

Pawnee Rock man eyes presidency

By LUKE BROWN
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PAWNEE ROCK — Thirteen months from today, Al Carris of Pawnee Rock would like to change his address. The retired farmer and businessman would like to go back to work as President of the United States.

Thursday he declared his intention to move from his white house in Pawnee Rock to the White House in Washington, D.C., as the 41st president.

"I don't like the situation and I think I can straighten it out. In fact, I know I can. I've never failed on a job yet," the candidate said.

Carris will turn 76 next week, "but don't let my age worry you a bit, because I never go to the doctor except when I want to renew my driver's license."

Carris acknowledges his competitors, such as former Vice President Walter Mondale and Ohio Senator John Glenn, have a head start. However, once people hear what he would do as president, they are certain to support him, he said.

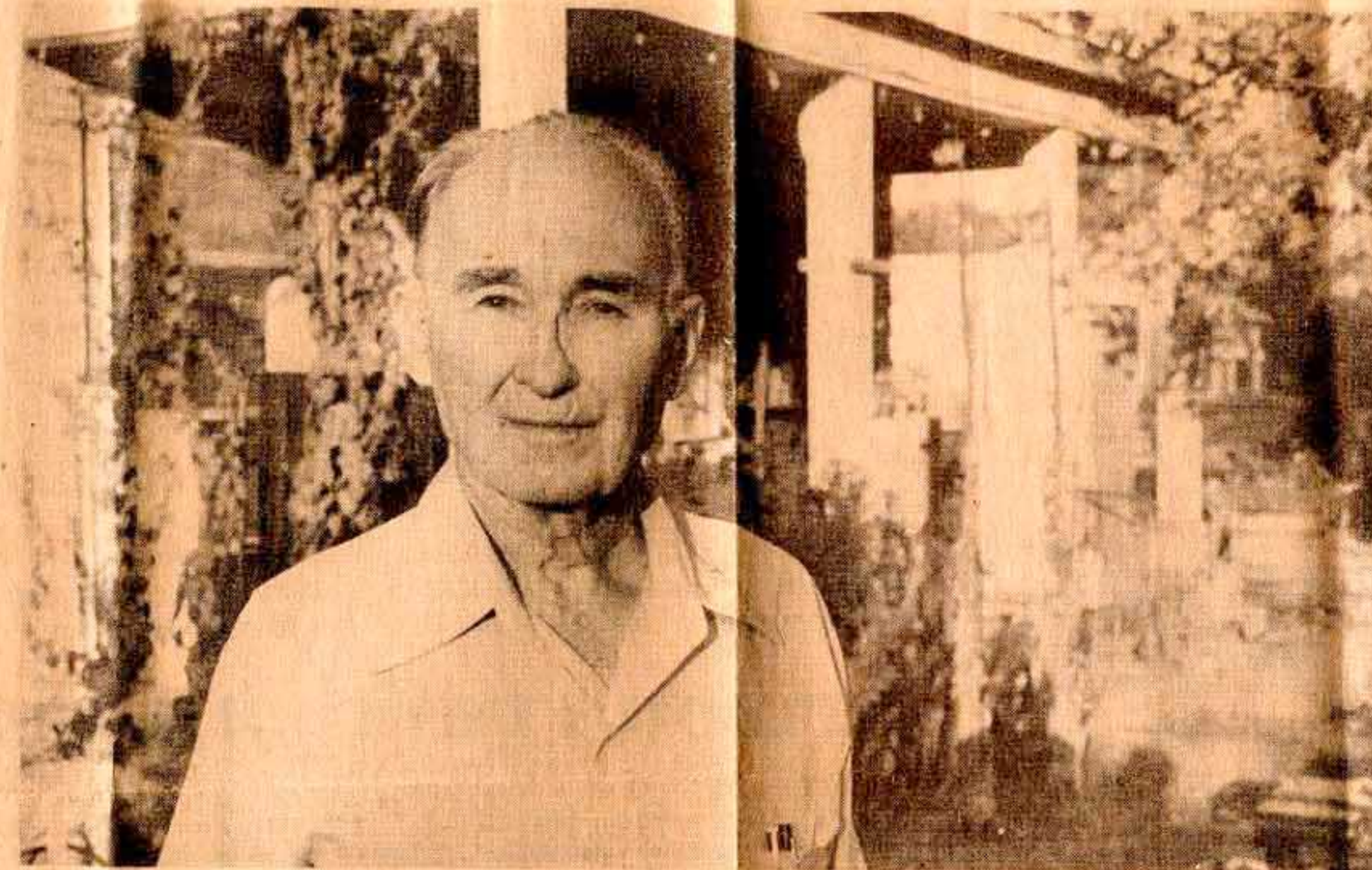
"I don't see how anybody could reject that. They'd be a damn fool not to (accept it)," he said.

"If I were somebody else, I'd vote for me," he said.

The top item on his platform is to eliminate the income tax. "We don't need it," he said. Carris has a plan to provide financing for the government to replace the income tax, but wants to keep his plan secret for now.

Carris also plans to shape up the economy, stop inflation, put people back to work, reduce crime by 85 to 90 percent, improve moral standards, clean up smut on television and increase long distance freight on the railroad.

He said he would accomplish many of his goals by putting a freeze on wages and prices, printing more money to reduce the national debt, eliminating the use of alcohol



STARTING HIS RACE—Al Carris of Pawnee Rock started his campaign for president of the United States Wednesday. Carris, who was born and raised on a farm near Sterling, says one of his top priorities is to eliminate the income tax. —(photo by Luke Brown)

"except for medical purposes" and discouraging divorce.

Crime could be almost eliminated by having capital punishment, "but I'd make darn sure they was guilty," he said.

"There used to be a lot of trouble with people stealing horses in the early days. They'd hang them (the horse thieves) and that would solve a lot of the trouble," he said.

Carris would also fight any attempt to limit the right to own firearms.

"They're trying to take our guns away from us. That's the last thing the communists do is take the guns away, so the people can't fight them," he said. "We will keep our guns, and fight to keep them. I've

always said, if they take away my gun, it'll be over my dead body."

Carris was born and raised in Sterling. He owned a grocery store in Alden for several years, then moved to Pawnee Rock to open a grocery store. He has lived in Pawnee Rock for about 20 years.

He said he doesn't want to be president for the prestige of the office. He is concerned about efforts to remove the constitutional rights of the people and, with seven children and 10 grandchildren, about the future of the United States.

"I'm concerned with what's down the road for these kids, and for other people's kids," he commented.

Carris wants to be president because he doesn't see anybody else

who will do what he proposes.

"If I'd see someone else who would do what I would do, I'd give him \$1,000 to start his campaign," he said.

"If I am going down the road and have a flat tire, I'll get out to fix it, not because I like to fix it, but it needs to be done. That's a lot how I see this job. It's just got to be done and nobody else is going to do it," the candidate continued.

Carris will have an independent candidacy. "The old saying goes, together we stand, divided we fall. Are we divided? We're divided by political parties and that's the worst thing that could happen to the country. If we join together as one big group of people, we can all work together for a common course," he

said.

This race is not the first for Carris. In 1980, he also said he was a candidate for the office. He started running for president when he thought Ronald Reagan wouldn't.

He says he still likes Reagan, but is concerned with some of his actions.

"I think there's some things I could tell him if he were listening. I like Ronnie; he's a swell guy. But he's letting them get by with murder up there. He's not putting his foot down hard enough," Carris commented.

Carris didn't get his name on the ballot in 1980 and didn't receive any votes. His first priority for the 1984 campaign is collecting 2,500 signatures on a petition to get his name on the general election ballot.

A spokesman in the elections office of the Secretary of State's office said the petition has to be presented on or before June 11, 1984, and independent candidates have to run as a president-vice president team.

Carris said he is still looking for a vice president, but the person must be "no drunkard or one that's on dope."

He also has no ideas for a cabinet. Members of his cabinet must be "red-blooded Americans and not communists."

The candidate said he is not wealthy and will need campaign contributions to be elected. He thinks he could run a campaign with about \$3 million.

He says several people around the country are ready to work for his election, but he still needs more help.

While he is confident of his chances, Carris says his wife, Eunice, doesn't want to move to Washington D.C. and is afraid he will get shot.

She plans to live in Boston with friends, he said.

"I think she's getting used to the idea," Carris added.