

She learns from experience

Delegate vows to keep on trying

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

A week before the Democratic National Convention in New York, Joanne Smith made a statement which turns out to be almost prophetic in the light of Senator Ted Kennedy's Monday night defeat.

"If your issue doesn't win the first time, keep at it. It has to grow," said the one-time Farmington Hills City Council member and a delegate pledged to Kennedy for this convention.

The process of picking up after a defeat to continue working for a cause isn't a new experience for Ms. Smith. In 1968, she was an opponent of the Vietnam war working for Sen. Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign.

"It was a rough way to get into politics," she said of the campaign which ended with Kennedy's assassination.

"You had two options — to drop out or to work for the next best candidate."

She opted to work for Hubert Humphrey although she said "his stand on the war was not my stand."

In 1972, she joined George McGovern's forces to work against Richard Nixon's bid for the White House. She

said she feared voters wouldn't realize that Nixon participated in Joseph McCarthy's hearings in the House Committee on Un-American Activities in the early '50's.

INSTEAD of facing a victory, she witnessed the Democratic Convention in Chicago and a Nixon victory.

"Chicago was anathema to everybody," she said.

In 1976, she sat out the convention as an observer but returned this year out of disenchantment with President Jimmy Carter's policies.

Her local political involvement goes back to 1955 when she moved to the area from northwest Detroit. She was a member of the first homeowners' group in the area, an association of different subdivisions.

Eventually she moved to join the now defunct Farmington Citizens for Better Human Relations which was rechristened "New Farmington" at the inception of New Detroit.

She was active in the Archdiocese of Detroit, participating in monitoring, tutoring and the metropolitan staff.

"I've always tried to educate people



JOANNE SMITH

as to the changing world. I've kept at it because it was the way I was brought

up," Ms. Smith said.

Her mother was active in her home town of Grand Rapids as a member of the PTA, guilds and participating in gubernatorial races.

"We were always taught you have to give something. You can't be a taker," she said.

"I KNOW I'm an idealist," she said. "I much rather look at the sky than below."

Her idealism led to her nickname as "the Floater" during her years at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

"The honest truth is that I guess I always was on the fringes of politics. I was interested in the issues surrounding human rights."

And I have gained the knowledge that you don't really move anything except in the political mainstream."

Between 1974-76, she was a member of the Farmington Hills City Council, a post which she doesn't see herself resuming.

"But I haven't abdicated my responsibilities. I care about the city and work for everyone in the community. I want to be active, not apathetic."

2 shuffle mean deck

Barbara Klemperer of Farmington and Kathy Neuman of Dearborn Heights were master point winners at the 1980 North American Summer Championships of the American Contract Bridge League in Chicago last month.

They won first in their section in a one-session game in which 232 players competed.

The event was among four North American Championships, five Central States Championships, and 60 other events which drew 5,000 players to the 10 days of competition.

Bridge players of every class of skill compete during the meet, one of three major tournaments sponsored each year by the ACBL. Master point awards are symbols of bridge victories.

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