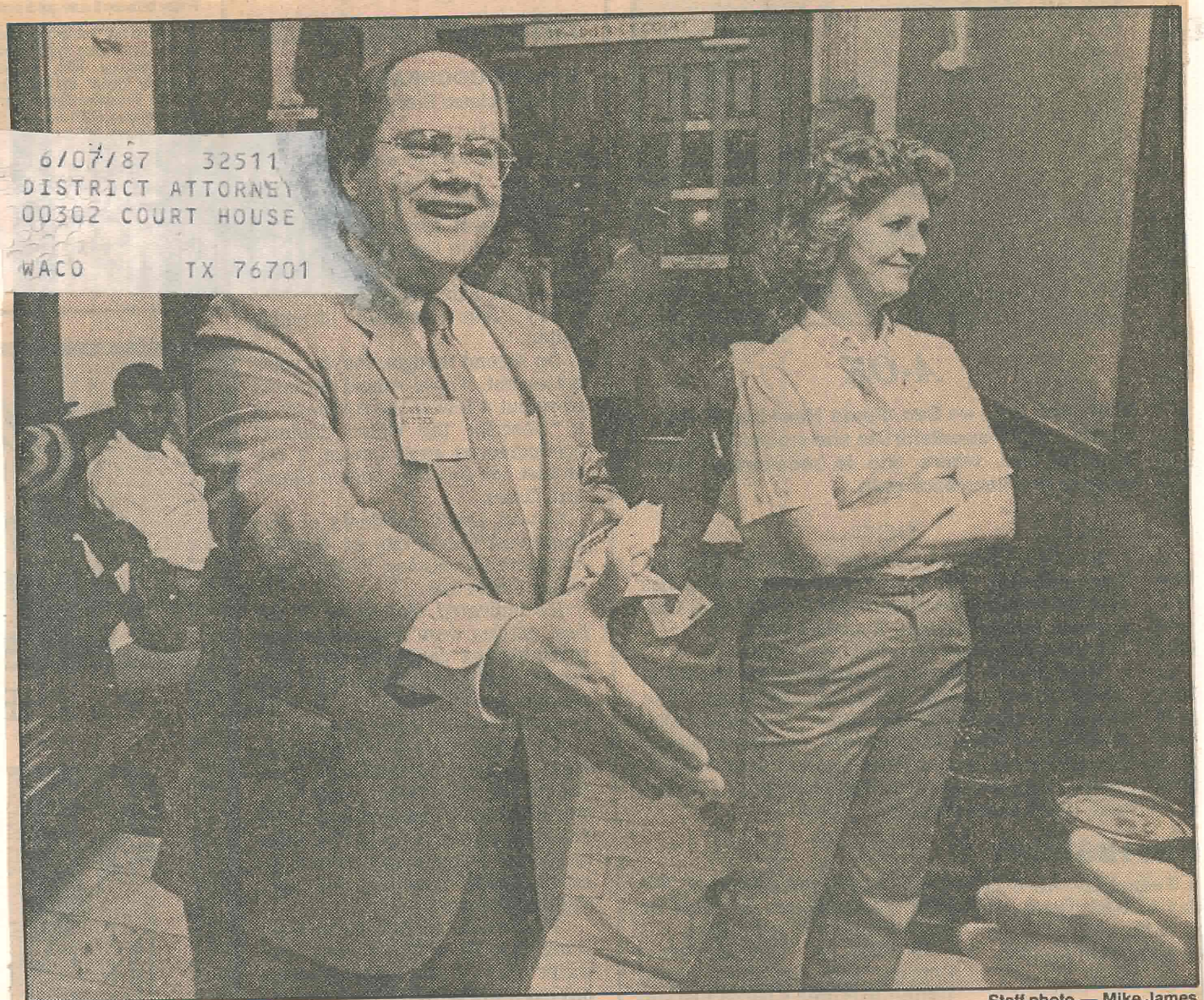


April 23, 1986  
Waco Tribune Herald



Staff photo — Mike James

County judge candidate John Ben Sutter greets registered voters summoned to the courthouse for jury duty

## Candidates woo captive audience of potential jurors

By **DARRELL DUNN**  
Tribune-Herald staff writer

Taking advantage of a captive audience, candidates for county offices Tuesday morning were lined up inside the McLennan County Courthouse shaking hands and passing out campaign cards to registered voters summoned for jury duty.

Four of five candidates vying for the Democratic nomination for McLennan County Judge — Bert Cargill, Norman J. Hoppenstein, Raymond Matkin and John Ben Sutter — lined the walkway of the courthouse's third floor Tuesday

morning as potential jurors arrived.

The county judge candidates, along with 170th District Court Judge candidate Joe Johnson and Justice of the Peace candidate Guy Cox, shook hands and talked politics with potential jurors who stopped on their way into the courtroom.

"It might be somewhat of an inconvenience (for the potential jurors), but sometimes the political process is an inconvenience," Sutter said.

"I never shake the hand of an individual who is in a hurry or seems to be depressed or disturbed," he said. "But I think the best way to campaign for

office is to meet as many people as you can and shake as many hands as possible. It shows you're interested in them and interested in working for them."

All the candidates who were asked said that because jury lists are compiled from the list of registered voters, the political wooing of potential jurors is natural.

"This allows you to get around 100 or more registered voters and be close enough to meet them and be seen," Matkin said.

Please see **CANDIDATES**, Page 6A

## Candidates woo captive audience

### □ From Page 1A

"These people are concerned enough to vote and there's only a small amount of time between now and the election," he said. "The more voters you can meet and get your message across to, the better your chances. You've got to use every opportunity to

meet as many voters as you can. That's what campaigning is all about."

"You've got 150 registered voters here, and it seems to be what the other politicians are doing as well," Hoppenstein said. "It's a good chance to meet a lot of people at once. And, I don't think they mind. We're here for our civic

duty also. In running for office, we're fulfilling a civic duty."

Johnson said he doesn't "have the slightest qualm" about electioneering in the courthouse.

"We need all the exposure we can get," he said.

"All the advertisements and billboards will not suffice for personal appearances before the election," Johnson said. "You've got to see all the people you can see. The best kind of advertising you can have is to let a person see you and size you up. People like to see you in person, so they know you're interested enough in the job to be out and about."

Cox said electioneering also provides the jurors with a way of passing the time while the sometimes tedious judicial process transpires.

"Many of the jurors have been here before and realize there's a lot of dead time," he said. "They can collect the cards and read about the candidates during the dead time."

"Some of these people aren't in my precinct, but it gives me a chance to meet some voters on a one-to-one basis," Cox said. "Seeing my advertising may or may not be effective. Seeing me in person, I'm giving them a chance to ask questions."

Electioneering is forbidden within 100 feet of a polling place, but none of the candidates were seen campaigning on the first floor of the courthouse, where absentee voting is under way.

The primary election is May 3.