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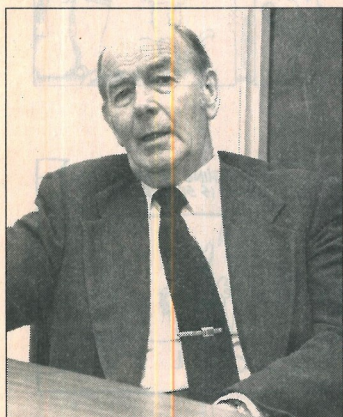
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## Sen. Tom McIntyre recalled on 100th anniversary of his birth



COURTESY OF DEAN DEXTER

### Thomas J. McIntyre

DEAN DEXTER took this photo, Dec. 29, 1980, at the Citizen offices in Laconia.

By WARREN D. HUSE

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**LACONIA** — A loyal group of staffers and colleagues of the late Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre still gather from time to time to reminisce about the days in the 1960s and '70s that they served together in Washington, D.C.

One such person is Tony Mazzaschi — like the senator, a Laconia boy — who writes to *The Citizen* to advise that they will do so again, tomorrow, to observe the 100th anniversary of Tom McIntyre's birth.

Mazzaschi, who is now a senior director of policy and research at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, on M Street in the capital, says, "Several of us who worked for him will be raising a toast."

He adds, "I invited the former McIntyre staffers in the DC area to have a drink together on Friday night at a Capitol Hill restaurant. Not sure yet who can make it. No McIntyre staffers still work on the Hill and most are now retired. Still, I expect there will be a dozen or so of us."

One who remembers Tom McIntyre from the same time period, when his own father, J. Olivia Huot, served in the United States House of Representatives (1965-1967), is David O. Huot, retired judge of the Laconia District Court and former state representative to the New Hampshire General Court.

Huot said of McIntyre, earlier this week, "He was a really conscientious guy. He was very committed to his work, particularly on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Tom was not a liberal," Huot observed. "Tom was kind of a New Hampshire liberal." He "approved of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 and he was in favor of civil rights and fought for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the stuff afterwards. He was very pragmatic."

As a third-year law student at the time, Huot worked in McIntyre's Washington office, answering correspondence and working on legislative matters.

In addition, about once a month Huot would drive home to Laconia with paperwork from McIntyre's office and often from his father's, Sen. Norris Cotton's and Rep. Jim Cleveland's, delivering it to their respective offices here and, on the return drive, taking more paperwork back to their Washington offices.

Huot also recalled that Sen. McIntyre became a member of the Normandin and Normandin law firm (later Normandin, Cheney & O'Neil) during his time in the Senate to provide a place for his legal work to be completed during his absence from his own practice.

Huot said, "It was a very interesting time. Sen. McIntyre was one of the more dedicated politicians I've seen during the past 50 years."

Another Laconia attorney, David H. Bownes, recalls spending many weekends back in the 1950s and '60s with the McIntyre Family at their Round Bay Road home.

Bownes' father, Hugh H. Bownes, was mayor of Laconia from 1963-1965, during the turbulent years of the run-up to the city's Urban Renewal program and was involved in Democratic Party politics.

David Bownes recalled their two families were "very close, all politicking away in the Democratic Party."

He said McIntyre was instrumental in getting his father appointed to the 1st Federal District Court and later to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tom McIntyre was a "kind, generous hard-working" man who was "most committed to the people of New Hampshire and served them well while a U.S. senator."

For Laconia, "the legacy that he left was that he was one of the driving forces that brought the Democratic Party out of the shadows in the '60s."

At that time, "there were John F. Kennedy in the White House, Gov. John W. King in Concord, Ollie Huot in Congress and Tom McIntyre in the Senate."

McIntyre's legacy "is that he helped to bring the Democratic Party out of the Dark Ages and put it on the map."

Bownes recalls attending the Democratic Convention in 1960 and that Sen. McIntyre "played an important role in that election."

Tom McIntyre Jr. was born here, Feb. 15, 1920, served in the Army from 1942-1946 in Gen. George Patton's Third Army

and participated in all the major European campaigns. Discharged as a major, his awards included four battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star Medal.

After the war, he returned to Laconia and joined the law office of Harold W. Wescott in 1946 and then opened his own office after Wescott became a judge of the New Hampshire Superior Court.

McIntyre served as mayor of Laconia from 1949 to 1951.

Following the death of Sen. Styles Bridges in November 1961, McIntyre ran for the United States Senate and, in the special election of Nov. 6, 1962, defeated Perkins Bass, 117,612 to 107,199. He was the first Democratic senator elected from New Hampshire since Fred H. Brown in 1932.

He was re-elected over Harrison Thyng in 1966, becoming the first Democratic senator in the state's history to win a second term, and re-elected to a third term in 1972 over former Gov. Wesley Powell.

In 1978, he was narrowly defeated for re-election to a fourth term by Gordon Humphrey.

McIntyre died, Aug. 8, 1992.

In the eulogy delivered at the funeral, Larry K. Smith, McIntyre's former administrative assistant, spoke of "his remarkable Senatorial achievements — laws he wrote, debates he won, causes he championed. But, above all, we should be sure to tell our children about Tom McIntyre's most profound legacy — a legacy of enduring values about public life. We should be sure to tell our children that Tom McIntyre pursued politics primarily as a matter of public service."

He "believed one should run for office not for personal gain, not out of a compulsion for celebrity, not to bolster one's ego, but basically as a duty, a civic responsibility. Politics, properly understood, is therefore a calling, not a career."

McIntyre "spent his own earned political capital to try to build a two-party system. He recruited young talents all over New Hampshire and helped them into the fray."

He "also defended the integrity of this political competition. He opposed those who would stifle the free contest of ideas, those who would emulsify the two parties, those who would insist on having two parties in name, but one party in fact."

His legacy also "includes a politics of civility. Civility — a fancy word — for Tom McIntyre's politics of good cheer and gentleness. His campaigns — for all their seriousness and sense of purpose — were fun. He campaigned with elan, with a twinkle, and with an Irish song."

He "also taught us to think well of others until there is a reason not to. He tried his best not to use 'mean words' in his campaigns."

McIntyre wrote a book, "The Fear Bro-

kers" (Pilgrim Press) in 1979 with co-author, John Obert.

According to *The Christian Science Monitor*, "This is an intelligent book about the dangers and techniques of the radical right, whose politics the authors say are filled with hatred and whose major technique is described as manipulation; of a radical superpatriotism; of religion, particularly of the evangelical variety; and of racism."

Mazzaschi, who joined McIntyre's staff in June 1976 "at the ripe age of 20" as an intern, subsequently became a legislative correspondent and then a legislative assistant.

He recalled, at a reunion of staff members in 2003, that his time with McIntyre "was a critically important part of my personal life and has shaped my entire professional career."

Further, "I thought I knew a lot about Senator and Mrs. McIntyre, since I had come from Laconia and my parents, especially my mother, knew both of them. However, I was unprepared for the reality of this complex and dynamic couple. Mrs. McIntyre was always kind to me and went out of her way to invite me to visit with her New Hampshire — especially Laconia — visitors and friends. Senator McIntyre, who could never get my name right — I was usually called Maserati (after the Italian sports car), always was a delight ...

"The most important lesson I learned from the Senator was not to be certain that your position was correct. He was always willing to concede that his opponents might be right. When I hear many of today's Senators voice moral absolutism and intellectual certainty, I long for the Senator McIntyre's of this world — individuals who are moral, just, and willing to take on tough causes, but are honest in admitting that they don't have all the answers and self-confident enough to be willing to admit it to both themselves and the people they hold dear."

McIntyre "had many GOP members on staff. In fact, when he took office, he hired all of Styles Bridges' case workers and support staff."

After Sen. McIntyre lost his bid for a fourth term, Warren Rudman "hired Henry Wrona, who was McIntyre's long-time office manager to manage his office."

It "was a different time and competence was more highly valued than party registration. There was also much more a sense that you were working for the people of NH rather than just the Senator."

Additional background information on the senator and his former staff are available at: <http://www.mazzaschi.com/mcintyre/index.htm> and the current Wikipedia entry provides concise further details.



## Huot recalls some other aspects of Sen. McIntyre's life and career

LACONIA — Retired Laconia District Court Judge David O. Huot responded to a request, earlier this week, for recollections of Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre with the following:

"I had a chance to go over the McIntyre website put up by Tony Mazzaschi," he wrote — a reference to the website referenced at the end of the main story, above.

"Everything is spot-on.

"My memories, of course go back to the days when Bernie Boutin was running against Wes Powell for Governor in 1958 and John King and Tom were running in 1960. I remember putting bumper stickers on cars for King and McIntyre in 1960 with Bruce Rossley and Eileen Foley's crowd, Doing the same in 1962

when Tom and John won and my dad lost and I met Dick Flynn in a diner in Dover when we were doing factory openings and struck up a friendship with that Republican icon that has lasted to this day.

"I remember the days at the Carpenter Hotel where the Duneys hosted practically everybody and after the celebration of victory in 1964 I rode down to Washington with Jim Keefe and his family so I wouldn't get thrown out of Georgetown Law Center because of my many absences. Dick Dunfee and I even snuck out about 3 a.m. occasionally to get bootleg copies of the *Union Leader* so the candidates' staffs could use the editorials to augment their first cup of coffee.

"One of the most interesting things I noted about all the staff memories was the widespread memories of Myrtle McIntyre and her cigarette holder. I don't think anybody was more recognized about it other than FDR.

"I do want to mention that, although Tom died in Florida, after he developed Alzheimer's, he and Myrtle moved from Rye back to Laconia and lived at the Taylor Community close by where my mom lived. They frequently visited, and my son Matt and I joined them on occasion to enjoy their company.

"Despite his condition, Tom enjoyed spending time with Matt, who was 6 or 7 years old at the time, including watching cartoons.

"I also want to mention that

none of the reminiscences mentioned our good friend and mentor, Hugh Bownes, and his wife Irja.

"Hugh was the Democratic National Committeeman at the time and I marvel at how he managed to stay in the background and engineer victories about which the press never got wind, not even Norm Ableson.

"Tom, Hugh and my dad formed kind of a Laconia triumvirate who enjoyed the political repartee immensely. It was Tom and Hugh who sat in our living room on Adams St. in Laconia and convinced my dad that he should run for the First District after the departure of Chester Merrow, who was almost as legendary as a Congressman as Ray Burton

was as an executive councilor later.

"Tom had a solo practice on Main St. until he got elected to the Senate, and he transferred his remaining matters to what is now Normandin, Cheney and O'Neil, and made it Normandin, McIntyre, Cheney & O'Neil.

"The other thing that should be of great interest to Laconians is MetroCast Cablevision. That is the successor to Community TV Corporation, owned by Tom and John McIntyre who put up an antenna on Mt Belknap and with the cooperation of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association powered up the first reliable television access in Laconia. Tom was really proud of that."

## Dean Dexter on McIntyre: 'Never a hint of partisanship'

LACONIA — Among many from this city who remember Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre is Dean Dexter, a former Laconia School Board member and former Belknap County commissioner, now living in Concord.

Dexter responded to a request for comment as follows:

"I visited Tom McIntyre in Washington several times when I was in county government, and he was always gracious and easy to talk to.

"I am a conservative Republican and he was a more liberal-leaning Democrat. But there was nev-

er a hint of partisanship.

"I also had the pleasure to interview him a couple times after he left office when I worked for The Citizen. He was always full of stories and good humor.

"Interestingly, whenever I saw him in D.C., which was three or four times, he was in a different, bigger office. Evidently, with each election because of his rank in seniority, he would bump other senators for better quarters made available by departing colleagues.

"He had quite a collection of sea shells arranged on big bookcases, and I remember pitying whoever

on his staff it befell to move those seashells whenever he changed offices.

"The last time I was there, in early 1978, I was told he had finally landed the biggest office there was, in either of the then-two senate office buildings.

"Also, my grandfather was big into racing horses on the county fair circuit. He and McIntyre's father were great pals. Gramp named a colt after the friend's son, which in time grew up to be a handsome, nut-brown fast pacer named 'Tommy Express.'"



COURTESY OF DAVID BOWNES

LACONIA DEMOCRATS GATHER for a baked bean supper in the early 1960s at the old Opechee Park Clubhouse. From left, J. Oliva Huot, Margaret 'Peg' Normandin, Hugh H. Bownes, Paul Normandin and Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre. In front are a youthful Debbie Michaud and David Bownes.



McIntyre at a 1968 NH First-in-the-Nation Primary campaign rally for President Lyndon Johnson in Manchester. Governor John King is at LBJ's right. State House first floor portrait by Richard W. Whitney

