

Changing Faces

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Source: Mr. and Mrs. Collins F. Kindred collection

An active interest in politics runs through the history of Smithville and this poem was found relating to many of Smithville's early citizens. It is probably a reference to the 1916 election of Woodrow Wilson (Democrat) over Charles Hughes (Republican).

Changing Faces

(Located, with apologies to Mel Moody)

They gathered at the drug store, a merry noisy crowd,
To hear election bulletins as they were read aloud.
Democrats and Republicans, each sure they'd win the race,
And smiles of satisfaction shone on each neighbor's face.

When the phone began to jingle, the news was coming in.
Each side was ready, their shouting to begin,
As the noisy throng subsided, and assumed a serious air,
Expectantly they awaited either glory or despair.

"N.Y. has gone for Hughes," came the message there.
And we distinctly heard old friend "Chucky" swear.
"Illinois Republican" was the next unwelcome slam,
And Collins Kindred forcibly ejected "Damn!"

The faces of the Democrats grew both long and thin,
While those of Jersey and his crowd expanded to a grin.
Broader and still broader until it reached their ears,
And Doc and Krauss in sorrow wiped away their tears.

For comfort any longer it was useless there to stay,
Platte and Pete and Omp and Owen, they sadly went away.
Al and Wilk and Bony in derision gave a mighty shout,
Each time they saw a Democrat quietly sneaking out.

But Oh! On Thursday morning there had come a change,
A startling transformation on every face in range.
Jersey's face that wore a grin, was longer now, and sad,
While Pete, despondent once, now seemed almighty glad.

The boys who sat in darkness, are now happy and elate.
Jim McFall's expressions this election have been great.
And the truth of that old saw, stands this latest test,
That "he who laughs last, always laughs the best."

Chunky Adams
Doc Dr Hill
Platte Yates
Collins Kindred
Bony Iden

Jersey-Roy Mills
Kraus Justus
Pete Brown
Jim Mc Fall
Wilk Berry

Omp Adams
Al Lowman
Owen Boggess

