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Heath-Davenport Race In Second Primary Is Expected To Be Close

One purely local race is offered Lenoir County voters when they go back to the polls in the second primary of June 28th. Thomas J. Heath, who ran fifth for the Board of County Commissioners but failed to receive a numerical majority, is running against Johnnie R. Davenport, who placed sixth, just eight votes behind Heath. Heath's total vote was 2639 and Davenport collected 2631 votes.

The statewide second primary is between Superior Court Judges Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids and W. R. Bobbitt, both of whom are seeking a seat on the State Supreme Court. This race without doubt will again result in Parker receiving an overwhelming majority of the Lenoir County vote as he did on May 31st in the first primary.

The Heath-Davenport race offers some interesting possibilities. Heath is one of Vance Township's best known citizens and the same can be said with equal force for Davenport in the

Deep Run section. In the four Kinston precincts Heath on May 31st ran ahead of Davenport by 152 votes and North of the river Heath collected 627 votes against Davenport's 341—a lead of 286.

South of the river Davenport got back in the race with 1,079 votes against Heath's 631—a lead of 448.

It is likely that the race will wind up as a tug-of-political-war between the northern end of the county and the southern end of the county as is shown by the first primary voting. Of course, second primaries can vary greatly from first primaries in that there is usually a much lighter vote cast and the victory will usually go to the candidate whose friends will get out and work and get their man's votes to the polls.

Both Heath and Davenport are conducting vigorous campaigns and each is confident of winning. The voters have the answer, however, and they are not talking until June 28th.

Personalities



W. F. HOOVER

JUNIUS S. GRAY

RUDOLPH NOBLES

The three personalities pictured here represent the three oldest men in the Kinston Fire Department both from age and from the point of service. From left to right, Fireman W. F. "Bill" Hoover, Fire Chief Junius S. Gray and Assistant Fire Chief Rudolph "Doc" Nobles are seen in front of the old fire station that was located on Queen Street where the health department's clinic is now located. That was more than a few years ago but time has been gentle with the three veteran firemen and they have changed little from their appearance at the time of this picture.

Gray is the senior man of the trio in years and in rank with 38 years on the fire department, during which the last 23 have been served as head of the department. Nobles has served with the department a total of 31 years and Hoover, who is a member of the North Carolina Firemen's Association for 49 years, and has been a member of the fulltime Kinston department for the past 25 years.

From hand-pulled carts, horse-drawn vehicles on up to the era Kinston is now living in with high-pressure pumpers and \$33,000 hook and ladder trucks has been a hectic time and covers a great deal of the more active growing period of Eastern Carolina's fastest growing large town. That period has been covered practically in its entirety by these three men whose total years as firemen reach up to the 109 years.

Hoover, a native of New Bern, recalls that he attended his first State Firemen's Convention in 1903 as the youngest member of the New Bern department. In 1914 Hoover moved to Kinston where he immediately became a member of the volunteer fire department. In 1927 he moved from the volunteer rolls to the full time fire department.

Gray first became a member of the fire department prior to World War I but in 1916 he left the department to become an engineer at the old Kinston Cotton Mills. A few years later he returned to his fire department duties and has remained there ever since.

In 1929 Gray was made chief under a reorganization program for the department. Before that time the chief of the volunteer department had been chief of the entire department but with the rapid growth of the community the city fathers decided

that a full time chief and an enlarged department were necessary.

Gray through all the succeeding administrations has been able to satisfy the city governing board with his department and his personal abilities and even now he has been able to keep City Manager Bill Heard happy, in spite of occasional exchanges between the two that sound hotter than a four-alarm fire but are more "lovers' spats" than anything else.

Gray has seen his department grow from the old volunteer days into what is rated as one of the top departments in North Carolina. He has not been impatient in his insisting on more and more equipment but has pursued a policy of letting the city council know the facts and then to let them make up their own mind. This is a policy that has paid off well in his years as head of the department.

A recent query from a newspaperman brought out one Gray characteristic that explains to a considerable degree his ability to push his department along. Asked where he was going to house the new \$32,000 hook and ladder truck when it arrives early next year, Gray replied, "Let's cross the bridge when we get to it. If I had started talking about building a new building for this truck the aldermen might have been slower about buying it. But when we get the truck they ain't going to let it set out in the rain."

Gray, Hoover and Nobles have seen a lot of action in their time and their accumulated fire fighting wisdom is one of the strongest assets the local department has. Neither of the trio is as young as he was when he first started chasing fire engines but they are all well able to shinny up a ladder and work a hose with the best of the younger members of the present department and what is most important each of them know HOW to use the equipment at hand.

Next year Hoover will celebrate his 50th year as a fireman but he still looks forward to many more years of active duty, protecting the property of Kinston and surrounding area. Gray with his silver thatch of hair is no where near the retiring attitude and Nobles, the younger of the trio, is "just in his prime," when it comes to fishing and squirrel hunting.

Arthur Goff Back In Custody After Unscheduled Visit

Arthur Goff is out of circulation. The escaped convict surrendered yesterday morning to his brother in law, Floyd Wiggins. Seven or eight weeks ago Goff escaped from the prison camp at Fayetteville where he was serving a two year term for assault with a deadly weapon.

For the past two or three weeks he has been living at the home of Wiggins near Falling Creek on the farm of Rodney Goodman.

Sunday night, however, the peaceful, if unofficial visit was interrupted when Goff got on a drunk and proceeded to chase the entire Wiggins family off the place with the family shotgun.

After a worried 12 hours in which Wiggins begged authorities from Raleigh to Kinston to come and get his "bad breaking" brother-in-law, Deputy Sheriff W. S. Clements Jr. arrived Monday morning and Goff immediately took to the bushes where he remained until Tuesday morning in spite of bloodhounds and assorted officers chasing him back and forth across Neuse River.

When Goff returned to the Wiggins home, however, the situation was reversed. Then Wiggins had the shotgun and took Goff in tow and brought him over to town where he was ment officials who returned him turned over to prison department to Fayetteville where he escaped twice since being sent there last winter.

Trailer Park Item

A little flurry of excitement worried the folks at the Belmont Trailer Park on the Richlands Highway Tuesday afternoon when Bill McKinney, husband of the lady who manages the trailer park, pulled a pistol and threatened to shoot several trailer park residents who came to protest McKinney's refusal to permit milk and bakery deliverymen to make the rounds in the trailer area. Justice of Peace Bill Thomas issued a peace warrant against McKinney and ordered him out of the county within 48 hours.

Tobacco Stabilization Board to Meet June 27

Carl T. Hicks, of Walstonburg, president of the Flu-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, called on the organization's Advisory Committees in the five bright leaf states today to make a special effort to have large representative groups of stock-holder members present at the corporation's annual meeting, which will be held in the main Ball Room of the Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh on June 27 at 11 A. M.

Hicks said the Advisory Committee was set up last month to coordinate the giant co-op's program on the county and local levels for the 438,000 members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Virginia.

The president of the World's largest co-op emphasized the necessity of a large attendance at the meeting, stressing that the tobacco program is now confronted with many problems, both foreign and domestic for the coming season.

He said since the organization's inception in 1946 it had taken under loan over 728 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco with funds borrowed from the Commodity Credit Corporation. "We later re-sell this tobacco at a better price and declare dividends to our stockholders," he explained.

"Under the Stabilization system," Hicks said, "every member is guaranteed at least 90 per cent of parity for his tobacco on the warehouse floor."

Hicks further emphasized that the organization's membership "has been saved millions of dollars under this non-profit, self-sustaining program."

He said that important policies concerning Stabilization's operations would be formulated during the Annual Meeting, and made a special appeal to the membership to send large delegations.



This is the 50-bed Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie which is located on a 13 acre tract of land donated by a public spirited citizen. Since this hospital, designed by Kinston Architect John J. Rowland, was completed there have been additions including a nurses' home all of which were easily accomplished since the hospital was located on an adequate site. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners are currently in the process of attempting to build a 125-bed hospital on just over a fraction of an acre of land. Ahoskie has just over 3,200 people. Kinston has well over 20,000 and is faced with the largest possible population expansion in the near future.