



Three minutes of deafening cheers drowned out his shouted congratulations as Governor George Wallace crowned Terry Points the first black woman to be Homecoming Queen at the University of Alabama this past winter. Ten years before, Wallace made his symbolic stand in the same schoolhouse door to prevent the admission of two black students and to fulfill his 1963 campaign pledge to "maintain segregation now. Segregation tomorrow. Segregation forever."

At the recent homecoming crowning, Ms. Points knelt in front of Wallace's wheelchair, and the Governor placed the crown on her head, forgoing the usual kiss for a handshake. Ms. Points later told reporters

that Wallace had committed himself to the ceremony before he'd learned who had won. "He'd obligated himself," she explained, "but that's not to say he was ungracious about it."

From Findley Lake, New York, comes the good news that six women are full members of that city's Volunteer Fire Department.

Last year the Gridiron Club, an elitist society of Washington, D.C., pressmen, admitted a token black member. But this year they voted down a resolution to admit women. In a move designed to condemn the club's discriminatory policies, the Journalists for Professional Equality will hold its first annual Press Counter-Party on April 6, 1974, in Washington, D.C.—the same night slated for the annual dinner of the all-male Gridiron Club. The 350 members of the protesting group claim first of all that their less stuffy "no-tie" party

will be more fun. They are also urging government officials to boycott the Gridiron Club, since the club's members use the occasion of the dinner to "enhance contacts with top officialdom." The protesters claim, "as long as women journalists are systematically barred from events at which their male colleagues have access to newsmakers, women will be disadvantaged in the pursuit of their careers."

Feminists took part for the first time recently in the State Fair of Texas. Between displays of needlepoint and jelly jars, the Dallas Women's Coalition sponsored a play about women in management called *Adam and Eve*. Members of the Dallas National Organization for Women captured 12 ribbons in the cooking contest. The contest's other entrants from small Texas towns were pleased to chat with the self-professed "Women's Libbers" and to learn that they are women like themselves.

UNSUNG HERO: AN ABORTIONIST IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Dr. Munson, a man of principle

Ben Munson is a South Dakota doctor, born and bred. In 1967, when the woman who had been performing abortions in his hometown of Rapid City had to retire because of poor health, Dr. Munson, then 51 years old, decided on moral grounds that he must take over. "I was convinced that women should have complete rights, and I had the choice of doing abortions myself or sending women miles away to God knows what dark corner."

After one year, the sheriff's office had started tapping the doctor's phone, preparing for his arrest. In 1969, he was arrested, but by 1970, South Dakota's new abortion law insured that his case would never come to trial.

Then in December, 1972, a 16-year-old girl came to Dr. Munson

with her boyfriend to get an abortion. Her father telephoned a few days later for details. The doctor refused to answer his questions about the extent of her sexual activity. The next day, the angry father took his daughter into the sheriff's office to sign statements. After a series of demands for a settlement, starting at \$50,000 and ending at \$10,000, the father filed suit against the doctor for \$650,000 for punitive damages and mental anguish caused to the father.

Dr. Munson's defense before the South Dakota circuit court will be simple. He is principally committed to the right of a minor to have an abortion. The case is a landmark, since a doctor has never before been sued by parents for performing an abortion.

Dr. Munson arrived at his decision after much soul-searching. "I'd already had some experiences of sad cases in which minors had to ask parents for abortions," he said recently. "Since the parents had not protected the girl from the hazard of pregnancy, the doctor has to protect her from the resulting mental anguish and the danger of unsafe abortion."

"The Scholar and the Feminist" is the title of an academic conference to be held at Barnard College on May 11. Scholars in many disciplines will examine the impact of feminist ideas on their work. Contact: Susan Riemer Sacks, Women's Center, Barnard College, New York, New York 10027.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MISSOULA? WISE-ING UP



Jeanette Rankin, 1880-1973

Two years ago Montana boasted only one or two feminist groups and no public spokeswomen. Today women throughout the state are talking of sisterhood.

A women's center in Great Falls offers living and meeting rooms. The Missoula Women's Health Collective holds classes on self-examination and is setting up a low-cost, high-quality abortion clinic. And Missoula already has a women's free school.

"We're finding tremendous, underutilized talent and ability," says Jeanette Vargo of the Billings Coalition for Women's Rights. The coalition is investigating attitudes and employment practices and the economic situation of white, Indian, and Chicana women in the city. Also in Billings is Poppler & Barz, believed to be the state's first woman's law firm.

Montana has a tradition of strong, pioneer women. It adopted female suffrage in 1914, six years before the nation did. In 1916, suffragist Jeanette Rankin was elected from the state as the first woman in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1973, a new state constitution went into effect, prohibiting sex discrimination. But the year before, the Montana legislature had tabled the Equal Rights Amendment. Said State Senator Jack McDonald, "If Jesus had wanted people to be equal, he

would have had six men and six women apostles."

After that setback, the 1974 ERA Ratification Council was formed, and ERA chapters sprang up across the state. "Everyone thought the ERA would go through and we were caught flat-footed—complacent," explains Robin Hatch, state coordinator for the council, referring to the 1972 defeat. But that didn't happen again. Montana passed the ERA on January 21—the council had lived up to its name. Not to be caught off-guard again is also the job of the Montana Women's Political Caucus. "Our goal is to put women in political office," says Geraldine Travis, coordinator of the state caucus. —Joan Uda

Women to contact in Montana

- Natalie Cannon, Co-Chairwoman Council on the Status of Women 2130 Highland Helena, Montana, 59701
- Montana Women's Political Caucus Geraldine Travis, State Coordinator Box 694 Great Falls, Montana 59403
- Great Falls NOW Valerie Smith-Littlefield, President 36 Birch Great Falls, Montana 59405
- Women's Action Center Venture Center University of Montana Missoula, Montana 59801

Three years ago, Elaine Selle of Hanover, New Hampshire, was pondering the problems of women in her state. A journalist active in women's groups, Ms. Selle traced many of these problems to the paucity of social services in New Hampshire, the only state with neither a sales nor income tax.

"I decided what this state needed was a counseling service by and for women," recalls Ms. Selle. She made phone calls, wrote proposals, and, within five months, founded the Women's Information Service (WISE) with \$18,000 in grants, and cooperation from the counseling department of the University of New Hampshire.

Then, 36 women attended a week-long workshop and opened shoestring offices in eight communities. During their first year, this tiny band of women, working only part-time and without pay, served nearly 400 clients: grade-school dropouts and Ph.D.'s; teens and septuagenarians; rich and poor. Most wanted jobs (40 percent of the women were heads of households). Others sought information on returning to school. Virtually all needed support in solving personal problems ranging from unwanted pregnancy to abusive landlords.

How has the counseling "establishment" reacted? Some professional counselors have expressed disgust and suspicion, but a few have enlisted WISE's aid in developing new programs, such as therapy groups for alcoholic women. And many female professionals work with WISE and give direction to its programs.

Now in its third year, WISE (38 South Main Street, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755) is raising funds for its most ambitious project: a network of women's centers across the state to help even more women mold their lives to their liking. —Harriet Harrow