

# Pierce faces att'y Snyder for solicitor

On May 7, voters in the 15th Judicial District will choose a District Attorney (solicitor) for the next four years. Incumbent Herb Pierce is being challenged by John Snyder, a Graham attorney.

The 15th is a sprawling district, composed of Alamance, Orange and Chatham Counties. Orange has about 30 per cent of the vote in the election, which will be dominated by the results in Alamance, with 55 per cent. There is no Republican candidate.

Pierce has thus far played the non-candidate in the race, eluding most of Snyder's campaign discussions. He was elected to his first term in 1970, winning in a June runoff after a narrow win in the first primary.

The district attorney is the state's prosecutor in all criminal actions. He, through the four assistant district attorneys, handles misdemeanors in the District Court and felonies in Superior Court. He is responsible for setting the court calendar and has absolute discretion about which cases to bring before the grand jury and which to dismiss at any point in pre-trial or prosecution.

Snyder has criticized delays in trials in the judicial districts, calling for all cases to be disposed of within 30 to 60 days of the filing of charges. He has also criticized Pierce for not handling enough cases himself.

Snyder is given only an outside chance of beating Pierce, who is well known in the district. A former assistant district attorney, Snyder left office in 1971 after his resignation was requested. Snyder has said the resignation was caused by personality conflicts.

The office of district attorney was formerly called solicitor, but solicitors were successful in getting a constitutional amendment through the 1973 General Assembly changing the name of their office.

The office of District Attorney is one of the most powerful executive positions in the state, and also one of the least visible.



Mildred Keene and Robert "Bob" Hannon in Pit April 11.

Staff photo by Bill Wrenn

# Sheriff: Knight vs. Ray

Democrats in Orange County will decide next Tuesday whether to retain the sheriff they have had for 15 years or choose a challenger who has served for eight years as a county commissioner.

The campaign between incumbent C.D. "Buck" Knight and Bill Ray thus far has been a traditionally southern contest, with the candidates holding barbecues and fish fries through the far reaches of the county.

Knight is running on his record, on a proposal to have several officers assigned to civil duty and on a call for a new county jail to replace the aging structure in Hillsborough.

Ray, however, criticizes Knight's administration, claiming it is inefficient. His platform includes: a plainclothes detective division, women deputies, youth services and a more active role for the sheriff in the community.

Knight is opposed to plainclothes officers

and has categorically opposed paying informers for making drug arrests.

Knight was active in law enforcement for several years before his appointment in 1959 to the sheriff's post, to which he was elected in 1962 and re-elected in 1966 and 1970.

Ray was elected to the County Board of Commissioners in 1964 and re-elected in 1968. He lost a bid for re-election in 1972 and had been expected by many to run for commissioner again this year. He is on the Special Utilities Study Commission which will oversee the sale of the UNC utilities.

The sheriff's department is politically powerful. His 26 deputies and three secretaries are a powerful patronage and law enforcement bastion. The sheriff is responsible for all law enforcement and police work outside the city limits of Orange County's four municipalities: Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Mebane.

# Quixotic bid for Senate

# Unheralded 9 enter race

While the four major Democrat and Republican candidates have been attracting as much attention as they can, there is also a host of lesser candidates seeking Sam Ervin's U.S. Senate seat.

And all nine of them face a similar problem—few voters have ever heard of them.

None of the minor candidates have reported spending as much money on their quixotic campaigns, and most seem to be relying on hand-shaking tours. Several have said that they consider themselves to be minor candidates only in terms of money spent on their campaigns, and all speak seriously on the issues.

In addition to the three front running Democrats, seven other candidates are seeking that party's nomination.

Fred D. Chandley, John McVay Ferrell II, Dr. Robert L. Hannon, William H. Hare, James Troy Johnson, Dr. Mildred T. Keene and Charles D. Riddle all appear serious about their candidacies.

Hannon, 59, is a former Fayetteville State University professor and the only black running for the seat. In a recent campaign appearance, Hannon, or Dr. Bob as he calls himself, promised "a chicken in every pot" and federal aid to college students.

The main issue he talks about is honesty in government. Hannon said if elected, "I'm going to take a broom up there and clean up Watergate with it."

Hare, 34, is a Church of Christ minister and pet shop and bookstore owner from High Point who is campaigning as "the working man's candidate." In a campaign appearance to Chapel Hill, Hare carried a sign that said he walked from his home to Raleigh to pay his filing fee.

Keene, 46, is a psychiatrist from Charlotte and the only woman in the race. Keene has stressed a need for reforms of taxes and campaign spending. She has reportedly accepted no contributions of more than one dollar.

Chandley, 34, is manager of the IBM

Corp. office in Raleigh. His previous political experience is town commissioner in the Wake County community of Wake Forest. He says he got into the race because "we need some of the hard working community leaders" in the job.

Ferrell, 57, is seeking his first elective office. A timber grower from Durham County, Ferrell has served on county and state Democratic executive committees. He views his candidacy as transfusion of new blood into state politics.

Riddle, 42, runs an independent gasoline station and grocery store in Goldsboro. The energy crisis and food shortages nearly put him out of business, he says, so he decided to run for Senate and do something about high costs.

Johnson, 54, is a retired Air Force colonel with 27 years active duty. A budget control expert, Johnson blasted the three Democratic front-runners as big spenders. He advocates turning the national trend back in what he calls the right direction.

In the Republican race, B.E. "Bee" Sweatt and Wood Hall Young are challenging the acknowledged front runner William Stevens.

Sweatt is an owner of an advertising and public relations firm in Boone. Young is a logger from Minneapolis in Avery County.

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Pride in his profession? Of course. But Fred Hedrick takes enormous pleasure from a variety of interests and activities.

Joining his oldest son for a trip in an open outboard to the Gulfstream off North Carolina's coast for a day of serious fishing; Talking with fellow Hams around the world on shortwave radio; Singing at weddings and other events; Horseback riding with his family.

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