

The Baltimore Sun, 8 November 1934

Nice Began Political Career In 1901 In Legislative Contest

He Met Defeat In Republican Primaries, But In 1903
He Won His Second Fight, A Seat In City Council.
Governor-Elect Is Son Of Minister

Harry Whinna Nice was born December 6, 1877, at Washington, one of five children of the late Rev. Henry and Drucilla A. Nice. Mr. Nice and his sister, Miss May I. Nice, are the only survivors.

The family moved to Baltimore when Mr. Nice was 1 year old. The father, a Methodist Episcopal minister, attended to church duties while his son was being educated in the public schools and later at the Baltimore City College.

The Republican standard-bearer next attended Dickinson College at Carlisle, Pa. During this period his father was stationed at Barton, in Western Maryland, and Mr. Nice spent much of his early youth there.

Entered Law School

Upon completing his studies at Dickinson, Mr. Nice waited a year, due to his youth, then entered the Law School of the University of Maryland. He graduated in 1899 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He now is a member of the Baltimore, Maryland and American Bar Associations.

He first entered actively into politics two years later, when he ran as a candidate for the Maryland Legislature but was defeated by a narrow margin in the Republican primaries. Then, in 1903, he was elected to the First Branch City Council—the Council at that time was divided into two branches—from the Eighteenth ward.

He was married June 6, 1904, to Edna Viola Amos at the Fayette Street Methodist Episcopal Church. His father was one of the officiating clergymen. Mr. and Mrs. Nice have one

son, Harry W. Nice, Jr., who is 28. Another is dead.

Appointed Mayor's Secretary

In 1905 Mr. Nice was appointed secretary to Mayor E. Clay Timanus of Baltimore, serving until Mayor J. Barry Mahool took office. Gov. Austin L. Crothers in 1908 appointed him as minority member of the Board of Supervisors of Elections. All this time he continued to practice law, being at that period with the firm of Nice & Luthardt.

Four years later he was appointed an assistant in the office of the then State's Attorney for Baltimore city, William F. Broening, who was later to become Mayor of Baltimore and still later his party's choice for Governor.

In May of 1919 Mr. Broening became Mayor and resigned his office as State's Attorney. He recommended Mr. Nice, with whom he had by this time formed a close personal and political alliance, as his successor. Mr. Nice was appointed by the late Judge Heusler and the appointment was confirmed by the Supreme Bench.

Considered By Party

At about the same time, the name of the rising young State's Attorney, who already had carved out a reputation for himself in the law, especially in criminal cases, began to be mentioned as the Republican party's next choice to carry its standard in the Gubernatorial fight.

He was named, finally, as a harmony candidate, and filed his papers June 26, 1919. It was at this time that

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

NICE BEGAN CAREER IN POLITICS IN 1901

Was Defeated In Republican
Primaries For Seat In
Legislature

SENT TO COUNCIL IN 1903

Governor-Elect Is Son Of Metho-
dist Minister And Was Born
In Washington

(Continued from Page 1)

he became associated with former United States Senator Ovington E. Weller, then the ablest political strategist in the Republican party in Maryland.

The results of the election are well known. Albert C. Ritchie, Attorney-General at the time, beat Mr. Nice by 165 votes. The Republican forces have claimed ever since that there was a discrepancy in the count and that their candidate was in reality elected.

On Appeal Tax Court

A short while after his defeat, Mr. Nice was named a member of the Appeal Tax Court by Mayor Broening, although his name had been mentioned as a likely successor to the post of City Collector. The Mayor was also said to have been backing Mr. Nice for the Postmastership of Baltimore, but nothing came of this, either.

Then the Boulevard Theater scandal broke and Mr. Nice, with his law partner, Edwin T. Dickerson, and two others, were presented by the grand jury on charges arising from the affair. Mr. Nice was not indicted, however. Subsequently all the cases against those indicted were *nolle prossed*. Mr. Nice was exonerated by the Baltimore Bar Association in connection with the case.

In 1923 he was renominated to his post in the Appeal Tax Court. The City Council held up confirmation for some time, due to representations that Mr. Nice had absented himself frequently from the court, but later confirmed him.

Tendered Resignation

After confirmation, the appointment was termed probationary, and the probationary period was set at six months. At the end of this time, Mr. Nice tendered his resignation to the incoming Mayor, Howard W. Jackson.

From then until the present election, Mr. Nice ran for no office, although his name was mentioned frequently as a possible choice for a candidate, especially for State's Attorney. He continued actively in his law practice.

As the recent primaries began to draw near, he campaigned first quietly, then avowedly, for the Republican nomination. Factionism reared its head. Galen L. Tait, then chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, remained aloof.

Rival Camps Split

Highlights of the primaries in which the present candidate defeated Senator Goldsborough and H. Webster Smith for the nomination included the open break between the two camps and the subsequent replacing of Mr. Tait by William P. Lawson as the central committee chairman.

Mr. Nice is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is interested in many fraternal orders, including Odd Fellows, Masonic order and Moose, but chiefly the Knights of Pythias. He has held high lodge offices, including that of grand chancellor of the Maryland Pythian lodge.

He has traveled widely in every State of the Union, in Mexico, Canada and Europe. Mr. and Mrs. Nice spend their summer vacations in their car, Mrs. Nice doing all the driving—she is an expert driver and has driven to the coast and back three times—and visit especially places of scenic interest.

Mr. Nice reads a great deal. He can quote voluminously from the Bible, which he rereads every year, and from the works of Dickens and Scott. His home is at 5791 Oakshire road.