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POLITICIANS LOSE IN SCHOOL OFFICE FIGHT

Mrs. Jettie Wallace Is Endorsed by County Board

PASO HIGH GRADUATE

Four Members Stick to Early Recommendations for Assistant

By BOB CURRAN

A demure, little school teacher, Mrs. Jettie Wallace, admittedly ignorant of politics, outwitted the high-powered politicians and influential persons who brought pressure to bear for one or the other of nine rival candidates for the county school superintendent's job it appeared certain Wednesday.

Mrs. Wallace got the unanimous endorsement of the county school board for the position. The county commissioners court makes the appointment but this court's chairman, Judge E. R. McClintock, told the school board that the commissioners thought the latter tribunal should recommend who is most fitted for the position.

Recommend Assistant

The school board recommended Mrs. Wallace.

It is understood that so much pressure had been brought on the county commissioners court in behalf of other candidates that three of them were already pledged to support Mrs. Van C. Wilson. H. B. Fort, former assistant principal of El Paso High school, was second in the running as commissioners' votes go. Mrs. Wallace was a rank outsider in that kind of voting.

But in the meanwhile the commissioners court sought to get out of the difficult task of picking the winner among a field of 10 candidates.

So Judge McClintock asked the school board to do the recommending.

That just fitted into the unsophisticated Mrs. Wallace's plans. She wanted the job. She didn't know much about commissioners court or sending friends to see the commissioners. All she had had anything to do with in her work as assistant superintendent was the school board. So while the other candidates rushed to the commissioners Mrs. Wallace went to every board member.

Filed Recommendation

When she filed her application for the job, she filed with it the written recommendation of three out of four members of the school board. The three endorsers are Mrs. L. P. Brooks, J. W. Eubanks, and T. R. Chesser.

There are only four members of the board. The fourth member, H. E. Nichols, preferred to nominate Mrs. Van C. Wilson. Paul Thomas, chairman of the board, also preferred Mrs. Wilson but Thomas has no vote except in case of a tie. He recommended her however.

Thomas first opposed any recommendation from the board and argued this would be an unpleasant decision wished off on the school officials by the county commissioners court. The board voted that idea down.

Then Thomas urged that the board recommend three applicants for the commissioners to choose between. He said that to recommend only one would be tantamount to usurping the county commissioners' function of appointing.

High Graduate

J. W. Eubanks replied that it was futile to make any recommendation at all unless only one was submitted and he said a county commissioner told him that the board's recommendation would be final. So the board voted, at first naming Mrs. Wallace 3 to 1 over Mrs. Wilson and then making it unanimous for Mrs. Wallace.

Mrs. Wallace is a graduate of El Paso High school and of Junior College. She has taught in the city schools and at Canutillo and Yaleta schools in the county.

Nine applicants who were considered Wednesday are Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Van C. Wilson, Miss Myra Winkler, H. B. Fort, W. A. Hearne, Mrs. Winnie D. Tomilson, A. C. Elliott, H. C. Hinton and W. G. Egerton. Miss Lillian Huggett, also mentioned, was not officially listed as an applicant.

CHAGE TOOK WATCH

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