

# The Stroller...

## How campaigns have changed

By W. W. EDGAR

There was a glint in the politician's eye when he asked "For whom are you going to vote—Gerald Ford or Jimmy Carter?" The Stroller had to smile. If the politician only had realized he was born and raised in Pennsylvania, he never would have asked the question.

Back in the days when the Stroller was just graduating from knee breeches into long pants and getting his first good look at the political picture he was taught to vote for the Grand Old Party. To do otherwise would have been looked upon as a mortal sin.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, in those days a Democrat was looked upon as a sort of museum piece. They were few and far between. In our little town of Catawissa residents in the facilities of the Blue Mountains there was only one registered Democrat. He was an elderly, well-to-do coal dealer named George B. F. Dely. The very mention of his name causes the Stroller to recall one of the most humorous moments of a presidential election he ever has known. It was back in 1936 when Charles Evans Hughes, the famed be-whiskered gent, ran against Woodrow Wilson, the Democratic incumbent.

IT WAS A RATHER hectic campaign in the days of World War I. Wilson was running on the theory that he could get us out of the war. And Hughes, naturally, was campaigning against Wilson—and war. There were many political rallies with the traditional bonfires and torch light parades. But strangely, there was none in support of Wilson in our little town.

In those days there was little of the voter apathy we have today, and while the Stroller was not yet old enough to vote he did his part by helping to get out the vote. And our little town had one of its best leaders.

Came election day and the town was enthused over the possibility that the Republicans would win. All through the day there was great glee as reports came in that the vote was heavy and that the Republicans appeared to have a wide edge.

Long after the polls were closed no one had retired. The townspeople were awaiting the final word. There was no radio or tele-

vision in those days, all we had were telegraphic reports.

About midnight, came word that Hughes apparently had won and the Republicans again would have control of the White House.

This news flash was all that was needed in short order the Catawissa Band was on hand, ready to march on a moment's notice.

It was no time until the torches were lit, and the signal was given to parade.

WHERE TO?

There was only one destination—down to George Dely's home to serenade him. It was a happy group that gathered on the old gent's porch, screaming and yelling of the victory. All the old gent did was pull down the curtains.

It was a great moment. But you can imagine the shock when the word came the next morning that Wilson had made a strong finish and was re-elected.

There was gloom in our town. Heads

were shaking in surprise all around the regular meeting places. And when our young fellows gathered that evening there was little conversation—only the aggravating thoughts of the Republican defeat.

As darkness fell, there came a sound of music far down on our front street. It was marching music. As the sounds became clearer, there was no mistaking that it was a parade.

Sure enough. When the band came in sight, there was a lone marcher with a lighted torch and broad smile.

It was George B. F. Dely, the town's lone Democrat. What a time he was having getting even and celebrating the Democratic victory.

No presidential race ever will have the same effect on The Stroller.

It was the first time he was caught in a political defeat. Things have changed in Pennsylvania since those days. But the memory of Hughes's defeat and the Democratic victory he will remember always.

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## SS payments can start fast after applying

Social Security disability payments generally cannot start immediately after people apply for them because of a law requiring a five-month waiting period.

That's the word from Charles Anderson, manager of the Social Security office at 3345 Grand River, Farmington.

Social Security pays monthly disability benefits to eligible workers and their families if the worker is severely disabled and not expected to be able to do any work for a year or more. Payment generally starts five months after the month after five full months of disability.

During the waiting period, Anderson explained, examiners get medical records from doctors, hospitals and other institutions that treated the disability. The disabled pay for getting these records if there is any charge.

To be eligible for disability benefits, Anderson said, most workers need at least five years of work under social security in the 15 years before they became disabled. For workers disabled before age 31, the requirement scales down to as little as one and a half years, depending on age.

People disabled since childhood can get social security disability payments without waiting when a parent starts getting social security retirement or disability benefits—unless after working long enough under social security.

Severely disabled people who haven't worked long or recently enough under social security to get disability benefits may be eligible for supplemental security in some cases. The SSI program, administered by social security, makes monthly payments to people with little or no income and limited resources who are disabled or blind or 65 or over.

There is no waiting period under the SSI program, Anderson explained. Payments start when eligibility is determined. In some cases, SSI disability payments may be made to people while they're waiting for an eligibility decision for social security payments.

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