

Carroll County Times "Carroll's Yesteryears" Articles

1911 Political Caravan

Carroll County Times article for 30 September 1990

By Joe Getty

Traditional election campaigns in Carroll County featured a considerable amount of personal contact. Instead of reaching voters through media advertising, candidates spent time in our communities at political events held in each small town. Rallies, parades, barbecues and other mass meetings were the typical format for political gatherings. The program of speeches by candidates and local dignitaries at a rally could last for three to five hours at a local event.

Just before Election Day, caravans were popular for driving from village to village to meet the voters. These efforts by local candidates were linked with visits by gubernatorial candidates and other statewide personalities. A report about the caravan featuring the statewide and local Republican candidates in 1911 is recorded in the November 3rd edition of Westminster's newspaper, The American Sentinel:

"SWEEPING REPUBLICAN VICTORY IN CARROLL COUNTY PREDICTED

The tour of Messrs. Goldsborough, Soper and Cunningham, the Republican state candidates, a notice of which appeared in the last issue of The Sentinel, began Monday morning, at Tannery, this county. A large delegation of enthusiastic Republicans in fifteen automobiles belonging to Messrs. Henry Cassell, E. M. Newton, Russell V. Lewis, George L. Stocksdales, Joseph L. Mathias, Theo. Englar, Elias G. Shipley, Oscar D. Gilbert, Geo. K. Mather, Jacob H. Handley, Monroe Englar, Andrew P. Frizzell, Samuel H. Mehring, Nathan Zentz and Jacob Brehm, and all decorated with flags and posters met Mr. Goldsborough and Mr. Soper at the station on the Western Maryland Railroad, and after all of the candidates, including both state and local ones, had made a tour of the large Schlosser Tannery and had shaken hands with all of the employees, the line of automobiles was headed for Hampstead with Messrs. Goldsborough, Soper and representatives of the Sun and The American in Mr. E. M. Newton's powerful National car in the lead.

Upon reaching Hampstead the candidates were met at the upper end of the town by a large band of music and escorted to the Firemen's Building where a large audience of representative citizens and all the school children of the high school greeted them. After short addresses by Messrs. Cunningham, Soper and Goldsborough, the party proceeded to Manchester. At Hampstead, the delegation was joined by Mr. Charles H. Sapp and a number of his friends in Mr. Sapp's automobile. A short stop was made at Manchester to give the candidates, both state and local, an opportunity to speak to a number of the citizens. No speeches were made. The next stop was at Union Mills. Here the delegation was met by the large Union Mills Band and escorted to the public hall where an adjournment was had for dinner. Mr. Ira G. Lawyer entertained the candidates and the delegation at an elegant dinner, after which Messrs. Cunningham, Soper and Goldsborough delivered short addresses. The turnpike in front of the hall was packed with citizens who listened attentively to every word uttered by the speakers.

The next stop was at Taneytown, Gibraltar of Republicanism, of this county. Here the candidates were received by a crowd that filled the square and that listened – as they always do in Taneytown – to excellent addresses by Messrs. Cunningham, Soper and Goldsborough. Brief stops were then made at

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Keymar and Middleburg. Union Bridge was reached in the middle of the afternoon. The candidates, both state and local, called upon many of the residents, and an address was delivered by Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Goldsborough's and Mr. Soper's time was taken up in shaking hands with a large number of Republicans and Democrats who promised them their support.

After a brief visit to the Tidewater Cement and Lime Plant the delegation headed for New Windsor, where a large, enthusiastic and representative audience awaited it. A temporary platform had been erected in front of the Presbyterian Church and from it Messrs. Cunningham, Soper and Goldsborough delivered three excellent addresses. Here, as at every other place, the audience listened attentively and cheered the candidates whenever a telling point was made. The delegation arrived in this city at 6 p.m., tired, dusty and hungry, but mighty happy and very much encouraged. Messrs. C. J. Ganter, of Manchester, and W. Frank Thomas of this city, joined the delegation at Union Mills.

The mass meeting at the Court House at 8 p.m., was a success in every way. The large court room, the four communicating rooms, aisles, stairways and downstairs hall were simply packed with people eager to hear the addresses of Messrs. Cunningham, Soper and Goldsborough, and Mr. Frank E. Williams, editor of the Cecil Whig. Many of them could not get into the building and were compelled to go away. The First Regiment Band furnished the music. Dr. Geo. E. Baughman presided and made two short and telling speeches. After the meeting Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham entertained the state candidates and a large number of citizens at lunch. Messrs. Goldsborough and Soper being compelled to keep an engagement in Baltimore early Tuesday morning left Westminster Monday night, in Mr. E. M. Newton's automobile, driven by Mr. Edward Baker, of New Windsor, for Reisterstown, where they caught a trolley car for Baltimore.

It was a successful tour and a successful meeting and everything points to a sweeping Republican victory in Carroll this year."

How successful was the 1911 automobile caravan? The election results show that the three state candidates – Goldsborough, Soper and Cunningham – carried Carroll County. Goldsborough succeeded statewide and was elected Governor of Maryland. In addition, the Republican candidates for the General Assembly delegation won, sending State Senator R. Smith Snader and Delegates Calvin R. Chew, E. Frank Ely, Melvin W. Routson and Herbert W. Wooden to Annapolis. At the local level, Democrats captured all offices except for one Judge of the Orphan's Court seat won by Republican Harry K. Shaeffer. The novel technology of the automobile added a new twist to campaigning in rural Carroll County during the election of 1911.

Photo Caption: The Republican state and county candidates posed for a photograph at the Schlosser Tannery at Tannery during an automobile caravan during the 1911 campaign. Sitting left to right: Morris A. Soper, Phillip Lee Goldsborough and John H. Cunningham. Standing left to right: Martin D. Hess, County Treasurer; J. N. O. Smith, Sheriff; R. Smith Snader, State Senate; H. K. Shaeffer, J. P. Weybright and Jesse Smith, Orphan's Court; Theodore J. Brown, State's Attorney; M. W. Routson, W. Frank Ely, and C. R. Chew, House of Delegates, and A. P. Frizzell, County Commissioner. The inset portrait shows Herbert R. Wooden, the fourth candidate for House of Delegates. Photo courtesy of Reese L. Starnier.