

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, NOSTALGIA, AND A VOTE FOR LINDY (Originally published August 1976)

An editor is occasionally granted the privilege (obviously easier in a publication such as the *Bulletin* where no one looks over his shoulder or rides herd on his subject matter) to indulge in a bit of personal nostalgia and name-dropping.

We were prompted to do so recently while watching the proceedings before and during the recent Democratic convention and seeing, among other familiar faces, the smiling, but little noticed, Congresswoman Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, all alone on the podium, banging her palm on the table to bring the proceedings to an official close. The incident resulted in our digging out several old college (Tulane) yearbooks dating from the Thirties and remembering things we'd thought were forgotten.

In the 1935 annual, under the heading of "Let Us Salute Our Leaders," is a picture of Lindy Claiborne, senior Newcomb editor of the university paper (the *Hullabaloo*). At sixty now, she looks almost as young and just as interesting and vital as she did at twenty. Next to her, in the two-page, two-column spread of prominent university personalities, is Bill Marvin Harvard, one of the handsomest men ever to grace a yearbook and, at the time, one of Lindy's favorite escorts. Three pictures away, in the line above, is T. Hale Boggs, then editor-in-chief of the *Hullabaloo* and a BMOC (big man on the campus) if there ever was one.

Of interest, also, next to Boggs, is Dean Rufus Harris of the Tulane Law School (looking much more youthful and with considerably more hair than his son, Walker, of today) and, on the opposite page, a plump faced, dark-haired faculty man with a clipped Hitler moustache, Dr. Alton Ochsner, who had recently instilled new vigor into the Medical School's Department of Surgery.

The 1936 yearbook features a picture of handsome Howard Kingsbury Smith, Jr., president of the Arts and Science student body, and the credentials opposite his senior class photograph include all the honor societies plus the notations of Class President (2,3), Track Team Captain (4), International Relations Club, Literary and Debating Society, yearbook and newspaper staffs. In the athletic section he is pictured sailing over the high hurdles to a Southeastern Conference championship. Unmentioned, as it came after the book went to press, was his winning of a Rhodes scholarship.

The 1939 yearbook from our last year in medical school carries a picture, and an extremely youthful one, of the downy-cheeked president of the Arts and Science freshman class, William B. Monroe, Jr. who, at the time, also sported a full head of black hair.

Many years have passed now and most of us whose young faces filled the pages of

those annuals have disappeared into anonymity; but all of those mentioned above fulfilled their leadership capabilities and have earned some measure of fame.

Bill Monroe, bald and lined of face now, has been one of NBC's top newsmen in Washington for many years and, for the past ten months, has conducted NBC's weekly "Meet the Press" program, (the one that put Jimmy Carter on the spot a few Sundays ago.)

Howard K. Smith, after a long and distinguished career as foreign correspondent, author, and newsman, was the familiar anchorman of ABC's TV news and has now moved up to a higher echelon in the business.

Dr. Ochsner, now eighty, and on emeritus status from the famous clinic he founded and from Tulane's Department of Surgery, is still a vigorous and active man in medicine and crusading politics.

Dean Harris became Tulane's president in the late Thirties and served in that capacity until the age of mandatory retirement, whereupon he returned to his native Georgia to become (and continue to serve as) Mercer University's president.

The Claiborne-Harvard romance cooled when Bill Marvin joined us in medical school. After the long Army years of World War II, a Mayo fellowship and a stint on the Tulane-Ochsner Clinic faculty, Harvard became Yale's Professor of Urology and is still active in the department and private practice in New Haven.

Lindy Claiborne married her co-editor, Hale Boggs, who became Louisiana's perennial congressman and, eventually, Democratic Whip in the House. After his untimely death in the Alaskan plane crash a few years ago, Lindy was appointed to Congress in his place. She has subsequently been elected to the House on her own by an overwhelming vote, and from the looks of things, will be there forever.

After watching congenial, unflappable Congresswoman Boggs perform in her role as the Democratic convention chairman (chairwoman? chairperson?); we became convinced that Jimmy Carter overlooked a most capable and attractive running mate. We had always heard that Lindy was smarter than Hale, and, for that matter, we suspect she could teach Jimmy more than a few things about national politics. We've always admired her from afar, and if she ever decides to run for President, she can count on our vote.