



POLITICAL PIONEERS

The Women Lawmakers

ELECTED WASHINGTON WOMEN

**Political
Pioneers...**
a study of
women in the
Washington
State
Legislature

October, 1983

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Dear Friend,

Elected Washington Women (EWW) is a non-partisan organization which represents elected women from all governmental jurisdictions. It was formed in 1980 and has over 1000 members.

As the founder of EWW, I feel it is fitting that our first research project examines and chronicles the lives of the women who served in the Washington State Legislature. My pace used to slow as I passed the photographs of the former women representatives and senators which hang in the gallery of the State Legislative Building. I was intrigued that women had been serving as early as 1913, long before women had gained full suffrage.

Our study has shown that the women came from nearly every part of the state, representing the spectrum of political opinion. The recounting of their lives has created a colorful and dynamic picture of the role of women in the Washington State Legislature.

But most importantly, as each of these political pioneers encountered the challenges and barriers of state legislative office, she widened that path for others. In 1982, Washington State could boast of having the second highest percentage of women state legislators in the country, 24%.

I am sure you will enjoy this collection. It is the first of many projects EWW hopes to sponsor on the contributions of women to Washington State government.

On behalf of Elected Washington Women I would like to give special thanks to the Washington Commission for the Humanities and the Washington State Legislature. Without their support this study and publication would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor Lee".

Eleanor Lee
State Senator
Founder, EWW

Someone once characterized war as movement through a hostile medium. In many ways, the women whose political lives are described and recounted in this collection moved through such a medium. It is called a "man's world." It was and is a world of prejudice and myth.

In their battle to achieve political equality and respect, these elected Washington women taught the citizens of the state a great deal about courage and tenacity. There were political powerhouses who neither gave nor asked for quarter. There were the social reformers who came to the state house, during our country's worst depression, to fight for the poor and the hungry. But mostly there were the quietly courageous ones who struggled, in the face of male snickering and skepticism, to simply represent their constituents the best way they could. With a few exceptions, their victories were not dramatic. Theirs was a long struggle of attrition.

This battle was most difficult for the

advance guard—the real political pioneers. The first brave women who entered the legislature in the early decades of the century, eased the way for those who came later. Through their simple, competent execution of their duties, through their human concern they proved politics and lawmaking were women's as well as men's work.

Elected Washington women today, indeed all the citizens of our state, owe a great debt of gratitude to the women whose political lives are chronicled in this collection. Their indomitable determination provides a stirring testimony to human endurance and courage. Their political lives should be an inspiration to us all. The contribution that they have made to the State of Washington should lay to rest forever the myth of feminine inferiority.

Dr. Thomas B. Rainey
The Evergreen State College
February, 1983

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Women in the Washington State House of Representatives, 1961.
(Top row, left to right) Representatives Ann O'Donnell, Kathryn Epton, Mildred Henry, Frances Swayze, Marion Gleason
(Bottom row) Representatives Gladys Kirk, Margaret Hurley, Ella Wintler, Jeanette Testu

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Return
SENATOR LADY WILLIE FORBUS
 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR
STATE SENATE
 44th DISTRICT

OUTSTANDING RECORD FOR SUPPORT
 OF SCHOOLS, SOCIAL LEGISLATION
 AND SOUND STATE FINANCING

by Kathryn M. Hinsch

A portrait of every state legislator hangs in Washington's Senate and House galleries. Among the rows of male faces, a lone woman can be spotted here and there. Searching through the corridors of legislators past and present, only 98 women can be found, representing less than four percent of the total membership. Who were these women who so bravely entered a strange male world? Were they able to pass legislation and amass political power? What was it like to be a woman in the Washington State Legislature?

These were the questions that compelled Elected Washington Women, The Washington Commission for the Humanities, and the Washington State Senate to fund a study of Washington's political pioneers. A small amount of archival data was available on many of the women, but little else was known. Were they still alive? Did others remember them? Fortunately, a search of

voting lists, phone directories, and other sources found that indeed 59 of the 98 women were alive and well. Oral history interviews could be conducted to uncover their stories.

After more than 100 hours of interviews and months of research, important patterns concerning women's participation in the Washington State Legislature began to emerge. The women lawmakers had limited power bases in the Legislature because of the roles they held as wife, mother, educator, and their traditionally female community ties of Red Cross, P.T.A., and women's auxiliaries. Most were elected to office because of their good-government, reformer orientation to politics.

The women confronted two major problems. They were at odds with the standard political system, whose interests were sharply different than their own as good-government reformers. And secondly, as a new element in a male world, the women were pampered, patronized, and their power

frequently neutralized.

Women legislators only began to change their roles in the legislature as their power bases changed. As women's traditional concerns became a part of government services (mental health, day care, education), and through broadening their backgrounds by entering non-conventional professions, women eventually entered the legislature not only as good-government reformers, but as representatives of wider interests. From our study the message is clear: As women take on a greater variety of roles in the society, they become more powerful and play larger roles in the political process.

Regaining the right to vote (in Washington State) in 1910 gave women their first chance to influence the makeup of the State Legislature. Frances Axtell, Whatcom County Republican and Nena Jolidon Croake, King County Progressive, were the first women to break into the all male club. Both won a seat in the House of Representatives in

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1912. Frances had earned a Ph.D from DePaul University and was known for her knowledge on a wide range of issues. She went on to run unsuccessfully for Congress in 1916. Nena was a doctor of Osteopathy. She had the distinction of introducing the first bill of the 13th session, on the betterment of working conditions for women.

Despite their brave start, both of these pioneers served only one term. Freshmen legislators, male or female, traditionally use their first term in office to learn the legislative process and rarely sponsor major legislation. Only after successive terms do they move into positions of influence. Unfortunately, Axtell and Croake never made it that far.

The pioneering women legislators were considered a novelty and were closely scrutinized by the press and the public. In her first session, Representative Axtell became confused during the election of the Speaker of the House and voted for the opponent of the person she supported. The press reported her confusion was "just like a

woman." This unsupportive and at times hostile atmosphere forced many women to cut their political careers short, making it nearly impossible for them to have any real influence.

By 1922, ten years after the first women had entered the legislature, public sentiment against women in public office appeared unchanged. A poll was conducted in Spokane to determine whether or not a woman could win a senatorial seat. The pollster asked, "Would you vote for a woman?" These were common responses:

I'll never vote for a woman.

The Bible says we shouldn't.

I don't think it is nice for women to sit in halls where men smoke and drink and swear.

Nope. God made women for man's pleasure, not for politics or business.

The pollster continued, asking if a woman's moral influence might help politics. The

answers were not encouraging.

Maybe they are as smart or smarter than men, and Lord knows they are more honest, but I'd never vote for a woman.

Politics is a man's game; too rotten for women.

She can't be in politics and be honest.

I won't vote for a woman because women should stay home. If a woman is not married she should get married.

Negative public sentiment was a considerable obstacle to overcome. In spite of it, Reba Hurn, an attorney and Spokane Republican, decided it was time for a woman senator. She knew the problems women faced running for office and she developed a strategy to overcome them. Reba Hurn:

It is only a matter of being accustomed to a woman in the Senate. I decided to run for the Senate rather than the House because

there have been five women elected to the House and none of them have been re-elected. The reason for this is plain. The women members have been considered a curiosity, each one reported on every time she raises her voice or puts on a new dress. She is there but for one session and the men did not become accustomed to her presence. In the Senate it is different. The state senator serves through two sessions. Perhaps I will be a novelty for awhile, but by the close of the first session they will be in the habit of taking me for granted, and by the time the second session comes around, I shall be capable of constructive work. My handicap the first session will be no greater than that of a man, for what senator takes an outstanding role his first session?

Reba had an uphill battle. In 1922 the popular image of state politics was that of shady backroom deals being made in an atmosphere of whiskey and wild women. The public was concerned with protecting

women's virtue. Reba responded:

Pooh! It is amusing how certain old-fashioned ideas do persist. Women have been granted equal rights by the majority of the male voters, and there is no reason women should further ignore public service. We now stand on the same basis as men. Merit. I am qualified for this position, have a right to run for it, and am in the race.

Women's groups came out in droves to support her candidacy. Newly enfranchised women were anxious to have a woman represent them in the Senate. Reba was a fine, upstanding citizen, but most importantly she was a "dry". As a Methodist woman she abhorred alcohol. Because she backed Prohibition, a popular issue in the state at the time, Reba gained the support of people who would not normally vote for a woman.

Upon her arrival in 1923 to the State Legislature, a newspaper headline read:



When the old capitol was built, nobody expected a woman to be there anymore than they expected an airplane to cross the ocean.

—Spokane Chronicle

In her honor, the Senate appropriated money to build a women's lounge in the new capitol building, saying they were counting on women in its political future. The Senate welcomed Reba by making her the chairwoman of the Public Morals and State Libraries committees, a rare honor for a new member. However, this act of generosity would prove to be a problem for later women legislators as they tried to move out of the newly designated "women's committees."

Reba worked diligently to be accepted as an equal member of the body but it was difficult as the only woman. At the end of her first session, the senators awarded Reba a diamond pin for "acting like a lady." Unfortunately, "acting like a lady" meant saying little, being content to keep to

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women's concerns, and most importantly, not questioning the behavior of her colleagues. Reba was careful to stay within her boundaries. She had done a great service for women by being elected to the Senate. She saw no reason to rock the boat.

This was the beginning of a trickle of women who would enter the State Legislature, arriving singly and in twos and threes. Who were these women? Their political affiliations break down in this way:

- 57 Democrats
- 39 Republicans
- 1 Progressive
- 1 Farm Labor

Their numbers are proportional to the number of men representing those political parties in the Legislature. Republican women have the honor of electing the first women to the House and Senate, the first woman in Congress, and the first woman Senate Majority Leader. Democratic women have

included the first House and Senate Majority Whips, first woman Secretary of State, the only mother and daughter to serve in both the House and Senate, the only husband and wife team, and the first black woman to serve in the Legislature.

It is interesting to note the socio-economic characteristics among the women who served. Their educational backgrounds were diverse. Some were professionals with college degrees while others were homemakers without high school diplomas when they began their political careers. The ratio of married to unmarried women legislators is equal to the general population. Those who were married tended to have professional husbands who encouraged their political participation. They came from a variety of economic backgrounds, with only a few from wealthy families.

The women lawmakers shared a common power base in the community. Most had prepared themselves for a traditional female life—that of wife, mother,

and educator. Their community involvement was along traditional lines, with P.T.A., charity work, and women's auxiliaries leading the list. It was only in women's areas of concern that they exhibited leadership ability. But their community involvement provided a network of women they could use for support.

Unlike many male politicians, some who know by the time they are in high school that they will seek public office, most of the women legislators never considered the idea. Most had not been directly involved with their political party. Some even had to decide at the time of filing for office which would be their political party. Those who were involved in party politics played supportive roles, working on campaigns, voter registration, and fundraising. Only a few were part of the decision making level of party politics before they were elected.

In fact, most of the women were drafted into running for office, some as the last resort of the nominating committee. From Congresswoman Catherine May Bedell



to the women who served only one term, the same story emerges. A community or party searching for a qualified candidate could find no one. A group would be called together and a respected member would say, "Is there not a man willing to serve his community in elective office?" There would be silence then someone, usually a man, would say, "It could be a woman." A few grumblings might be heard and the respected member would say, "Yes, it could. Do you have someone in mind?" A woman's name would be suggested. In most cases she was not even present, but home tending her family. This scenario was common as late as the 1970's.

After convincing the candidate to run, the next step was to convince the voters. Community organizations provided a natural political base and women candidates were able to tap a large pool of volunteers. Some used their homemaker image to their advantage, distributing sponges, pot holders, and "good neighbor" buttons with their names on them. Surprisingly, the issue

of small children at home was not a problem for most early women legislators. Senator Margaret Hurley describes her experience campaigning in the fifties:

There were people who asked me, "What are you going to do with your children?" And I said, "Well, the session is only two months long and I have this friend who has been my babysitter and has agreed to come with me and my four small children if I win." They would say, "I don't see any reason why you shouldn't run." They were very accepting.

The pattern of traditional orientation to women's roles—limited political participation, and being drafted for public office—gave these women of diverse backgrounds a similar orientation to legislative work. They were good-government reformers who wanted to change the existing political system. Voters saw them as virtuous alternatives to corrupt politicians. But having no real influence, at

times they had to resort to manipulative tactics to achieve what they believed in. Some would fight, threaten, and cry in order to get the needed funding for schools, mentally retarded children, and other social concerns. This reformer orientation to legislative work proved to be the common limitation women legislators shared when struggling to be effective in an entrenched political system.

The early women legislators spoke infrequently in committee or on the floor, rarely passed major legislation, or headed important committees. Some felt they were not treated differently because they were women. But later they would modify their statement by adding they weren't treated any differently than other women were, with polite deference but not respect. Part of the problem was the women legislators accepted discrimination outside the Legislature as normal and did not always recognize it in the Legislature. It would have been more difficult for them if they had

recognized all the slights and put-downs, such as colleagues refusing to address them as Senator or being passed over for important committee assignments. They didn't want to use "being a woman" as an excuse for their problems, even when it was obviously the major problem.

Not all the women were unaware of the obstacles that surrounded them. Many were painfully conscious of the behavior and patterns of domination that were intended to keep them in their place (and thus powerless.) With the double burden of being women and reformers, the political road was long and hard.

Although they had gone beyond traditional female roles to become state legislators, the women found themselves pushed into a "woman's place" in the Legislature. If they had leadership positions at all, they were caucus secretaries or chairwomen of Public Morals, Education, or State Libraries; areas of women's concerns. Most of the women were more interested in

issues and constituent problems than amassing political power. They were careful not to talk too much ("as women do"), not to expect too much from the male legislators ("boys will be boys"), and to act like ladies (they did not want to be accused of trying to be like a man: powerful.) Some women took on the role of caucus den mother, with nurturing and supportive behavior. Others tried another approach. They worked hard to be one of the boys, drinking and condoning usually unacceptable behavior. Both the "mother" and "pal" roles seemed to keep the men from being threatened by their presence.

The legislative atmosphere put the women in a classic double-bind. If they exhibited traditional female behavior they were criticized for it. If they did not, they were criticized. Because of this dilemma, the women were often critical of each other. There was a great deal of peer pressure among them not to make trouble or challenge the men.

At the same time, there was a great deal of pressure on the women to excel. If they failed it would reflect on all women who hoped to serve in office. Most rose to the challenge, slowly convincing the electorate that women were capable of legislative work. Belle Reeves, a legislator from Eastern Washington, worked hard to promote the abilities of women while she was in office. Later, when she served as the first woman Secretary of State, she noted:

My real job, and the biggest way I can help women of this state, in my office, is to conduct myself so as to be a credit to my sex.

It should be noted here that not all the women who served followed this pattern. A few, such as Julia Butler Hansen, were quite effective in gaining political power and passing significant legislation. Julia did not have the typical female legislator profile. She worked her way up through elective office

and the Democratic Party structure. She worked hard and excelled in a man's world on her own terms. But she was one of the few exceptions among the women who served in the State Legislature.

The general willingness of women to take on new roles was caused in part by the two world wars. Especially during World War II, women entered male dominated fields to support the war effort. Americans had a strong sense of duty to their country during the war years which extended to the State Legislature. Women saw themselves entering the Legislature as servants to their constituents. Some went as far as characterizing their legislative duties as similar to those of a homemaker. Both jobs are concerned with balancing a budget, getting the most for the money, and caring for people's needs.

By the late forties, women began to gain acceptance as public officials. In fact, many people saw women as an answer to the perceived corruption in government.

Women in elective office encouraged other women to run. In 1948, Eva Anderson, a Republican from Chelan County, spoke eloquently on this point. She had great faith in women's legislative abilities.

The time has come, it seems, when as women we must decide whether we are merely an affiliated sisterhood of the Republican Party, or whether we too shall eventually come in from the kitchen and sit down as full partners at the deliberation table.

In the fifties, when the boys returned from war, public sentiment shifted. The message to women was clear: back to the home. Problems for women serving in the Legislature became more acute. When there were only a few women no one noticed them, but as their numbers grew they could no longer be as easily dismissed. Margaret Hurley, Senator from Spokane remembers what it was like in 1959.

Re-elect an experienced and faithful public servant

MRS. MARIAN C.
GLEASON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
27th DISTRICT



★ A Tacoma resident 22 years . . .
Knows Tacoma's Needs

★ Mother of 4 sons and a daughter . . .
Knows the Needs of Youth

★ Two-term veteran of the Legislature . . .
Knows the 27th District's Needs

DEMOCRAT

It was discriminatory, I'd have to admit it. Men did not want you in the decision making end of it. We were a new element. What are you going to do with this new element? You're going to keep them down.

But Margaret found ways to get around the obstacles.

I became caucus secretary. Of course the secretarial position is presumed to be a woman's spot. But being up there at the front table, I took that to mean I could speak when I wanted to. It wouldn't look good if they didn't call on me.

Marion Gleason, a Democratic Representative from Tacoma, agreed that male prejudice against women was a hindrance to accomplishing their legislative duties.

They were quite honest. They said they didn't want "skirts" running the government.

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We were left out of the party politics and the real decision making end of it.

The women legislators soon realized they could no longer wait to receive the recognition they deserved. If they wanted a position, they found they couldn't just ask for it, they had to demand it. Julia Butler Hansen recalls:

I had a problem when I wanted to be chairman of Highways. They didn't want a woman because it was the first time. And I said, "Can I do the job?" "Oh, yes" they'd say. "Do you think I'd make a good committee chairman?" The man who wanted the position said, "Yes, but I'm a man!" I replied, "To hell with that! It doesn't mean one thing to me. You and I are both elected representatives and I've got more experience in the road and highway field than you do." I got the chairmanship.

Catherine May Bedell recalls that even with

Julia as the head of the Highways Committee, women were not welcomed on many legislative committees.

Many men could not envision a woman on their committee. They were very frank about their chauvinistic behavior. I felt I had to work harder because I was fighting this kind of attitude.

Almost all the women legislators felt they had to work harder than their male counterparts. The problems women faced were not minor annoyances, but severe obstacles to successfully accomplishing their legislative duties.

The women were seen as trouble-makers who didn't understand the system. Their good-government orientation put them at odds with many business and labor interests. So while their "virtuous" reputations helped them win a legislative seat, it was a hindrance once in the Legislature.

Another obstacle was the assumption that the women legislators were ignorant about economics and taxation. No such assumptions were made about male legislators. Unfortunately, the assumption was not always wrong. The community backgrounds of many of the women often limited their expertise and consequently their influence in the Legislature.

By the late sixties this began to change. With the influence of the women's movement, women began to enter non-conventional professions in greater numbers, and soon were elected to office not only as reformers, but as representatives of wider interests, bringing more knowledge and experience to the Legislature. In addition, the roles women staff members played began to change. Many were no longer content to answer telephones and type letters from the sidelines. Women entered the Legislature as aides, as lobbyists, and research analysts. This shift of women to positions of authority and respect began to change attitudes within the

Legislature. Lois North, Republican Senator from Seattle, observed this change.

When I first came in 1969, there were only seven women in the whole legislature, and the men were super polite. "Oh, won't you sit down," meanwhile thinking, "What the heck is she doing here?" I've seen a tremendous change. It makes a difference to have more women altogether, as staff, lobbyists, legislators. We are all taking on larger roles.

With the added confidence gained from expertise in non-traditional fields, women started pushing for the positions on prestigious committees they deserved. Phyllis Erickson, Democratic Representative from Tacoma:

In the late seventies we were no longer content to sit on the Education and Social and Health Services committees. We wanted to expand into other areas which

concerned our districts. I remember the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee said he did not want women because of the field trips and the other work the committee did. We didn't stand for that kind of attitude for very long. We were willing to stand up for what was right and now we had the numbers and the expertise to back us up.

Women have made considerable gains in the State Legislature since the days of public scorn of women in office. In 1982 women comprised 23 percent of the total legislative membership with 35 members. The women serving today are different than their early counterparts. They are more like their male colleagues: younger, better educated, with professional and business backgrounds. The women are involved in party politics and hold leadership positions. They are no longer relegated to the position of caucus secretary. The top legislative

position in 1982 was held by Senate Majority Leader Jeanette Hayner. Women represent a variety of power bases including the Chamber of Commerce, accounting firms, city and county government, and environmental groups, as well as community organization groups. Women with traditional backgrounds are now more politically sophisticated. Because of society's expanded roles for women, their legislative expertise, and growing political sophistication, women in the State Legislature are wielding more power than ever before.

READERS NOTE:

This material is up to date as of June 1982.

In spite of extensive research many of the following biographies are woefully incomplete. Readers are invited to submit additional information for the second printing. Send to:
Senator Eleanor Lee, 102 Institutions Building, Olympia, Washington 98504

Eva Anderson



Eva Anderson (Republican) represented a district of Chelan County in the House of Representatives for six terms, from 1948 to 1960.

Born 1889, in Surprise, Nebraska, to a strict and loving Methodist family. Intent on becoming an educator she earned her B.A. at Nebraska's Wesleyan University, and began her teaching career in 1912, after a move to Wenatchee. After teaching for many years Anderson enrolled at the University of Washington and earned her M.A. and Ph.D degrees in Education.

Anderson wanted women to take an active role in politics and use their rights: to vote, sit on juries, to hold public office. After serving as the elected County Superintendent of Schools for Douglas County, and Regent for the University of Washington, she decided it was time for more women to enter the State Legislature. Speaking to the Chelan Republican Women's Club in 1948 she said, "The time has come, it seems, when as women we must decide whether we are

merely an affiliated sisterhood of the Republican Party, or whether we too shall eventually come in from the kitchen and sit down as full partners at the deliberation table." A woman who lived by her convictions, Anderson filed on the Republican ticket.

Representative Anderson characterized her legislative role as similar to a mother shopping for her family; both weigh things in relation to needs, buy the necessities, and if there is money left, buy the luxuries. In the Legislature Representative Anderson fought for better funding of education, the building of new roads, the first State Commission on Public Utilities, and the development of public power.

Frances C. Axtell



Frances C. Axtell (Republican) represented a district of Whatcom County in the House of Representatives during the 1913 session. In 1916, she led an unsuccessful campaign for Congress.

Representative Axtell, respectfully called an "educated woman" by her colleagues, attended DePaul University where she earned her A.M. and Ph.D degrees. After graduating, she made her home in Bellingham.

One of the first two women elected to the Washington State Legislature (in 1912), Representative Axtell was labeled by the press as "The lady from Whatcom who votes as she pleases." Her election and reformist endeavors in the Legislature were often cited as evidence that women in public office could accomplish good.

Representative Axtell was primarily concerned with public safety. Legislation that she introduced proposed improvements to rules of evidence in cases of violent assault. The impression she left with other members

Mary Kay Becker



was that of a brilliant theorist in legislation along moral lines, and a broad-minded individual.

Despite the positive "reformer" image she promoted, Axtell's bid for Congress failed. Soon thereafter she secured an appointment to the U.S. Employees Compensation Commission from President Woodrow Wilson, and became the first woman named by a President to such a high Federal position. Her concern as a member and vice-chair was to improve Federal safety standards. Axtell accomplished her responsibilities with such devotion, newspapers referred to her as the "mother" of the 500,000 men and women working for the government.

Mary Kay Becker (Democrat) represented a district of western Whatcom County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1974, she served four terms.

Born 1946, in Aberdeen, Becker was raised in Klaloch and now lives in Bellingham. She received her B.A. in English from Stanford University, and continued her study at Western Washington State College, earning a degree in Education. She donated a year of volunteer work to VISTA, and has been employed with Legal Services of Washington. A writer as well, Becker expressed her concern over the likely effects of a large oil spill in Puget Sound in the ecological disaster novel, "Superspill," which she co-authored in 1973.

Elected at an early age (28), Representative Becker quickly acquired influence in the Legislature and was appointed majority whip at the beginning of her second term.

Married, with two children, Becker also studies law at the University of Washington.

Catherine May Bedell



Catherine May Bedell (Republican) represented a district of Yakima County in the House of Representatives from 1952 to 1958. Elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1958, she represented the 4th Congressional District until 1972, and was subsequently appointed to the Federal Trade Commission.

Born 1914, in Yakima, where she enjoyed "an idyllic childhood," Bedell worked her way through the University of Washington, and was one of the first two people qualified to teach speech correction in Washington. Unable to find work in her field, she became a radio commentator and wrote and produced a successful women's program, featuring household tips and the secrets of being a better wife and mother, while single herself. Highly successful, she landed a job with N.B.C. and moved to New York to write the scripts for the new T.V. Betty Crocker shows. Bedell married a Washington native and during her first pregnancy they decided Yakima was the place to raise a

Georgianna Behm



Georgianna Behm (Democrat) represented a district of Snohomish County in the 1939 and 1943 sessions of the House of Representatives.

Born 1905, in Minnesota, Representative Behm was a homemaker and politically active volunteer prior to her election.

family. Back home, she joined the local Young Republicans, and got her first real taste of party politics working for Dwight Eisenhower's presidential campaign. Dissatisfied with the Republican incumbent in the House, the Young Republicans decided to field one of their own and asked Bedell to run. In her campaign Bedell made extensive use of women's service groups and clubs; she recalls the "Old Girl's Network" was instrumental to her campaign victories.

While in the State Legislature Representative Bedell focused on the twin themes of strict economy and improved service. Farmers at first were concerned about a woman's ability to understand agricultural problems, but in one term Bedell gained their confidence. Her success was evident when in 1958 she was elected to Congress.

Bedell recalls, "When I was elected as the first woman to serve in Congress from Washington State I felt I had a special responsibility to do an excellent job. Even today, women who are members feel they

have to try a little harder because they are on special trial. If a man makes a mistake they say, 'well, it happens.' If it happens to a woman they say, 'isn't that just like a woman?'"

Bedell feels the best thing she has left as a memorial is an easier and wider path to elective office for young women.

Jeannette Berleen



Jeanette Berleen (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1980, she served one term.

Born in North Dakota, Berleen and her family moved to Burien when she was one. She attended Highline Community College (A.A.) and the University of Washington where she received her B.A. in Business Administration. Berleen has worked as an accountant for Puget Sound Hospital, and the Washington State Hospital Commission.

Berleen became interested in politics because she felt she had something to offer, and wanted to contribute. As a delegate to a Republican district convention in 1976, she demonstrated her interest in the issues and her willingness to get up and talk about them. Berleen was encouraged by the other delegates to offer herself as a candidate. She agreed, but there were formidable obstacles. Lack of name familiarity in the party and the Democrat character of the district resulted in two campaign failures for her. In 1980, with an

established political base and greater community ties, Berleen campaigned for the third time and won.

Representative Berleen served as the vice-chair for the Appropriations/Human Services Services Committee.

Violet Boede



Violet Boede (Democrat) represented a district of San Juan County in the House of Representatives for six terms, between 1934 and 1950.

Born 1893, in Washington, Boede lived on Orcas Island and was a homemaker. Active in Democratic party concerns, Boede was a San Juan Democratic Central Committee Chairwoman prior to her election.

Gene L. Bradford



Gene Bradford (Democrat) represented a district of Snohomish and Island Counties in the 1937 session of the House of Representatives.

Joanne Brekke



Joanne Brekke (Democrat) represents a district of King County in the House of Representatives. Appointed in 1979, she was elected later that year.

Born 1935, in North Bend, Washington, Brekke was raised in Snoqualmie and now lives in Seattle. Hoping "to make the world a bit better," she attended the University of Washington and in 1957 received her B.A. in Sociology.

Volunteer campaign work was her first step into political involvement. Concerned about quality of education she lobbied in Olympia for Citizens for Fair School Funding. While picking up the fine points of legislative process, she came to the realization that she was capable of being a good legislator. An open seat in her district provided the opportunity to prove it.

Representative Brekke would like to see more women in office. She feels women legislators as a group have more to prove and tend to work harder. She has three teenage children.

Nancy Buffington

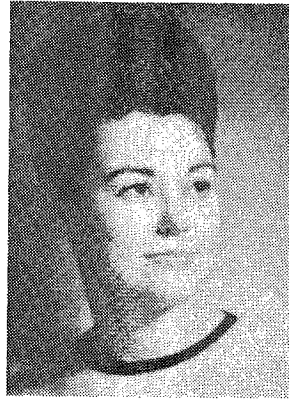


Nancy Buffington (Republican) represented a district of King County in the Senate for one term, from 1974 to 1978.

Born in Logan, Utah, to an apolitical Mormon family. Buffington was educated at the University of Washington in Cardiac Rehabilitation and was later employed as both an Emergency Medical Technician and as Public Affairs consultant for the Washington Natural Gas Co.

In 1972, Buffington headed the Dan Evans re-election campaign in her district. In 1973 she served on a sub-committee of the Republican Central Committee to find a Senatorial candidate for her district. The committee met over a period of nine months without success. Though she had declined the candidacy, because she thought her chances were not good, on the last filing day a ruse was employed to get her to file. Thinking she was giving the committee a few more days to find a candidate, she signed her name "For the good of the party." A day later she discovered there could be no

Virginia Clocksin



Virginia Clocksin (Republican) represented a district comprising Clallam, Jefferson and Mason Counties in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1966, she served one term.

Voted one of the "Outstanding Young Women of America" after her election to the House, Representative Clocksin was a member of the Appropriations and Education Committees, served as the vice-chair of the Natural Resources Committee, and was a special member of the Legislative Council. She was a state Republican Committeewoman and served on the Executive Board of the Republican Central Committee.

Pat Cochran



Pat Cochran (Democrat) represented a district comprising portions of Yakima and Benton Counties in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1974, she served one term.

Born in Montana, Cochran attended Montana State University (B.A., Zoology), and Boston University where she earned a Master's degree in Biology.

Cochran is co-owner of the Women's Resource Center in Richland. She and her husband, Gordon, have two children.

substitutions and she was the candidate.

Though not well-known she worked hard to communicate with a primarily blue-collar district, trying to convince voters that a woman could represent their interests.

In the first six-month session Senator Buffington learned many lessons. "It took some effort to convince people that I was a serious legislator, not just 'window-dressing', or only a mother of four children," she recalled. "I had the liabilities of being young, being female, and being new."

Anna K. Colwell



Anna K. Colwell (Republican) represented a district of Snohomish County in the House of Representatives. Appointed in 1920, Representative Colwell was elected in 1921 and served one term.

Born in Washington, Colwell made her home in Everett. She entered the House at the age of 44 and was a homemaker.

While in the Legislature Representative Colwell served as the chairwoman of the Public Morals Committee.

Margaret Coughlin



Margaret Coughlin (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1936, she served one term.



State Representative Marjorie Lynch delivers her first speech before the House of Representatives, January 1963

Ellen Craswell



Ellen Craswell (Republican) represents a district of Kitsap County in the State Senate. First elected in 1976, she served two terms in the House before her election to the Senate in 1980.

Born 1932, in Seattle, Craswell now lives in Bremerton. A graduate of the University of Washington's Medical Technology program, she has been employed in Speech Therapy and Medical Technology. A businesswoman as well, Craswell was the owner-operator of a small art gallery.

Involved in her husband's two attempts for a House seat, Craswell decided to replace him when he chose to drop the second campaign. Making use of the "housewife image," Craswell used a sponge as one of her campaign trademarks along with the theme "Let's clean house!" Among the issues Craswell advocated were full state funding of public schools and tax limitation.

As co-chair of the important Revenue and Taxation Committee, Representative

Craswell was not eager to move to the Senate, but so many important bills had died there she decided it was time to help make a change.

Reflecting on her role as a legislator, Senator Craswell says she seeks to uphold a philosophy of less government and more individual responsibility, while setting a sound fiscal policy for the state. She and her husband, Bruce, have four grown children.

Nena Jolidon Croake



Nena Jolidon Croake (Progressive) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives during the 1913 session.

One of the first two women elected to the Washington State Legislature, Croake was a practicing doctor of Osteopathy prior to her election.

Representative Croake distinguished herself at the very beginning of the 13th Session when she introduced the first bill, a proposal to improve standards for women's working conditions.

Lenea L. Edlund



Lenea Edlund (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives from 1934 to 1936.

Born in Sweden in 1891, Edlund was brought to Washington as a child. She was a Seattle homemaker and volunteer Democratic Party campaign worker before her election.

Though she served for only one term, Representative Edlund attained positions on such important committees as Roads and Bridges and Unemployment Relief.

Kathryn Epton



Kathryn Epton (Democrat) represented a district of Spokane County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1956, she served four terms.

Born 1912, in Garwood, Idaho, Epton settled in Spokane. She attended Washington State University, Holy Names College, Arizona University, and received her B.A. from Gonzaga University. A freelance writer, Epton was also a homemaker who raised five children.

Representative Epton was a dedicated community volunteer and paid especial attention to handicapped and retarded children, and programs for their advancement. It was the "Epton Bill," a landmark piece of legislation, which for the first time funded the care of the handicapped and retarded in group homes rather than state institutions.

Phyllis K. Erickson



Phyllis Erickson (Democrat) represented a district comprising portions of Pierce and Thurston Counties in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1972, she served for five terms.

Born 1923, in Texas, Erickson studied at the University of Utah and received her B.A. and Master's degree in Social Work.

Erickson first ran for office in 1961, after several years of volunteer community work, and won election to the Franklin-Pierce County school board. She served as chairwoman and member of the board for six years. During that time she joined the League of Women Voters, and in 1967 became their State Legislative Chairwoman.

An experienced lobbyist for open government, Erickson knew she would make a good legislator. Issue-oriented, rather than party-oriented, Erickson chose to campaign as a Democrat because she tended to vote Democratic, though her husband was a Republican precinct committeeman. Among the issues she advocated in her campaign

were: Public Disclosure, the automatic redistricting commission, tax reform and the ERA.

Representative Erickson resigned in 1981 to successfully run for a position on the Pierce County Council. It is her belief that the participation of women in legislative decision-making has made closed-door, smoke-filled room, power struggles less frequent. She and her husband, Jack, have four grown children.

Helen Fancher



Helen Fancher (Republican) represented a district comprising Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and parts of Spokane and Okanogan Counties in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1976, she served three terms.

Born 1931, in Seattle, Fancher was a pianist at an early age and played with the Seattle Youth Symphony at eleven, and the Seattle Philharmonic and the Seattle Symphony at sixteen. She attended the University of Washington, and Eastern Washington State College.

Born to a Republican family, raised as an active Republican, and married to an active Republican, Fancher has served as the President of the Cattlemen's Auxilliary, and volunteered her time as an officer in the Cattlemen's legislative and education committees. When her district could not offer a suitable candidate to run for a House vacancy, Fancher realized she had the interest and decided to do it.

Campaigning in a district of 12,000

Mary U. Farquharson



square miles, she doorbelled from ranch to ranch, climbed on tractors, and marched through barns and fields to go where she needed to go, ultimately succeeding.

In the Legislature Representative Fancher succeeded in becoming Assistant Majority Leader and served on the powerful Rules Committee. She and her husband, Jick, have three grown children.

Mary Farquharson (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the Senate for two terms, from 1934 to 1942.

Born 1901, in Seattle, Farquharson was raised in a family where politics was a frequent topic of discussion. As a child she was interested in political and social ideas, and how society works. A graduate of the University of Washington (B.A. in English), she worked as a teacher, and married a University of Washington professor active in a progressive political organization: the Washington Commonwealth Federation.

In 1934, a member of the Women's Legislative Council approached Farquharson with the suggestion that she run for office. Though she scoffed at the idea, her husband encouraged her. With his aid she was named by the Washington Commonwealth Federation as its candidate for the Senate. Her campaign stressed the need for more jobs and used the slogan "Production for Use"—instead of profit. Aided by the public perception of women as virtuous alternatives

to corrupt politicians, she defeated strong primary and general election challenges.

With the advantage of an overwhelming Democratic majority in both houses of the Legislature, Senator Farquharson was able to pass many key pieces of social legislation despite her freshman status. One of her bills limited the number of hours a domestic servant could work to 60 hours a week and attracted Eleanor Roosevelt to Seattle to speak in favor of its passage.

Senator Farquharson was a strong supporter of public power and the idea of a unicameral legislature. Public education was the key to her democratic ideals. She recalls, "I saw my chief function as helping to educate the public. A democratic government means every citizen, men and women, ought to be informed—first—and then active. This is what every citizen ought to do: Educate, first yourself, get yourself informed. Then agitate, get people stirred up, don't let them go to sleep or sit back in their own private little affairs. Then organize, you

Sally Flint



Sally Flint (Republican) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives during the 1980 session.

A long-time resident of Pierce County, Flint is a retired school teacher who has been active in party politics there for many years. She and her husband, Tom, have three grown daughters.

Kathryn Fogg



Kathryn Fogg (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives during the 1939 session.

Born 1902, in Idaho, Fogg made her home in Seattle and raised her three children there. An active community volunteer, she was also a member of the Democratic Women's Club and participated in party politics.

Representative Fogg was elected as a Washington Commonwealth Federation candidate (a progressive-Labor group). In her 1938 campaign she assured the voters that "Unemployment relief, public welfare, labor questions, revenue and taxation..." were the problems she would devote herself to solving.

have got to be organized. You can't do it just as an individual."

Lady Willie Forbus



Lady Willie Forbus (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the Senate from 1942 to 1946.

Born 1892, in Yazoo County, Mississippi, to a sharecropper family. Though they were poor Forbus' mother, a music teacher, was very ambitious for the six children and went to extreme lengths to give them a high school education. Forbus worked her way through college at the University of Mississippi and the University of Michigan, where she earned her law degree.

After the last exam, she packed her bags and with a twenty dollar bill in her pocket boarded a train for Seattle. Forbus sought acceptance and opportunity in the developing West she knew would be denied her in the East.

For ten years Forbus was Seattle's only woman lawyer. She caught the attention of the Women's Legislative Council, which enlisted her to lobby Congress for the Twentieth Amendment (women's suffrage) and the Child Labor Amendment. Forbus

joined the Democratic Party and soon became the chairwoman of their speakers bureau. She traveled across the state speaking at hundreds of locations in support of Roosevelt administration policies. In time she became a well-known political figure and was asked to run for the Senate by the King County Democratic Central Committee. She recalls, "I never was particularly interested in becoming a member of the Legislature. I wanted to be a judge. But in those days the discrimination was in the Bar. I couldn't get any help out of the Bar Association."

In the Legislature, Senator Forbus was appointed chairwoman of the Judiciary Committee and was a member of the important Appropriations Committee. Issues she worked for were: children's rights, mandatory automobile insurance, public power, equal opportunity, and equal pay for equal work. During her tenure Senator Forbus' two daughters accompanied her to Olympia.

"My philosophy has always been to

help those people who are not able to help themselves. I've always fought very hard for education—it's almost a religion to me that you get an education then you don't need to get public help because you have a tool in your hands, you have a skill."

Eleanor A. Fortson



Eleanor Fortson (Democrat) represented a district of north Snohomish County and all of Island County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1972, she served three terms.

A native of Washington, Fortson graduated from Western Washington State College with a Masters degree in Administration. She taught for eight years in Alaska, and was later employed as the principal of Stanwood Elementary Schools.

Before her election, Representative Fortson held positions in several local and state Democratic organizations in addition to elective positions with education groups. Her legislative concerns were education, tax reform, limiting state spending, and economic development with environmental safeguards.



In 1971, State Representatives (from left to right) Margaret Hurley, Gladys Kirk, Lorraine Wojahn, Doris Johnson, Lois North, and Geraldine McCormack welcome their newest colleague, Peggy Joan Maxie.

Shirley A. Galloway



Shirley Galloway (Democrat) represents a district of Vancouver in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1978, she is currently serving her third term.

Born 1934, in Postell, Arkansas, to a sharecropper family. Galloway attended Clark College (A.A.&S.), and The Evergreen State College (B.A.).

After serving as co-president of the P.T.A. and working with the school system for many years, Galloway was appointed to the Vancouver School Board. Up to that point she had not seen herself as someone who would hold an elective position. After seven years of service on the board, she was elected president of the Washington School Directors Association (1977).

In 1978, a vacant House seat and the desire to improve state policy prompted her to offer herself as a candidate for the office. Uninvolved in partisan politics before her campaign, she chose the Democratic Party and led a campaign that stressed state funding of public education.

Because of her keen interest in education and school funding Galloway has sought positions on House Education and Revenue committees, and has expressed a commitment to refining the Basic Education Act. She currently serves as chairwoman of the Education Committee.

In addition to her legislative duties, Representative Galloway serves on the State Council on Child Abuse, a number of volunteer community boards and committees, and is a past co-chair of Elected Washington Women. She and her husband, Wayne, have five children.

Agnes M. Gehrman



Agnes M. Gehrman (Republican) represented a district of Pacific County in the State Senate from 1940 to 1944. In 1946 she was elected to represent the same district in the House of Representatives.

Born 1894, in Iowa, Gehrman lived in Raymond and was a businesswoman and homemaker.

While in the Legislature Representative Gehrman managed to secure the chair of the Commerce and Manufacturing Committee, an unusual accomplishment for a woman at that time.

Marion C. Gleason



Marion C. Gleason (Democrat) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives for four terms, from 1956 to 1964.

Born 1916, in Seattle, Gleason now lives in Gig Harbor, where she has raised her five children. Introduced to politics at an early age, she was employed by her mother (a precinct committeewoman) to carry literature for Democratic candidates at the age of seven. "I've always enjoyed politicking," Gleason has said. "I was elected because I was the type of person my district wanted, earthy and on the humanistic side."

Though encouraged by Democratic Party members to run for the Legislature, leadership positions were consistently denied women by the Pierce County Democratic party organization. Despite their footdragging and their lack of campaign support, she built on her experience and popularity and put together a winning campaign.

In the Legislature, Representative

Gleason fought for her bills and carefully manipulated the system to pass the "Safe and Sane" legislation for fireworks, vocational training bills, and legislation supporting Labor interests. She saw herself as a voice for her constituents and devoted much of her time to being their legislative ombudsman.

Susan E. Gould



Susan Gould (Republican) represented a district of Snohomish County in the Senate. Elected in 1974, she served two terms.

Born 1929, in Seattle, Gould now lives in Edmonds. She attended Whitman College and graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Chemistry. A research chemist, Gould supported her family while her husband pursued a Masters degree. Shortly after becoming a full-time mother Gould, seeking some meaningful outside activities, joined the League of Women Voters. She quickly developed a strong interest in public policy, especially education, fiscal issues and taxation. Four years after joining Gould was the president of the Snohomish County chapter. Concerned with educational standards she campaigned for a position on the local school board. That success encouraged her increasing devotion to public issues. Though she considered running for the Legislature, she felt her children were not yet old enough to be away from them during the long legislative

Barbara A. Granlund



sessions.

A Senate position opened two years later and Gould decided the time was right. She recalls the decision was "scary", but she had a cause; "I wanted to get down there and do something about education at the state level." Though she had some campaign experience from working on Dan Evans' gubernatorial campaign, raising money was difficult. "It was particularly hard for women to raise money, because we had to prove our credibility as candidates."

In the Legislature Senator Gould devoted herself to education and fiscal issues, and served as chairwoman of the Energy Committee. She says, "I would like to see more women in office because there is a lot of talent wasted out there." She gives this advice to young women with an interest in politics: "Take the opportunity—any time it comes along—to do something exciting for the community. If it looks like it is hard then that's all the more reason to try it out."

Barbara Granlund (Democrat) represents a district comprising portions of Pierce and Kitsap Counties in the State Senate. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, she served two terms there before her election to the Senate in 1982.

Born 1928, in Holridge, Nebraska, Granlund was educated in Tacoma public schools and studied political science at Olympic College.

Granlund's long history of community involvement first centered around her children. A Campfire Leader, member of the P.T.A. and then the school board, she says she has followed "a natural progression". Her interest in government led to a study of political science, and a membership in the League of Women Voters. She pursued Democratic politics and served on the Kitsap and Pierce County Democratic Party convention platform committees, the Democratic State Charter Commission, and the Democratic State Central Committee. To her, being involved is "being effective in the

community." When her district's retiring incumbent suggested she campaign for the seat, the idea seemed right.

In the Legislature, Senator Granlund is very supportive of the mental-health community, and the developmentally disabled. She hopes to see more young women getting into politics and "not waiting as long as I did." She and her husband, Win, have two children.

Audrey Lindgren Gruger

Audrey Gruger (Democrat) represented a district comprising portions of King and Snohomish Counties in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1976, she served three terms.

Born 1930, in Minot, North Dakota, Gruger was raised by two independent thinkers, a liberal mother and a conservative father. Her mother was a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives who resigned from office because of her daughter's impending birth. Gruger graduated from the University of Washington (B.A. Sociology) and studied political science at the University of California, Davis.

A member of the League of Women Voters and a dedicated community volunteer, Gruger gained experience in state government as a lobbyist for King County United Way in the early seventies. Her decision to campaign for the legislature was based mainly on her desire to provide more effective aid to needy individuals. "I feel it is important to insure public education, decent

health care and social services for all people," she has stated. Her campaign stressed the need for a redistricting commission, governmental reform, and greater accessibility to government services.

While in the Legislature Representative Gruger sponsored the Domestic Violence Act and the Victims of Sexual Assault Act.

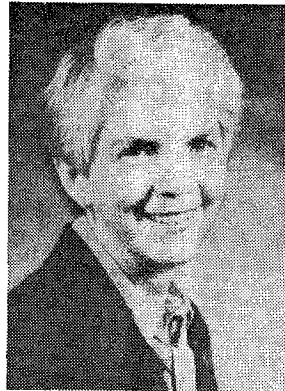
Lu Lu Haddon

Lu Lu Haddon (Democrat) represented a district of Kitsap County in the House of Representatives during the 1933 and 1935 sessions. She was elected to the Senate in 1936, and served there until her resignation in 1942. Her daughter, Frances Haddon Morgan, wrote a special chapter in Washington's history when, sixteen years later, she won the same seat first in the House of Representatives in 1958, and then in the Senate in 1960.

Born in Iowa, her family moved to Spangle, Washington when she was a small child. Haddon received less than an eighth grade education, most of which came from her Quaker mother reading to the ten Haddon children by the glow of an oil lamp. As a homemaker in Bremerton, Haddon was a community activist and exponent of public education. She was a founder of that city's Soroptimist Club, which advocated many community reforms and became a springboard for her political career.

Representative Haddon was devoted

Shirley W. Hankins



to providing better education to children. In both the House and Senate she was chairwoman of the Education Committee and created many new educational opportunities for Washington students. Her legislative accomplishments include facilitating the construction of a new bridge for Bremerton, the creation of more elementary schools in the state, the establishment of the Rainier State School for the mentally handicapped, and the passage of enabling legislation for Bremerton's first junior college.

Shirley Hankins (Republican) represents a district of Benton County in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1980, she is serving her second term.

Born 1931, in Kansas, Hankins now lives in Richland, and is a radiation dosimetry expert. She first became involved with political issues at the precinct level in 1964, and was a dedicated volunteer for community causes. Her work on Dan Evans' gubernatorial campaign stimulated her interest in elective office and led her to campaign for local positions.

Though her first campaign for the Legislature failed, she was encouraged by members of the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs and the Richmond Republican Women's Organization to try again. She responded with a stronger campaign and was elected. Representative Hankins sees a need for more women in elective office. She says, "It's good for personal development, and for developing the skills and political base women need."

Representative Hankins has three grown children.

Julia Butler Hansen



Julia Butler Hansen (Democrat) represented a district of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties in the House of Representatives for eleven terms, from 1938 to 1960. In 1960 she was elected to the United States House of Representatives from the Third Congressional District, and served there until 1974.

Born 1907, in Portland, she is a lifelong resident of Cathlamet, Washington. Descended from a long line of independent women, Hansen's mother was serving as County Superintendent of Schools when Hansen was born. During the Depression Hansen graduated from the University of Washington and worked in a secretarial position with the Legislature. With that beginning she set out on a path of political involvement that rose through the positions of bill clerk, city council member, state legislator, to the U.S. Congress.

Hansen became active in the Wahkiakum County Democratic Party in 1935, and soon occupied leadership

positions in the group. In 1938 the Democratic Central Committee asked her to run for the Legislature.

It wasn't easy serving in the Legislature for Representative Hansen. "There were 99 members and four women...95 of those men would just as soon see you pitched out. I had problems when I wanted to be a chairman (1949). They didn't think a woman should have a chairmanship (on the Highways Committee) because it was the first time." True to her nature, she battled for the position and won. Though her name was often brought up as a candidate for the Speaker of the House, Representative Hansen never did overcome the hindrances between her and the leadership position, although she did serve as Speaker Pro Tempore from 1956 to 1960, and was the first woman to do so.

Representative Hansen was a meticulous legislator who lived by her own golden rule: "I would never go on the floor with a bill that I didn't understand every

penny of. Anybody that asked me a question, I could get up and answer it. That was mandatory."

After 22 years in the Washington Legislature Representative Hansen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman Hansen proved herself to be extremely effective in providing for her district and the state, and was a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. After 36 years of legislative service Representative Hansen resigned, but continued her involvement in state government as a member and chairwoman of the State Department of Transportation.

Emma Taylor Harman



Emma Taylor Harman (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for two terms, from 1940 to 1944.

Born 1912, in Napavine, Washington, Harman's parents encouraged their children to participate in government and political issues. Though she planned to attend college and become a teacher, it was too difficult for her to pay tuition during the Depression. Instead, she devoted herself to community improvement projects and did an extensive amount of volunteer work in South King County. Harman joined the Washington Commonwealth Federation (a progressive-Labor organization), and spoke to groups about the need for pension system reform. She was a member of the Renton Community Club, and advocated an enlarged telephone system, better roads, and improved utility service for the area.

It was her wish to effectively promote "...issues like Industrial Insurance, Disability Assistance, and other real human needs."

Following that desire to its logical conclusion, she decided to run for the Legislature. With the support of her volunteer organizations—but not the party—she campaigned for office. To her surprise, she won.

In the Legislature she fought for public power, tax reform, equal education funding, farm price stabilization, pension plans, and aid to widows and their dependents. In 1945, pregnant with her first child, she chose not to seek a third term.

Today, Harman is still active in a coalition of peace groups and strongly advocates decreased defense spending.

Frances M. Haskell



Frances M. Haskell (Republican) represented a district of Snohomish County in the House of Representatives during the 1919 session.

Referred to by a contemporary as "The wise woman of the Legislature", Representative Haskell had the dubious honor of being the only woman in the Legislature during her legislative service.

Jeanette C. Hayner



Jeanette Hayner (Republican) represents a district comprising Franklin, Walla Walla, and part of Columbia in the State Senate. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1972, she served two terms there before her election to the Senate in 1976.

Born 1919, in Portland, Oregon, Hayner received her B.A. from the the University of Oregon and her J.D. from the University of Oregon Law School. She and her husband, Dutch, have three grown children.

A former chairwoman of the Walla Walla School Board, Senator Hayner currently serves on several state and regional citizen advisory boards, including the Organized Crime Advisory board, and is a member of the Washington State Conservation Commission.

In 1981, Senator Hayner became the Washington State Legislature's first woman majority leader.

Mildred E. Henry



Mildred E. Henry (Democrat) represented a district comprising Skamania, Klickitat and part of Clark County in the House of Representatives. Appointed in 1957, Representative Henry served for ten years

A native of Washington, Henry was born and raised in Klickitat. She received a business college education on a grant from General Electric. Henry has worked as Director of the Seattle Women's Rights office, as Human Services Program Director, and as Public Relations Director for the Job Corps Center for Women since her service in the Legislature.

Henry was married to Senator Al Henry, and was an avid participant in Democratic Party causes. Soon after her marriage she was asked by the party to run for a vacant House seat. Though her husband "forbade" her from seeking the appointment, she thought it was a good idea and pursued it. "Our voting records were very dissimilar," Henry recalls.

Lorraine Hine



Lorraine Hine (Democrat) represents a district of South King County in the House of Representatives. She is currently serving her second term.

Born 1930, in Timberlake, South Dakota, her's was a farming family. Hine and her family moved to south King County during the Depression. She graduated from Washington State University with degrees in Education and Speech.

Representative Hine has served three terms as the mayor of Des Moines, and is a past president of the Puget Sound Council of Governments. One of her administration's major accomplishments, during her tenure as mayor, was the implementation of a comparable worth salary program for city employees. Described as having "a soft touch while carrying a big stick," Hine feels it is essential to have more women in public office. She and her husband, William, have six grown children.

Joan Houchen



Joan Houchen (Republican) represented a district of Snohomish and Island counties in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1978, she served two terms.

Born 1930, in Minnesota, Houchen was raised in Montana. As a child she was hospitalized for two years by a near-fatal brush with tuberculosis. She credits that experience with giving her an appreciation of life, a positive attitude and a "gratitude for being here."

Houchen and her husband own a small farm on Camano Island where she has raised her two children. Because she was concerned with the protection of Puget Sound shorelines and land she volunteered her time to public land development hearings and pursued the cause of environmental protection so devotedly she was appointed to the Island County Planning Commission. In 1976 a group of Snohomish County residents approached her and asked to run for the Legislature. Her husband urged her to accept. Houchen wanted to change

things and reasoned she would have to stand up and accept the challenge in order to do it.

About her first campaign she says, "I just went out and was Mrs. Nice, and I hope you like my style—but that didn't do it." In 1978 she tried again with a more aggressive campaign and won. Representative Houchen saw herself as a problem-solver, not a lawmaker. Finding solutions to people's problems was the main concern, she said. Speaking in general about issues affecting women she noted, "The old-boy system here does very little for women. I really think that women have to network more with other women."

Margaret Hurley



Margaret Hurley (Democrat) represents a district of Spokane County in the State Senate. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1952, she served 14 terms there. In 1980 she was elected to the Senate.

Born in Winnebago, Minnesota, Hurley attended Holy Names College and graduated with a B.A. in Education.

Hurley's interest in state government began in 1938, the year her husband was elected to the House. For three terms she accompanied her lawyer husband to Olympia. From the visitor's gallery she observed the working of the Legislature, and during the after hours discussed the issues with her husband. At the end of his third term, under pressure from an increasingly successful one-man law office, Joseph Hurley decided not to seek re-election. When a disappointing array of candidates filed for the seat, Joseph Hurley asked his wife to run. She recalls, "I wondered how it would work. By that time I had four small children. And then I thought, why not?"

Reba J. Hurn



The community's reaction to her candidacy was very good. It proved to be of no difficulty to convince the voters that the mother of four small children could handle the job. In the Legislature, Representative Hurley quickly gained a reputation as a legislator who knew her mind and wouldn't bow to the party if she disagreed with its position. Senator Hurley feels she will be remembered as a legislator who always kept her word.

Reba Hurn (Republican) represented a district of Spokane County in the State Senate for two terms, from 1922 to 1930. Senator Hurn was Washington's first woman Senator.

Born 1881, in Clear Lake, Iowa, Hurn was the eldest of two daughters. She attended Cornell University and Northwestern, and received her law degree from the University of Washington, after graduating with honors, and continued her education with graduate study at Heidelberg University, in Germany. Hurn was the first woman admitted to the Washington State Bar Association, and was a Spokane attorney.

The practice of law was interesting but Hurn wanted to do more; she wanted to contribute to the process of lawmaking. Though she received a great deal of political support because of her "dry" position on Prohibition, Hurn was simply a devout Methodist, not a crusader. "I have no causes." She said during her first campaign. "I am in favor of no reforms, unless it is the

enactment of fewer laws and more concentration on codifying the mass of legislation which has been piling up in this state for years.

Her 1922 campaign success was a stunning surprise. The Spokane Chronicle compared her election with the first crossing of the Atlantic by airplane. When she arrived in Olympia there wasn't even a women's cloak room in the Senate. She hung her hat in the press room. To "honor" her election the Senate appropriated money to install a ladies' lounge in the new capitol building.

In her first term Senator Hurn built a reputation of being a quiet, hard-working legislator. Her career in the Senate remained a quiet one. She was a champion for quality and care in the creation of law and worked for a more humane corrections system in Washington. Though she was popular, Senator Hurn's third campaign, at the start of the Depression, fell in the swing of voter sentiment from Republican to Democratic politicians.

Mary C. Hutchinson



Mary C. Hutchinson (Republican) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives, from 1928 to 1932.

Born 1865, in Kansas, Hutchinson made her home in Tacoma. Representative Hutchinson, elected at the age of 64, was a Pierce County Clerk.

Hurn returned to the practice of law. In 1946 she retired and traveled extensively in the Middle East. She was fascinated by its ancient cultures. Twice, Hurn was called upon to participate in U.S. government cultural missions to the region. A scholar and student of the Bible, Hurn had a dream that one day the Christian and Middle East religions would agree on a world god. To this end she devoted the final years of her life to a translation of the Koran into English.

Doris Johnson



Doris Johnson (Democrat) represented a district of Benton County in the House of Representatives for four terms, beginning in 1964.

Born 1924, in Washington, Johnson graduated from Western Washington State College with a Master's degree in Education. She was employed as a school counselor.

Representative Johnson was chairwoman of the Kennewick Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Improvement, and made educational quality her number one priority in the Legislature. She and her husband, Harold, have one daughter.

Gertrude Johnson



Gertrude Johnson (Democrat) represented a district of Kitsap County in the House of Representatives. Appointed in 1943, she served one term.

Born in Indiana, Johnson made her home in Rolling Bay, Washington.

Active in the Chamber of Commerce and in county Democratic politics, Representative Johnson was appointed chairwoman of the Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee in 1944, and served in that position for eleven years.

Matilda Jones



Matilda Jones (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for three terms, between 1948 and 1956.

Born 1889, in St. Helens, California, Jones' parents brought her to Washington by wagon when she was six months old. Her parents, emigres from Denmark, encouraged their children to participate in the society of the "most wonderful country in the world." Jones graduated from Washington Central College of Education, raised four children in Seattle, two who were foster children, and began taking on leadership positions in the community. She was the president of the P.T.A. and the Women's Association of her church. A campaigner for school levies, Jones became well known in her community.

"When I was first approached about running for office I said I could not possibly run. I said I could only be considered as a last resort—scraping the bottom of the barrel." She was convinced to run, and faced up to ten Republican opponents in the primary. The

only woman in the race, Jones remembers: "I worked hard. If I was going to run I wanted to win. I worked the district from one end to the other."

Representative Jones worked especially hard for what she realized were neglected social concerns. She recalls that her very first bill, designed to give public school aid to mentally handicapped children, was signed into law shortly after her sponsorship.

Jessie Bullock Kastner



Jessie Bullock Kastner (Farm-Labor) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives from 1922 to 1924.

Marie Florence Keen



Marie Florence Keen (Republican) represented a district comprising Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties in the House of Representatives from 1934 to 1936.

Born 1873, in Kentucky, she was a Longview homemaker. Representative Keen, though she served for only one term, was a member of several important committees: Appropriations, Revenue and Taxation, and Unemployment Relief and Public Welfare.

Agnes Kehoe



Agnes Kehoe (Democrat) represented a district of Spokane County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1938, she served four terms.

Born 1874, in Iowa, Kehoe lived in Hillyard and Spokane. She and her husband, Thomas, operated a hardware store in Hillyard, where he was once mayor. Kehoe was also a welfare worker whose fundraising was so successful she was known as "a one woman social service bureau."

Kehoe was asked by both Democrats and Republicans to run for the Legislature, but her husband objected and said he wouldn't vote for her. After Kehoe won the election he gave in and gave her his full support.

In the Legislature, Representative Kehoe continued her efforts to help the needy, and sponsored legislation that appropriated money for social services throughout Washington. In 1939, a newspaper commentary acknowledged her to be "...not merely a legislator, but a one

woman institution."

Grace Kelley



Grace Kelley (Democrat) represented a district of Grays Harbor County in the House of Representatives from 1948 to 1950.

Born 1894, in North Dakota, Kelley was an Aberdeen real estate broker and registered nurse.

Marjorie King

Marjorie King (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives from 1965 to 1966. She was appointed to complete the deceased Ann O'Donnell's unexpired term. King is the first black woman to have served in the Washington State Legislature.

Devoted to community affairs and better government, King continues to serve in Democratic leadership positions.

Gladys Kirk

Gladys Kirk (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for 15 years—beginning in 1956.

Born in Gypsum, Colorado, she resided in Seattle. Kirk received a business college education and was the mother of two children.

Well acquainted with the Legislature through her husband, Douglas (a three-term House member), she campaigned and won the position when he retired.

Representative Kirk's major legislative concerns were law-and-order legislation, and the problems of higher education.

Jay Lane

Jay Lane (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. She was appointed to serve the duration of Representative Taller's unexpired term in 1981.

Born 1940, in South Dakota. An account executive with Pacific Northwest Bell, Lane was encouraged to become politically active through a class on grassroots politics offered by her company. She campaigned and was elected precinct committeewoman, and worked within the structure of the Republican Party for several years before her appointment. Representative Lane credited her appointment to hard work. Politics needs hard workers and people will notice your effort, she feels.

In 1983 Jay Lane was appointed to the federal Housing and Urban Development agency in Seattle. She is married and has two grown children.

Ester Lanz



Ester Lanz (Democrat) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives from 1932 to 1936.

Born 1899, in Idaho, Lanz was a Tacoma saleswoman and Democratic Party volunteer.



State Representatives Geraldine McCormack, Lorraine Wojahn and Margaret Hurley welcome Senator Warren Magnuson (State Representative 1932-34) back to the House of Representatives.

Mary LeCocq



Mary LeCocq (Republican) represented a district of Whatcom County in the House of Representatives from 1952 to 1954.

Born 1895, in Iowa, LeCocq grew up in a deeply religious family. Despite the dominant belief that women didn't need college, LeCocq pursued a higher education. She earned a teaching certificate, settled in the northern Washington town of Lynden, worked for several years as a teacher, then returned to college to earn her B.A.

Interested in politics, she became a Republican precinct volunteer at 23. An impressively hard worker, LeCocq was soon promoted to a position on the county Republican Central Committee. Utilizing organizational skills she had acquired by organizing Red Cross drives and volunteer groups, LeCocq rose through party ranks and became the first chairwoman of the county Republican Central Committee. LeCocq was later persuaded by fellow committee members to run for the Legislature and prevailed over four other Republicans.

During her "unhappy term" in the House she was forced into the chairmanship of the Insurance and Agriculture Committee and became embroiled in intra-party squabbles. At that time legislators were notorious for their boozing in the Capitol and Representative LeCocq railed against the drinking. She recalls that it was her public denunciations that closed the legislative liquor closet: "Committee Room 13." As a result she lost party support and was the target of verbal attacks that left her without the heart to actively campaign for re-election.

LeCocq still continues her public service through the organization and management of church-related community efforts.

Eleanor Lee



Eleanor Lee (Republican) represents a district of southwest King County in the State Senate. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1974, she was re-elected in 1976 then elected to the Senate in a 1977 special election.

Born 1931, in Elgin, Illinois, Lee and her parents moved to the Spokane area five years later. Her mother was a member of the local school board, and her grandfather was a true Washington pioneer; the mayor of Medical Lake, he owned a general store there and started its fire department. Interested in history and political science, Lee attended Washington State University and later joined the League of Women Voters. Lee's membership in the League of Women Voters so stimulated her interest in public affairs she returned to college to further study political science, and received her B.A. from The Evergreen State College in 1973.

A highly active League official at local, county and state levels, she was approached by a Representative in 1970 who urged her to

Margaret Leonard



run for the district's open position. Encouraged by League members in the legislature, she campaigned but did not succeed. In the following years she studied political science at TESC, became more active in the party, developed a base of political support, and used her experience to create the successful 1974 campaign.

When Representative Lee took office things were still surprisingly difficult for women. She says, "We had to prove our abilities to the men. Women are not excused their frailties." Senator Lee has held majority caucus leadership positions and is the founder and past chairwoman of Elected Washington Women. She says, "We need to do more to encourage and help women who are interested in public office. We have contributed a great deal to the Legislature and have a great deal more to contribute." She and her husband, David, have three grown daughters.

Margaret Leonard (Republican) represented a district of Spokane in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1980, she served one term.

Leonard was born in Washington, and raised in a family that discussed political ideas. She attended the University of Washington and the Ellensburg Normal School. A tax consultant, Leonard was also the host of her own radio program, The Public Affairs Department, and a staff writer for the Spokane Falls Newspaper.

In 1961, Leonard jumped into politics when she organized disgruntled voters against an unpopular City Council housing ordinance. Her efforts brought about a referendum which defeated the ordinance.

In 1969, prompted by friends, Leonard campaigned for the Spokane City Council. Looking back on her nine-year tenure on the council she says, "One of my major accomplishments was just what I set out to do, inform the people of what their government was doing and proposing to

do." Her status on the Council was a problem though. "I was the first woman that was ever elected to the Spokane City Council, and those men found it very difficult to share equal status. I don't know that I ever really overcame it."

Leonard decided to run for the Legislature because, "I felt there were some issues not being addressed that I could be of some value speaking on for my fellow citizens." In 1978 she ran and lost. In 1980, she led an aggressive campaign that promised less taxation and less regulation, and won.

"I certainly would like to see more women in office," Representative Leonard says. "I think that we need them to bail us out of what the men have got us into. And I think that we will." She and her husband, John, have two children.

Mary Stuart Lux



Mary Stuart Lux (Democrat) represented a district of Thurston County in the House of Representatives for two terms, from 1964 to 1968.

Born 1920, in Utica, New York, Lux was the eldest of four children. She attended William Smith College (B.A.), Johns Hopkins (R.N.) and Cornell University (M.S.). In 1945 she served as an Army nurse. She recalls that it was the ideals of the civil rights movement that motivated her to become politically involved. The mother of five children, Lux was concerned with education as well and was elected to the Thurston County School Board in 1959. Her leadership in community affairs and the Democratic Party induced the Young Democrats to ask her to be their 1962 candidate for the House. Though her campaign failed, Lux knew she would make a good legislator. In 1964 she campaigned again against an opponent that used the question, "Who would care for her children?", as a means of undermining her support. Well known, and respected for her school board

work, Lux won.

Representative Lux continued her support of education in the House and was a leading figure in the creation of The Evergreen State College.

Marjorie Lynch



Marjorie Lynch (Republican) represented a district of Yakima County in the House of Representatives from 1962 to 1971.

A native of England, Lynch came to the United States in 1945. She became a citizen in 1948, settling in Yakima with her husband, Donald, a physician. During World War II, Lynch was an officer in the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force, serving in an RAF front line station during the Battle of Britain. She also served with the American Red Cross in London and Paris as a home service worker. In Yakima, Lynch was active in many community services, including the Red Cross, Heart Association, Chamber of Commerce, and various other social and medical service groups. In 1952 she served as the chairwoman for Citizens for Eisenhower, and was vice chair-woman of the Yakima County Republican Club until 1956. She also served as the vice-president of the Women's Federation of Washington State Republican Club, and from 1961 to 1962 she was the vice-chairwoman of the Washington State

Republican Central Committee.

When a vacancy occurred in her district's House seat she was the natural choice to serve the unexpired term. After her appointment she campaigned for the position and in 1962 was elected to the position. Lynch's conservative Republican views were very much in keeping with those of her Eastern Washington constituents. She was a champion of farmer's rights and fought against increases in property taxes. She had a sincere faith in the ability of the individual to exercise good judgement in the conduct of their own affairs. Unlike many she stuck to her ideals even with politically sensitive issues. In 1970 she wrote to her constituents on the abortion issue: "It has been my conviction that the law should not be involved in what should be the individual's moral and religious responsibility. Too often we avoid individual responsibility by asking the law to ease our conscience."

Representative Lynch was vitally interested in education. As chairwoman of

the Higher Education Committee for five years, she was instrumental in the development of Washington's new four-year college, The Evergreen State College. Representative Lynch was particularly interested in getting women more involved in business and their communities. She once said, "No longer can women be content to stay isolated in their homes and serve their families. They have a responsibility as citizens to their country and themselves. There can be no more saying 'I'm just a housewife.'"

Politics was not her only area of interest. Lynch highly valued community volunteerism. While rearing three daughters, Lynch donated every spare moment she had to her community. In 1971 she resigned from the Legislature in order to accept an appointment as Northwest regional administrator of the new federal volunteer program, ACTION. In ACTION she directed the regional Peace Corps, VISTA and SCORE programs. In 1975 she was appointed by President Ford to the position of Under

Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). There, she was responsible for the day-to-day operation of what was then the largest federal agency. Suddenly stricken by cancer, Lynch's career came to an abrupt end. The only naturalized citizen among Washington's women legislators, contemporaries remember her as a woman of grace, charm, and wit who will always be a favorite "Washingtonian."

Kathryn Malstrom



Kathryn Malstrom (Democrat) represented a district of Pierce County in the State Senate for two terms, from 1932 to 1940.

Born 1888, in Minnesota, Malstrom made her home in Tacoma where she raised three sons. President of the Washington Congress of the P.T.A. prior to her election, it was Malstrom's ambition to remedy illiteracy, to provide child welfare and to improve school funding through legislative action.

In the Legislature, she was a member of the Appropriations, and the Education and Educational Institutions committees.

Peggy Joan Maxie



Peggy Joan Maxie (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1970 she served six terms.

Born 1946, in Amarillo, Texas. Maxie graduated from Seattle University (B.A. Psychology), and the University of Washington (M.A. Social Work).

Representative Maxie was the first black woman elected to the Washington State Legislature. Her interests were public welfare, child care, consumer protection, and tax reform.

Mary Ellen McCaffree



Mary Ellen McCaffree (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for four terms, from 1962 to 1970.

Born 1918, in El Dorado, Kansas, to a farming family. Her father was a member of the school board, and her mother was a Farm Bureau volunteer. McCaffree graduated from Kansas State University as a dietician. She married and raised five children. Having children in school sparked her interest in the school system and its financial problems. As a member of the League of Women Voters, she lobbied the Legislature for better funding for education.

McCaffree became involved in many political concerns. She was vice-president for legislation in the King County PTA, president of the King County League of Women Voters, a member of the Municipal League, member of the Tax Advisory Council and chairwoman of the Council's Property Tax Committee.

Geraldine McCormick



An expert in taxation, Representative McCaffree was the chairwoman of both the Tax and Revenue Committee and the Revenue and Regulatory Agencies Committee. Recognizing her expertise, Governor Evans appointed McCaffree director of the Department of Revenue after her resignation from the legislature. McCaffree is presently the aide to U.S. Senator Slade Gorton.

Geraldine McCormick (Democrat) represented a district of Spokane in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1968, she served seven terms.

Born in Spokane, McCormick has raised two daughters there. She attended Whitworth College.

Representative McCormick is a past director of Spokane's Expo '74, and has been a highly active community volunteer. Representative McCormick served as a member of the Democratic Caucus leadership.

Ida McQuesten



Ida McQuesten (Republican) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives for two terms, from 1928 to 1932.

A Washington native, McQuesten lived in Tacoma, and was employed as a manufacturing investment advisor.

During her terms in office she served on several important committees including Appropriations, Federal Regulations and Immigration, and Educational Institutions.

Florence M. Meyers



Florence Meyers (Democrat) represented a district of Whitman County in the House of Representatives for two terms, from 1934 to 1938.

Born in 1891, and a resident of Colfax, Meyers was a community volunteer and a homemaker. In the Legislature she rose through the ranks, from "women's committees" such as Public Morals to the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. Harry John Miller



Mrs. Miller (Republican) represented a district of Snohomish County in the House of Representatives during the 1923 and 1925 sessions.

Born in Wisconsin, Miller was an Everett homemaker before her election. Though she was twice elected, Representative Miller was limited in her committee assignments to the "women's committees" (Public Morals and the chairmanship of Playgrounds and Parks.)

Carol Monohon



Carol Monohon (Democrat) represents a district comprising Pacific and part of Grays Harbor and Wahkiakum Counties. First elected in 1976, she was appointed to the Senate in 1977 and returned to the House in 1978. She is serving her fourth term.

Born 1945, Monohon is a native of Raymond. She is a graduate of Grays Harbor College and U.P.S. (B.A. in Political Science), and has attended U.P.S. Law School. She is an active member of the League of Women Voters, the Women's Political Caucus and the Women's Law Caucus. She and her husband, Robert, have two grown children.

Frances Haddon Morgan



Frances Haddon Morgan (Democrat) represented a district of Kitsap County in the House of Representatives during the 1959 session, and in the Senate, from 1960 to 1968. Her mother, Lu Lu Haddon, also served in both the House and Senate, between the years 1932 and 1942.

Born in Bremerton, Morgan is a lifelong resident of that city. She received a business school education and owned and operated a welcoming service.

Senator Morgan may be best known for her devotion to the advancement of mentally handicapped individuals, and the center that is named after her.

Lois North



Lois North (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for three terms. Elected to the Senate in 1974, she served two terms there. North is a member of the King County Council and has served as chairwoman of the Council.

Born in Berkeley, California, North was educated at the University of California at Berkeley. She continued, with graduate work in Secondary Teaching at the University of California and Columbia University.

North is a long-time member of the League of Women Voters, and from 1963 to 1966 served as the president of the Seattle chapter. Her primary interest has been in local government. In 1967 she was elected Freeholder, to draft the King County Charter.

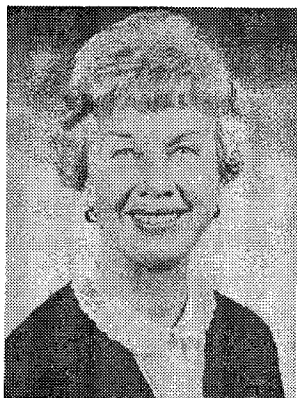
North often lobbied in Olympia for League issues and particularly for the independent redistricting commission. She knew she wanted to serve in elected office, to make a positive change, but held back for several years because of family responsibilities.

When her three children were ready she campaigned for the Legislature.

During the campaign North met a surprising number of people that opposed her because she was a woman. As she pressed forward with her ideas and qualifications sentiment sometimes shifted. "There's something about a competent woman I can trust," some would say. "They are not going to be down there trying to line their pockets."

Senator North experienced a tremendous change in the attitude toward women legislators while she was serving. "Nobody questions women's right to be in the Legislature anymore or that they have a contribution to make. However, there is one exception. There is still a double standard, and more is expected of women than of men. Men will put up with an incompetent male colleague, but they simply won't tolerate it with a woman. She has to be better than just average. I think most of the women in the Legislature will tell you the same thing."

Frances C. North



Frances North (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1972, she served five terms.

Born 1919, North is a native of the Renton area. She attended Seattle University. Highly active as a community volunteer, North was recommended for a position on the town council on the strength of her community involvement. She agreed to seek the position and was elected. As the first woman to serve on the North Bend Town Council, North built a reputation for being a hard worker. Her major efforts as councilwoman were for better and more frequent street maintenance, the preservation of neighborhood quality, and the creation of new parks. After two terms North decided to seek a Legislative position that would allow her to be more effective.

Representative North strongly advocated the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the strengthening of anti-discrimination laws and the enactment of comparable worth legislation.

Ann Theresa O'Donnell



Ann O'Donnell (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for four terms. Appointed in 1959 (at the age of twenty-four, the youngest woman to have served in the Legislature), O'Donnell died of cancer in 1965.

Born 1935, in Helena, Montana. O'Donnell graduated from Seattle University with a B.A. in Political Science and attended the University of Washington Law School. She was devoted to promoting better racial relations, and was a member of the Catholic Interracial Council, the Urban League, and the NAACP.

O'Donnell's interest in running for the Legislature developed while she worked as legislative secretary to the Speaker of the House. Very active in the Democratic Party, she earned a position on the King County Democratic Central Committee, and soon afterward was chosen for a House appointment. Representative O'Donnell's skill as a legislator was demonstrated by her popularity on both sides of the aisle. She

served as chairwoman of the Labor and Industry, Insurance, and Banks & Financial Institutions committees.

Leona Savage Osterman



Leona S. Osterman (Democrat) represented a district comprising portions of Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Thurston counties in the House of Representatives. She was appointed, in 1976, to fill the unexpired term of her deceased father, Representative Charles Savage.

Born 1937, in Shelton, Osterman has been a student of social science, a member of her local school board, precinct committee-woman, and devoted to Democrat party administration. She is employed as a title examiner.

Though unseated in the primary, Osterman saw a special purpose in her service: "My father was first elected when I was two. Later, I attended committee meetings and assisted him with legislative work. When he died, it was natural for me to be appointed to the remainder of his term so that his philosophies could be carried forward."

Adela Parker



Adela Parker (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives from 1934 to 1936.

Originally from Michigan, Parker made her home in Seattle where she was a practicing attorney and journalist.

Representative Parker was the chairwoman of the Memorials Committee and served on the State Library, Constitutional Revision, Revenue and Taxation, and Educational Judiciary committees.

Cathy Pearsall



Cathy Pearsall (Democrat) represented a district of southeast Pierce County in the House of Representatives from 1976 to 1978.

Born 1932, in Tacoma. Pearsall attended the University of Washington's School of Education and school of Business Administration. She is a businesswoman and the mother of two children.

Blanche Pennick



Blanche Pennick (Democrat) represented a district of Pacific and Grays Harbor counties. Elected in 1944, she served one term.

Born 1905, in Washington, Pennick made her home in Montesano. She received her teaching degree from the University of Washington. Pennick taught elementary, junior high and high school classes. Administrative positions she held include high school principal, district superintendent and county superintendent of schools. She was also the educational advisor to Compton's Encyclopedia, and the director of the Taholah Community Action Program.

Concerned about school funding Pennick (then the County Superintendent of Schools) decided to run for the Legislature. With no financial support from her party, she ran virtually a one-woman campaign and received her community's support.

Representative Pennick was the chairwoman of the County and County Boundaries Committee, and a member of the

Education, Revenue and Taxation, and State Library committees. In 1946 she decided to return to school administration. Looking back on her term in office she says, "I was proud people would give me their confidence. If people put their faith in you, you must live up to it."

Gladys Phillips



Gladys Phillips (Republican) represented a district of Grays Harbor County in the House of Representatives from 1950 to 1952.

Born 1912, in Aberdeen. Her father was mayor of Aberdeen and a Native American. Phillips attended the University of Washington and her earned B.A. and LL.B. degrees there. She lives in Aberdeen and is an attorney there.

Belle Culp Reeves



Belle Reeves (Democrat) represented a district of Chelan County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1922, she served seven terms before her appointment as Secretary of State in February, 1938. She was Washington's first—and only—woman Secretary of State.

Born on a farm near Quincy, Ohio, Reeves attended college in Lyons, Kansas and taught school in the area. Reeves and her husband, Frank, moved to Washington in 1889, the year of statehood. They published a newspaper in Ellensburg for a time, settled in Wenatchee, and launched that city's first newspaper, the *Wenatchee Advance* (later to become the *Wenatchee World*). After retiring from the newspaper business she devoted herself to Wenatchee civic affairs and the support of many educational and cultural organizations. Her husband was a successful attorney and judge and served a term in the House of Representatives. Reeves was keenly interested in government and followed the issues closely. In 1922, a group

of women convinced her to run for the House just a few days before the primary. A write-in candidate, Reeves won the position by 100 votes. Her husband let it be known that he was not pleased, but supported her loyally. Two years later she won re-election handsomely.

Representative Reeves was one of only four Democrats in the House during her first term. For several terms she was the only woman serving in the Legislature. She studied the system carefully and allied herself with members possessing political leverage. A "low-key" member, Representative Reeves concentrated on effectively supporting social legislation.

Widely respected for her integrity and hard-working nature, Reeves was appointed to the position of Secretary of State in 1938. Conscious of the precedent setting nature of her appointment, Reeves accepted by saying, "This is an honor not only to me, but to all the women of the state." A popular and widely recognized political figure, she used

her prominence to publicly advocate the need for more women in public office. Privately she sought out and encouraged qualified women to seek office, and was in part responsible for the Legislative careers of many notable women. As Secretary of State, Reeves was occasionally called upon to serve as acting governor and was the first woman to serve in that position. During World War II, she fought for the passage of improved workmen's compensation laws, especially for fair compensation of working mothers. She and her husband raised one daughter.

Ruthe Ridder



Ruthe Ridder (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the State Senate. First elected in 1973, to serve the unexpired term of her retired husband, Robert Ridder, she served three terms.

Born in Pullman, Washington, Ridder's family moved to Seattle during the Depression. She attended Seattle schools, and graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Psychology.

Ridder and her husband raised their five children in the Rainier Valley, and became involved in local politics there. In 1964 they worked together on a congressional race, focusing on Education issues. Robert Ridder offered himself as a candidate for state senator in 1966 and won. Ruthe Ridder was well acquainted with the Legislature by the time her husband resigned, and knew she could make a valuable contribution there.

Senator Ridder saw herself as a voice in government for the high percentage of female heads-of-household, non-English speaking Asians, and unemployed unskilled

people in her district. Senator Ridder advises potential politicians to get private sector experience, "Since many who have served in Olympia have not understood the problems faced by industry and small business."

Emma Abbott Ridgway



Emma Abbott Ridgway (Democrat) represented a district of Skagit and San Juan Counties in the House of Representatives for five terms between 1944 and 1956.

Born in Seattle, Ridgway attended Washington State University (B.A.), and Columbia University where she received her M.A. She was the owner/manager of a theater in Sedro Woolley, and the mother of one son. Ridgway was a strong advocate of increased support for public schools. She was a long-time member of the Democratic Party, and served as vice-president of the state Democratic Central Committee before her election.

In her very first session Representative Ridgway was appointed to the chairmanship of the Colleges and Universities Committee, and later chaired the Educational Institutions Committee.

Wilma Rosbach

Wilma Rosbach (Republican) represented a district comprising Lewis, Wahkiakum, and parts of Cowlitz, Pacific and Thurston counties. First elected in 1978, she served two terms.

A 52-year resident of Lewis County, Rosbach has owned and operated a children's apparel shop in Chehalis for 26 years. She is a member and officer of many civic, business and church organizations, and is also a director of Lewis Federal Savings and Loan. Rosbach's election to the House followed ten years of service as precinct committeewoman and six years as a state committeewoman.

Representative Rosbach served as chairwoman of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee during her second term. Her efforts were directed toward "...less government and fewer agencies, commissions and bureaus—and more efficient government." She and her husband, Chuck, have four grown children.

Nita Rinehart

Nita Rinehart (Democrat) represents a district of King County in the State Senate. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1980, she moved to the Senate in 1982.

Born 1940, in Texarkana, Texas, Rinehart graduated from Southern Methodist University with a B.A. in English Literature and Music. She first became involved with Democratic politics while fighting for progressive civil rights and an open door policy to minority students at her college.

"I became interested in politics at the state level because that was where the things that I was most interested in happened," said Rinehart. A precinct committeewoman and member of the League of Women Voters, Rinehart also lobbied during the 1979 session for the League's good-government issues. That fall, she campaigned for an appointment to a vacant legislative seat and won. In 1980 she was elected.

Senator Rinehart is concerned with informing her constituents and representing

their viewpoints. A member of the Women's Political Caucus, she feels women have fresh ideas and fresh approaches to lawmaking. Representative Rinehart and her husband have two children.

Nancy Rust



Nancy Rust (Democrat) represents a district of northwest Seattle and King County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1980, she is currently serving her second term.

Born 1928, in Iowa City, Iowa, Rust earned her B.A. and M.S. degrees in mathematics at the University of Iowa.

Rust's membership in the King County League of Women Voters drew her into public affairs and involvement in state government. She says, "I got involved in lobbying for environmental issues (shorelines management, land use planning), the redistricting commission and tax reform. It opened a whole new world to me." Encouraged by women legislators to consider herself as a candidate, Rust worked on several Democratic campaigns and established a political base that she used to launch her own campaign.

Representative Rust recalls, "The thrust of my campaign was the 'Four E's': Environment, Ethics, Education, and Energy."

She survived a hotly contested primary and won the general election in a year that saw many Democratic losses. Representative Rust believes more women need to be elected, especially to Congress. She and her husband, Dick, have six grown children.

Karen Schmidt



Karen Schmidt (Republican) represents a district of Kitsap County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1980, she is presently serving her second term.

Born 1945, in Los Angeles, Schmidt attended the University of Arizona and worked as an airline stewardess before her marriage. A Bainbridge Island resident, Schmidt owns and operates a travel agency—Go Travel. Through her business, Schmidt became aware of many civic issues that she felt were not being addressed. As a member and past president of the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce she attempted to focus businesspeople's attention on the importance of the Legislature. Her efforts to promote their political awareness were unexpectedly returned when they asked her to run for the Legislature.

In 1978 Schmidt narrowly missed unseating the incumbent. Convinced the district was not being well represented she built upon her previous experience and led a successful campaign in 1980. She and her

Marion Kyle Sherman



Marion Kyle Sherman (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for three terms, beginning in 1974.

Born 1925, and a native of Washington, Sherman was raised in Enumclaw and now lives in Maple Valley. She attended Reed College and graduated from the University of Washington, where she majored in English. During World War II she worked as a riveter for Boeing. Interested in politics from the age of eight, when her father was elected to the State Senate, she joined the League of Women voters and found herself drawn to state government and public affairs.

In 1972 she campaigned for a House seat. Though she lost, that experience and the subsequent experiences of lobbying in Olympia for consumer groups, and serving as State Committeewoman from King County were key elements in her successful 1974 campaign. She and her husband, Len, have two children.

husband, Gary, have two grown children.

Mrs. Jurie B. Smith



Mrs. Smith (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1942, she served two terms.

Born 1887, in Iowa, Smith was the mother of six children. She was appointed to replace her husband, Jurie B. Smith, a five-term member of the House of Representatives, when he died shortly after his November, 1942 re-election. Two years later she ran on her own record and was re-elected. In her campaign Representative Smith stated that her main legislative interest was in promoting Social Security measures. She was portrayed by the press as the leader of the "left-wing block" in the House.

Helen Sommers



Helen Sommers (Democrat) represents a district of Seattle in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1972, she is serving her sixth term.

Sommers was born and raised in Woodbury Heights, New Jersey. She has worked for Mobil Oil Company in New Jersey and in Venezuela, where she was introduced to University of Washington correspondence courses by an Indonesian co-worker. In 1965 Sommers came to Seattle to study at the U.W. and returned in 1968 to settle. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in Economics at the U.W., and has taught at Edmonds Community College. Sommers is strong advocate of tax reform, and was an appointee to Governor Evans' Committee for a New Tax Policy.

In 1972, responding to the enthusiastic encouragement of friends, she decided to run for the Legislature. "No one told me how much work it was," she recalls. "I got no money from the party. I won with doorbelling, and persistence—a precinct per day, seven days a week."

Reflecting upon her work in the Legislature Representative Sommers said, "I look at the problems and issues around me, choose those on which I can have an impact and concentrate my efforts. I think women should carry feminism into areas other than those labeled as women's issues. I chose fiscal areas where there were not many women." Representative Sommers is employed by the King County Council, and is a member of the Seattle Economists Club, the League of Women Voters, and is a past co-chair of Elected Washington Women.

Lois Stratton



Lois Stratton (Democrat) represents a district of Spokane County in the House of Representatives. Appointed in 1979, she is currently serving her second term.

Born 1927, in Springdale, Washington, Stratton was one of twelve children in a farming family. She served as a Democratic precinct committee chairwoman and community volunteer for twenty-five years before she decided to campaign for the seat Margaret Hurley left in the House. Stratton ran a neighborhood-based campaign that stressed doorbelling and individual contact.

In the Legislature, Representative Stratton's number-one priority is "to reinforce support of the family unit." To other women considering public office she says, "You must believe in what you are doing. It is not easy. You need to be able to feel a sense of achievement in small steps." She and her husband, Al, have five grown children.

Frances G. Swayze



Frances Swayze (Republican) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1952, she served for seven terms. Following her September, 1965 resignation, her son, Thomas Swayze Jr., was appointed to replace her. He later became Speaker of the House.

Born 1901, in Iowa, she and her family settled in Tacoma in 1907. Swayze attended Whitman and Grant schools, and graduated from the University of Puget Sound (B.A.).

Swayze and her husband moved to Olympia for four years after he accepted the position of State Director of Licensing. She soon became a fixture in the Legislature's visitor's galleries. "I just lived at the Legislature while we were there," Swayze recalled. With all five of her children grown, she kept herself active with Tacoma women's organizations, clubs and precinct-level political work. When her district's resigning Representative suggested she run for his position, Swayze eagerly accepted the proposal. "I ran and was elected in the fall of

1952, and didn't lose an election after that."

Though Representative Swayze seldom made speeches, she was a powerful force in committee and was often called upon by the Republican Caucus to explain the effects of pending legislation.

Maude Sweetman



Maude Sweetman (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for four terms, from 1922 to 1930.

Born 1878, in Michigan, Sweetman lived in downtown Seattle.

In her campaign for the Legislature, Sweetman pledged to free her sex from the chains of man-made laws. It was her intention to revise community property law so that women would be relieved of responsibility for debts incurred solely by their husbands. She also took exception to property taxes which she felt were an unreliable source of revenue for public schools. In their place she proposed a state income tax.

In 1929, Representative Sweetman and other progressive legislators moved to eliminate constitutional barriers to the income tax. She was the prime sponsor of a proposition enacting corporate and individual income taxes, which passed both houses, and elicited an immediate veto from the governor.

Jeanette Testu



Unable to override the veto, Representative Sweetman and her colleagues countered with an initiative which won overwhelming support from Washington voters, but was struck down as unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court.

Jeanette Testu (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for seven terms, between 1942 and 1962.

Born in Pierre, South Dakota, Testu was a Normal School graduate and raised her three children while working as a school teacher. Active in Democratic politics from an early age, Testu served a term as Washington State's National Democratic Committeewoman. Later employed as a King County Deputy Sheriff, her special interest in solving the problems of juvenile delinquency contributed to her decision to run for the Legislature.

Representative Testu contributed her experience and expertise to committees such as Educational Institutions and Unemployment Relief & Public Welfare, and in 1949 was the chairwoman of the powerful Transportation Committee. In 1961, as a token of their respect for her, Representative Testu was elected by the members of the House to the largely honorary position of

Speaker Pro Tempore.

In addition to her special concerns for education and youth, Representative Testu was especially involved with legislation that prohibited sexual discrimination in wages. Addressing the House on that issue she said, "It has taken a World War to make men realize that women are as capable, as useful, and as necessary to the state as men are."

Delores Teutsch



Delores Teutsch (Republican) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1978, she served two terms.

Born 1935, in Seattle, she now lives in Kirkland. Teutsch attended the University of Washington, where she studied Journalism and Political Science. "I became very interested in the women's movement—equal rights, equal opportunity," she said. "What I wanted to do more than anything else was not allow racist or sexist prejudice to exist in any area in which I had influence."

Teutsch first became involved with campaign politics during Dan Evans' gubernatorial campaign. A Republican precinct committee-woman, Teutsch was Evans' co-coordinator in the Kirkland area. After the campaign's success she continued her active support for Republican candidates. When her district's House seat opened, party and community members called upon her to run for the position.

Teutsch was concerned with women's

representation in state office, and knew she could be a good legislator. After receiving the unanimous support of her family she decided to run. "I feel that this is a very crucial time for women to run and be elected," she said. "If we don't, it could be very difficult for women to run in the years to come."

Representative Teutsch's legislative priorities included the Displaced Homemaker Program, the victims of sexual assault program and the establishment of domestic violence shelters. Women in government, she says, "...bring a commonsense approach to legislation. They tend to look to the future."



Photographs such as this were important to many women's campaigns. The message to uncertain voters was: a housewife knows how to live within a budget and will find the "best buy" for the taxpayers. (Representative Mary Ellen McCaffree).

Pearl Thrasher



Pearl Thrasher (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1944, she served one term.

Born in 1918, Thrasher was a native of Washington. She worked as an aircraft electrician during World War Two, and lived in Seattle.

Vivien M. Twidwell



Vivien Twidwell (Democrat) represented a district of Grays Harbor County in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1956, she served two terms.

Born in Aberdeen, Twidwell was the mother of two children. She received a business school education and was the manager of a grocery. Her husband, George Twidwell, was a five-term legislator from 1934 to 1944.

Georgette Valle



Georgette Valle (Democrat) represented a district of King County in the House of Representatives for five terms.

Born on a farm in Blue Earth, Minnesota, Valle graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in Occupational Therapy. She recalls the influence her father's political concern had on her: "He was an active Democrat who advocated the abolition of draft during peacetime. We were always aware of political issues."

An active Democratic Party member, she worked on local campaigns and served as Legislative Chairwoman for the Highline chapter of the National Organization of Women. As Legislative Chairwoman of the Democratic Party's 1969 Task Force she acted as a catalyst for bringing environmentalists in touch with the Democratic Caucus.

In the Legislature Representative Valle championed environmental issues and focused on the quality of education and the implementation of tax reform. Her reaction to being a woman politician: "I have always

Pearl A. Wanamaker



felt that as a woman, I have had to be twice as good and work twice as hard."

Pearl Wanamaker (Democrat) represented a district of Island and Snohomish Counties in the House of Representatives for three terms, beginning in 1928. In 1937 Representative Wanamaker was appointed to the Senate. She was elected to that position in 1938, and resigned in 1940 to serve as Superintendent of Public Education.

Born 1899, in Washington, Wanamaker was raised in a family that encouraged their children's political interests. Wanamaker originally wanted to be an electrical engineer, but her parents disapproved. Instead, she studied French and Spanish at the University of Washington where she received her B.A. Wanamaker worked as a teacher and soon rose to the position of principal of a Whidbey Island school.

Her Whidbey Island neighbors urged Wanamaker to run for the Legislature because they felt she could effectively fight for a bridge connecting the island to the mainland. She agreed to try and was elected

in 1928. Though it took several years the Deception Pass bridge was authorized in 1933. However, her primary concern in the Legislature was always for the schools. The majority of improvements made in educational programs between 1922 and 1941 are directly attributable to her dynamic leadership. With an indomitable spirit she politicked in Olympia like they had never seen before. Penny-pinching legislators reluctant to go along with her school budgets would groan, "She drives right into your hometown and tells your constituents you're voting against their kids."

Among Senator Wanamaker's many legislative accomplishments are the addition of 875 buildings to the school system, an increase in teachers' minimum salaries, and the passage of the Showalter bill, which provided basic state support for students.

Ina Phillips Williams



Ina Phillips Williams (Republican) represented a district of Yakima County in the House of Representatives from 1916 to 1918.

Born 1876, in Missouri, Williams settled in North Yakima. During her term in the Legislature Representative Williams was burdened by an enormous work load. The freshman legislator served on nine committees and was the chairwoman of Public Morals.

Shirley Winsley



Shirley Winsley (Republican) represented a district of Pierce County in the House of Representatives. First elected in 1976 she served two terms before resigning to take a position on the Pierce County Council.

Born 1934, in Foston, Minnesota, her widowed mother brought her family to Seattle during World War II. Winsley attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Tacoma Community College and Pacific Lutheran University. Winsley has been employed as a Certified Assessor.

Politically active all her life, Representative Winsley describes herself as a political independent who ran for office for the challenge. Though she was chairwoman of the 20th District Democratic Party in 1974, she switched parties and ran a successful Republican campaign in 1976.

Winsley is a member of the League of Women Voters, Lakewood Women in Business and the Board of Governors of the Fort Steilacoom Community College

Foundation. She and her husband, Gordon, have two grown children.

Ella Wintler

Ella Wintler (Republican) represented a district of Clark County in the House of Representatives for ten terms between 1938 and 1964.

Born 1885, in Vancouver, Washington, Wintler was a life-long resident of the area. She graduated from the University of Washington (A.M. and A.B. degrees) and taught English, German and social studies at Vancouver High School for 34 years. Wintler was first drawn into public affairs as a member of the Vancouver city planning commission. In 1938 she campaigned for state representative and began a twenty year career of legislative service to the state.

Representative Wintler was always careful to put the needs of Clark County residents first. She voted to support the Public Utility District, and fought legislation that would have weakened PUDs. She asked to be on the State Institutions Committee each session in order to support the blind and deaf schools in Vancouver, where, due to her efforts, vocational and recreational programs

were enacted.

Improvement in the treatment of patients at state mental hospitals was a high priority for Representative Wintler. She repeatedly sponsored legislation for research into the prevention and treatment of mental retardation. Her efforts also helped reform laws governing penal institutions, and helped to create a diagnostic clinic for juvenile delinquents and a new institution for the rehabilitation of in-between age convicts.

A highly respected legislator, Representative Wintler served as Speaker Pro Tempore during the 1963 session, and in nearly every session requested and received positions on the Appropriations and Education committees.

Lorraine Wojahn

Lorraine Wojahn (Democrat) represents a district of Pierce County in the Senate. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1968, she served four terms there before her 1976 election to the Senate.

Born 1920, in Tacoma, Wojahn was educated in Tacoma schools and at the University of Washington. She has worked actively in Tacoma school board elections, and has been a member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, the Washington State Judicial Council, and the Washington State Women's Council.

Senator Wojahn has been active in sponsoring consumer protection legislation, supporting more equitable tax burdens, and better school and pension financing. She and her husband, Gilbert, have one child.

Dianne Woody



Dianne Woody (Democrat) represents a district comprising portions of Snohomish and King Counties in the Senate. Originally appointed to the position in September 1977, she is serving her second term.

A native of Washington, Woody attended schools in both Eastern and Western Washington. She graduated from Western Washington State College with majors in Psychology and History, and has done post-graduate work at the University of Washington.

Senator Woody has been a social worker and small business proprietor and currently lives in Woodinville with her son and daughter.



Women Legislators witnessing Governor Rosellini's signing of the "safe and sane" fireworks legislation are: (from left to right) Representatives Lois North, Ella Wintler, Gladys Kirk, Marion Gleason, Frances Swayze, Mildred Henry and Ann O'Donnell.

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Witnessing Governor Clarence Martin's signing of an important child labor law are: (from left to right) Representative Belle Reeves, Senator Pearl Wanamaker, Representative Kathryn Malstrom, Representative Kathryn Fogg, Senator Lulu Haddon, Representative Violet Boede and Representative Agnes Kehoe.



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