



By EULA N. GREENWOOD
COMPLETELY OUT . . . Shortly after we wrote here that the Governor is staying out of the Democratic campaigns here and there about the State, he himself said in a formal statement to the press that he is playing hands off. He particularly referred to the Eighth District.

Then it was that everybody began showing how the Governor could get into a race and, at the same time, stay officially out of it. It was pointed out that almost every chief executive has said he was neutral until the chips were down in the fall between Democrat and Republican.

The snide inference was that the Governor was just talking to hear his head roar in his neutrality statement. Well, in this instance we swing along with the Governor. And, more important, so do the candidates. We happen to know a couple who have been red hot Sandfordites in times past . . . and he is for them now; but he isn't helping them; is neutral, just as he says; and both of them desperately need help of the kind the Governor can give.

Sanford, just as he says, is not getting into the Congressional races — for fear of hurting the party. That's good sense, too.

NO SUITS . . . When Francis Meekins had these headlines on a front page story in his "Coastland Times" the other day, we thought things were getting down to the ultra-finals, the bare essentials.

The headlines: "Bathing Suits Are Taken Off At Beauty Meet". It developed that the story was reporting plans for the Miss Dare County beauty contest, and this year they will parade in evening gowns. No bathing suits. And, alas, the Southern Albemarle Association is doing the same. Well, most girls do look much better in evening dress than bathing suits. . . but this new Dare approach is some woman's idea. Wanna bet?

DOWN IN ALABAMA . . . We attach no importance to the recurring

rumors that Luther Hodges might come back to North Carolina as a candidate for Governor in 1964.

Nevertheless, the report does point up this fact: We have never had a Governor to serve his full term and then at a later date offer himself as a candidate for the office again. Strange, isn't it?

Down in Alabama it's like it is here: No governor can succeed himself in office. But down there, two governors in the past 35 years have come back for second terms. Bibb Graves did it; and during one of his terms . . . the first, we believe, appointed Mrs. Graves U. S. Senator. Jim Folsom did it; and is now running for his third term.

Only in 1940, when we had seven candidates running for Governor, have we approached Alabama's total of eight running this year. And, until a few days ago when one candidate fell by the wayside, they had nine. We had six (Charles M. Johnson, W. K. Scott, R. Mayne Albright, Olla Ray Boyd, Oscar Barker, and W. F. Stanley) candidates for the Democratic nomination in 1948 — but have never had as many as nine! Alabama often has that many.

We asked LaFayette Patterson, Raleigh resident and an uncle of

the present governor of Alabama, why it is that they have so many more candidates for Governor down there than we do up here. Since he is a former Congressman (population loss cost him his District) from Alabama he knows whereof he speaks.

"Down in Alabama", he says, "one man — even if there are six or eight running — stands about as good chance as another of being elected Governor of the State. In North Carolina, it has never been that way. Here, it has always been among three—and, mostly, between two candidates."

Patterson is right. We have had our Barker's, McRae's, Grady's, Gravelly's, and Albright's, but they were recognized as mere also-rans when they announced. We haven't had wide-open Democracy in our party here as they have in Alabama. But, nevertheless, much better government.

CARS . . . Chevrolet is first (5,081), Ford is second, (4,239), Pontiac is third (1,389), and Buick is fourth (1,122) in new car sales in North Carolina since January 1.

In fifth place is Falcon (1,112), in sixth is Oldsmobile (1,045). The next four are as follows: Rambler (835), Corvair (728), Plymouth (475), and Dodge (455).

Reports say that General Motors is not particularly pleased that it has this year such a lion's share of nationwide new car business. It would like to see Chrysler, down pitifully this season, do better. The worry? Bob Kennedy. The fear? Too big. The trouble? Too popular in '62.

LETTERS . . . With the Democratic Primary a scant six weeks away,

it is natural for letters-to-the-editor (those gems of wisdom) to wax poetic on this or that candidate. To wit: "John Doe is a fine man. . . and we agree heartily with him when he says . . ."

Well, the place for such advertising is in advertisements, not in letters-to-the-editor, so says the News-Record, published in politico-conscious Madison County by the Story family. They ran an interesting article in their paper last week about the praise-letters, pointing out in no uncertain terms that the writers were fooling nobody but themselves and henceforth the compliments should be run as ads or not at all.

With some folks, the local paper is fair game for any trick going. The Story's, originally from down east, have been up west for more than a generation now and know their politics from both sides of the fence.

WEIMAR JONES . . . An up-and-coming after-dinner speaker is Weimar Jones, editor of the Franklin Press in Macon County and former president of the N. C. Press Association, he recently

Lt. Walter Berry Completes Army Medical Course

Lt. Walter L. Berry Jr., 22, whose parents live on Route 1, Trenton, completed the eight-week military orientation course conducted by the Medical Field Service School at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Tex., March 23.

Lieutenant Berry was trained in emergency medical procedures in combat, the controlling and prevention of epidemics, field sanitation, the duties of the Army Medical Service in combat and supply and administrative procedures.

Before entering the Army, the lieutenant was employed by Allied Purchasing Corporation in New York. He was graduate from Jones High School in 1952 and received his bachelor of science degree from Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina.

spoke to the N. Y. Press Association. Jones will be a featured speaker at the 60th annual convention of the N. C. Merchants Association in Charlotte on May 22.

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