

The Giddings News

May 27, 1932

MERTON L. HARRIS OF BASTROP COUNTY
ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR CONGRESS



Merton L. Harris of Smithville, Bastrop County, today announces through the Giddings News his candidacy for Congress from the 10th district, pledging his most vigorous effort to securing economic relief for the Texas people.

He will make an aggressive campaign throughout the district, he said, undertaking to get personally acquainted with as many as possible of the citizens.

A native Texan, Mr. Harris is typical of the expansive State of his birth, being six feet four inches tall and weighing 225 pounds. He wears a No. 14 shoe. He is an ex-student of Baylor University and a graduate of the University of Texas. He was born and reared on the farm, and largely worked his way through college. He has a wife and three children; his wife being Miss Hazel Randolph of Austin, also a former student of the University of Texas, for whose brother, the late Captain W. M. Randolph, the renowned Randolph field, "West Point of the Air" is named.

Mr. Harris, district attorney of the 21st judicial district, comprising Washington, Bastrop, Burleson and Lee counties, has the distinction of having held the office four times and having been elected each time without opposition. He has long been an advocate of simplification of court red tape and procedure, and during the past two years has been invited and has spoken before more than 100 meetings, women's state and district club meetings, and civic and legal organizations, on this and other subjects. He has gained wide recognition in the publication of a successful volume of fiction having its locale in Texas.

Mr. Harris is seeking the seat in congress held for 20 years by J. P. Buchanan of Brenham. "Mr. Buchanan two years ago told the voters," Mr. Harris said, "that if they would elect him then and let him round out 20 years, he would not ask them to keep

him in the office over 20 years. He many times stated he would not ask their suffrage again this year. He tried to respect this pledge early this year, by declining to place his name on the ballot, but intimate political associates have been sent around over the district to file his name by petition. That puts him in the light of wanting to keep his word, but readily yielding to the desire to try to stay in office perpetually."

"Many voters have told me," Mr. Harris said, "they think the district needs new blood and new energy in Congress. They have seen the deplorable results of the last few years in Congress, and feel they must call upon others than those responsible for the situation to remedy it."

"If I am elected," Mr. Harris said in his preliminary announcement, "I will devote my energies and efforts in giving assistance to those who produce, whether it be cotton, cattle or oil."

"I shall strive to bring about a better distribution system."

"I shall work to materially lower the costs and expenditures of government."

"I shall give my best efforts to amend and redraft the federal reserve banking system in such a way that it will be impossible for it to drain the money out of the nation and permit it to be invested in foreign bonds and securities, and so that the banking system may again be operated for the masses of the people rather than for a handful of bankers in Wall Street."

"The well-being, prosperity and perpetuity of the nation depend upon the success and contentment of the farm people and laboring people. I shall work with this in view. I will outline in detail my platform as the campaign opens, and will make an active campaign in all the counties," he said.

The congressional district includes Travis, Williamson, Hays, Lee, Bastrop, Caldwell, Austin, Burleson and Washington counties.