

Dallas Will Have 2 Bar Presidents

Dallas attorneys will head both the state and national bar associations this year.

This unique situation developed Thursday when J. Glenn Turner was announced as the new president of the State Bar of Texas.

Last February, the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association nominated Robert G. Storey for national president.

Turner is senior partner in the firm of Turner, Atwood, White, McLane and Francis. He won a mail ballot among lawyers, getting 3,495 votes to 2,719 for Homa S. Hill of Fort Worth, the Austin Bureau of The News reported.

Turner will assume the presidency July 5 after the state convention in Houston. He will succeed Cecil E. Burney of Corpus Christi.

The Dallas man began practice of law in Cooper, Delta County, and became active in the bar group after moving to Dallas. In 1939, he was president of the Dallas bar—the year the ABA cite the Dallas organization as the outstanding one in the nation.

Storey's nomination by the House of Delegates virtually assured his election, scheduled during the ABA's annual meeting in San Francisco, Calif., in September.

He is senior partner of the firm of Storey, Armstrong and Steger and is dean of the Southern Methodist University School of Law.

Texas lawyers elected Everett Looney of Austin to be vice-president of the Star Bar, succeeding Hill. Looney polled 3,308 votes to 1,599 for C. A. Williams of Chik-dress and 1,218 for Traylor Russell of Mount Pleasant.

Both Turner and Looney now are directors of the State Bar.

Looney went to Austin from Ennis, where he was city attorney. He was an Assistant Attorney General of Texas and a special assistant

to the United States Attorney General.

The president and vice-president serve 1-year terms.

Chosen on the board of directors for 3-year terms were C. M. Kennedy of Texarkana, John P. Blair of Beaumont, Earl Roberts of Longview, Floyd Enlow of Angleton, Albert M. Walker of San Marcos, Virgil T. Seaberry of Eastland and W. F. Nowlin of San Antonio.

One-third of the 21-member board is elected each year.

George P. Morrill of Beeville was elected by lawyers in that congressional district to fill a 2-year unexpired term.



J. GLENN TURNER



ROBERT G. STOREY

AUSTIN AMERICAN Bar Association Elects Officers June 6, 1952

Election of J. Glenn Turner of Dallas and Everett L. Looney of Austin as president and vice president, respectively, of the State Bar of Texas in a statewide election just completed among the 11,000 lawyers of Texas was announced here Thursday by Cecil E. Burney, current president of the organization.

Turner and Looney, now serving as directors, will begin one-year terms in their new offices at the close of the 1952 State Bar convention in Houston on July 5.

Also elected for three-year terms were seven directors, each representing the lawyers of one of the state's Congressional districts. They are: C. M. Kennedy of Texarkana, first district; John P. Blair, Beaumont, second district; Earl Roberts, Longview, third district; Floyd Enlow, Angleton, ninth district; Albert M. Walker, San Marcos, 10th district; Virgil T. Seaberry, Eastland, 17th district; and W. F. Nowlin, San Antonio, 20th district.

George P. Morrill of Beeville was chosen by attorneys of the 14th Congressional District to fill out the remaining two years of the term started by director Francis T. Morrill, who is resigning his position.

Looney, new vice president, began his law practice in his home city of Ennis, following his graduation from the School of Law at the University of Texas. He served as Ennis city attorney during 1923 to 1930. During 1931 and 1932, Looney was an assistant attorney general under James V. Allred, and in 1940 served as a special assistant US attorney general. He has practiced law in Austin since 1933, and has represented 10th Congressional District lawyers as State Bar director since 1949.

*Helping my Committee
the State Bar of which I am
Chairman) record the Federal
Action of the State Constitution
C97*

Economic Intimidation Alleged in Duval County

By DAWSON DUNCAN

News Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO, Texas, June 3.—A bus depot location change here was pitched into the heated Duval County political fight Tuesday as evidence of economic intimidation.

The charge was made by a political foe of George B. Parr, sheriff and political power of Duval County. It was by Donato Serna, candidate for county judge on the anti-Parr Freedom party slate.

The bus depot location was moved from Serna's drugstore to a filling station.

Serna prepared an affidavit to the Railroad Commission asking for a hearing on the location change in which he charged the depot was moved on order of Parr, who had made threats to do so because Serna had announced for county judge against Parr's fostered candidate.

Serna said he considered the series of transactions which led to the change as evidence of economic intimidation that has been inflicted on foes of Parr.

For the first time in forty years, Parr's political control of Duval County is being challenged in the Democratic party primary.

His foes organized the Freedom party and named a full slate of candidates for political office. Unlike past years, when there was only one ticket, Freedom party candidates are openly campaigning.

Placards advertising their opposition to Parr appear in public.

Serna asked the Railroad Commission to back up on its approval of the depot location change.

His petition contended that on May 23 he and Hugo Ibanez, another Freedom party worker, protested the proposed change to Railroad Commissioners W. J. Murray Jr. and Ernest O. Thompson and Bryan Bell, director of the commission's motor transportation division.

Serna averred he told the commissioners the depot was being moved "at the direction of George B. Parr, sheriff of Duval County and the political leader of Duval County."

He also stated "that George B. Parr had made threats that he was going to cause said station to be moved because petitioner (Serna) had announced for office of county judge against the candidate fostered by George B. Parr."

Serna said he was told that when the application of Union Bus Lines, Inc., was received it would be set for hearing when the docket was called June 3.

But he received notice that the request had been granted, without a hearing, on May 28. He wants the commission to set aside the order and grant a hearing.

He averred that a general order of the commission requires a bus company to show public convenience before it changes a depot.

Serna said in his petition he is prepared to prove "that George B. Parr has stated that said bus station was being moved not for the

benefit of the public, but in order to inflict punishment upon the petitioner by reason of the fact he has exercised his civil right to be a candidate for county judge in opposition to George B. Parr's candidate."

He also alleged the San Diego City Council approved a request to change the location at the direction of Parr and that the railroad commission was permitting "political pressure to operate in Duval County without giving the injured parties any hearing or consideration whatever."

Commissioner Thompson said in Austin there was some question of whether the commission had juris-

diction over the bus company station locations in cities.

"I can not interfere in any situation which a city administration described as a traffic hazard," he said.

Bell said the request to move the station was approved by the commission on the recommendation of the Union Bus Lines and a letter from the mayor and city council of San Diego saying Serna's Drugstore location created a traffic hazard.

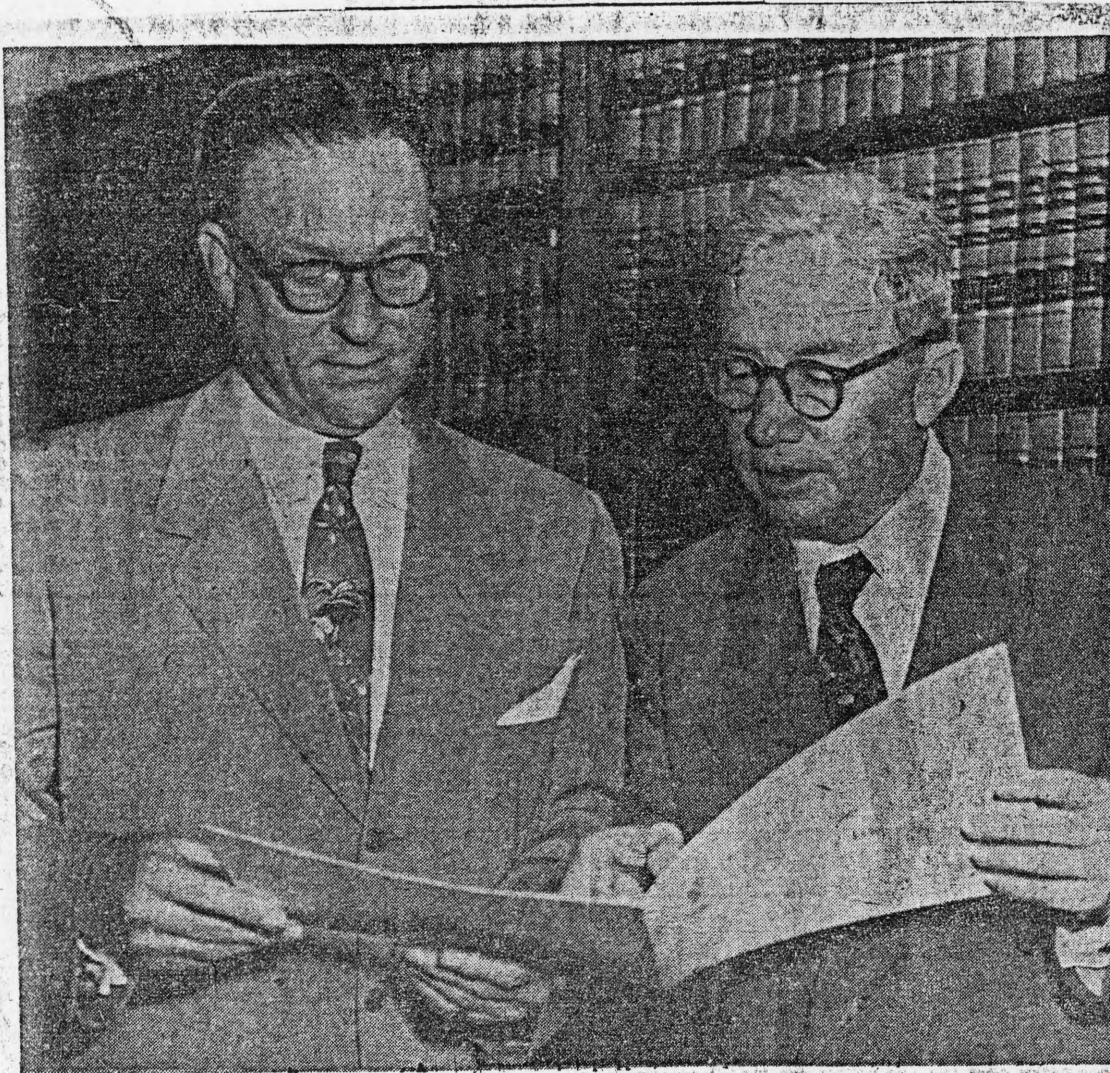
Serna countered that any action by the city council was at the directions of Parr.

He also said in his petition he could "prove that political pressure is put upon Union Bus Lines, Inc., and that they were forced to make application to move said station against their best judgment for the reason that the station was located in the same place for eighteen years and there was never a single accident or complaint prior to the political activity in Duval County."

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C.I.I

The Austin Statesman

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1952



STATE BAR OFFICERS—J. Glenn Turner of Dallas, left, and Everett L. Looney of Austin are incoming president and vice president, respectively, of the Texas State Bar Association. Both are now directors of their districts.

Turner and Looney will take office July 5 at the close of the State Bar Association's annual convention in Houston. Here they discuss plans for the proposed \$150,000 State Bar Building to be erected at 15th and Colorado

Bar Association Elects Turner, Looney Chiefs

J. Glenn Turner, Dallas attorney, has been elected president of the State Bar of Texas in a statewide election just completed among the 11,000 lawyers of the state. Austin attorney Everett L. Looney was chosen vice-president.

Both Turner and Looney are currently serving as members of the organization's board of directors, and will begin one-year terms in their new offices at the close of the 1952 State Bar convention in Houston on July 5th. Results of the balloting were announced by current president Cecil E. Burney, Corpus Christi.

ALSO ELECTED, BUT for three year terms, were seven members of the State Bar board of directors, each representing the lawyers of one of the state's congressional districts. These include C. M. Kennedy, Texarkana (1st Congressional District); John P. Blair, Beaumont (2nd District); Earl Roberts, Longview (3rd District); Floyd Enlow, Angleton (9th District); Albert M. Walker, San Marcos (10th District); Virgil T. Seaberry, Eastland (17th District); and W. F. Nowlin, San Antonio (20th District).

George P. Morrill, Beeville, was chosen by attorneys of the 14th congressional district to fill out the remaining two years of the term started by director Francis T. Morrill, who is resigning his position.

Turner's opponent in the presidential race was Fort Worth attorney Homa S. Hill, who is at present serving as vice-president of the State Bar. Other candidates opposing Looney for vice-president during 1952-53 were Traylor Russell of Mount Pleasant and C. A. Williams of Childress. Russell is currently chairman of the group's board of directors, and Williams held the same position during the year ending June 30, 1951.

The State Bar president-elect has been a member of the Dallas bar since 1932, but formerly practiced in Cooper, Texas, serving as county attorney of Delta County for a time. Active in Bar work for a number of years, he was president of the Dallas Bar Association in 1939. A former delegate to the American Bar Association's house of delegates and sometime chairman of that organization's committee on local Bar activities, Turner has represented the 5th congressional district on the State Bar board of directors since 1948.

LOONEY BEGAN HIS law practice in Ennis, Texas, and was city attorney there during 1923-30. During 1931-32 Looney was an assistant Attorney General under James V. Allred, and in 1940 served as a special assistant U. S. Attorney General. He has practiced in Austin since 1933, and has represented 10th congressional district lawyers as State Bar director since 1949.

One-third of the members of the State Bar board of directors retire each year. Among those whose terms expire during the July convention are board chairman Traylor Russell, Mount Pleasant; T. O. Davis, Center; W. Dewey Lawrence, Tyler; Richard Henderson, Victoria; Everett L. Looney, Austin; R. C. Grisham, Abilene; and Chas. W. Duke, San Antonio. They will be replaced by the newly elected directors announced by Bar president Cecil E. Burney. The terms of Burney and of vice-president Homa S. Hill will also end at the convention.

Dallas News, June 6, 1952

Kefauver Stresses California Win Despite Tidelands Stand

By WALTER C. HORNADAY

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON, June 5. — Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee has pointed out that he carried the California Democratic presidential primary after telling voters he opposed returning the tidelands to the states.

Kefauver told a news conference that he had frankly stated in California he would vote to sustain President Truman's veto of the tidelands bill.

California, along with Texas and Louisiana, lost its offshore area by a Supreme Court decision, and the issue is a hot one there.

Kefauver claimed that his victories in California and South Dakota were fresh evidence of a national ground swell for his candidacy. He said he will go into the convention with almost 300 votes.

Southern states will vote for him, in spite of his statement that he will support a Fair Employment Practices plank if it is placed in the party platform, Kefauver stated. His candidacy would unit the South, he declared.

Kefauver disclosed that he will confer with President Truman Thursday on the Democratic presidential contest.

"We will discuss what I have been finding in the campaigns throughout the country," the Tennessee Senator said.

To a question whether he would ask the President to support him for the nomination, Kefauver said

Mr. Truman has announced he will remain neutral and that he expected him to stay that way.

The President has stated he will back the Democratic nominee, no matter who he is. Mr. Truman has expressed no enthusiasm for Kefauver, however, and charges have been made he is interested in a stop-Kefauver campaign.

The Tennessean picked up seventy-six convention votes in Tuesday's primaries—sixty-eight in California and eight in South Dakota.

"I feel that I am going to have a great deal more delegation than I expect to win," Kefauver said.

DALLAS NEWS State Voters Estimated at 21½ Million

June 6, 1952

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, June 5.—Poll tax payments total 2,081,499 in Texas this year, State Comptroller Robert S. Calvert reported Thursday.

Counties also issued 256,762 voting exemptions, but this does not include all who are entitled to vote without paying the tax.

Calvert estimates the state's voting strength at more than 2,500,000, an all-time record. The previous high was 2,250,333 eligible in 1948—when 1,231,881 persons actually voted.

Added to the poll tax and exemption-holders will be persons over sixty years old living outside cities of 10,000 population. They do not need to get an exemption every year, as do persons over sixty within the cities.

Persons becoming twenty-one years old and new residents can get an exemption up to thirty days before the election. Newcomers must have lived in the state a year and in the county for six months.

Poll tax payments range this year from seventy-five in Loving County, West Texas, to 271,150 in Harris County.

Dallas County reported 180,050 poll taxes paid by Jan. 31 this year. Another 34,766 persons got exemptions.

Beckworth To Have Personal Campaign

Austin American

HOUSTON, June 5.—A stocky, shirt-sleeved East Texan pounded along the street of Houston Thursday, a bundle of campaign literature under his arms.

He bounced from one passerby to another, shaking hands and handing out a campaign pamphlet.

That, said Congressman Lindley Beckworth of Gladewater, is the type of campaign he will continue to wage throughout Texas for the United States Senate.

The 38-year-old ranking Democrat on the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee hit Houston on the run, after speaking yesterday in Anahuac, Humble and Freeport.

"I have no campaign manager anywhere and probably won't," Congressman Beckworth said. "Mine is not a big money spending race such as the people have seen run in Texas so much. I go out and see the people myself."

He said his father, wife and twin sister are the only ones making speeches for him, outside of himself.

Dallas News \$7,500,000 Oil Trade Pending

June 6, 1952

FORT WORTH, Texas, June 5.—(AP) — E. H. Robertson, Fort Worth, has contracted to sell certain properties formerly owned by Anton Oil Corporation, also of Fort Worth, to the newly-formed Texas General Production Company, Houston.

Robertson, who acquired 100 per cent of the stock of Anton, which is liquidating, contracted to sell his 21.6 per cent interest in the Anton-Irish Clearfork unit of Southeast Hale and Southwest Lamb Counties to the Houston concern for \$7,500,000. A deposit of \$250,000 has been made by Texas General.

In addition to the interest in the unit, Robertson also contracted to sell undeveloped acreage in the Anton-Irish area.

Robertson's transaction with the Houston company is scheduled to be consummated on June 28.

DALLAS NEWS, June 6, 1952

Wingate Lucas Would End Industry-Wide Bargaining

Washington Bureau of The News
WASHINGTON, June 5.—Rep. Wingate Lucas of Grapevine Thursday called on Congress to ban industry-wide collective bargaining.

Lucas, in introducing a bill prohibiting this type of management-labor contracts, said he is convinced the practice "is the basic cause of continuing labor-management controversy."

The Lucas bill would:

1. Prevent the National Labor Relations Board from certifying a common bargaining representative for the employees of competing

employers, with a special exemption for small businessmen in the same metropolitan area.

2. Make it an unfair labor practice for employers to engage in monopolistic lockouts, or for labor to engage in monopolistic strikes. The bill defines them as concerted interference with employment, or an employer's operation in accordance with a common plan of action by two or more competing employers, or by the employees of two or more competing employers, unless there is a certified common bargaining agent.

3. Enforcement would be left to the NLRB subject to the procedures now in the Taft-Hartley Act for dealing with secondary boycotts.

4. A grace period is provided for both management and labor to adapt themselves to the new law.

Lucas reminded the House a provision similar to his proposal failed in the Senate in 1947 by one vote, after being adopted by the House.

"Had this provision been enacted, no one can fail to realize that none of our recent strikes in basic industries would have been possible," said Lucas. "As it is now, we are in the middle of the second steel strike within a month, a serious oil strike has only recently come to an end, and it is common knowledge that the master of all the coal miners is patiently waiting the outcome of the steel strike to go the steel workers one better."

Lucas warned, his proposed legislation won't get much outside support, even from many industries.

"Major industrial organizations are on record against industry-wide bargaining, but spokesmen for some industries have been captured by industry-wide bargaining," Lucas said. "Their jobs depend to a large extent on its continuation."

Lucas also predicted the "same short-sighted individuals" who opposed his bill last year dealing with the Wage Stabilization Board "will attempt to exert their influence."

The Lucas bill of 1951 required that a majority of the members of the WSB must be public members, and that the board appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. His proposal was not adopted.

DALLAS NEWS

New Yorker Says Shivers Flouts Law

June 6, 1952

WASHINGTON, June 5 (AP).—Rep. John J. Rooney (Dem.) of New York Thursday accused Gov. Allan Shivers of exploiting cheap farm labor from Mexico, but the Texas Governor said the accusation was part of a "Washington smear campaign."

Rooney named Shivers as one of the farm operators who have used illegal aliens on their farms while the House was debating on an appropriation bill including \$1,390,000 for enforcement of immigration laws.

The New Yorker told of his observations of the Mexican labor situation in the Rio Grande Valley last April.

"Allan Shivers, Governor of Texas, has large holdings near the Rio Grande and through his employees has consistently worked illegal aliens."

"He, too, has shown a disregard for the immigration laws."

"Illegal aliens have been apprehended on his property weekly, and it is impossible to believe that Governor Shivers could be ignorant of these conditions," Rooney said.

In Austin, Shivers said he had never heard of Rooney.

"This is all part of a Washington smear campaign. It has a branch in Texas which is active also," he said.

He did not elaborate.

Rooney said he had the names of numerous Texans who have been employing illegal alien labor.

"Among the most flagrant offenders," he said, "are the Schuster brothers, Carl and Frank, who have large farms located along the river south of Pharr and San Juan, Texas."

He also named "the Kremmueler brothers, Fred and Max," whom he said are relatives of the Schusters and who have a nearby farm which they "operate in the same manner."

DALLAS NEWS
June 6, 1952

Parr Is Issue In Race for State Senate

By DAWSON DUNCAN

News Staff Writer

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas, June 5.—A 3-way race for the new State Senate seat given four counties on the Gulf of Mexico showed signs Thursday of developing into a right tart affair before voting days.

All three candidates for the new Twentieth District place are hitting the road to shake the hands of voters and try to woo their votes.

All three are from Corpus Christi in the northern end of the district, and all three are lawyers.

They are County Judge George Prowse, 36; William H. Shireman, 44, and Neal Mariott, 40, a member of the State Board of Education.

Besides Nueces County, the district stretches southward down the Gulf of Mexico to include Kleberg, Kenedy and Willacy Counties. The emphasis will be on Nueces County voters, however, for they vastly outnumber those who live in the lower counties.

The George B. Parr political influence in Southwest Texas already has been raised as one issue in the race. Campaign planners intend to try to keep it before the public.

But it will be in just the reverse of what it has been in past years.

One or two of the candidates will try to put the tag of Parr friendship on the other. They will do so because they believe Parr's vote-pulling power in Nueces County has diminished so much that his friendship or support is a handicap rather than a help.

Shireman raised the issue when he announced:

"I am," he said, "the only candidate in the race who has not had past connections with George Parr, the political boss of Duval County."

It will be a renewal of an old fight on the same issue between Shireman and Prowse.

They battled it out six years ago. Prowse won, getting elected county judge over Shireman.

Prowse will make his 5½-year record as county judge a main platform plank.

"The people can look and see there is not a single instance of George Parr influence in that record," he said.

He will seek to minimize the influence, if any, that Parr now exerts in the new senatorial district. The old district included Duval County, where Parr is battling to save the last stronghold of his old political empire.

Prowse pointed out that Duval County is now divorced from Nueces County in the senatorial district, just as it is in four representative districts which Nueces County gained in redistricting. Nor is there any overlap with either Jim Wells or Duval Counties and Nueces County in district courts, Prowse noted.

Shireman came back with his long-standing charge:

"Parr supported Prowse for county judge in 1946. Parr supported Mariott for city commissioner in 1945 and for the state school board in 1949."

Mariott already has issued a disclaimer or any connection with Parr.

"I don't think the Parr influence will have any force or effect, realizing my opponent has his support," said Mariott. "I have not solicited nor do I expect Parr support."

Mariott will make school legislation a major plank in his platform. He is pointing up his service on the State School Board and working closely with local school officials, from whom he expects to draw strong support.

"I am stressing economy in government," he said, "but not at the expense of our schools. I am pointing out there is now more demand on our schools than ever before in history."

He insisted the school program should have first priority in the legislature's work.

Shireman has a strong economy plank in his platform, too, along with pitching his campaigning "on the assumption that the people are sick and tired of the evidence of graft and corruption which is being published in the papers and want to change from professional politicians to some new faces."

Since Shireman made that campaign statement the Nueces County grand jury indicted the Corpus Christi mayor on a charge of accepting bribes and also four business men accused of giving the mayor bribes on city business matters.

"I do not belong to any political machine or other organized political clique," Shireman said, "and I expect to have the support only of the people who know me and those who want honest, straight-forward dealing in legislative affairs."

Prowse, state president of the County Judges and Commissioners Association, is stressing his favor for an over-all program for highways and roads, co-operation of cities and counties with the State Hospital Board for a program to solve hospital needs of Texas and strong local self-government with local units working with the state on major problems.

All three are veterans of military service in World War II.

Prowse was born in Alice, in adjoining Jim Wells County, and received his law degree from the University of Texas.

Shireman came to Corpus Christi in 1934 to practice law after his graduation from the University of Alabama.

Mariott received his law degree from the University of Oklahoma and came to Corpus Christi in 1939.

Daniel Campaigns In El Paso Area

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas, June 5.—Atty. Gen. Price Daniel is campaigning for the United States Senate this week end at El Paso.

The candidate will confer with supporters Friday morning. He will speak to the Rotary Club at noon and to a Presbyterian men's meeting Friday night.

On Saturday, Daniel will address the state convention of Disabled American Veterans.

LAW OFFICES
LOONEY, CLARK & MOORHEAD
BROWN BUILDING
AUSTIN 1, TEXAS

VIA AIR MAIL VIA AIR MAIL



To Senator Lyndon B Johnson

Mr. Charles I. Francis,
Mayflower Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

582

Mary Ralston
Walter Jenkins from C.F.F.

Personal
message





TEXAS PRISON SYSTEM

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

June 5, 1952

Lieutenant Governor Ben Ramsey
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

I have been told that you would like to have a report on the suicide of Sam Smithwick. Following is a summary of the case:

Smithwick entered the Prison System on December 12, 1950 with a life sentence from Bell County for the murder in Alice of a radio commentator by the name of Bill Mason.

Because Smithwick was a peace officer, he was what we call a "hot" prisoner from the day he entered the front gate. I would like to clarify this statement by stating that in this respect Smithwick was no different from other peace officers who have done and are doing time in Prison. There is what you might term a code among convicts -- they deal pretty roughly with peace officers in prison. We have a former sheriff in prison at the present time who has actually never been inside the Walls at Huntsville. He is now being housed on the outside of the enclosure at one of the farms.

Because of the general attitude which exists among the inmates, Smithwick was handled very carefully from the time he entered prison. For a long while he stayed on a first-offender Negro farm at Brazoria, Texas where he was kept isolated at all times. He was returned to Huntsville at the request of the warden because the warden feared that something might happen to him, and also because of the fact that he knew there were better facilities at Huntsville.

On his return to Huntsville, Smithwick was locked in an individual cell where his meals were brought to him. He never left his cell except for barber work, and when he went to the barber shop he was always accompanied by a guard.

Smithwick committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell on the night of April 15. About three weeks before he committed suicide he wrote a letter to Coke Stevenson saying that he could produce the

June 5, 1952

missing polling lists which were responsible for Stevenson's defeat. As I understand it, Stevenson turned this letter over to the DALLAS NEWS. Sometime after Smithwick's death, Dawson Duncan of the DALLAS NEWS brought the letter to Huntsville to verify its authenticity. I would like to state that I knew nothing of the letter until Dawson Duncan brought it to Huntsville. It was mailed through regular channels. What should have happened: Smithwick should have been told to write Stevenson that he had some valuable information and for him to come down and get it. But, because Prison personnel had been repeatedly warned about withholding any kind of mail of a legal nature, the letter was allowed to be mailed through regular channels.

The HOUSTON PRESS got the idea that Smithwick had been murdered for political reasons. In questioning me, I made the statement that Smithwick, as all other law enforcing officers, was "hot" among the inmates. I understand that this statement was twisted to quote me as saying, "Smithwick was hot because of political implications involved", which is far from the truth.

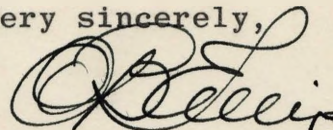
There is no question in my mind but that Smithwick committed suicide. He was a natural suicide case. He was in very poor health -- much older than his real age. He was very despondent and, because of the nature of his crime, he had sense enough to realize that clemency was a near-impossibility.

The Texas Rangers have investigated this case and I am sure that Colonel Garrison will be glad to furnish you with a copy of their report.

Suicides, or deaths in prison from any cause, are always regrettable. So far as I am concerned, the record in this case is good and we have nothing for which to apologize. He was handled with extreme kindness at all times and every precaution was taken to protect him from fellow inmates. We cannot, however, protect a man from himself.

I shall be glad to furnish you any additional information you might desire.

Very sincerely,



O. B. Ellis,
GENERAL MANAGER

OBE/gw



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
TEXAS PRISON SYSTEM
GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS



Mr. Edward Clark, Attorney-at-Law
Brown Building
Austin, Texas



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The Houston Press

VOL. 38 NO. 261

HOUSTON, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1949

Phone FA-1111 DELIVERED IN HOUSTON
25 CENTS WEEKLY

SLAYING AROUSES 'PARR' EN

Mayor Whips Texas' Most Famous

'Kick Out the Sheriff'

What Mason Sa

on Press

JULY 30, 1949

Phone FA-1111 DELIVERED IN HOUSTON
25 CENTS WEEKLY

The Weather

Houston: Partly cloudy and continued warm.

East Texas: Clear to partly cloudy. Showers tonight.

City

FIVE CENTS

'PARR EMPIRE'

Most Famous Judge

'Kick Out the Sheriff'

What Mason Said In Last Broadcast

ALICE, July 30.—(UP)—Here is the text of W. H. (Bill) Mason's last radio broadcast, made at 12:30 p.m. Thursday. Twenty-two hours later, Deputy Sheriff Sam Smithwick shot Mason through the heart, and the radioman died shortly afterward.

Over KBKI, Alice, Mason reported:

"I'm going to take the gloves off today in the prostitute situation and start swinging. Each of you adults have a vote. Each has influence among public officials. I have been told by my friends sometimes that I shouldn't pick on hungry Hubert Sain (sheriff of Jim Wells County). Maybe I shouldn't, but a situation exists in Alice which he alone is in position to stamp out.

"Any of you can spend an hour on the south side and see the suffering and misery which is being caused by operation of the dance hall girls. Dance hall girls who work, many of them on the property of Sam Smithwick, a deputy of Hubert Sain's.

"There are nightly violations of the liquor control law. The officers of that state department have more to do than watch Jim Wells County all the time.

"But it is the sworn duty of the sheriff to see that the state laws are enforced. But there on Deputy Smithwick's property every night the world's oldest profession is plying its trade, heaping dollars into the pockets of the proprietor of the place.

"I charge here today that Sam Smithwick knows what is going on. He is out there all the time at night. I charge that the taxpayers in Jim Wells County are paying wages to a man who is permitting the spreading of vile diseases that are disrupting homes, endangering the lives of children yet unborn. I charge that hungry Hubert Sain knows about these things.

"I charge him with dereliction of duty, malfeasance in office, with permitting the ingress of 50 girls



W. H. (BILL) MASON

He probably didn't know the gun was loaded.

to take from the men of Alice, during the cotton-picking, money which should go to the families of these men.

"I charge him with permitting it and not lifting a hand to stop

(Turn to TEXT, Page 3)

Killer of Radio Crusader Held Without Bond

Son of Slain Man To Carry on Fight

By JIM CARROLL
Press Staff Writer

Can the tribal politics of Southwest Texas excuse the murder of such a man as Bill Mason?

That question hung over the brush country from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande Valley like a black cloud today.

W. H. (Bill) Mason, friend of the mighty, high-powered newsman and promoter, and maker of at least one "presidente" was gunned down yesterday by a hot-headed deputy sheriff.

The 51-year-old Mr. Mason died trying to crawl to an oil well supply house porch in the glare of the broiling brush country sun on a treeless side street of Alice, oil boom town of 24,000, which lies 44 miles west of Corpus Christi.

In a Strange Place

Death caught Bill Mason in a strange place—for him. He was more at home in the plushy comfort of the National Press Club in Washington, where he often won or lost thousands of dollars in a single night of poker.

Or here in Houston, into which Bill Mason introduced General Tire & Rubber Co.'s huge 600-man synthetic rubber plant with a flourish of press-agentry still remembered by thousands of Houstonians.

But with the quirks of fate shoving him along, Bill had left these surroundings after he had served as campaign manager for Mexico's President Aleman.

And that fate led him into a "cussing" match with the sheriff of Jim Wells County, whom Bill called "Hungry Hubert" Sain in the clever sarcasm that he could handle so well.

Assails 'Hungry Hubert'

Thursday, Mason attacked "Hun-

Most Famous Judge

'Kick Out the Sheriff'

What Mason Said In Last Broadcast

ALICE, July 30.—(UP)—Here is the text of W. H. (Bill) Mason's last radio broadcast, made at 12:30 p.m. Thursday. Twenty-two hours later, Deputy Sheriff Sam Smithwick shot Mason through the heart, and the radioman died shortly afterward.

Over KBKI, Alice, Mason reported:

"I'm going to take the gloves off today in the prostitute situation and start swinging. Each of you adults have a vote. Each has influence among public officials. I have been told by my friends sometimes that I shouldn't pick on hungry Hubert Sain (sheriff of Jim Wells County). Maybe I shouldn't, but a situation exists in Alice which he alone is in position to stamp out.

"Any of you can spend an hour on the south side and see the suffering and misery which is being caused by operation of the dance hall girls. Dance hall girls who work, many of them on the property of Sam Smithwick, a deputy of Hubert Sain's.

"There are nightly violations of the liquor control law. The officers of that state department have more to do than watch Jim Wells County all the time.

"But it is the sworn duty of the sheriff to see that the state laws are enforced. But there on Deputy Smithwick's property every night the world's oldest profession is plying its trade, heaping dollars into the pockets of the proprietor of the place.

"I charge here today that Sam Smithwick knows what is going on. He is out there all the time at night. I charge that the taxpayers in Jim Wells County are paying wages to a man who is permitting the spreading of vile diseases that are disrupting homes, endangering the lives of children yet unborn. I charge that hungry Hubert Sain knows about these things.

"I charge him with dereliction of duty, malfeasance in office, with permitting the ingress of 50 girls



W. H. (BILL) MASON)
He probably didn't know the gun was loaded.

to take from the men of Alice, during the cotton-picking, money which should go to the families of these men.

"I charge him with permitting it and not lifting a hand to stop

(Turn to TEXT, Page 3)

Killer of Radio Crusader Held Without Bond

Son of Slain Man To Carry on Fight

By JIM CARROLL
Press Staff Writer

Can the tribal politics of Southwest Texas excuse the murder of such a man as Bill Mason?

That question hung over the brush country from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande Valley like a black cloud today.

W. H. (Bill) Mason, friend of the mighty, high-powered newsman and promoter, and maker of at least one "presidents" was gunned down yesterday by a hot-headed deputy sheriff.

The 51-year-old Mr. Mason, died trying to crawl to an oil well supply house porch in the glare of the broiling brush country sun on a treeless side street of Alice, oil boom town of 24,000, which lies 44 miles west of Corpus Christi.

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Assails 'Hungry Hubert'

Thursday, Mason attacked "Hungry Hubert" again over Alice's Radio Station KBKI.

For the first time, he told the citizens that if they wanted to get rid of a sheriff who he said permitted prostitutes to be brought in wholesale, that they could do it by impeachment.

He told the people of Jim Wells County that Deputy Sheriff Sam Smithwick owned "Rancho Allegro" just west of Alice on the road to San Diego, where lives the mighty political boss of that country, George Parr.

"I have been threatened over the phone this Thursday morning," clever Bill Mason told his radio audience with a sly "ha ha" in his voice. "The word has been passed that I'd better shut up.

"As long as a situation like this ('Rancho Allegro') is permitted to continue, I shall blast every time a new fact comes to my attention... every time I dig up another bit of dirty, filthy practice which is permitted by the sheriff of this county," he said.

Twenty-two hours later, Deputy Smithwick halled down Bill Mason. "Are you that *-/*, Bill Masin?"

(Turn to MASON, Page 3)

Bill Mason's Killing Arouses 'Parr Empire'

Alice Wonders What Will Happen Next

(Continued From Page One)

asked the grizzled 55-year-old native of Jim Wells Souty, a gun-toting deputy, constable, watchman and cowboy all his life.

"I am," answered the unarmed Mason, trying to scramble out of his car's seat while a companion dived into the roadside ditch.

Pistol Roars Once

Smithwick's .45 calibre pistol roared one time.

The bullet tore through Bill Mason's husky chest.

The companion, Aevlino Saenz, who later told this story to police, ran to safety.

The chances are that smooth, talented Bill Mason never realized that the Southwest Texas "political" gun he was challenging was loaded until that slug hit his chest.

He probably didn't understand the bitter clannishness of the Rio Grande Country, which merits a political machine like that of George Parr's to hold 10,000 square miles of brush country and 1,000,000 Texans securely in its grasp through pure loyalty to the "jefe," the chief, the boss.

Not that George Parr was involved in the death of Bill Mason.

They Were Friends

"George Parr and Bill Mason were friends," said Ed Lloyd, Mr. Parr's attorney and part owner of the radio station, KBKI, which employed Mr. Mason.

"The feeling down here against both the sheriff and the deputy is running quite high," Mr. Lloyd said over long distance from Alice today.

"That means that Parr, the 'Duke of Duval,' is unhappy about Mason's murder.

Despite the friendship of Bill Mason and George Parr, Sheriff Sain in 1946 got Mr. Parr's help to unseat C. W. Price after Mr. Price had been sheriff 26 years.

Those people of the brush country have been bewildered for years over the invasion of oil-hungry, money-making "foreigners" — to them. For anyone not bred and born in that brush country is a stranger for many years.

"I've only been here 20 years myself," Attorney Lloyd told me over the telephone.

No Bond for Deputy

Deputy Smithwick is in jail today, held without bond.

He is charged with 'murder with malice aforethought.'

The charge was filed by Sheriff "Hungry Hubert" Sain, Smithwick's boss and according to Mason's radiocasts—sort of a patron in illegal activities in that he permitted them.

In another place, that charge could mean the electric chair.

Will it in the brush country?

The chances are that one man will decide—"Boss" George Parr.

All Roads Lead to Parr
There's the way politics are played down there, where 'Coke' Stevenson alleges Lyndon Johnson stole the U. S. Senate race last summer.

There are an sorts of jeffs but they all lead up to the one big chief.

And that's Gilman-Banker-County Official-Rancher-Townsite Developer-and small-sized king—George Parr.

What he says always has "gone" in the brush country.



JIM CARROLL BILL MASON EARL BUELL R. J. METKER JESS WHITE

At a party given by General Tire & Rubber and Humble Oil & Refining Co. in the Rice Hotel in November, 1944, Bill Mason was the life of the party—as usual. Here he is shown with Mr. Carroll, Press staff writer; Mr. Buell, Press circulation manager and old friend from Akron days; Mr. Metker, Akron businessman and General Tire director, and Mr. White, Mr. Mason's assistant on the General Tire public relations staff.

alleged Senatorial "ballot-stuffing" contest.

"There will be some who will say of Smithwick:

"Well, he was here first. That other fellow had no business being so nosey."

But the brush country largely has turned away from that attitude.

Most will back off, as did Attorney Lloyd, spokesman and defender of the Parr machine last year in the state Democratic convention in Fort Worth when Coke Stevenson lost his only chance to get Jim Wells' 6600 to 616 vote for Lyndon Johnson thrown out.

Deputy Tore Pants Off

"Bill Mason was whipped once by another of Sain's deputies," Mr. Lloyd told me.

"Bill made a joke out of it. His pants were torn off him. He took the pants downtown and auctioned them off—got \$5 for them, as I remember, and gave it to charity."

That was in March.

Mason never gave up his anti-sheriff, anti-vice campaign.

Son to Carry on Fight

As they prepared to cremate Bill Mason after funeral ceremonies tomorrow afternoon, Bill's 22-year-old son, Burton, said he would pick up where his father left off.

"He was pretty excited—I had a talk with him," said Attorney Lloyd, asked by Mrs. Mason to be a pallbearer.

Attorney Lloyd knows better than Bill Mason did the powder keg of feeling in the brush country.

"He is trying to help young Mason."

He also is trying to help his own younger brother, Frank, manager of the radio station.

Support of Free Speech

"Frank was pretty excited yesterday. He made a statement to the Alice Echo that Bill Mason died in support of free speech, an inherent right of every American," said Attorney Lloyd.

"Frank's gone to Port Aransas today to cool off."

"I guess I was sort of hard hit by the shooting myself yesterday—harder hit than anything that's happened to me in some time."

Known Over Country

That's the way it is going to be with lots of Bill Mason's friends.

ton and New York high political and journalistic circles.

Many must be rubbing their eyes as they read of Bill Mason being shot to death in an antiveice crusade in Jim Wells County, Texas.

That is just about like reading that Joe DiMaggio broke his leg in a sandlot ball game in Oklahoma.

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And that's Oilman-Banker-County Official-Rancher-Townsite Developer-and small-sized king—George Parr.

What he says always has "gone" in the brush country.

But never before have the customs of that country been so boldly spotlighted.

Claim Held to Light

Never before has the Southwest Texas' claim to their rights to run their own affairs been so vividly held up for all to see, despite that



JIM CARROLL BILL MASON EARL BUELL R. J. METKER JESS WHITE

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That's the way it is going to be with lots of Bill Mason's friends in his native Minnesota; in San Francisco, where he was a high-powered city editor for The San Francisco Examiner; in Chicago, advertising circles; in Akron, Ohio, where he helped build General Tire & Rubber Co. as right-hand man to General's rugged Bill O'Neil, and in Washing-

ton and New York high political and journalistic circles.

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New Jim Wells Evidence Found

By DAWSON DUNCAN

News Staff Writer

ALICE, Texas, May 25.—Additional evidence has been unearthed in the quest for the missing 1948 poll lists of Jim Wells County's Precinct 13.

The Dallas News had revealed that Sam Smithwick, shortly before he was found hanged in state prison, wrote a letter to former Gov. Coke Stevenson, saying that he knew where election box evidence could be found.

Ranger Capt. Alfred Allee dis-

closed Sunday that another letter from Smithwick had been uncovered. It related more details than did the one he wrote to Stevenson. It gave corroborative statements about what happened to the returns from the highly publicized Box 13.

The poll list was the key to the controversy four years ago when Stevenson claimed he had been counted out of the Democratic nomination for United States Senate in Precinct 13. Statewide, Lyndon B. Johnson was declared winner of the party nomination by eighty-seven votes. Stevenson claimed that 202 irregular votes were added in Jim Wells' Box 13. Of those Stevenson got one vote and Johnson 201.

Without the poll list, it was impossible to prove the charge.

There were three poll lists, as required by law. All three disappeared.

Texas Rangers took up the investigation after Stevenson revealed the contents of Smithwick's letters. Finding of the poll list and other returns that were supposed to have been in Box 13 were only a part of their inquiry. They went into it because of possible leads to uncover facts in connection with a murder case.

Smithwick was serving a life sentence for the slaying of W. H. (Bill) Mason, Alice radio commentator. Smithwick wrote Stevenson that the voting box which disappeared as "the main cause of my trouble with Mr. Mason, as he was one one side and I was on the other." He told the former Governor that several months after the disputed election he recovered the box and he was "quite sure that I can produce it if you are interested."

Stevenson delayed his visit to the Huntsville prison too long. Smithwick died before Stevenson had planned to leave his Kinble County ranch.

Rangers studied the evidence because it might throw additional light on the circumstances behind

the Mason killing. They also were interested in finding out why the prison grapevine said there was "a price on Smithwick's head."

Disappearance of the contents of Election Box 13, other than a few ballots, was disclosed in a federal court inquiry shortly after the August, 1948, primary election.

Here is what the hearing developed before United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black ordered it halted:

Luis Salas, Precinct 13 election judge, possessed one copy, as required by law. Because of the controversy he testified, he borrowed a second copy from F. F. (Tom) Donald, secretary to the Jim Wells County Democratic executive committee. Donald had the copy of the county chairman for safekeeping in a safety deposit box in an Alice bank of which he is an officer.

Salas put the two copies in the back of his car. He testified before a Federal Court commissioner that both copies were stolen.

A third copy was supposed to have been placed in the election box. When the federal commissioner opened the box labeled as the one from Precinct 13 it was empty. Later Salas identified some ballots taken from another box as one he had signed in Precinct 13. But the box did not contain returns or the poll list.

Whereabouts of all three poll lists has been a mystery.

Before Donald's and Salas' copies were reported stolen, however, investigators got a look at one of them.

They said it reflected unusual conditions.

One was that 202 names had been added alphabetically and all in the same kind of ink. Investigators also reported that they had affidavits from some of the 202 saying they had not voted. Some of the other names on the added list of 202, they swore, were of people dead when the election was held.

Without the poll list in evidence, there could not be proof of the charges.

Fort Worth Press Monday, May 26, 1952

Smithwick May Have Known Ballot Secret

ALICE, May 26. (UP)—No Jim Wells County election box was lost in the 1948 election but three poll books which should have been in the box have never been found, District Atty. Homer Dean said today.

The Sunday Dallas Morning News published a copyrighted dispatch from Alice with a letter it said the late Jim Wells County deputy sheriff Sam Smithwick wrote to former Gov. Coke Stevenson.

Smithwick wrote the letter on March 23, 1952, from Huntsville state prison, where he was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing W. H. (Bill) Mason, crusading Alice radio commentator. The News story said. He committed suicide soon after.

Lyndon Johnson defeated Stevenson for the U. S. Senate in the hotly contested election by 87 votes. Smithwick said in the letter a box was stolen but he recovered it.

Dean, an assistant district attorney in 1948, said no election box was stolen. However, three poll books should have been in precinct 13s box were taken and never have been recovered, he said.

He said many people thought Smithwick knew something about the missing poll books.

The letter, The News said, asked Stevenson to visit Huntsville "to go into the matter in detail."

However, The News said, Stevenson was delayed in making the trip by work on his Kimble County ranch and did not get to Huntsville before Smithwick was found hanged in his prison cell a few days later. A coroner ruled his death suicide.

The text of the letter as published in The News:

Dear Sir:

"You probably do not remember who I am but I am the fellow who

got in trouble in Alice over killing Mr. Mason, something that I regret very much and I am now serving a life sentence in the Texas penitentiary.

"I am writing you in regard to the 1948 election in Jim Wells County when you were running against Lyndon Johnson as you recall the election box with all the votes disappeared, and that is the main cause of my trouble with Mr. Mason as he was on one side and I was on the other.

"On June 24, 1949 five days before I got in trouble I arrested — and from them learned that — had stolen the box and gave it to them to dispose of, but I recovered the box from them and am quite sure that I can produce it if you are interested. I could never get in touch with you because I didn't have a chance or any one to trust to send to you and was never allowed to make bond after that. I intended to get in touch with you, but after recovering the box and getting it put safely away, on my way to contact you I met up with Mr. Mason and as you know what the result was now.

"If it would be possible for you to come to Huntsville prison to visit with me at your earliest convenience, I would like to go into this matter in detail with you.

"I trust that I will hear from you in the very near future.

"Respectfully yours,

"Sam Smithwick, No. 118236."

Processing Note:

2/14/2025

There are 6 copies of the following one-page document. Only one copy has been scanned.

Robert Mar

Digitization Technician

There are a lot of strange things about this purported letter to my late oppoent from a murderer who ~~was~~ couldn't even write and had to dictate it in Spanish to another convict. It looks like he thought Coke was still Governor and would pardon him for murder in exchange for a political statement and you can hardly blame him since ~~Old~~ Old Coke's record shows he was willing to pardon anyone for ~~anything~~ any crime except not supporting Coke. This murderer's own son says his father was confident he would get out after he wrote Coke the letter.

I had always understood that Stevenson loved the law; and my lawyer friends tell me that the hearsay statement of ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ a live convict, ~~will~~ to say nothing of a dead one, would not be admitted in court. But if Coke is interested in convict statements, ~~it might interest him to know that~~ ~~he~~ he ought to remember that there are a ~~xxxx~~ good many in existence, ~~from~~ ~~him~~ from live ones too, about how they got out of the penitentiary when Coke was Governor. The Dallas News, which fought Jim Hogg and Ben Looney, suddenly got terribly interested in one statement from a dead ~~xxxxxxx~~ murderer. If the news was really interested in convict testimony, on a whole-sale scale, as to how they got out of the pen, ~~and~~ how much they had to pay to stay out, and to whom they paid it, the News wouldn't have had to go outside the state capitol to ~~make the exposure~~ They went out of their way to do a job on former Governor Ferguson and I don't know why they never lifted up ~~pe~~ their voices against the Governor who turned out more vicious criminals than Jim Ferguson was ever ~~charged with~~ even charged with.

Garrison Says Lie Test Given to Jim Wells Man

AUSTIN, June 1 (AP).—The state Department of Public Safety director said Saturday night a voluntary lie detector test was

given a person from Jim Wells County.

Homer Garrison Jr. refused to say whether or not the test was related to a letter about the bitter 1948 Senate race. The letter was written to former Gov. Coke Stevenson by Sam Smithwick, former Jim Wells County deputy sheriff.

Smithwick hanged himself in his cell at Huntsville, where he was serving a life sentence for murder.

Smithwick mentioned names in the letter he sent Stevenson indicating he could give information about the missing Precinct 13 ballot box from Jim Wells County.

Garrison said the man questioned in Austin lived in Jim Wells County in 1948, the year of the contested Democratic primary between Stevenson and Senator Lyndon Johnson. The public safety director said he assumed the man still lives there, but declined to identify him further.

"A man came here and took the test," Garrison said. "That's all we can say now. We're just kind of moving along and we're not sure where it will lead us. We don't want to make a statement until we see what we've got."

Garrison was asked how his department entered the investigation. He said the department began its investigation on its own. He declined to elaborate.

He also had "no comment" when asked if the lie detector test concerned the Smithwick letter.

Smithwick was serving a sentence for the murder of an Alice radio commentator, W. H. (Bill) Mason. Smithwick wrote Stevenson he had arrested persons and recovered a missing Precinct 13 polling box.

Stevenson had contended 202 votes from Jim Wells County were added irregularly and cost him the election. Stevenson lost the Democratic primary to Johnson by 87 votes.

But the three poll lists showing who voted in Box 13 in Jim Wells County disappeared before a check could be made.

Smithwick's letter reached Stevenson, but Smithwick hanged himself before he talked to the former governor.

Gene

Clipping from: Dallas News -

MAY 30 1952

Smithwick Letter

To The Dallas News:

Regarding the Smithwick letter and the Texas election dispute, Sen. Lyndon Johnson says that it appears as a continuation of a fight by a "group of disgruntled and disappointed people." In the same breath, he says that he has not had a chance to read the story.

Is Truman's pet watchdog referring to almost half a million people who voted against him? Is he giving the verdict before he hears the evidence? I simply can not understand why some of our congressmen are so eager to investigate others but never want anything investigated that concerns themselves.

OH WHERE,
OH WHERE,



Oh where, oh where, have our statesmen gone?

J. A. WACKER.

Temple, Texas.

in
Texas.

You Think

"Good old Uncle Washington, D.C., successfully developed labor and capital, d, Catholic and cans and Repub- and Democrats,

done better for than little Harry later than you H. SKINNER.

Review

happened to the promise to review water rates? They're an investigation, have conveniently put it. we going to accept es? How about an e Council? KENNINGTON. Dallas.

Guy, but—

is: torial columns of l attention to the bia University has list of instructors who have records ders." be fair to conclude t D. Eisenhower, so ent of that institu- or even condoned In all fairness the ay is that, if he dis-

The club owners apparently don't realize that these broadcasts have done more to further interest in baseball in this part of the country than anything else. I will personally boycott all minor league ball until this silly ruling is lifted.

Gordon McLendon and the Liberty Broadcasting System should be commended for their fight to bring us some association with that great game of baseball.

BOB STEPHENS.
Lometa, Texas.

Senate Election

To The Dallas News:

Sen. Lyndon Johnson's reaction to the most recent disclosure of the voting fiasco in Jim-Wills County, as reported in The News, is typical of the attitude acquired by our federal officials in the past few years.

Common honesty would call for a complete investigation. But the public was denied that at election time and presumably now. What can be done to place in the senatorial seat the man who genuinely won the election—Coke Stevenson?

BERTRAM KESSEL.
6323 Gaston, Dallas.

Staked Plains Geology

To The Dallas News:

Wayne Gard is one of my favorite writers. He usually has something to say. So much that we read is such solidly ignorance-based copy, hurriedly slung together, that understanding writing is appreciated. On May 25 he touched on a land, the Staked Plains, which has fascinated me ever since I opened fifty-six gates on the main road from Hereford to Midland while taking a first, flat glance at that High Plains geology.

That plateau probably is the world's oldest land surface. The Sand Crawl remnant of the Ice Age bed of the Brazos, which

age?
The pot price is high short. So—v Bud?
2610 Hawth

Ike New

To The Dallas

Regarding An Open Let at least a dumb enough came out of

He is not never done but only wh do by others

A voter we dumb to bell ordered to c the New Deal to Harry wha gets on. Why report to Was If The New to stay off a why don't yo which would g the New Deal y much haywire? 801 North E

Out of



"I've decid

5 YEARS AGO TODAY

From The Dallas News of June 2, 1927

let for the 17-story Medical Arts Building.

orth Rep. Tom Conn- ed the first reunion ivision.

f Internal Revenue pkins announced that become state head- federal tax collect-

Oldsmobile announced reduction of prices on its various models, including the roadster de luxe, which sold at the factory for \$895.

Lindbergh in England saw Call Boy, favorite in the betting, win the 144th running of the derby at Epsom Downs.

Theodore F. Marseles resigned as president of Montgomery Ward & Company.

DUKE OF DUVAL SAYS BOX 13 FIX PROBABLE

HOUSTON, May 28 (AP)—Political boss George Parr of Duval county agreed Wednesday that the ballot box in Jim Wells county's Precinct 13 in the stormy 1948 senatorial election was probably stuffed but said he had nothing to do with it, the Houston Press reported.

At the same time, Parr charged that a letter written by the late Sam Smithwick Sr. to Coke Stevenson was revealed last Sunday for political reasons and that Gov. Allan Shivers "is in this thing too."

In an interview with Press writer Jack Donahue, Parr was quoted as saying he had no idea where three polling lists, missing from a Precinct 13 box since the election were, and that "it wouldn't embarrass me if they were found."

Smithwick, a former Jim Wells county deputy sheriff, wrote Stevenson March 23 that he had arrested some persons in connection with the poll list theft and that he knew where the lists could be found. But on April 15 Smithwick apparently committed suicide in the prison at Huntsville where he was serving a life sentence for killing radio newsman W. A. (Bill) Mason.

Texas Ranger Capt. Alfred Allee

said he was investigating the case, the Press reported, and that he had another letter which Smithwick had written from the prison.

"I can't say anything about the case," Allee was quoted as saying. "As soon as we arrest someone we'll let you know."

GARRISON SILENT ON LIE DETECTOR

By Associated Press

State Department of Public Safety Director Homer Garrison Jr. Wednesday would neither confirm nor deny reports that one of the men named in deceased Sam Smithwick's letter to Coke Stevenson is undergoing a lie detector test here.

"We have no statement," Garrison said.

Smithwick, former Jim Wells County deputy sheriff, wrote the letter a few weeks before he was found hanged in his prison cell at Huntsville where he was serving life for murder.

Smithwick's letter said he had information about the contested 1948 election in which former Governor Stevenson lost to Lyndon B. Johnson in the US Senate race. Stevenson had claimed that 202 votes from Jim Wells County's Precinct 13 were added irregularly.

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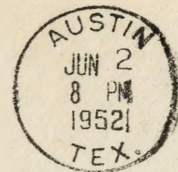
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MAY BE '52 ISSUE

Duval Row Already Sparking 1954 Race

AUSTIN, June 1.—(Sp)—The hot potato fight George Parr has on to keep iron-fisted control of Duval County political affairs is raising sparks in a state race still two years distant and threatening to kindle controversy in one or both of this year's major races.

Members of the four-year-old United States Senate race were raked by the hand of dead Sam Smithwick to spark the long-range 1954 bout of its same principals.

Because the two events—Parr's showdown local fight and a revival of the Box 13 charges in the Senate race came at the same time and during this year's state campaign the familiar Duval County issue was expected to be invoked as a state-wide political argument.

LYNDON JOHNSON was declared elected in 1948 by an 87-vote margin over former Gov Coke Stevenson and Stevenson charged 202 votes had been added in Box 13 at Alice, a Parr-influenced area. The ballot boxes were missing. Federal court ruled against Stevenson after Judge Whitfield Davidson had a commissioner take detailed testimony. Recently Former Constable Sam Smithwick of Alice wrote Stevenson that the boxes could be located and asked Stevenson to visit him in prison. But Smithwick hanged himself in the prison where he was serving a sentence for the shooting of Bill Mason, radio announcer.

PART OF THE letter was made public by Former Gov Stevenson who said it "vindicated" his claims.

Names of persons said to have taken the ballot boxes were not revealed. Stevenson at the same time announced he planned to run against Sen Johnson in 1954 and thus has projected the Parr-dominated Duval and adjoining area as campaign fodder.

Recently it was asserted one person named by Smithwick as among those who got more persons had been given lie detector tests by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Col Homer Garrison Jr, director of the State Department of Public Safety, has admitted that the department had given a lie detector test to an unnamed person in connection with the charges of disappearance of the 1948 Box 13.

COL GARRISON earlier had said he would neither confirm or deny this report. Later, when the statement of Ranger Capt Allee at Carrizo Springs was quoted to him, saying a test was

made, Garrison said, "Well, if Allee said so, then, yes, we have made such a test."

He declined to reveal the name of the person, and reiterated, "No one is under arrest in this case."

An astute politician who has been connected with several campaigns and now connected with one not likely to be affected by the Parr controversy said Parr "is too busy now" trying to keep control locally to have any interest in state races but he predicted the Duval County politics issue likely will be dragged, or efforts will be made to forge it, into the current Price Daniel-Lindley Beckworth-E. W. Napier Senate race and possibly in the Allan Shivers-Ralph Yarborough gubernatorial race.

BUT THE OLD "Duval" battle

flag is liable to be worn out this year, he forecasts whether Parr holds his grip in the Duchy of Duval or loses out to District Judge Sam Reams' rival forces. Parr is having to "go local."

Gov Shivers administration has been termed hostile to the Parr regime. His Secretary of State John Ben Shepperd two years ago threw out the Duval County write-in votes which would have elected Rep A. J. Vale as district judge and defeated Parr's enemy, Reams. Shepperd now is a candidate for attorney general.

Just recently the Department of Public Safety sent Rangers into Duval County at Judge Reams request during a grand jury investigation of political matters there. Atty Gen Daniel sent legal investigators in too, at the request of Reams' grand jury.

STEVENSON WENT to court in his contention about the Box 13 of Alice under a legal quirk that excluded review of other claims affecting votes in the state. In at least four other counties Johnson was declared the Democratic nominee and thus he couldn't go to court to challenge reputed irregularities elsewhere. Had Stevenson filed his

SMALL TALK



"You don't have to look smug just because I said it was my fault..."

contest in state court, Johnson could have brought in all the other debated counties for review as well. But instead Stevenson took the case into federal court and lost it there. The United States Senate refused to entertain a contest.

In the same election, about 400 ballots in Brown County were excluded.

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SMALL TALK

AFTER A LOVER'S QUARREL

—By SYMS



"You don't have to look so smug just because I said it was my fault..."



"Gonna give your lover boy a kiss, now...?"



"The least you can do is gimme back my fraternity pln..."

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In the same election, about 400 ballots in Brown County were excluded.

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they were cast in good faith by the voters, but the presiding election judge had failed to sign the ballots in advance thus the voters were denied their right to be counted.

It was known that Johnson was running well ahead in that county and would have had a considerable majority in the excluded votes.

Also at Eastland, Dallas and

Galveston there were controversies about the vote and in all these Johnson leaders claimed whatever inaccuracies there were against him.

"We have long been convinced" said a former associate of Johnson, "that Sen Johnson actually won that famous 'horse race' by at least 3,000 votes instead of the 87 majority with which he was officially credited."

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Lie Detector Test Given to Jim Wells Man

AUSTIN, Texas, May 31 (AP).—The State Department of Public Safety director said Saturday night a voluntary lie detector test was given a person from Jim Wells County.

Homer Garrison Jr. refused to say whether or not the test was related to a letter about the bitter 1948 Senate race. The letter was written to former Gov. Coke Stevenson by Sam Smithwick, former Jim Wells County deputy sheriff.

Smithwick hanged himself in his cell at Huntsville where he was serving life for murder.

Smithwick mentioned names in the letter he sent Stevenson indicating he could give information about the missing Precinct 13 ballot box from Jim Wells County.

Garrison said the man questioned in Austin lived in Jim Wells County in 1948, the year of the contested Democratic primary between Stevenson and Sen. Lyndon Johnson. The public safety director said he assumed the man still lives there, but declined to identify him further.

Garrison was asked how his department entered the investigation. He said the department began its investigation on its own. He declined to elaborate.

He also had "no comment" when asked if the lie detector test concerned the Smithwick letter.

Primary Urged in President's Race

By MARSHALL McNEIL

Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The Republican and Democratic political battles in Texas this week brought from leaders in both parties here today the suggestion that the state might well consider providing for a presidential primary election before 1956 rolls around.

The same idea has been advocated by political leaders in Texas over the last several weeks.

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. of Massachusetts, national campaign manager for General Eisenhower, was asked for his views on a presidential primary for Texas as the result of the GOP spectacle at Mineral Wells.

Won't Meddle

"Of course," he said, "I will not take the position of meddling in the affairs of other states. And, moreover, the presidential primary is not the complete answer. But, when the people are aroused as they are this year, the presidential primary certainly gives them a means for expressing their preferences."

Obviously, Senator Lodge and Ikemen in Texas have discovered that existing election laws are not favorable to them, but rather to the old professional GOP war-horses there.

"In Massachusetts we have a presidential primary," the senator continued, "and at times a very small fraction of the voters has taken part in our primary. But it is there, nevertheless, for the people to use, if they so desire."

Lodge Shocked

Lodge told this reporter earlier he was shocked at the way the Taft forces acted at Mineral Wells. He characterized it as the "most barefaced thing that has happened in my memory in American politics," adding that "stealing a man's vote is just as bad as burglarizing his home."

Sen. Paul Douglas, D., Ill., author of a bill setting up a nation-wide presidential primary, was questioned about his views in the light of the Texas events.

He, too, disclaimed any intention of trying to tell Texas what to do but said—

"Events of this week have demonstrated again the need for a presidential primary, in which the voters, and not the professional politicians, will be able to say who shall be nominated."

U. S. Would Pay

Senator Douglas expects the Senate Rules Committee today to report his bill for a nation-wide presidential primary. Under it, the federal government would pay the costs of such a primary—up to 20 cents per vote cast—but the states would be perfectly free to say whether they want such a primary and, if so, what sort. Under the Douglas bill, sponsored by seven other senators, Texas would

have to pass its own law for a presidential primary. It could make it simply a "beauty contest," or it could provide for the binding of delegates to the candidates who got the most votes.

Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas, asked about the presidential primary in view of the convention squabbles at Mineral Wells and San Antonio, said he thought it would be a good idea for Texas. He favors the people being given the opportunity to express their views on nominees.

HOUSTON, May 28. (UP)—Political Boss George Parr of Duval County agreed today that the ballot box in Jim Wells County's Precinct 13 in the stormy 1948 senatorial election was probably stuffed, but said he had nothing to do with it. The Houston Press reported.

At the same time, Parr charged that a letter written by the late Sam Smithwick Sr., to Coke Stevenson was revealed last Sunday for political reasons and that Gov. Allan Shivers "is in this thing too."

In an interview with Press Writer Jack Donahue, Parr was quoted as saying he had no idea where three polling lists, missing from a Precinct 13 box since the election, were, and

that "it wouldn't embarrass me if they were found." Smithwick, a former Jim Wells County deputy sheriff, wrote Stevenson March 23 that he had arrested some persons in connection with the poll list theft and that he knew where they could be found. But on April 15 Smithwick apparently committed suicide in the prison at Huntsville where he was serving a life sentence for killing radio newsmen W. A. (Bill) Mason.

Texas Ranger Capt. Alfred Allee said he was investigating the case. The Press reported, and that he had another letter which Smithwick had written from the prison.

"I can't say anything about the case," Allee was quoted as saying. "As soon as we arrest someone, we'll let you know."

Parr Agrees Box Probably Stuffed

2 The Fort Worth Press WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1952