parent justify negative statements and behavior to a daughter who does seem to have enough intelligence too, and surely must know the real situation.

No system is without its imperfections and Hawkins is surely no exception, but meaningful changes must be based on meaningful and valid reasons. No class can effectively challenge or hold the interest of every student or please every parent, but why is it that the parents and students who confer with teachers the least can, and usually do, voice the loudest complaints or paints the bleakest pictures?

How have other students managed to go through the same curriculum and be exposed to the same methods and yet excel at John Graham, at other high schools, and go on to institutions of higher learning and excel?

These are only a few of the questions that I, as one of the teachers of Mrs. Shearin's daughter would like to have answered before I can conclude that her evaluation of the curriculum and methods at Hawkins is valid.

ARNETRA D. JOHNSON



Think of JACK HARRIS and AL FLEMING

Investigate before you move - that's especially true of Life Insurance. We can show you a family protection plan tailored to your needs. Stop in soon and let us explain.

Attend Church On Sunday

Citizens INSURANCE & BONDING CO., INC. Phone 257-3128 INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS WARRENTON, N.C.

AFTER Thanksgiving Sale!

Continues At Kannon's In Franklinton WITH GREATER REDUCTIONS Entire Stock OF FALL & WINTER CLOTHES REDUCED 1/4 - 1/3 - 1/2 OFF

Open Friday, Nov. 25 Till 9 P.M.

Kannon's OF FRANKLINTON

Leggett



color special by

PEEK-O-BOO

STUDIOS

8 x 10

COLOR PORTRAIT

ONLY 88¢

satisfaction guaranteed

A Picture is worth a thousand words. Limit one special per child. Groups \$1.50 per child. Adults \$4.95



Choice Of Four Scenic Backgrounds