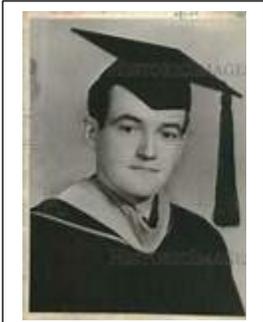


MEMORIES OF HHH FROM A MAC ALUMNUS, ACTIVIST, JOURNALIST

By Jon Schroeder

From 1977 to 1984, my wife Dana and I were the publishers and editors of the weekly Grant County Herald in my hometown, Elbow Lake, MN (2020 population 1,178). When Hubert Humphrey (hometown Doland, SD - 2020 population 199) died, we did a full-page tribute to him that focused on recollections of local residents, including the



HUMPHREY AS STUDENT

widow of a former Herald publisher, Harold Barker, who had been a State Legislator, Speaker of the House and, in 1946, the first DFL Party candidate for Governor. This was the first statewide election after the merger of Minnesota's Democratic and Farmer Labor Parties, that Humphrey had a major role in

orchestrating. Barker didn't win, but Humphrey was elected to the U.S. Senate two years later. Because I'd taken his class at Mac – and had subsequently had other contacts with him – I wrote this column that ran in the same issue of the Herald. It was later reprinted in a tribute to Humphrey in Macalester Today. Ironically, I later worked for U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger from 1984-94. Durenberger succeeded Humphrey's widow Muriel, who had been appointed to replace her husband. And, in 1988, Durenberger defeated the Humphreys' son "Skip" who had challenged his reelection to a third term. I realize not all of my fellow students were great fans of Humphrey – either as Senator or Vice President – including those who barricaded his office with barbed wire. To ease your read, I've added some relevant open-source photos and quotes.

Town and Country

by Jon Schroeder

Many Minnesota newspaper publishers and editors spent time this past weekend trying to devise an appropriate way of paying tribute to Senator Hubert Humphrey. Our own tribute, elsewhere in this week's Herald, focuses on Grant County residents' memories of Humphrey. We also included recollections of some longtime DFL activists



HHH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

and elected officials on their past relationships with a fellow Minnesotan who had served as U.S. Senator, Vice President and his party's candidate for President.

When a rare public figure like Senator Humphrey dies, we all mourn his passing – much as we mourn the loss of a loved one. We can't help but recall Humphrey as a friend, even though our closest contacts with him may have been at a parade or a large political gathering.

Unlike many Minnesota newspaper editors and publishers, I can't claim a close personal friendship with Hubert Humphrey that dates to his pre-Senate years. In fact, Humphrey's landmark speech to the 1948 National Democratic Convention took place two years before I was born.

His first two re-elections – in 1954 and 1960 – came when I was in elementary school. And he was the Vice President during a time I was preoccupied with high school extracurricular activities and worked part-time at Schroeder's Department Store.

By early 1970, however, things had changed. My own interest in politics and public affairs was heightening.

"The time has arrived in America for the Democratic Party to step out of the shadows of states' rights and into the bright sunshine of human rights."
1948 Democratic National Convention

I had just returned to Macalester College from a month-long Congressional Internship in Washington, DC when I learned I would be one of only 20 students in "The Humphrey Seminar." The former Vice President was on the Macalester Political Science faculty that year, teaching one class each semester. This wasn't "Happy Days are Here Again" For Humphrey. He had lost one of the closest elections in U.S. history against Richard Nixon. And he was still faulted by many for his support for the Vietnam policies of President Lyndon Johnson.



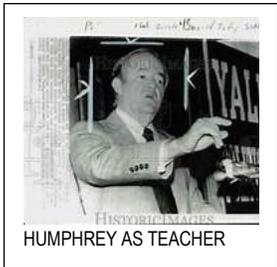
HUMPHREY WAS FORCED TO CARRY LYNDON JOHNSON'S UNPOPULAR VIETNAM POLICIES INTO THE 1968 CAMPAIGN.

Yet, each Wednesday afternoon, Humphrey reverted to one of his favorite preoccupations – teaching. American foreign policy formed the general framework for his lectures, that focused particularly on U.S.-Soviet relations, disarmament and American responsibilities in less developed parts of the world. He spoke with authority on all of these topics – spicing his lectures with personal recollections of his dealings with foreign leaders and his legislative initiatives, that now help form the cornerstone of American foreign policy.

“It was once said the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.” 1977 DC Humphrey Federal Office Building Dedication

Contrary to many press reports at that time, Humphrey’s attention to his teaching responsibilities wasn’t superficial. We wrote two research papers for him that spring which he read carefully and marked up – often offering both complimentary and uncomplimentary comments. Humphrey also met individually with each of his students – offering oral comments on our papers and, overall, the topics covered.

Humphrey took particular interest in my involvement in a student-led campaign for a state constitutional amendment to lower the voting age. I remember rushing him through our meeting on my rather boring paper on the French nuclear weapons program – the “Force de Frappe” – to seek his support for our fledgling campaign.



And help he did! I also remember being in several meetings in the summer and fall of 1970 with

Humphrey and his staff to discuss how *his* Senate campaign could support *ours*. He was very instrumental in gaining labor support for the amendment, made radio commercials endorsing lowering the voting age and talked the “Fifth Dimension” singing group into staging a benefit autograph signing event to raise funds for the campaign.

“The message of the United States is not nuclear power. The message of the United States is a spiritual message. It is the message of human ideals. It is the message of human dignity. It is the message of the freedom of ideas, speech, press, the right to

assemble, to worship and the message of freedom of movement of people.”

And on the Monday before the election – following release of a statewide opinion poll show a steep decline in support for the amendment – he held a press conference in Duluth to urge a “yes” vote from heavily DFL voters in northeastern Minnesota.

My final close-up contact with Senator Humphrey came the following spring when I was in Washington with a group of U of M students who had internships with major Minnesota corporations under a program I was promoting as “Consultant on Youth” for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.



PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON WAS ONE OF THE LAST PEOPLE HUMPHREY SPOKE TO BY PHONE BEFORE HIS DEATH. NIXON ALSO ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL IN ST. PAUL

Humphrey invited us to meet with him in his office where he spoke at length about the importance of young people participating in the political process. He spoke warmly of our own association at Macalester and his help with the voting age campaign.

Humphrey couldn’t help but be an inspiration to a young person like me who was interested in politics and public affairs. His idealism, competence and hard work combined to make him a rare combination of politician, statesman, legislator, and – always – teacher.

He inspired millions during his long and distinguished career. And he inspired all of us in the open and positive manner that he faced death.



HUMPHREY IS BURIED, WITH HIS WIFE AND SUCCESSOR, MURIEL, IN THE LAKEWOOD CEMETARY NEAR LAKE HARRIET IN SOUTHWEST MINNEAPOLIS.

With his passing, may we now also be motivated to pursue the goals of peace, equality and justice to which he devoted his life.

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