

O'Connor Says Arizona Brought Honor to Supreme Court Justice

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Gov. Bruce Babbitt, Arizona Chief Justice Fred C. Struckmeyer Jr. and legislative leaders joined her on the podium under cloudy skies as about 200-300 persons gathered in the Capitol Mall to offer their tribute.

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she said.

Wearing a white coat against the morning chill, Mrs. O'Connor said she was proud to be all-Arizona, recalling her career as an assistant attorney general, a state senator and a judge before her nomination to the Supreme Court.

"It was this state and this city that gave me a job when there weren't too many jobs for women," she said. "It was not just an opportunity to work but to lead."

She said she was hired by a male attorney general as an assistant and her first assignment was as counsel to the cosmetology board.

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When a vacancy occurred in the Arizona Senate, Mrs. O'Connor said, "It was an all-male

board of supervisors that appointed me."

"If you think you know your family well, you should try the Legislature when you're working on some difficult problem."

When she served as Senate majority leader, she recalled that the minority Democratic leader was the late Harold Giss.

"He was a kind man, and I'd like to think that he was with us here today in spirit," she said.

She gave thanks to the Arizona legislators and others who appeared on her behalf at the grueling Senate confirmation hearings.

"It meant so much to me and it helped because they made such a great impression," said Mrs. O'Connor.

Babbitt, who appointed Mrs. O'Connor to the Appeals Court in 1979, said he felt a "great sense

of loss."

"Supreme Court justices are appointed life and only God removes them so she can't be coming home very much," he said.

Charlottesville, Virginia, Sunday, December 6, 1981



Progress Photo by Jim Calipenter

JUSTICE O'CONNOR'S FORMER HOUSE
Victorian Mansion Is Located at 620 Park St.

Justice O'Connor's Days In Charlottesville 'Idyllic'

By EILEEN MEADE
of The Progress Staff

Sandra Day O'Connor, the Supreme Court's first woman justice, and her husband, John J. O'Connor, lived in a towered Victorian house in Charlottesville for about 90 "idyllic" days in 1954.

Justice O'Connor last week described the time she spent between February and May of that year in Charlottesville while her husband was a student at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School.

"We thoroughly enjoyed the three months we spent there in the spring," she said.

Mr. O'Connor, contacted in Phoenix, Ariz., where he is presently an attorney, said that he and his wife had lived in the solarium apartment of a large house at 620 Park Street, while he was a U.S. Army lieutenant in the basic class at JAG School.

"We had only been married since Dec. 20, 1952, and neither of us had ever been East, so for us it was a very, very happy interlude. We loved Charlottesville, and we established some friendships at the JAG School which have lasted all these years," Mr. O'Connor said.

He recalled that a friend who had been in the previous JAG class was vacating the apartment on the corner of Park Street and Park Lane and recommended that they take it. He said he car-pooled to school with six other JAG students so their wives could always have a car.

"We all got together and played charades — people don't play that much anymore — and we went with friends to Williamsburg and Washington, D.C., never dreaming that someday that would be our permanent home. It was an idyllic time in our lives and we developed some deep and meaningful relationships," Mr. O'Connor said.

"The tennis coach at the University gave my wife and I our first tennis lessons. The weather wasn't perfect and he was a very, very kind and competent instructor. We had great affection for him and we both still play tennis," Mr. O'Connor said.

Retired University of Virginia tennis coach Carl "Red" Rohman, who now owns and operates the University Sport Shop, said he vaguely remembers the O'Connors.

"Like doctors and barbers I usually get right down to business. I get so wrapped up in what I'm trying to do I don't pay much attention to personalities," Rohman said. The fact that he once coached a Supreme Court justice "comes as quite a shock."

O'Connor said they left Charlottesville for Frankfurt, Germany, on May 5, 1954, and he was stationed there for 2½ years.

He will soon join a law firm in Washington, D.C., he said, and he and Mrs. O'Connor hope to visit Charlottesville and "perhaps take another tennis lesson from 'Red'."

The O'Connors have maintained contact with Charlottesville through Lewis Glaser, a local businessman who furnishes colonial style goose quill pens to the Supreme Court. On Oct. 15, Glaser and his assistant, Nancy Floyd, paid a visit to Justice O'Connor and presented her with an inscribed silver inkwell and a goose quill pen.

"Mrs. Floyd and I were invited into her office, which was decorated with Navajo wall hangings and Indian baskets from Arizona. She was charming, wonderful, and looking into her face was like looking into the sunshine. She had a very quick smile, and her eyes just locked on you when you talked," Glaser said.

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SCOTTSDALE DAILY
PROGRESS

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MAR JON

Babbitt declares day for O'Connor

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★ House

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"She told us that she had fond feelings for Charlottesville. She described what their apartment was like ... and said they slept in a huge four-poster bed. The kitchen had been the butler's pantry, and to get from the front room to the kitchen they had to walk through the bathroom," Glaser said.

The house she described is now owned by Lloyd T. Smith, an attorney, and his artist wife, Ashland, who purchased it in 1962 from Mary Davis Cleveland Thomas, who owned it while the O'Connors lived there.

Mrs. Smith said the family is delighted to learn that Justice O'Connor and her husband once stayed there. They have since refurbished the house and the quaint butler pantry arrangement is no longer there.

Mrs. Thomas, now deceased, bought the house in 1947 and rented out two apartments to JAG students.

With an octagonal tower, and fine walnut woodwork throughout the interior, the house is considered by historians to be one of finest examples of late nineteenth century architecture in the city. It was built by William F. Vandegrift for a successful merchant, J. W. Marshall and his wife, Carrie, in 1894.

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FLAGSTAFF

AZ

NOV 25 1981

MAR JON

Dinner To Honor O'Connor

PHOENIX (AP) — About 850 persons are expected to attend a \$50-a-plate dinner being held in Phoenix tonight in honor of Sandra O'Connor, the first woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The black-tie dinner at the Arizona Biltmore is to be televised by KAET-TV in the Phoenix area.

During the morning ceremony, Babbitt planned to present a proclamation to the justice naming today Sandra O'Connor Day.

Phoenix Margaret Hance is hosting the luncheon and Babbitt has the same role for the dinner.

NEWS & SUN
SUN CITY

DEC 23 1981

MAR JON

SCOTTSDALE DAILY
PROGRESS

FEB 23 1982

O'Connor honored

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. — Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is among the winners of the 1981 Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge National Awards, the foundation announced. O'Connor, a former Arizona Court of Appeals judge, won a Distinguished Award from the foundation. The annual awards recognize individuals and organizations who support U.S. social, political and economic institutions and present solutions to contemporary problems.

24 Scottsdale (Ariz.) Daily Progress Saturday, Jan. 2, 1982

O'Connor appointment tops state stories

By NEIL BIBLER
Associated Press Writer

Sandra Day O'Connor's appointment as the first U.S. Supreme Court justice easily led the allot for the top Arizona news in 1981, but even the vote was far from unanimous.

Though not really in the running for the Top n, Arizona Associated Press member editors and news directors gave at least some consideration to such other events as the successful transcontinental SuperChicken balloon journey and the unsuccessful predictions in Tucson for "rapture," the day when all Christians were to be taken up bodily into heaven.

It was an eventful year and the diversity of the voting reflected the variation. But with a few exceptions, the events deemed the most newsworthy over the past 12 months centered more on individuals than on situations.

Arizona's economy, the copper industry's depression, an Apache County tax revolt, a variety of natural gas leaks, plane crashes, murder trials, a group suicide and other deaths — these

all drew a scattering of votes but wound up far down the list.

Second place went to the return of Marine Sgt. James Lopez, career diplomat Robert Ode and the other Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days.

A strong third was the Arizona lottery and its ticket sales that far exceeded expectations. The Orme Dam controversy and its resolution was No. 4 in the voting, followed by Arizona's passage of its alternative to Medicaid.

Eight of those voting gave top honors to the O'Connor story, and only the hostage return drew more than one first-place vote.

Selected as the sixth-place story of the year was the dual concern over Arizona's deteriorating roads and the multibillion-dollar highway revenue shortage officials predicted. Lawmakers approved a boost in gasoline taxes to pay for the program, but opponents succeeded in placing the decision on the ballot for 1982.

Redistricting and the Hanigan trial tied for seventh place. As might have been predicted, congressional and legislative redistricting

brought partisan political positions; but with the help of four conservative Democrats, Republicans overrode Gov. Bruce Babbitt's veto of their plans.

In the courts, Thomas and Patrick Hanigan went through yet another trial on charges stemming from allegations they tortured and robbed three undocumented Mexicans. This time Patrick was found guilty and Thomas innocent by separate juries.

The No. 9 story was another trial — that of former U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindiest. The Tucson lawyer was found innocent of perjury charges stemming from his role in an insurance-premium siphoning scheme, but the Arizona Bar Association still asked the state Supreme Court to suspend him for a year.

In 10th place was a record \$3.3 million robbery. Four masked gunmen overpowered a Tucson bank manager and a janitor in the largest cash bank heist in the nation's history.

A scant single point from making the list was yet another story of individual success — that of

Mary Gohlke, the Mesa newspaper advertising executive who became the world's first successful heart and lung transplant recipient.

Also cited with some frequency by the voting editors were the flash flood which swept eight people to their deaths below Tanque Verde Falls near Tucson and the traffic crash which killed Rep. Claire Dunn, the Legislature's only nun.

The copper depression, which cost 11,500 of Arizona's about 21,800 copper workers their jobs for varying periods — many of them indefinitely — also almost made the list.

So did the controversy at Miracle Valley which began with the deaths of several children whose parents refused to seek medical aid and culminated in a bomb explosion that killed a passenger in a church van.

Also mentioned by some was the continuing concern with the state's open meeting law. Charges that Tucson City Council members violated the law ultimately were dropped, but the allegations led to new examination of the law and its uses and abuses.



O'Connor