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A NATIONAL THREE-WAY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CONFUSES ALL, BUT POLLSTERS WORSE

By Jack Rider

For the first time in 56 years there is a nation-wide three-way contest for the presidency of these United States, and it has everyone confused, but no one is more confused than the poll takers.

No section of the United Constitution is more confusing than that which specifies the manner in which presidents are to be elected.

There is no national law pertaining to the selection of candidates. This is left to the individual — as with George Wallace, or to the parties who select their respective nominees in an assortment of ways.

The confusion begins with these national party conventions, since those designated delegates to the convention are not chosen by the electorate, but are chosen by their party, and each state may have widely differing schemes for this designation of

convention delegates.

Wallace without this initial confusion simply decided that he wanted to be a candidate for president and with a small staff and a low-budget operation he has performed a political miracle in getting his name on all ballots in every state. This is the first time a nation-wide candidacy of this kind has ever existed.

Then after the names of all presidential candidates is in the political pot more confusion sets in: The constitution declares that the high man in each state gets all of that state's electoral votes. Which, in a 3-way race obviously creates the statistical possibility of a man picking up all of a given state's electoral marbles with just 33-per-cent-plus of the popular vote.

But after the election is over and the electoral votes have been collected the constitution adds further confusion by saying

that in this department, 'The Electoral College, a candidate must have a majority, and not simply a plurality. This is a somewhat belated gesture in the general direction of majority rule, after having ignored this principle at the state level.

And to muddy the waters further, electoral votes are not allocated to states by population, but under a formula that gives each state one vote in the Electoral College for each member it has in congress. And recently as a minor gesture to the residents of the District of Columbia they were given three votes in this electoral rat race although they have no representation in congress.

With 100 senators and 453 members of the house of representatives and the three votes of D. C. one easily adds up the 538 votes of the electoral college. This is easy mathematically, but not nearly so easy politically.

With a total of 538 votes in the electoral college a majority is 270; or more than half.

With the population distribution the nation had in the 1960 census the congressional allocations make it theoretically possible to get that magic 270 electoral votes by carrying only 11 states, and the District of Columbia. Those 11 states and their respective electoral votes are: New York 43, California 40, Pennsylvania 29, Illinois 26, Ohio 26, Texas 25, Michigan 21, New Jersey 17, Florida 14, Massachusetts 14 and either Indiana or North Carolina with 13 electoral votes each.

Eight of these states are in the northeast and northcentral corner of the country, one in the far west, one in the Southwest and two in the southeast. But it would take a political magician to pull this magic 11 states together in a three-way argument that has sectional overtones.

The candidates, and their staffs have to play a dangerous form of Russian Roulette; deciding which states are "safely" theirs, which are impossible to hope for and those that might be theirs with enough effort.

This is difficult enough in the usual two-man contest, but the addition of just one more major candidate makes this task 10 times more difficult, as the poll takers are finding much to their own consternation, as well as to the mounting consternation of the poll watchers, whose number includes every candidate.

The most highly touted pair of poll takers in the nation until now has been George Gallup and Louis Harris.

This week, so near to the decision day Harris has predicted that Nixon will get 40 per cent of the popular vote and Humphrey will get 35 per cent, which of course leaves 25 per cent to be divided between Wallace and the "undecideds".

And in the same week Gallup is saying Nixon will get 43 per cent and Humphrey will get 31 per cent — a six per cent spread between what are supposed to be the best estimators of voting habits. This leaves 26 per cent to be split between Wallace and those "undecideds."

The experts who analyze the experts say that poll taking is accurate within six per cent. Even a non-expert can understand how insecure the poll tak-

ers are this week when the six per cent variance between Harris and Gallup is put beside the "within-six-percent" accuracy factor that is supposed to be built into even the most scientific forms of poll taking.

To further accent this extreme state of flux of the poll takers it is agreed this week that Wallace is still running in second place insofar as electoral vote is concerned despite the fact that Humphrey — in third place is rated far ahead of him in the popular vote department. This results from Wallace's popular vote being concentrated — so the pollsters say — in a few states, while Humphrey's appeal is more generally spread across the nation.

This gives rise to the ultimate possible absurdity: That a man could be lowest of the three in popular vote and still wind up in first place in the electoral college vote. This is a very real mathematical possibility but hardly a political probability.

There is a great hue and cry for a change in the method of electing presidents as one immediate result of this confused situation. This is being heard most loudly and most frequently from the liberal side of the political fence. The peculiarity of the system is such that it may work in favor of either the liberal, the moderate or the conservative candidate, and the answer will not be known until after the election and then it is most likely that there will be no absolute answer to the question of who was helped or hurt most by the present system.

Because of this uncertainty and because the next congress is almost certain to be more conservative than the last there is little to no chance of the constitution being changed on this particular point.

Which means, among other things, that those who watch and try to keep up with what is going on in this great American game of politics will have to study a great deal on this particular election if they hope to be able to do a better job of guessing on the next; since it will very likely be run under the same rules, and again with three major candidates. And with Gene McCarthy still pouting there is that even wilder possibility of a four-way Campaign nationally in 1972.

Now, that is something to really soothe the aching pollsters' ulcers!

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Short Civil Session of Jones County Superior Court Accomplishes Much, J. C. West's Will is Fully Approved

Although this week's session of Jones County Superior Court didn't last until Noon Tuesday it did accomplish a considerable amount of work in that brief period.

Divorces were granted to Laura Morris Morrow from Roger Morrow, Helen R. Hill from Forest Hill and to Lillie Mae Laster Pittman from Carlton Pittman.

Final judgments were entered in a suit brought by Brake Equipment Company against George Mateja with Mateja ordered to pay \$572.33 with six per cent interest from August 3, 1967.

A suit brought by Henry W. Gerock against Ben Rhodes was non-suited;

A non-suit was entered in a suit brought by the First Citizens Bank against Walter and Nannie Rouse.

An accident case involving a mule and a motor vehicle in which Benjamin L. Parker was suing Adjer Haddock and Bruce Parker was settled with an award of \$1740 to the plaintiff.

Still another non-suit was entered in a damage suit brought against the Late Ely Perry and his wife by Lonnie Miller, administrator of the estate of Albert Miller Jr., who drowned in a pond on the Perry Farm. A similar suit is still pending in

the federal court.

Finally the will of the Late J. C. West was approved. Members of his family had sought to break the will because the bulk of the estate was left to J. C. West Jr. The court ruled that the will was in fact the last will and testament of West, that he had sufficient mental capacity at the time he made the will to do so, and that the will was not procured by exercise of fraud, duress or undue influence.

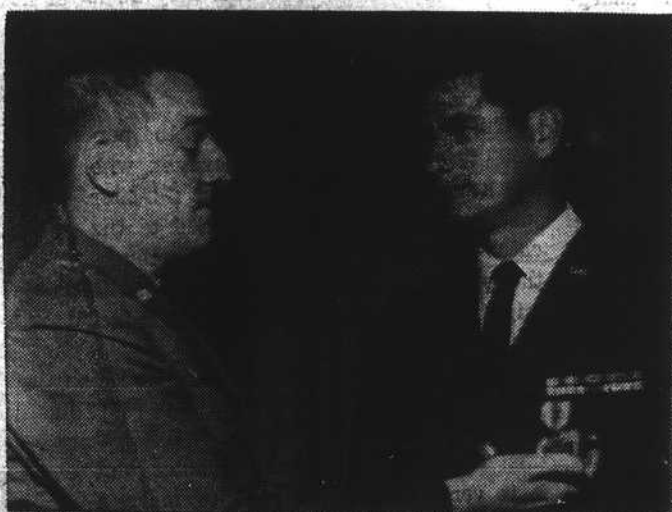
Shady Grove Revival

Evangelist George "Shorty" Hawkins, a former resident of Jones County, will conduct a one-week revival at Shady Grove Methodist Church beginning on November 3rd and lasting through November 8th with services and special singing each night at 7:30.

TURKEY SHOOTS

The Maxwell Mill American Legion Post near Pink Hill is holding turkey shoots every Saturday until Thanksgiving with a free fish stew to be served at the Hut where the shoots are to be held.

Major Nolan Alcock Wins Second Air Force Commendation Medal



Major Nolan C. Alcock (right), receives the Air Force Commendation Medal at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center at Denver. Brigadier General Edwin S. Wittbrodt, commander of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, makes the presentation.

Major Nolan C. Alcock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Alcock of Pollocksville, has received his second award of the Air Force Commendation Medal at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center at Denver.

Major Alcock was decorated for meritorious service as comptroller for the 432nd Combat Support Group at Udorn Royal Thai AFB, Thailand. He was cited for his outstanding initiative, job knowledge and leadership

New Bern Man is Fined for Killing Doe in Jones County

Among cases cleared in Jones County Recorder's Court this week was that of Floyd M. Cason of New Bern, who was fined \$116 for killing a doe on an early-season hunt in Jones County.

Gene S. Jarman of Trenton route 2 was also ordered to pay the court costs for a less serious game law violation.

In other non-traffic cases a worthless check charge against James Ed Morris of Craven County was not pressed with leave and Mack Jones of Row-

land route 1 paid a total of \$57.21 for the same offense.

Speeding fines were paid by Billy Sunday Suggs of Kinston; Columbus Hugh Jackson Jr. of Cherry Point and Michael Lee McDonald of Kalamazoo, Mich.

Lloyd Earl Coward of Vanceboro route 1 paid \$13 for not having had his car inspected and Duane Kenneth Bryant of Jacksonville paid \$13 for making a improper turn.

Principal's List and Honor Roll at Jones Central High School Listed

The following Principal's List and Honor Roll List is being released by William H. Bowen, principal of Jones Central High School. In order for a student to make the principal's list, he or she must have all A's. In order for a student to make the honor roll, he or, she must have

all A's and B's.

Principal's List by grades is as follows:

Ninth grade, Minnie Ellen Jones.

Eleventh grade, Marline Jones.

Twelfth grade, Jay Bender and Storma Thomas.

The honor roll by grade is as follows:

Ninth grade: Frances Chapman, Stanley Keith Jones, George P. Moore, Karen Mercer, Donna Potter and Ivey Riggs.

Tenth Grade: Bonnie Banks, Lyndia Creagh, Barbara Henderson, Pam Jenkins, Murray Jones, Janie Meadows and Larry Thompson.

Eleventh Grade: Frank Bender, Peggy Bryan, Susan Morgan, Gregory Strayhorn, Louis Toler, Lynne Thompson and Michael Thompson.

Twelfth grade: Sue Cauley, Tony Criscitiello, Bobbie Davis, William Hawkins, Janice Jones, John Mallard, Sherwood McDaniel, Carolyn Mills, Wanda Mills, Gilbert Norris, Michael Parker, Ronnie Pollock and Grover White.

CHILD BADLY HURT

Five year-old Joseph Gardner 107 Springhill, Kinston, suffered a broken arm and badly lacerated leg last week when he ran into the path of a car driven by Flora Keel Penuel of 704 Jones Avenue near his home. The accident was classed unavoidable as far as the driver was concerned.

which aided immeasurably in identifying and solving problems within the comptroller area.

The major, a graduate of Maysville-Pollocksville High School, received a B. S. degree in 1954 from East Carolina College. His wife, Glenna, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Walker of Moyock.