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Sandra Day O'Connor

Judge not packing yet

By VIRGINIA TURNER

Herald-Post Columnist
"Very flattering, but I'm not packing my bags," said Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, Arizona Court of Appeals, about being considered for the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy.

"I don't have the appointment and I still have a long way to go."

SHE TALKED TO the Herald-Post about her El Paso background today by phone from Phoenix, just before

she and her husband left for the northern Arizona mountains on a vacation.

"My parents are Harry and Ada Mae Day," she said. "They live on the Lazy B Ranch in the New Mexico and Arizona area, where they've always lived. My folks have lived on the Lazy B since 1880."

"When I went to El Paso to school, I lived with my grandmother, Mrs. W. W. Wilkey. I went to Radford School for Girls for many, many years and

then to Austin High School for the last two years."

SHE WAS GRADUATED from Austin in 1946 and recalls her school days as very happy. She remembers some old schoolmates: "Cita Fletcher was one of my close friends," she said. "I remember Sam Young Jr. ... Hondy Hill ... Paquita Schwartz."

"My aunt Evelyn Wooten, lived in El Paso, but she's now in Houston. My uncle Scott Wilkey still lives in El Paso."

"My cousin, Flornoy Davis, married Sal Manzo, and they lived in El Paso after his retirement from the military. They now live in Houston. Another El Paso cousin is Mrs. John (Amanda) Kipp." She visits El Paso on occasion, she said.

MEANWHILE HER former classmates and friends were excited over the prospect of her appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Washington Post, quoting well-

placed administration officials, reported this week that Judge O'Connor has been interviewed for the high court opening and is being eyed as the front-runner to fill the vacancy.

She is remembered in El Paso as "smart, attractive and popular."

"I sure hope she gets the appointment," said Malcolm McGregor, an attorney and former state representative who was in Judge O'Connor's class.

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Austin graduating class. "She got into politics in Arizona about the same time I got into politics here, and she went on to be state senator. She's a very bright and attractive person and I think the prospect of her appointment is exciting."

NANCY MILLER Hamilton, who was in the same Austin graduating class, remembers her. "She was very smart and attractive," Mrs. Hamilton said.

"She was an honor student. She wore her hair short and she moved away after graduation. I certainly hope she's appointed!" Mrs. Hamilton is a member of the UT El Paso News and Information Department.

Judge O'Connor, as Sandra Day, was very involved with school activities. The Austin High School yearbook lists her as secretary of the National Honor Society, secretary of the Masque and Gavel Club, and secretary of Kalevala, a writer's club. She also belonged to the Round-Up Club, Pan-American Club and the Planners Club.

BILL BERRYHILL, Advertising Department Director, Newspaper Printing Corp., another of her class-

mates, said. "She was a very likeable girl. She got along with everyone and was very popular. She didn't date much and lived in the Federal Street area."

"We called her *Sandy*," said attorney Sam Blackham, another classmate.

"She wasn't the cheerleader type. She was pleasant, made good grades, was tall with black hair as I recall. I had an English class with her. Yes, I remember Sandra Day as a hard worker."

MRS. BETTY Jagoe Barefoot, who also graduated from Austin in 1946: "Sandra Day was smart, nice looking, pleasant and quiet." Mrs. Barefoot remembered Judge O'Connor's cousin, Flornoy Davis, and her aunt who lived on Federal Street.

"We were friends," said Mickie Patton Urquhart. "She was very pleasant, smart and a really lovely person."

Keith Appleby, who was assistant principal at Austin from 1947-51, said he'd never met Sandra Day, but he recalls the late W.W. Wimberly, Austin principal, reminiscing about some of the students.

HE SPOKE OF HER as an outstanding person and student," Appleby said.

THE EL PASO TIMES, Friday, July 3, 1981 ★★ Page 9-A

Former El Pasoan 'close' to justiceship

Times combined sources
WASHINGTON — Judge Sandra O'Connor of the Arizona Court of Appeals, a former El Pasoan, has emerged as a leading candidate to succeed Justice Potter Stewart on the U.S. Supreme Court, the Washington Post reported Thursday.

"She hasn't been chosen yet, but she's close," the newspaper quoted one unnamed Reagan administration source as saying.

The Post said Mrs. O'Connor, 51, was interviewed for the vacancy by an administration official and was believed to be the only potential nominee to be interviewed.

Mrs. O'Connor attended Radford School for Girls in El Paso. She graduated from Austin High School before attending Stanford University, where she graduated third in her class.

In another development, the New York Daily News quoted Reagan administration sources as saying that U.S. District Judge Lawrence Pierce, a 56-year-old black from New York City, also is being considered for the high-court seat.

Administration officials said Mrs. O'Connor is on a "short list" of leading candidates — most of them women — for Stewart's seat, which becomes vacant when he retires Friday, The Post reported.

During his campaign last year, President Reagan said he wanted to name a woman to one of the first vacancies on the nine-member court. But the White House has kept open the



SANDRA O'CONNOR
... Arizona appeals court judge

possibility a man could be named to succeed Stewart.

Until now, one of the women mentioned most often as Stewart's likely successor has been Cornelia Kennedy of Detroit, a member of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

New York Times 7-3-81
Arizona Judge Reported on List for Supreme Court

By EDWARD C. BURKS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 1 — Sandra D. O'Connor, a 51-year-old judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals, is a top contender to fill the Supreme Court vacancy, Reagan Administration sources said last night.

They confirmed that Judge O'Connor was on the so-called "short list" of possible nominees by President Reagan to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Justice Potter Stewart and said that she was one of a very few persons who were interviewed by Administration officials in the past few days.

An administration official said today that the "short list" contained fewer than five names, winnowed by the Attorney General from an original "long list" of about 25 names. The official declined to say how many names on the "short list" were women.

Judge O'Connor has been an active member of the Republican Party, and is described by party members as politically conservative. She was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals, the state's second highest court, 18 months ago by Gov. Bruce Babbitt, a Democrat.

She earlier served two full terms in the Arizona State Senate and was elected majority leader before being elected a Superior Court judge in Phoenix in 1975. In 1972 she was co-chairman of the Arizona state committee in behalf of President Nixon's re-election.

A well-placed Administration source indicated last night that Judge O'Connor had emerged as one of the top candidates for the post.

There was no indication how many more potential nominees would be interviewed nor when the President would announce his choice. Justice Stewart spent his last day on the court today.

As a Superior Court judge, Judge O'Connor has scored high ratings on the Arizona State Bar Association's judicial evaluation polls, a polling of Arizona lawyers.

She has a reputation among lawyers as a hard-working technical judge.

"She is a very skilled technician," said Governor Babbitt. "Her opinions are really very skillfully crafted. She's conservative, but in the judicial tradition. She's not an ideologue, and she has a judicial temperament that I found reassuring."

One prominent Phoenix lawyer who asked not to be identified said Judge O'Connor's work has drawn the attention of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

"Her strengths are that she is a crisp, businesslike judge," the lawyer said. "Her weakness is that she has not a scintilla of experience with the Federal system."

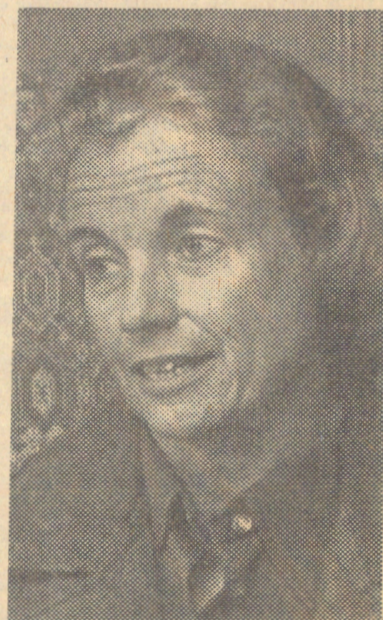
The two Phoenix newspapers, The Ar-

izona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette, have recently printed articles about the backing given to Judge O'Connor for the post by Senator Dennis DeConcini, an Arizona Democrat, who called the judge "a conservative with sound credentials." And The Republic published an editorial endorsing Judge O'Connor for the vacancy.

Judge O'Connor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Day of the Lazy B Ranch at Duncan, Ariz., is an honors graduate of Stanford University. She received her bachelor's degree there in 1950 with "great distinction," majoring in economics. Two years later she was awarded her law degree there, also with high academic honors.

From 1959 to 1965 she was engaged in private practice. She was an Assistant Attorney General in Arizona from 1965 to 1969.

She and her husband, John, a lawyer in Phoenix, have three children.



Judge Sandra D. O'Connor