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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1974

As We See It..... By Kay Piotrkowski

Politics, campaigns, primaries and runoffs are, at best, a confusing conglomeration of statistics based on voters' whims and fancies. But when a runoff primary upsets a first primary which upset two incumbents—you end up with a mountain of knots which fifty Boy Scouts couldn't untie in twice that number of years.

Usually compounding the confusion are journalists who become instant political analysts and pretend to untie the knots and tell, in their all knowing wisdom, who voted for whom and why. Explaining election results to the voters just seems to be a quagmire we writers must jump into—more often than not we sink in our own analysis. But since I am at heart a bullheaded Irishman, I'm jumping into the quagmire anyhow.

Throughout a study of election results we have to keep in mind that it is most unusual for a runoff to change results of a first primary. We must also remember a runoff almost always draws considerably fewer voters than the first go-around. The 1972 Hoke County runoff drew 500 fewer voters than the primary and the 1970 runoff drew 900 fewer voters than the first primary. But this year the runoff nudged close to the primary voter strength with only about 217 fewer voters June 4 than May 7.

It appears switching voters rather than vote switching caused last week's upset. A check of voting records in a few precincts reveals many people who voted in the May 7 primary did not vote in the runoff. These same records also indicate a number of residents voting in the runoff who did not vote in the first primary.

Incumbent John Balfour picked up more than 570 additional votes in the runoff than he garnered in the first primary. This put him out in front and guaranteed him a spot on the November ballot. A concerted runoff campaign paid off for Balfour. One of the best examples of this is the Stonewall voting record. In May Balfour carried the precinct with 84 votes. He picked up 51 votes in June for a total count of 135. Unofficial figures indicate 51 people who voted in that precinct in May did not vote in the runoff but 38 other people who did not vote in May voted in June.

In Antioch Balfour picked up 34 votes with 27 June-only voters compared with 76 May-only voters. In Raeford 2 he picked up 84 votes with 54 June-only voters and 48 May-only. We suspect a similar pattern would be found in a check of most other precincts.

Another factor in the runoff outcome was the practice of "one shotting" where a resident voted for only one rather than two candidates in the commissioners race. This is a practice that makes some sense in a first primary where a majority vote is needed to avoid a runoff but makes little sense, to us, in a second primary where a plurality is all that is needed to win. People who one shot in a runoff are, in effect, throwing away a vote. Every person who one-shot the runoff should ask, "who would have been my second choice?" Casting two votes might have changed the outcome of the runoff. May-only voters also could have had tremendous impact on the outcome had they again cast their votes in the runoff.

At any rate the election is over. We congratulate the winners. But most of all we congratulate the voters who got up off their apathy and voted June 4 to make the turnout heavier than predicted and we chastise those who voted only in May. We are most grateful to all who voted in both primaries and we deplore the lack of concern shown by all residents who did not bother to vote at all.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, June 9, 1949

The graduating exercises at Hoke High school took place Friday evening, June 3, at 8 o'clock, at which time 46 seniors received their diplomas.

Hoke County voted about four to three for the state road bond proposal in last Saturday's election and almost two to one in favor of the school bonds.

L.E. McLaughlin, Jr., young colored farmer of Quewhiffle Township, brought a chick with no eyes and no place for any to The News-Journal office this week.

average in intelligence do not make so many mistakes as the average man, but when he does make a mistake it is a big one. President Truman's idea of a minimum wage, for instance.

Fifty 4-H campers members, four leaders and the Hoke County Farm and Home Agents returned from Millstone 4-H Camp Tuesday.

The American Legion Baseball team will play Fort Bragg at the Armory Park here tomorrow night at 8:00 o'clock.

Mrs. Neil McFadyen, president of the local Parent-Teachers Association, announced this week that the PTA summer recreation program would begin next Monday and that all children are invited to attend.

From Poole's Medley:

Those persons who are more than invited to attend.

'I get better mileage, that's all'



The Christian Science Monitor

The Midnight Oil

by Jama Chesser

A father is the guy most likely to buy the family a color TV and end up holed up in the back room with the fuzzy black and white set watching the game of the week while the rest of the household views Disney World in glorious color.

That may seem harsh treatment for a fellow who has gone to the trouble of redecorating the living room in the team colors of the Detroit Lions, but in a democratic society, the kids plus mom, who is usually washing dishes anyway, outvote the pigskin papa.

However, there is hope for the future, at least for the coming weekend. Once a year, a day called Father's Day rolls around and all over the United States, dads are caught up in the festivities. They are served breakfast in bed before they want to wake up. They are presented cigars, shave cream, cologne, garden shears, and slippers. Then they receive complaints because they smoke the cigars, use the shave cream and cologne only when they leave the house to go out with the boys, use the garden shears when the neighbor's wife is sunbathing in the next yard, and wear the slippers until they wear out.

Fathers will flock to color TVs this weekend as families give in to fathers' whims and fancies of what real

entertainment is. Some dads will even be lucky enough to see the kids off to the movies, send the wife out to the shopping center and have the house all to themselves.

And what will the lucky Dad see on the tube in celebration of his day? Probably ladies' golf, women's tennis, a special on women jockeys and race car drivers, and the premier of a series about a liberated female financier. Happy Father's Day.

Letter To The Editor

To The Editor,

I would like in this way to congratulate the people of Hoke for re-electing John Balfour and Ralph Barnhart to the board of county commissioners in the June runoff.

This in no way means to infer that the losers are not good people, but in this day of distrust of governmental officials in high places, it is good to know that it was the choice of the people to return to Hoke County government these two fine men whose honesty, integrity and concern for their fellowmen have been tested, tried and not found wanting over a period of years.

Balfour and Mr. Barnhart with social services in Hoke and they, with the other commissioners, made it possible for the burdens of the poor to be lessened there during my tenure. But they were not only interested in the underprivileged; their concern, as Mr. Balfour stated, was for all the people in the county and it was my privilege to see their deep concern demonstrated over and over again.

So again I congratulate the people of Hoke for sending these men back into your government. They will not let you down.

Mabel McDonald
St. Pauls, N.C.

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON - The Senate has rejected two amendments to the military procurement authorization bill which would have forced substantial cutbacks in the number of U.S. troops stationed overseas. I voted against the amendments, and to sustain the bill as reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee on which I serve.

Congress and the Armed Services Committee have given this matter a great deal of attention, and I think there has been considerable progress in reducing the numbers of military personnel. This is necessary because the cost of keeping each serviceman in our armed forces is expensive. It is well to point out that our first line fighting forces are down to a low level considering our commitments around the world. They compose 13 1/2 divisions.

Altogether now the United States has 524,000 personnel overseas, out of a total force of 2,152,000. While there are large numbers, we have almost 231,000 men less overseas today than we did in 1964. In that year, the Vietnam buildup had not yet occurred, and we had 755,000 men overseas.

I realize that there is a great deal of sentiment to bring our overseas troops home. I would be pleased to support a reduction in troop strength and armament if conditions were such that these actions could be wisely taken. The Senate Armed Services Committee looked into our overseas troop

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



WHEELS OF DEMOCRACY ... The wheel of Democracy insofar as the Democratic Party in North Carolina is concerned will start rolling again on June 18 when the precinct meetings are held all over the state at 8 p.m.

Most times the precinct meetings are poorly attended with only a dozen, more or less, in attendance. Once in every several years some pertinent issue or personality is involved, maybe a hundred or more will attend.

Precinct meetings could have a tremendous influence on government, county, state and national. Two years ago the George McGovern people started their drive for the nomination for the South Dakota man for president at the precinct level and won the nomination while the more responsible leaders, figuratively speaking, napped, only to wake up too late. Precinct meetings is the place where grass roots sentiment CAN be made effective. Precinct meetings are sometimes referred to as a "sleeping giant," seldom aroused.

The first business of the precinct meeting is the election of the five officers of the precinct committee: Chairman, First vice chairman; Second vice chairman; Third vice chairman; Secretary-treasurer. The second order of business is the election of five other persons to serve on the precinct committee. These five along with the five officers compose the precinct committee.

The third order of business is the election of delegates to represent the precinct at the County conventions on Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. Each precinct has one vote at the county convention for every 50 votes or major fraction thereof that was cast for the Democratic nominee for governor in the 1972 general election. It is necessary to elect one delegate for each vote and precincts may elect as many as three delegates for each vote.

Alternates may also be elected, but no specific number of alternates is required.

The Precinct Chairman and First Vice Chairman represent the precinct on the county executive committee. The

county executive committee runs the party following the county convention.

Precinct delegates to the county convention elect, (1) the officers of the county executive committee, (2) delegates to the 1974 State and Congressional conventions, and (3) the county representatives on the State Democratic Executive Committee. The election of those delegates is probably the most important function of the precinct meeting. A person does not have to be present to be elected an officer, committee member, delegate or alternative.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ... A scramble is on within the Democratic Party for the nomination for Attorney General by the State Democratic Executive Committee to succeed Robert Morgan who has been nominated for the U.S. Senate.

This being the case, chances are that many may be seeking a seat on the State Democratic Executive Committee. With Gov. Holshouser expected to name State Court of Appeals Judge James Carson to fill the vacancy when Morgan resigns in September, it goes without saying that the GOP Executive Committee will name Carson as its candidate.

Rufus Edmisten of Boone, an aide to the U.S. Senate Watergate Committee and to Sen Sam. J. Ervin, Jr., State Rep. Kitchin Josey of Scotland Neck, Superior Court Judge Charles Kivett of Greensboro and State Rep. Herbert Hyde of Asheville, and probably others, are actively seeking the Democratic nomination for Attorney General.

THE COURTS ... We feel that the greatest thrust the American people could have towards decreasing the crime wave would be to make every effort to see that we have strong, able and eminently fair judges and solicitors to preside over our courts from the District Courts up to and through the Supreme Court. "Plea bargaining" seems to have become almost an everyday practice in our criminal courts which we think may be doing much to destroy or long established jury system of justice, and protection for the law-abiding people.

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Back in 1666 an effort was made in North Carolina to attract female settlers. A circular was issued declaring: "If any Maid or single woman have a desire to go over, they will think themselves in the Golden Age when men paid a Dowry for their wives; for if they be but Civil and under 50 years of Age, some honest Man or other will purchase them for their wives."

We may think that all the talk of the past several years about the constitution of the United States being endangered, or run over, or wrecked, or battered, is all new, but it is not. It seems to go back several generations. I do not remember just when Edward Everett and Rufus Choate were living, but it was before my dad and yours. And I came upon a story about them the other day that has a distinctly modern flavor.

Everett protested to Choate: "My dear friend, if you are not more self-considerate you will ruin your constitution!"

Choate replied: "Oh, the Constitution was destroyed long ago. I am now living on the By-Laws."

Here's something we never thought of

commitments in great detail this year. It gave much attention to our NATO forces. The Committee concluded that four positive steps should be taken. I do not think that we should go any further than the Committee's recommendations at this time.

The Committee agreed with the sponsors of the troop reduction amendments that the United States has borne a very heavy burden in our overseas defense efforts, and that a way must be found to improve this situation. It took these positive actions to achieve this goal:

First, the committee recommended a reduction of military personnel by 49,000 and civil personnel by 44,000 including a reduction of 11,000 military personnel in overseas headquarters and non-combat units around the world. This action was aimed at reducing unneeded overhead costs and unnecessary support units.

Second, the committee recommended a mandatory 20 percent reduction in Army noncombat personnel in Europe over the next two years. This amounts to 23,000 troops, and is calculated to strengthen the ratio of combat troops in relation to noncombat forces.

Third, the committee recommended a ceiling on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. This action was taken to prevent an increase in our tactical nuclear weapons in that area and See SEN SAM, Page 15

until a few days ago:

Ask a cigarette smoker how many cigarettes he smokes during the day, and he'll come across with the answer immediately - one package, or two packages, or a package and a half a day.

Ask a cigar smoker how many cigars he smokes in a day, and he doesn't have to guess; he knows exactly how many, even though he may lie to you about it.

But ask a pipe smoker how many pipes - full of tobacco he smokes in a day, and he can't tell you to save his life because he hasn't the slightest idea.

Mr. Herman Andrews married Mr. Herman Andrews' sister.

Mr. Herman Andrews lives in Mount Olive.

Mr. Herman Andrews lives in Winston-Salem.

Mr. Herman Andrews is no blood relative of Mr. Herman Andrews.

Fred Neal of Charlotte, sent the following in to us. It sounds faintly familiar to us and maybe you've heard or seen it before. However, we'll run it anyway.

"A woman married four times. The first time she married a banker, the second time an actor, the third time a preacher, and the fourth time an undertaker. Why did she marry them in that order?"

"The answer is: 'One for the money, Two for the show, Three to make ready and Four to go.'"

And speaking of getting married, I reckon you've heard the story about the young married couple who had a spat and she left him and went home to her mother, who lived in a town about twenty miles away.

That night the husband called up his wife, "I feel so blue that I believe I'll take poison," said he.

"And I believe I'll take poison, too," said she.

Whereupon the operator broke in with the remark: "That'll be 25 cents extra, please."

"Why?" inquired the couple in unison.

"Poison to poison call," explained the operator.

Rural Fires Call 875-4242