

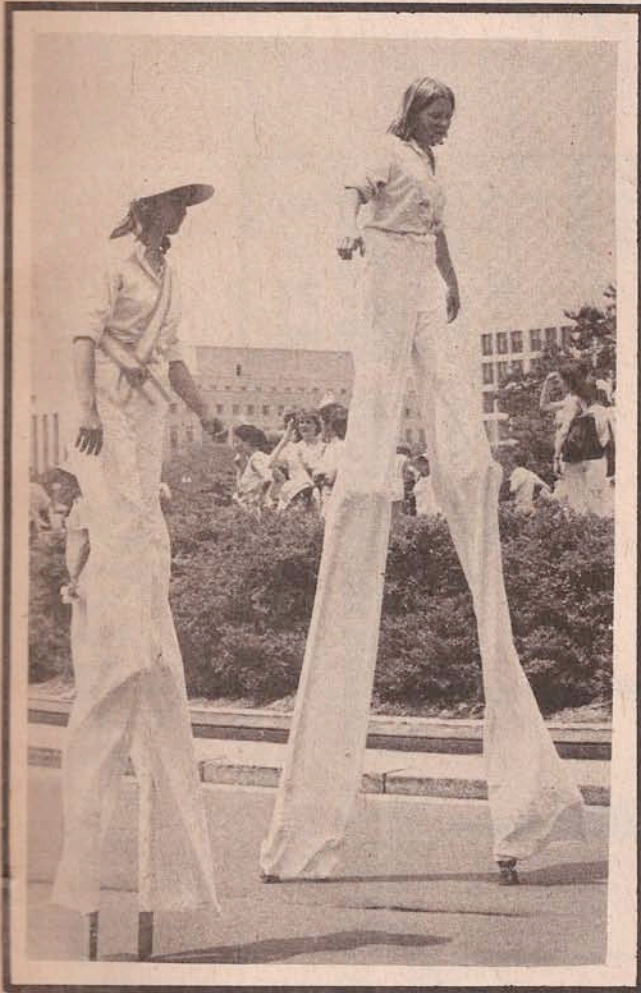
NEW WOMEN'S TIMES

FROM THE HOMETOWN
OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY

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August 1978
VOL. 4 NO. 7



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take a
giant step
for ERA**

**100,000
march**

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NEWS * CALENDAR * REVIEWS

ERA Extension:

Senator's wife deciding vote?

WASHINGTON, D.C.--On July 18 after 8 hours of debate the House Judiciary Committee voted 19-15 to add 39 months and nine days to the period for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The new deadline would be June 30, 1982.

The decision for the abbreviated extension--reduced from the 7 years originally proposed by Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY)--came after the committee rejected by 13-21 an amendment that would have given states the right to rescind ratification.

The resolution now goes to the House Rules Committee and then to the House floor where it is expected to pass.

After the House, it goes to the Senate where the real trouble might begin. It is expected that Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Senator James Eastland (D-Miss.) will appoint Senator Maryon Allen, who has recently taken her late husband's seat on the Constitution subcommittee. A probable 3-3 split on ERA is likely to occur. A tie is considered a defeat in such a situation. Allen agrees with her late husband that the ERA extension is a bad idea.

If the resolution should get past the Constitution subcommittee, it could face a serious problem on the Senate floor. Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd warned House Speaker Thomas O'Neill that the ERA extension is a candidate for a Senate filibuster.

Sheila Feiger, contact person for the Rochester chapter of the National Organization for Women, feels optimistic about the ERA extension. She says, "Every Congress watcher in the country was absolutely certain that we would never get that bill out of the House Judiciary Committee, and yet it passed."

Canada joins ERA boycott

TORONTO, ONT.--The City Council of Toronto and the local Board of Health said they would "not authorize funds to be spent on travel, food or accommodations for its members or employees to attend conventions or meetings in those states of the United States of America which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment."

Would Susan be welcome?

President says Susan against ERA

by Martha Brown

"We don't like the ERA at all. I can speak for most of the Board in saying that. Susan wouldn't like it either."

Roberta LaChiusa, President of the Board of the Susan B. Anthony Memorial, Inc. in Rochester, N.Y., is a woman of strong opinion. She is adamant in defense of Susan B. Anthony, whom she calls "Susan." She said of the way in which Susan has been represented to the public that "they leave out the human part." Susan was "not a man-hater," she said, and received five proposals of marriage in her life. She emphasized that Susan loved children, and was a very good cook.

LaChiusa declared in an interview on July 20 that maintaining Susan's sturdy brick house on Madison Street in Rochester's inner city is the sole function of the Memorial. Opinions about the ERA or whether Susan's likeness appears on a coin are side issues, she said, and do not involve the Memorial. She did mention, however, that the Board had written to the Federal government to urge that Susan appear on the \$1 coin, and to the State government to endorse a holiday on Susan's birthday.

QUESTIONABLE PRIORITIES

As President of the Memorial since 1970, and long-time member, LaChiusa is familiar with the struggles the Board has had in dealing with the outside world. She told NWT, for example, that the Memorial, which she described as a "self-sustaining private corporation," cannot afford to preserve photographs of women reformers, mostly from the collection entrusted to the Memorial by Carrie Chapman Catt. She said there are house repairs which must be made first.

Acknowledging that she has been contacted about the deterioration of the photos, LaChiusa denies that the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House offered any help, but only "criticized" and "went about it in the wrong way." When pressed, she asserted that the instructions on preservation sent to her were "too complicated."

While explaining to journalists why she and the Board cannot permit photos

to be taken of the inside of the house, LaChiusa told NWT that they "stretched the rule once" and let a woman take some photographs. Then, "she stretched the rules so much she published her own brochure!" When the name of a particular woman was suggested to her, LaChiusa admitted who the photographer was, but quickly denied that permission to photograph had been given.

OWNERSHIP & CONTROL

Cupping her hands before her as if holding something precious, LaChiusa said that some of the Board members feel as if the objects in the house belong to them. She spoke earnestly of the length of time some women had been on the Board, and how much important work they had done. She went on to say that the University of Rochester is in possession of some letters and pictures from the house, but that they are on loan, "I wouldn't say 'permanent,'" and that the Board has the "last word" on their use.

When asked what other papers are in the house, she said, gesturing towards shelves of old books, that the books are "not unique," and that the only other materials in the house are stacks of 19th-century newspapers in the attic. She mentioned no plan to catalog or preserve them.

Towards the end of her discussion, LaChiusa related an incident she felt clearly expressed why the Board of Directors must maintain close control of everything about Susan and her house. She said that in 1962 the Memorial gave permission to a Republican Club to use the name Susan B. Anthony. After that, Democrats refused to support the house, and worst of all the Memorial began to be confused with the Club.

In 1970, she went on, some Rochester women marched down Main Street to Madison and symbolically broke tea cups at Susan's house. They meant to be demonstrating against the Republican Club, she believes. She said of the protesters, "I've never seen such an awful-looking bunch of females in my life." One of the Susan B. Anthony tour guides interjected, "Oh, you mean the bra burners?"

In other remarks, the President of the Board made it clear she is not to be confused with "women's libbers" who "carry those placards." LaChiusa appears to be certain of her mission, and will not easily accept what she considers interference.



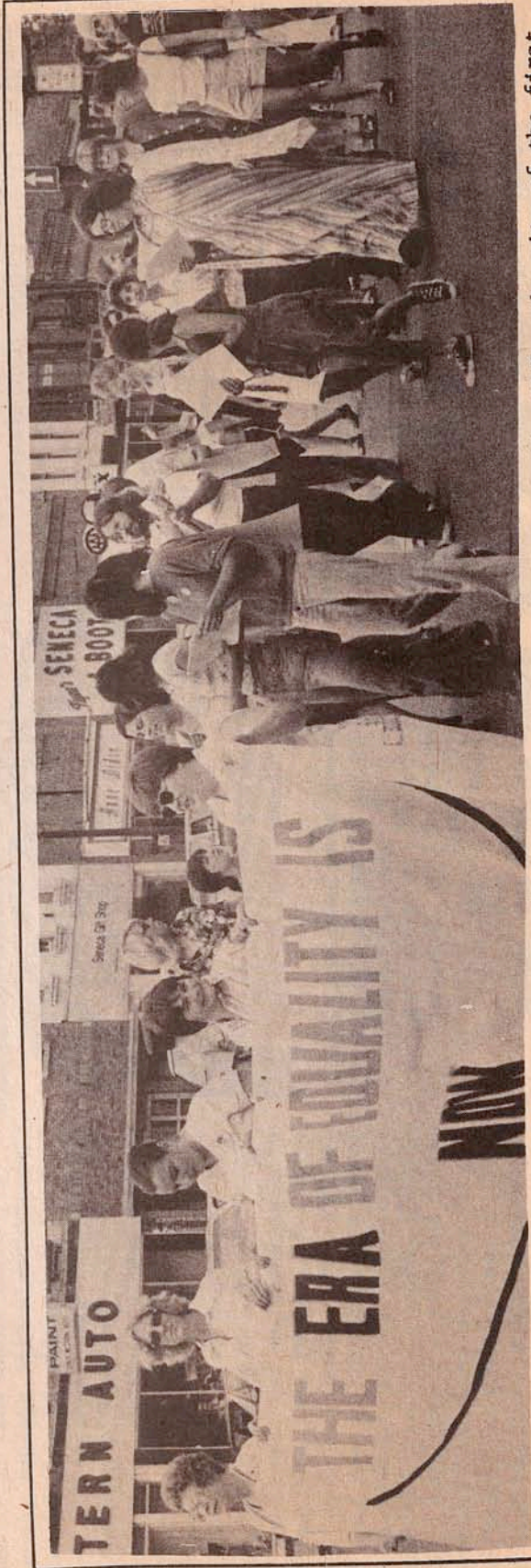
MIDGE COSTANZA, White House stand-in for Jimmy and Rosalyn who were on extended vacations. Right, Elaine Noble, former Congresswoman from Massachusetts, now running for U.S. Senate.



NATIONAL N.O.W. PRESIDENT, Eleanor Smeal. N.O.W organized the march in far less than the six months experts say it takes--and the result was one of the best organized marches Washington police say they had ever seen. Among stars speaking or marching were Ellen Burstyn and Marlo Thomas, right.

(Photos by Karen Caviglia)

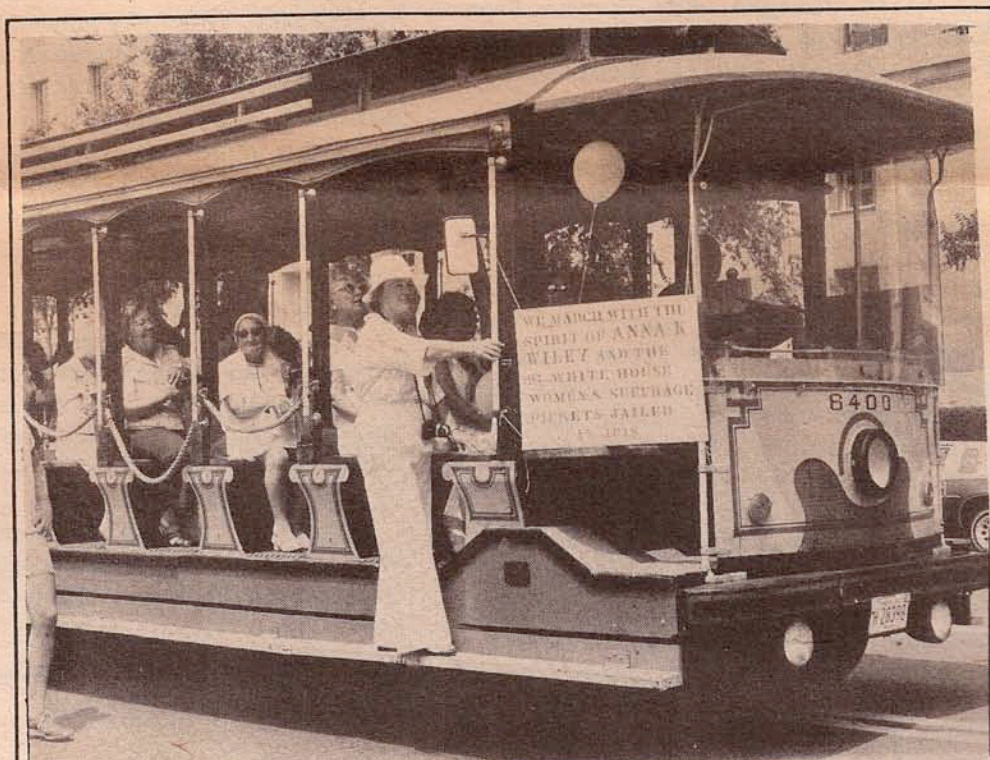
*Photo Essay:
Text by Karen Caviglia
Design by Martha Brown*



TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE WASHINGTON MARCH, a parade of 50 marched in Seneca Falls, N.Y., the site of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848. (Photo by Laurie Bennett)



BEHIND THIS BANNER marched a crowd of 100,000--mostly women. Representatives of 325 national organizations and thousands of unaffiliated marchers were dressed in white as a tribute to early suffrage marchers. Gloria Steinem cautioned that if Congress and State officials do not grant women the Amendment, this march may be the last of peaceful demonstrations. She hinted women may again chain themselves to the White House fence--or block highways into non-ratified states. *(Photo by P. Sommer)*



A TROLLEY WAS PROVIDED for those who could not march. Riders included Blanche Austin, suffragist from Pennsylvania, who