

Record Vote Expected Saturday

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TOUGH DECISION -- Voter H. L. Gatlin, Sr. symbolizes the dilemmas of 3,000 Hoke folks as he stands in front of his store, torn between two fine Fayetteville attorneys who are running for Superior Court Judge. On the left is Coy Brewer and on the right is Maurice Braswell. But that race is only

one of the many tough decisions that voters will be faced with this Saturday. Numerous candidates plus an ABC Referee. Jun are expected to bring more than 3,000 voters to the polls for an easy, all-time Hoke record.

Candidates And Voters Anxiously Await Count

Polls Open At 6 A. M. Saturday

By PETER B. YOUNG

Candidates by the score will be hanging around on Saturday evening for the counting of votes by the thousands, as a record number of Hoke citizens are expected to troop to the polls for the Primary Election that will determine the occupants of important offices and settle (at least for four years) whether or not an ABC liquor store will be established in Raeford.

Col. W. L. Poole, Board of Elections Chairman, predicted at least 3,500 votes which would be an easy all-time record for elections in this County. The previous high vote was about 2,700 votes cast in the General Election of 1960. Poole said the total could go even higher, perhaps as high as 4,000 votes, if Saturday turned out to be a warm and sunny day. But while a record vote loomed, politicians showed considerable anxiety about the results. Dr. Riley M. Jordan spoke for many of the politicians when he said:

"It's been mighty quiet around here. Nobody's heard much talk. Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised at anything." This was a widely-held opinion, mixed in with good arguing about whether or not a large vote would favor the prohibitionists or the advocates of legal control. Both "wets" and "drys" professed public confidence in the outcome, but indicated privately off-the-record that it was still anybody's ball game.

The Sheriff's race (see separate story) with five candidates out hustling voters in the bond-docks was also regarded as basically unpredictable. All five candidates have pockets of strength, but a runoff between the two top men seemed likely, even though Dave Barrington supporters have claimed in recent weeks that their man had an outside chance of coming home a winner in Round 1.

Perhaps the closest race of all was between two Fayetteville attorneys, Maurice Braswell and Coy Brewer, for the resident Superior Court Judgeship.

As solicitor, Braswell began the campaign with far more knowledge of Hoke voters (and vice versa) than Brewer. But the energetic Brewer has shaken most of the hands in the County and even turned up at the Kiwanis Pancake Supper last week with his wife and four children.

Whether Braswell has maintained enough of a lead in Hoke to overcome a possible Brewer edge in Cumberland may well be the question that decides this very close race.

For the Board of County Commissioners, it is generally agreed that J. H. (Buck) Blue is the strongest of the three incumbents who have filed for re-election. But the incumbents face strong challenges from Eli Shankle, Douy Currie, Harold Gillis, J. A. Webb, Smith McInnis, and Brownie McDiarmid. Other incumbents, in addition to Blue, are Commissioners R. A. Smoak and Lucy McNeill.

Seven candidates are in the race for the Board of Education. They are: Riley M. Jordan, Robert Gatlin, Carson Davis, Wilton Wood, D. R. Huff Jr., Robert L. Gibson and H. E. Garrison.

Finally, on the county-wide ballot, are two important offices each being fought over by a pair of able men. In the coroner's race, incumbent Frank Crumpler is challenged by James C. Lentz. While in the race for clerk of court, Arch Graham and Ed Smith have voters in a quandary as to which is the choice.

Smith has waged the more public campaign, but Graham is reported to have been "chatting" quietly with scores of friends and voters.

A weary Col. Poole prepared packages of ballots for each of the county's 11 precinct polling places and suggested that the count might well be an "all night job." Candidates and their friends can look forward to seeing the dawn come up over Main Street before all the results are finally tabulated early Sunday morning.

Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6:30 p.m., and Elections Board Chairman Poole issued a last-minute warning against campaigning within 50 feet of a voting place this Saturday. He said:

"Due to the interest in the various candidates for office, the ABC referendum, the first Republican ticket ever offered here in a Hoke County Primary, and the increased number of new registrants, I would like to call the attention of the public to the fact that no politicking can be done within 50 feet of the several voting places in the County."

Judging by the closeness of the various races, Col. Poole's warning is timely indeed!

INTO THE STRETCH

5 Entries In Sheriff Race

Five horses are off and running in the Sheriff's Derby, and as the candidates round the clubhouse turn and head for home stretch each shows certain political strengths and weaknesses.

In alphabetical order, here's the way political handicappers dope out the "horses," er, candidates.

BARRINGTON -- Generally conceded to be the man to beat, the inheritor of much support that would have gone to retiring Sheriff Dave Hodgin, plus considerable strength of his own that was not available for a Hodgin candidacy. Liabilities include his comparative youth (29) and the fact that as a Deputy he has had to make hundreds of arrests throughout the County in the past six years.

CLARK -- Is waging an energetic campaign, backed by many young men associated with the Jaycees, draws strong support from his original home in Blue Springs Township, is widely liked and respected. Liabilities include a lack of previous police experience.

CONOLY -- This campaign might fool you. It's been conducted very quietly by word-of-mouth stemming from old Conoly associates and kindred. While kindreds don't necessarily keep their votes in the family, it is true that Conoly has hard-working relatives in every section of the County. Liabilities include lack of previous police experience plus the fact that Conoly is an incumbent County Commissioner.

PROCTOR -- The early surprise first horse out of the starting gate, he has run a surprisingly intense campaign and developed wide support. Whether there is enough of that support still left to get him into a runoff is an open question. Liabilities include a lack of political finesse that showed most recently in an ad that claimed support of his "fellow officers" or the Raeford P. D.

So there are the five thundering horses, er, candidates, for one of the most important jobs in the county -- a job that was roused up for grabs by the scheduled retirement of veteran Sheriff Dave Hodgin.

Which one of the "horses" can break through the pack in the stretch? Who knows.

Will there be a runoff? Probably. Political considerations aside, which of the five would make the best Sheriff? Well, that depends on the kind of Sheriff YOU want, and that may determine which of the horses comes home a winner.

Heyward Speechless As Members Give \$1,500

For one of the few times in his life, the Rev. W. B. Heyward was absolutely speechless last Wednesday at a family night banquet when he received a \$1,500 check from members of the congregation.

Commemorating his 15 years of service to Raeford Presbyterian Church, the gift will go into an educational fund for Heyward's children.

Heyward, absolutely stunned, gulped out a "thank you," when N-J publisher Paul Dickson handed him the check in behalf of the members of the congregation.

Canaday Acquitted

Raeford Insurance man J. W. (Pete) Canaday and Mrs. Effie N. Thomas were freed in U.S. District Court in Clinton this week on a directed verdict handed down by Judge Algernon Butler. They had been charged with violation of the Social Security Act.

The requests for Social Security benefits involved Mrs. Thomas, but the charges against Canaday grew out of the fact that he had filled out the income tax returns for her during the year in which she claimed to have become eligible for the assistance.

A government witness testified that Canaday admitted preparing Mrs. Thomas Tax returns for 1956, 1957, and 1958. But Canaday told the government officials he knew nothing about false claims or any alleged alterations on the in-

Priebe Closes In Raeford

Still another chapter in the tangled history of Priebe Poultry unfolded this week as Plant Manager Leonard Frahm announced that the bankrupt corporation had closed down its Raeford operation as of last Thursday, throwing about 125 men and women out of work.

The new crisis for the company came as a result of the lease on the plant expiring June 1. This lease is held by Bonner Thomason of Fayetteville, who will take possession of the plant on that date. Miss Chicago a-

torney Harry Ash, the court-appointed receiver in bankruptcy, gets a bid for the plant that will enable him to sell. Frahm said that Ash had received several bids, but all were so low that court approval of the sale could not be granted. The Manager indicated that local interests might be brought together to purchase the plant before Thomason takes over on June 1.

The order to close, as of last Thursday came from Ash who did not wish a repetition of the unfortunate experience last summer when the local Priebe payroll checks "bounced" as did company checks to turkey growers in the area. The payroll checks were later made good, but the growers -- some of whom are owed thousands of dollars -- will probably have to settle for about 30 cents on the dollar, when the plant and equipment are finally liquidated.

Wet And Dry Leaders Sum Up Their Principal Points

ABC Store To Boost Our Liquor Drinking

The issue of whether Hoke County will have liquor stores has not been decided by what has been said by either side. The issue is as old as civilization and could not be settled by a few advertisements in the local paper. We sincerely hope the issue has been decided by fair-minded people because of the training they have received in their homes and Churches.

Any honest person will realize that the only reason the liquor industry wants a store in Hoke County is to sell more liquor. They do not care to whom they sell. The liquor distributors know the only way to get new customers is to start more people drinking, especially young people. They spend over 400 million dollars each year in advertising -- mostly in newspapers to promote more drinking -- NOT LESS.

We wonder who could care

whether the County got a few dollars in revenue, as they looked into a car full of mangled people that were killed because a driver bought a quart of whiskey at an ABC store and could not wait until he got home to get drunk or partially drunk.

We wonder how much revenue dollars could count, if you could see some mother patching clothes and heating over scanty bits of food for her undernourished children, while the empty liquor bottles in the yard told why they were so underfed and unclothed.

Those working for a liquor store have been as fair as they could be, considering what they were working for.

NEIL SENTER & TOMMIE UPCHURCH, CO-CHAIRMEN AGAINST ABC STORE

Liquor Will Be Sold In Hoke This Sunday

Regardless of how the ABC vote comes out, liquor of all kinds will be sold in Hoke County this Sunday morning, the Lord's Day. Many homes throughout the county will have a good stock of moonshine, ABC liquor and beer to sell to anybody including children, with money to buy.

Also on this Lord's Day, there will be some of our citizens who will check their stills that are manufacturing liquor. We would like to share the prohibitionist optimism that a few more sermons plus effective law enforcement by candidates nominated Saturday will clear up the illicit, unsupervised, untaxed traffic in liquor.

We would like to share their optimism, but we can't. The hard facts of human nature are against them.

Many of the people who will vote Saturday for an ABC store are teetotalers. Others are moderate drinkers. But re-

gardless of our personal lives, which are our personal business, we believe that the ABC system of state-supervised control is a sensible way and a practical way to get some degree of regulation into the enormous liquor traffic in this county.

The attempt to turn this serious social problem into a religious issue is phony. Many leading churchmen have refused to advocate hypocritical so-called "prohibition."

The attempt to hide behind tear-jerking appeals in behalf of "the little children" is silly.

We also are concerned about our children, about what they are exposed to in this "dry" county. We are voting for our children, we are voting FOR the ABC system of state-supervised control of alcoholic beverages.

--FRED CULBRETH & BERNICE WILLIAMSON, CO-CHAIRMEN HCCUFLC

Mrs. J. M. Andrews Named To State Demo Exec Group

Hoke membership on the powerful Democratic State Executive Committee was doubled last week from one to two, the outcome of a coin toss in a "pre-caucus" session at the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh, scene of the State Democratic Convention.

Named to the State Executive Committee from this county were Sen. J. B. Thomas and first-term Mrs. J. M. Andrews of Antioch.

The disputed seat on the State Executive Committee will rotate between Hoke and Scotland counties, with Hoke getting the first crack at it thanks to a coin toss won by County Chairman Sam Morris. (See "Notes from an Editor's Diary" on the editorial page.)

In other action, the 7th

Congressional District caucus named Morris as its representative on the State Convention's permanent organization committee, and Mrs. Ralph Barnhart, county Young Democrats chairman was named District Secretary.

In addition to the coveted posts on the State Executive Committee, the 7th District caucus approved the following Hoke folks to various Party committees:

CONGRESSIONAL -- Neill McFadyen and Peter B. Young

JUDICIAL -- J. M. Andrews, Laurie McEachern and Ralph Barnhart.

SOLICITORIAL -- G. B. Rowland, William Moses and Jeff Harris.

STATE SENATORIAL -- Tru-

HHS Grads Face Big Week

A total of 71 seniors will say farewell to Hoke High School this week with various graduation programs beginning with a baccalaureate service this Sunday evening at 8 p.m. at the Raeford Elementary School Auditorium.

The Rev. W. B. Heyward will preach the sermon, "I, My Ancestor," with the Rev. J. M. Glenn and the Rev. Meigs Newkirk assisting with the service.

Pianist for the baccalaureate service will be Candace Autry, Marshals, chosen on the basis of their scholastic standing, will be Jean Brock, Nancy Bray, Linda Fitzsimmons, Shirley Johnson and Jane McPhaul.

Mrs. Andrews was the unanimous choice for the new seat, with no other candidates in opposition by members of the delegation.

But the big night, the night those coveted diplomas will fly

See GRADS, Page 6

Agent Says

Treat For Weevils Now!

The "luck" that cotton farmers will have in the fall depends on the work they do right now, says County Agent W. C. (Chester) Williford.

Of particular importance, he said, is proper treatment for boll weevils now. Boll weevil trash counts show that the pest-critters are around in far greater quantity than last year.

Cotton is just about reaching the "8-leaf stage," said the agent, adding that experiments done at Mississippi prove that 80% of the crop comes from the first four weeks of squaring.