

Advance man . . .

Continued from page 4

Once a candidate becomes his party's nominee, the preliminary party, which works about three weeks before the candidate actually goes to a city, gains another participant, a Secret Service agent, Waggoner said.

Advance men are usually well-to-do men in their late twenties or early thirties who can take time off their jobs to work for expenses only, or as in Waggoner's case, has an employer who will donate the person's salary as a campaign contribution.

Advance men are trained at a school for one or two days and operate from a manual to provide continuity and to keep the candidate at ease, Waggoner said.

But things do not always operate smoothly. During the Zorinsky Senate campaign, which Waggoner managed, an advance man scheduled a helicopter landing at the Douglas County Airport to pick up the candidate from the county fair.

However the Douglas County Airport does not exist, leaving a circling helicopter, a disgruntled candidate and an abandoned schedule.

While working for Reagan in Cheyenne Wyo., Waggoner said Reagan nearly missed a plane because Waggoner was told an old railroad track was never used.

So Waggoner scheduled the Reagan caravan to cross the track and then had to race across the tracks to beat a freight train.

Waggoner said there are no prerequisites to becoming an advance man, only a good appearance, personality and intelligence.

"You hear a lot about advance men holding a lot of clout with the candidates, that's not true either. They are picking people who are technicians in their own way," Waggoner said.

And if an advance man chooses the right man he could end up in the White House with his boss, as Carter's Georgia mafia has, or more ominously, as Bob Haldeman and his Beaver Patrol did in the Nixon Administration.

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If you are interested in doing design work for UPC, contact the CAP office, 200 Nebr. Union 472-2454