

Who's Attending The Convention?

Who's minding the store??? In a presidential election year, during convention week - which for a politician is second only to dying and going to heaven - it only figures that the party organization on the county level would be closely attuned to all the buzzing on the convention floor in Miami, especially with a delegate and alternate from the county attending.

I called Cameron Ware, former County Chairman from KM on Monday to see what he had heard from Miami. He referred me promptly to David Beam, County Chairman. Mr. Beam supposed that delegate Jack Palmer from Shelby was at the convention, but he wasn't sure, as he hadn't heard anything, and suggested I call Mr. Palmer's place of business. They, in turn, referred me to...guess who? His mother! I wouldn't go so far as to say that there's an apathetic attitude toward the convention from the grassroots level in this state, but it doesn't seem that many North Carolina Democrats feel they have much at stake at the convention. The state's favorite son candidate, Terry Sanford, failed in his attempt to stop George Wallace in the May Primary. State party people are afraid to closely align themselves with either Wallace or McGovern both of whom have dared to give some straight talk on the issues. Humphrey may seem the lesser of four evils since he has modified his stands on some issues over the years, and Mr. Muskie, the champion of just a few months ago who was going to walk away with the nomination, and who had the early support of Governor Bob Scott, dropped out of the primaries after some poor showings.

The majority of North Carolina's delegates are pledged to Wallace on the first ballot at the convention this week, and it's interesting to see where they will go from there. It is an open convention, even with McGovern being clearly ahead, and there is certainly a clear cut choice of candidates in the offing, but at this point it doesn't appear that North Carolina delegates have a champion to rally to at the convention. -R.D.



How Will 18-21 Year-Olds Vote?

Holshouser Plans Rigorous Campaign Against Bowles For Governor

By John Kilgo KQ SYNDICATE

Jim Holshouser, the weary and ambitious champion of the Republican Party's fight for Governor, says without blinking an eye: "Skipper Bowles is very definitely a part of the political establishment in this state."

With that, Holshouser gave a clear indication of how he plans to campaign against Democrat Bowles in this fall's gubernatorial battle. Many politicians interpret the mood of the country and this state as being one of, "Turn the Rascals Out." Nationally, you need only look at the many successes of George McGovern and George Wallace. They campaigned against the Establishment (what-ever the Establishment is) and they did very well.

The mood spills over into North Carolina. How else could you explain George Wallace and Nick Galifianakis winning separate campaigns before the same voters? Wallace and Galifianakis were both on the outs, so to speak, and the voters aren't happy with people in power.

With that in mind, Holshouser plans to be as tenacious as a bulldog in tying Bowles in with the Establishment of Tar Heel politics.

"Skipper did a very good job in the primary of selling the idea that he was not a member of this Establishment," Holshouser told me in an interview. "He went to great pains to divorce himself of Gov. Scott and others in power. But you can trace Bowles' political activities since 1960, his voting record since he's been in the Legislature, and it's easy to see that he is a member of the political Establishment."

Holshouser is working on politics now but he plans to get his campaign in full swing by August or early September. He believes he has a good chance to win and he's an energetic campaigner. But it takes money to run for Governor these days.

"We're not discouraged by any means," Holshouser says, "but when it comes to raising money, we have a long ways down the road to travel yet. The Bowles campaign will spend a great deal of money in the fall race. There's no way we can match him dollar-for-dollar and we won't even try. But it's important that we're at least in the ball park with him."

Bowles listed expenditures in excess of \$800,000 in defeating Pat Taylor for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Holshouser believes that big spenders in primaries are hurt by the money issue in general elections and he plans to talk a great deal about Bowles and money.

"Skipper was smart in the way he spent his money in the Democratic primary," Holshouser said. "A great deal of what he spent wasn't visible to the average person. If you're on radio and TV and in the newspapers all the time, or if you have your picture on every corner billboard, people can tell that costs a lot of money."

"But Bowles did some other things that were quite costly that weren't really visible. For instance, he sent out letters to registered Democratic voters on several occasions and people might not recognize that that is a very expensive campaign tool."

Holshouser told me that the reappointment of Frank Rouse as chairman of the Republican Party seems to be working out very well.

"I've met with Frank a couple of times since he went back in as chairman," Holshouser said, "and he seems to be doing quite well. The Republican Party seems to be working out very well."

But Brock feels that the 18 to 21-year-olds will continue to vote with an independent mind and will not be considered as a sure thing for any candidate.

"When it comes to the registration and voting process," Brock said, "we're hurt by ignorance and apathy."

Brock feels that too much emotion, and too much time, energy and money is used to register voters. And not enough is used to get registered voters to the polls.

"People are computer and statistic crazy these days," Brock says. "They want to see more people on the rolls. But I would like to see an 80 or 85 percent participation by the voters on the books and after we reach this, then go out and look for new voters. Some people call this a regressive attitude but I don't believe it is."

Brock says there is also evidence that a lot of people 50 and over haven't bothered to become eligible to vote. Many of these, he says, are just ashamed that they've never registered and don't want to make the move for the first time in life.

The Elections Board hopes to be able to reach these people with some kind of a positive message.

And with young people, the Elections Board will help with a course in 100 state high schools, trying to impress on young people the importance of voting in primaries and elections.

"Low voter turnout such as we had this spring make a mockery of the Democratic process," Brock said. "A majority is supposed to rule in a Democracy. But with low turnout such as we had in North Carolina this spring, a minority of our people are making the decision. That's simply not healthy."

The North Carolina Elections Board recorded the registration of 214,000 new voters between Jan. 1 and April 7. That's more than they usually register over a two-year period.

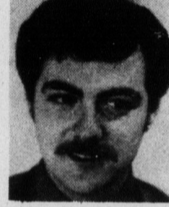
"In addition to this high registration," Brock said, "our board has been sued 15 times for various reasons. All indications were that the primaries were attracting keen interest and the turnout at the polls was going to be high. But it was not."

Brock says the Democratic process is still suffering from two diseases. He says election officials must somehow get across the point to people that registering to vote is extremely easy, not difficult, and that voting is more than a right, it is a responsibility.

"The young voters--many of whom were voting for the first time--probably did like other voters," Brock said, "and that is they made up their minds how they were going to vote on the way to the polls or after they got into the voting booth. I'm not saying the trivia handed to voters at the voting place makes a difference. I'm just saying most voters wait until the last minute to really decide which candidate they are going to vote for."

Perspective

by Jay Ashley



Being new in a town can often be handicapping. Various issues of government and many organizations can be very confusing without a sufficient background to the situations. The unfortunate thing about some issues is that no one understands. Life time residents may not have knowledge enough to talk about the subject much less object to it or agree with it.

Luckily my line of business keeps me in contact with departments of local government and other outlets of public service. In this business one has to stay abreast of everything that happens in the community. The constitutional right of a newspaper to keep the public informed has been upheld since its inception and, not only should the press exercise this right but the citizens must also retain their rights to know.

In this vein I would like to initiate a question and answer segment to this page. If anything bothers you about Kings Mountain or policies of the city let us know and we will try to give an informative answer to the questions. It will also give me a chance to keep an open line to the various agencies in the city or county and give better reports to the readers of the MIRROR.

The trouble with question and answer columns is that people always think the other person will write and ask. This should not be the case. The more questions I receive on one subject, the more I will know it is on people's mind and attention can be concentrated vigorously to receive a proper answer.

Also it should be noted that the questions do not have to be about Kings Mountain or Cleveland County. If you have questions on any topic just let me know and an answer will be forthcoming. Write Kings Mountain MIRROR, Box 345 or call 739-3851. A people who do not want to know may soon lose that right.

Kids at the age of 11 are at the peak of childhood. Unfortunately this age factor in a car does not indicate peak. An eleven year old kid will see better days so why can't an eleven year old car have better days a comin'? What this country needs is not a good nickel cigar but a car that like wine and women, mellows with age. Although the car as it gets older may not be able to frolic with the others on the super highway it still should be able to traverse the secondary roads by experience alone.

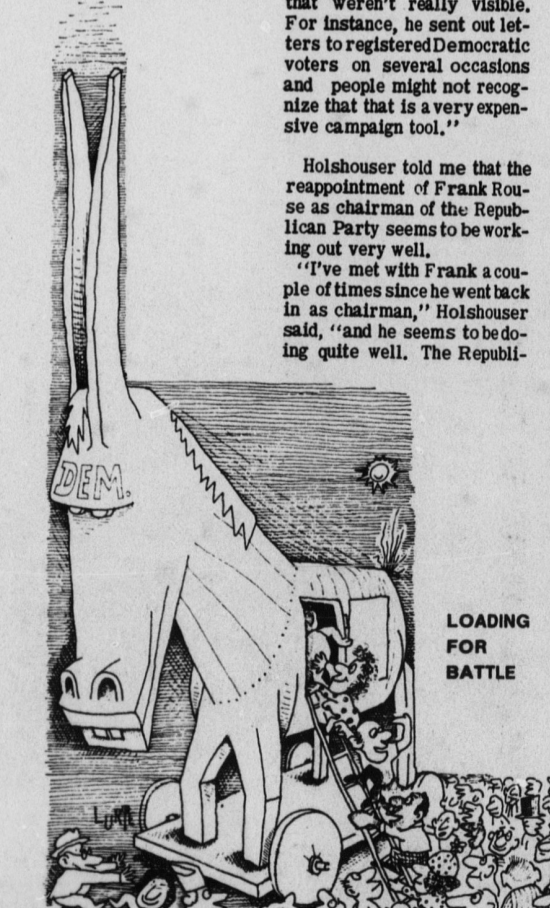
For those of you who are probably wondering why I am writing on such a ridiculous line obviously did not see me pushing my car down the center of King Street one day last week. As I left work to go home the 61 VW, which I affectionately call the Red Lem-on, Barbara calls Total Disaster and my dear sweet mother maliciously calls Hitler's Revenge, finally gave up the ghost. It sputtered and emitted an expensive sounding "Whrrrr" as it slowly came to a halt. I have treated that car as though it were a Rolls and what does it do but quit. It could have died in a more accessible spot than the middle of NC 74 by no - it had to spend its dying day among its counterparts on the highway who sneered as they passed by. I was always under the impression that cars, like elephants, instinctively meandered to that old car burial ground.

So I had to get out and push the car to a service station. Well at least it happened near one and not in the middle of the Gobi desert. As I was pushing I could almost hear the other cars give a metallic chorle through their grillbox. The attendant at the service station tried to save the car but instead decided to administer last rites. So we pushed old faithful, turned old Benedict Arnold II into a cubbyhole beside a car wash and left it there until I could find an undertaker---I mean a repairman.

And don't tell me there is no such thing as nostalgia. This past weekend I went to Six Flags over Georgia. As we walked around the grounds we saw signs pointing to the carousel. My mind reached back a few years and the memories were pleasant as I made my way to the merry go round. Even before I could see it I could hear the music and shouts of people having a good time.

The best part actually about the carousel is watching the other people. They came in all sizes from infant to senior citizen. Some were standing beside the horses holding the children on but if you looked close enough you could detect a hint of yearning to jump on a horse themselves. The ones who dared to ride carried a smile permanently plastered on their face as they too remembered a time long past. Even the rough and tumble men were grinning despite themselves and the sullen faced teenagers laughed with the rest of the riders. Mirrors were hung on the inside track and faces saw their own self and the incongruity of a man beside a boy was almost saddening.

Suddenly the carousel came to a slow halt and reluctantly the people dismounted and casted a longing eye over their shoulder and made their way back down the hill. They had gained a little yesterday in a three minute ride today.



Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



BULLETIN: Just prior to press time Tuesday evening Mirror Co-Publisher Lem Lynch had a wreck...that in itself is not so unusual since it's at least his fourth during the past year...but it was the first in his brand new blue and white Olds, with only 1000 miles on it. Lem wasn't hurt, I'm glad to say, but the king of the road will be seen for the next few days in the Mirror truck until they put his car back together again.

I was surprised by a visit from my good friend Maurice Duval Sunday evening. I hadn't seen him in over a year, as he's been finishing up his degree requirements at Carolina, and pursuing his hobby of skydiving. He came out of the woodwork to see little Holly, the latest addition to the Dodson household. He was very impressed with her, and was always sort of a daredevil, and so it was no surprise when I learned he had taken up skydiving, or that he is working as a security officer and policeman this summer. He has ambition of becoming a sky-marshal, no less, for the government.

Which ties in with a story Sylvia Holmes related about some of the red tape her family went through leaving New York for their flight to England. She says her son Chris was quite excited about being frisked, along with all the other male passengers, before boarding the plane.

Things are gradually returning to a state of normalcy at our house, in spite of the fact that our little girl has her nights and days reversed. During the day she sleeps, taking her intermittent feeding, and falling immediately back into slumberland for 4 or 5 hours. At night it's a different story...When we get ready to retire, she becomes wide-eyed and alert, hiccups after taking her milk, stirs in her crib and makes funny little noises in the night. Either she's got to get her time straight or I'm going to have to start working on a third shift operation.

I'm fast becoming a believer in do-it-yourself around the house. Our house has these aluminum roll-out windows, which play havoc with installing an air conditioner. I surveyed the situation, and decided it was a job for a pro. When the pro came out to give an estimate, apparently he decided that it wasn't a worthy job, and gave an estimate of \$50 to install the \$150 air conditioner. He and I both agreed that it wasn't worth it, so I dropped the idea until the humidity rose and I decided that the thing was going to be installed in spite of everything. So I proceeded to take out the window, and with a little help and about 15 minutes total work time, the conditioner was securely in place, and I was \$50 better off, but I'm still upset about having to pay \$7.50 to get a screw tightened on my water heater last winter.

I had promised myself and my wife a picture of little Holly in last week's Mirror, but in the midst of all the chaos of coming home from the hospital, it just didn't materialize, so I tried again this week. I was just thinking about one night last winter when Sue and I were talkin' with Larry and Evelyn Ham...at the church. When they learned that Sue was pregnant, Larry commented that he hoped it would be a boy, because the girls grossly outnumber the little boys being born in Kings Mountain....I guess we just added to the future female competition for boys.

Washington Report

by Congressman James T. Broyhill

Social Security

Long overdue action to provide an increase in Social Security benefits was taken by the Congress last week in an amendment attached to the bill temporarily increasing the national debt limitation. This measure was signed into law by President Nixon on July 1. An increase of 20 percent was provided for all Social Security beneficiaries, to be effective September 1, 1972. The increased payments will be received in the October Social Security checks.

In addition, this amendment provides for future increases in Social Security benefits to occur automatically each January, provided the cost of living has increased by three percent the previous year. To finance these automatic increases, the wage base on which Social Security taxes are paid will go proportionately. This provision will bring some regularity to the scheduling of Social Security increases, which have previously occurred whenever the Congress approves them. Under this new system, if the Congress fails to act, and the cost of living increases, Social Security beneficiaries will not have to struggle along on payments which have been reduced in value by inflation.

Legislation to provide an increase in Social Security benefits has been pending in the Congress since last year. Because the legislation also contained provisions for other changes in the Social Security and Medicare programs, as well as a controversial welfare reform proposal, it has been subject to many delays in the legislative process. This bill, H.R. 1, was passed by the House of Representatives last June and, since that time, has been stalled in the Senate Finance Committee. Because of the urgent need for an increase in Social Security payments, this provision was separated from the rest of the bill and added as an amendment to the debt limitation measure.

The provisions to make substantive changes in the Social Security and Medicare programs, as passed by the House of Representatives, would be beneficial to all who are covered by Social Security. One change would increase benefits for widows and widowers to 100 percent of the benefit due the deceased husband or wife. Under present law, widows and widowers receive only 82 1/2 percent of this amount. Another change would

provide increased monthly payments for those who delay retirement beyond age 65. They would receive an increase of one percent above their normal rate for each year of continued work past age 65. For those who are already retired, the bill would provide an increase in the amount they may earn and still receive full benefits. Presently, this amount is \$1680 per year; it would be increased to \$2000.

A significant change in the Medicare program would be provided by opening the program to those under age 65 who receive Social Security disability benefits. In addition, those age 65 and older who have not attained Social Security eligibility could enroll in Medicare by paying a special premium, which would initially be set at \$31 per month. Both of these groups have difficulty in obtaining health insurance through traditional means and would be greatly aided by being made eligible for Medicare.

The Social Security program, which began in 1937, now touches the lives of practically every American family. Approximately 91 percent of the elderly are either receiving Social Security payments or will be eligible for them when they or their spouses stop working. Of those who reached age 65 last year, 93 percent were eligible for coverage.

The Medicare program, a part of Social Security, provides hospital insurance for almost all of the twenty and one-half million people in the country who are age 65 and older. In addition, about nineteen and one-half million (95 percent of the aged) have Medical Insurance under the program. Overall, Medicare payments for hospital and physicians' care are estimated to account for more than 67 percent of expenditures for hospital and physicians' services provided to the aged.

Social Security and Medicare provide invaluable programs to assist our older citizens. In addition, Social Security programs are available to assist those under age 65 who become disabled, as well as providing benefits for their dependents. While Social Security is not designed to assure total family coverage it does provide a solid base of protection for loss of income due to retirement, disability, or death of the family wage-earner.