

Senate candidates pay visits

By MARIE PARKHURST
News Herald Staff Writer

Former Gov. Terry Sanford and Mecklenburg County Commissioner T.L. "Fountain" Odom — Democratic Senate candidates in the May

6 primary — were in Morganton on Thursday meeting with supporters and drumming up votes.

Looking hopefully at the seat once held by Watergate hero and Morganton's most famous Democrat, the late Sen. Sam Ervin Jr., the two made speeches and met with Burke County Democratic Party leaders.

Odom

... with WPCC trustee Mrs. E.W. Phifer Jr. (left)

"I'm tired apologizing for our sen-

★ Please turn to page 5A



Photo by Chuck Liddy

Senate candidate Terry Sanford

... with WPCC trustee Mrs. E.W. Phifer Jr. (left)

Sanford, Odom campaign locally

★ From page one

ators in Washington ... I want to be a different voice," Sanford told about 50 who attended a luncheon in his honor in his first campaign visit to Burke County.

A properly run primary campaign will result in a win in May and November, Sanford said. With such a win, the Democratic Party will have solid unity and regain dominance in the state, he added.

"I've chosen the best man to unite the Democratic Party and bring victory," said Sanford campaign committee member and Morganton attorney Robert "Bob" Byrd, claiming partial responsibility for "almost drafting" the 68-year-old candidate.

The candidate has the same weight now as he had when his career ended as paratrooper in World War II, and he has obviously taken good care of himself, Byrd said.

"He has a good mind and a good body; he's the man to lead the Democratic victory," Byrd announced, pounding the podium in his impassioned courtroom style, bringing his listeners to a standing applause.

But a different drummer — Odom — was sounding at the dinner hour. "It's important to send someone to Washington who is committed to do more than one term," Odom told about 75 Thursday evening at a Burke County Women's Club meeting.

"This election is too important to elect someone with name recognition and because he was a good public servant 26 years ago. Washington is not the place anyone should retire to," Odom said.

While Sanford was heard prefacing his comments with, "When we get to Washington," Odom ended by his asking supporters to get together and support the Democrat candidate in November, "regardless who wins" the primary.

Outside of personality, age and name recognition differences, the candidates talk similarly on issues.

Sanford emphasized North Carolina farmers' and textile workers' futures, while Odom put emphasis on protecting the future generation's environment.

The fundamentals of the North

Carolina economy are farming and textiles, Sanford said, "and Washington has turned its back on the farming family." Sanford added that he has put together an advisory farming committee of 25 farmers.

"The number one thing that is bothering people across this state is the condition of farming," Sanford said. "We simply can't turn our backs on the farmers."

The future of textiles is the second problem bothering people of the state. "In terms of human tragedy, we can't let all those textile jobs be lost," Sanford said, reminding his listeners of the J.P. Stevens plant closings last week which left about 1,000 people unemployed.

Sanford said he has very carefully studied the proposal to put a nuclear waste repository site in North Carolina. After comparing possible state sites — one at Elk Park near Hendersonville and the other in Wake County — "I cannot justify picking either," he said.

"I am uniformly opposed ... and can be of some assistance in Washington" in keeping the sites out of North Carolina, he said.

Because he is against a "10,000-year experimental nuclear waste graveyard" in North Carolina, Odom said he has a positive plan. "If it's safe to use, it's safe to be stored on site for the next 50 to 100 years until we can find a safe way to do away with it."

Odom said the free trade practiced by world markets are not "fair trade."

"We can compete if the rules are the same," Odom said, but not until furniture, textile and farming tariffs in better balance.

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