

Weast for Mayor

Florence Weast Stone '30 recalls running for "mayor" of Durham

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WEAST FOR MAYOR

The fall semester back in 1929 found me, Florence Weast, busy doing my cadet teaching in mathematics and history at Dover High. I was enjoying my teaching under the stewardship of "Squee" Young's Esther and "Bess" Cassily's sister Katherine when all this peace and tranquility suddenly was shaken. It seems that one Blue Key man, Ray Sawyer, must have had a brain storm to liven up the "Mayorality Campaign", which by the way was at times pretty SPICEY. That brain storm was nothing other than to ask me if I would enter the race for mayor of Durham!!!

Well----I thought, "Can I let politics interfere with my vocational training, teaching?" After due consideration and thought, I decided that I could do both. I had recalled that I had had a little experience at politicking back in high school. It was when John Wynant was running for governor. I really had become involved in his campaign. So-- I said, "Why not!" I called Ray and the race was ON.

Barbara Cilley was my campaign manager. Her job was to help me to draw up the planks in our platform. Secondly, to make the arrangements through Mrs. DeMerritt for us to be guest speakers at the various fraternity houses on campus!!!! Wow, was this a big deal!!

Well now, didn't all this stir up a bees nest. There sure was some buzzing on campus. A WOMAN RUNNING FOR MAYOR??? Who had ever heard of a couple of co-eds entering the fraternity dances!

We were (not wined) dined and graciously accepted as guests of the many fraternities.



Mayorality Candidate Weast and Campaign Manager Cilley

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To mention a few of them, they were Kappa Sigma, Phi Mu Delta, Theta Chi, Alpha Gamma Rho and Lambda Chi. Believe or not, Coach Cowell even invited us to give our "Pitch" to the football team prior to the "BIG GAME."

The two planks that seemed to get the big response were; that the women have a smoking room in the dorms thus, avoiding the trek to the woods out in back of Smith and Congreve Halls. The other plank that met with approval was that the bleachers on the football field be heated to accommodate the "night owls."

Then the news of the campaign traveled off campus. Yes, you have guessed it. The students at Dover High got the message. They were attending the rallies. I guess the largest audience was when "Flop" gave her big rally speech from the A.T.O. balcony. What a crowd!! Well, the next morning when she arrived at Dover High, there they were--"WEAST FOR MAYOR."

I suppose that one might say that Flop Weast paved the way for the E.R.A. movement????? It sure was fun Soapy and that experience of standing up in front of people served me well in my teaching career.

The only thing that I can say now is--why didn't the headlines in the Manchester Union read "Weast Demands a Recount." Who knows what the out-come might have been! There is where you slipped "Flop Ole Gal."

Florence Weast Stone '30



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