

# Margaret Chase Smith looks at senate, politics

Former U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, R-Me., and her longtime friend and campaign manager Gen. William C. Lewis Jr. were in Detroit last week to speak to the Distinguished Women of Northwood Institute and the School for Government.

Mrs. Smith, who is the chairman of the National Women's Board for the institute, announced during the 10th annual Distinguished Women Award Ceremony on Thursday that all her records and papers from 36 years as a public figure have been donated to the Midland-based institute.

Speaking to 700 guests, including area residents Dolie Cole, Marjorie Sallie, Tuttle Vanderkloot, Pauline Young, Helen Buchanan, Wanda Shelton, and Lucille McPherson, Mrs. Smith noted that her presentation of the papers came because "I realized that Northwood is interested in history. I had feared that they (the papers) were lost in the dust."

Following a short speech and the award presentation, Sen. Smith talked about her colorful career as the junior then senior senator from Maine.

By JEANNE WHITTAKER

Q. Mrs. Smith, in June, 1950 you stood up in the United States Senate and delivered a speech asking the Senate to search its soul on the manner in which the members were performing their duty to the people of America. Two rows behind you sat Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who was the unnamed reason for your speech. That speech later led to your book "Declaration of Conscience," in which you detailed your long, often single-handed battle with Sen. McCarthy.

Knowing his power, and the grip he had on a paranoid nation, weren't you frightened to stand up and call the nation and the Senate's attention to the McCarthy analysis?

Sen. Smith: "I wasn't afraid, but I suffered. I'd do it all over again. It was one of the great things of the era."

Q. Sen. Smith, for years you served side by side with Richard Nixon. Will you share your thoughts on him and Watergate with us?

Sen. Smith: "My immediate reaction was that he couldn't be that stupid. I knew that he had done some reprehensible things to get there, but I thought

that once he had arrived he would put all that behind him.

"We served a great many years together and were at odds many times. He was a McCarthy man and you know I wasn't."

"I think that he did an outstanding job on foreign affairs. I didn't trust him, but when he asked for my help in 1972 I told him that I would go along with him if he kept his promise to pull the troops out of Vietnam by June 1. He did and I went along with him."

Q. How do you think that history will deal with Richard Nixon?

Sen. Smith: "I was for impeachment. I sat next to him for six years in the Cabinet Room on policy matters. I thought he had changed. I thought that all that was left for him was to go down in history as a great man."

"I felt impeachment with the Chief Justice presiding would bring out the truth and the American people would forgive him. This way the lie will go on forever."

Q. Senator, why do you say that you are not a feminist? You served in Congress as the female Senator, sat on committees and policies the only woman among many men; and you dared speak out when an entire male Congress either supported or chose to ignore what Sen. McCarthy was doing?

Sen. Smith: "I am not a feminist and a lot of women don't like it. If being a feminist means I am only for women then I am not a feminist. I was never a woman candidate. I was never a woman legislator. I was one of two senators from my state."

"When seeking a position I didn't go in saying 'I'm only a woman.' I didn't go in saying 'I was only a young person.' I tell young people 'Don't go in apologizing for who you are. Tell them to approach things on a positive side.'"

Gen. Lewis: "In 1972 NOW (National Organization of Women) was against Sen. Smith. They wanted her to join NOW. But she felt that if she joined an organization that might put her in a position of conflict of interest. Therefore, she wouldn't join and they didn't like it."

Q. If you were in a position to advise anyone on a career in politics, what would you tell him, or her?

Sen. Smith: "I probably would ask them how they perceive their role. Do you perceive what your constituents want or would you follow your own beliefs? I believe that you should study the issue and go in with your own feelings. I did and people supported me because I was honest."

"A newcomer should not try to go

with the wind. This is why I go for the seniority system. We need the wisdom and the experience of the older legislators. The young ones must stick with the job and learn. Today, you see so many congressmen watch the press to see how to vote."

Q. Which leads to the question of how today's voter views the politician: How do you feel about that?

Sen. Smith: "Students speak of 'They.' Government is 'We.' I have felt that the American people have lost their will. They've been promised so much and seen none of it happen. The greater question is that they've lost their confidence. How are we going to get it back?"

Q. How do you view President Carter's chances?

Sen. Smith: "Well, Mr. Carter is in and has all the government projects to place."

Q. Will you reflect on Mr. (Gerald) Ford?

Sen. Smith: "He was handicapped. He had not been elected, he was appointed to the job. I think his premature pardon of Mr. Nixon played a lot (in his defeat). I think that people wanted to clean house."

Q. Who do you see on the 1980 ticket? Who would you like to see running for the presidency?

Sen. Smith: "At this time I wouldn't dare guess. I'd like to see either a Kennedy-Resign or Kennedy-Connally situation so the American people would have a clear choice between the welfare or the work ethic. I'd like to see them have a chance to see if people mean what they say."

Q. So many of your recollections in "Declaration of Conscience" deal with behind the scenes deals, smears, and examples of horse trading. Why would anyone want to get themselves involved in politics?

Sen. Smith: "Why would anyone want to go in and take the chance that their friends and family would be ruined? I'd like to find time now to write a small book on the deterioration of the Senate."

Gen. Lewis: "I think that you are looking at it as an outsider. Once you are in you are determined that no one is going to take it away from you."



Margaret Chase Smith, left, credits local friends, including Mrs. Robert Vanderkloot, with being responsible for her leaving her valuable papers to Northwood Institute. A lifelong Republican, Sen. Smith calls Harry Truman one of the great 20th century presidents. (Photo by Gretchen Hitch)

Q. Lately, many Republicans have been saying what a great president Harry Truman was. What would he say to that?

Sen. Smith: "I credit Truman with being one of the great presidents. He worked together with Sen. (Arthur) Vandenberg, R-Mich., and a do-nothing Republican Congress came up with legislation like the Marshall Plan."

Q. Mrs. Smith, Thursday morning the nation was informed that Mamie Eisenhower had died. What were your thoughts when you heard the news?

Sen. Smith: "I had great mixed feelings. I had never had any hospital experience, but in 1958 Eisenhower and I

were fellow patients in Walter Reed Hospital. I saw a great deal of her then. She was a very cheerful and delightful person, but she was a hurt and troubled woman because of the lies."

"I thought how pathetic it was because here was a woman who had been through so much. She really did have an inner ear problem. It was not drink. And the book and the movie, they also hurt her very much."

"I had mixed feelings that (Thursday) morning. She was loved by everybody. But, if she could not be well again it was best."

Q. If you had it to do all over again, Senator, would you do it? Would you take on the Joseph McCarthy again?

Sen. Smith: "I will always remember when Bill Lewis took those mimeographed sheets under his arm and I asked him not to leave the floor for five minutes after I began talking. I thought I might not be able to go through with it (the Declaration of Conscience). I was young. I was a woman. I worried that it was presumptuous for me to tell everyone else they were wrong. After all, I was facing many experienced legislators, many of whom supported McCarthy. I needed Bill there."

Q. But, would you do it again?

Sen. Smith: "Of course. Those were great days."

## Author fights sexual harassment in the workplace

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Lin Farley, known as "the mother of the issue of sexual harassment," and author of "Sexual Shakedown" buzzed through the Detroit area this week while here as a key speaker for the Michigan Conference on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.

During her stay she was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Good of Farmington Hills. Janet Good is executive director of Michigan Employment Security Commission and a member of the state task force that put the conference together, the first of its kind in the nation.

Ms. Farley's book, which will be available in paperback the first of next year, has been acclaimed "a classic reference" on the subject, citing the impact of sexual harassment on work-

ing women from factory workers to file clerks to executives.

In case after case, the story that emerges is one of sexual blackmail, economic powerlessness and fear, fear of retribution by the harasser, fear of job loss, fear of the social stigma.

Also, she said the book tells about "the men who have helped and the men who haven't" as well as the attitude of management and the courts.

MS. FARLEY is a nationally recognized expert on woman and work who describes herself as "a displaced Californian."

She attended the University of Southern California on a journalism scholarship for writing excellence, then moved to New York City to work as news reporter for the Associated Press.

She began her pioneer work on the issue of sexual harassment in 1974

while director of the Women's Section of Human Affairs at Cornell University. Her first public testimony on the issue was presented to New York City's Human Rights Commission in 1975.

Since then she has been consulted on the issue of sexual harassment, she said, "from coast to coast, from the staff of the Wall Street Journal to the California Legislature."

Her talk in Detroit was called "Power Play." Its essence was that sexual harassment on the job is not sexually motivated but rather a power play on the part of the male harasser against the woman who most desperately needed her job.

THE MICHIGAN Task Force on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace is a 30-member citizens' group made up of those representing labor unions, state

government, private enterprise, education and women's groups.

It is jointly sponsored by Michigan Department of Labor's Office of Women and Work, and University of Michigan Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Its aim is to address the public issue of sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in teacher-student relationships. In both its physically threatening as well as emotional concern.

Hearings were held around the state last spring for the purpose of gathering and disseminating information on the subject.

The summation was that there was a gross lack of information among workers, regarding their rights, and their sources of help. The hearings also confirmed that this is a more widespread

practise than suspected, and often supported silently by those not directly affected.

The conference was designed, first, to develop policy measures and strategies for implementation at all levels from the workplace to the legislative, and to develop practical measures for the individual to take as a sexually harassed victim.

A grievance procedure for dealing with the issue will be developed. Further, educational materials will be developed for working people, unions, employers and the general public regarding the nature, pervasiveness and the severity of the problem.

Included in these materials will be concrete suggestions and resources for dealing with sexual harassment.



LIN FARLEY

## Poetry celebrates Nature's might

By JACK ZUCKER

also with the sight of his fellow back packers, who, in their misery, remind him, unfortunately, of himself. But there is also conquest and wonder, the sight of a bear or moose, the quiet hour near a mountain and pond.

"Against Nature" reflects these concerns. However, Ms. McCombs also finds, like her predecessors, something religious in the experience of nature that makes back packing, ultimately worthwhile, and nature, in its raw state, not an enemy, but a great being, apart from us and indifferent. We must however, relate to that being, or we will lose contact with our deepest roots.

In these poems, men and women struggle against hardship to experience a transforming light, that has little relationship with traditional forms of mysticism. But in these poems, gained only through hardship, the least limited of Ms. McCombs people achieve a union with nature that reminds us of Wordsworth's "blessed mood" in which the burden of the mystic world is lightened. Ms. McCombs' poem, "In Praise of the Natural Flow-

ing," compares the water running from a storm pipe to a large river forming valleys, creating annihilating life forms.

SHE DESCRIBES the small stream moving "down through the water/ along the dead matted leaves and the fragments of weeds/ like weed-stuff in amber; the reed stalks prone, combed out like the hairs of a long-drowned beast." She sees in this "river" a movement older than Genesis, slower than clouds . . . which feeds on life and tends ever towards life. She praises it "in gratitude and bitterness, knowing this flow, vulnerable and beautiful, is permitted to be this winter."

I don't think the poet believes that spiritual beings inhabit her rocks and streams, but she does see character in natural forces, a character we must learn to live with. It is not to overwhelm nature (and ultimately ourselves) with our machines and destructive impulses.

In "Loving a Mountain," she tells her audience, "Loving a mountain is not easy. You will have to take it, stone/ by

stone, into your hands and your skin and let the space in your head that is prepared for mountains."

She is talking in fact, about redemption, not redemption from sin, but from the artificiality of our industrial and institutional lives.

In "Time Frame/ Shawassee Ravine/Going Back" she sees our best source of nourishment coming from union with the distant past, when men and women were more at one with the world. We will have to "follow old paths, scanning the tracks of glacier and melt . . . remembering/ in tangle and weed-tree . . . the stubborn forebears of all our life."

"AGAINST NATURE'S" finest poem is "Journey to the Interior," in which the protagonist is told to "look for the hollows . . . the tongues of dew/ where the spiders drink . . . When you remember that even the gnats/ swarming mid-focus inhabit the dazzling/ meandering strata you can only behold."

Finally the hero/heroine reaches — usually through blunder — "The place where the cedars mingle in welcome,

where the withheld light of the forest pours down/ in a river of shining upon any creature/ rooted or stone." Then the light will enter, "blazing and blessing . . . the unbearable shining you have witnessed forever/ in a place beyond memory or praise."

In this last stunning poem, Ms. McCombs has shown command of the lyric, celebratory style written by Rielike and the 19th century masters, while still retaining the toughness and empiricism of all her best poems.

Ms. McCombs has read her poems at the Baldwin Public Library — as well as at New York University and the University of North Dakota.

"Against Nature (Dustbooks) and 'Sisters and Other Selves' (Glass Bell) are available at Little Professor in Birmingham, J. Browne in Farmington, and Orchard Mall's Bookpeople.

For those who get to the cultural center, the books can be found at Campus Bookworld and Wayne State University Book Store. People who like ordering by mail can write Glass Bell Press at 5953 Commonwealth, Detroit, 48208 or Dustbooks at P. O. Box 1058, Paradise, Calif. 95959.



JUDITH MCCOMBS

BACKPACKING is a current interest. Even those of us who haven't spent our last dollars on camping equipment and traveled alone to the Rockies have some idea of the attraction and difficulty of such undertakings. The dedicated wilderness person has to get along with much discomfort — and