

IN MEMORY OF MARY BODNE

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, last month a former Charleston, SC resident and longtime friend, Mary Bodne, passed away at the age of 93. She and her husband, Ben, a Charleston native, owned and operated the Algonquin Hotel in New York City for over 41 years. In honor of their dedication to historic preservation and their service to all of those who had the pleasure of staying at the Algonquin, I ask that the attached article from the New York Times be printed in the RECORD. The article follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 4, 2000]

MARY BODNE, EX-OWNER OF ALGONQUIN HOTEL, DIES AT 93

(By Douglas Martin)

Mary Bodne, who with her husband, Ben, fell in love with the Algonquin Hotel on their honeymoon and later owned it for 41 years, died on Monday at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan. She was 93.

She lived at the elegant Midtown hotel, the literary hangout of the Jazz Age, from 1946 until her death, spending most afternoons in her lobby armchair greeting regulars.

It all began when the Bodnes, newly married, lunched at the Algonquin in the early 1920's and sighted Will Rogers, whom they had seen the night before at the Ziegfeld Follies; Douglas Fairbanks Sr., Sinclair Lewis, Eddie Cantor, Gertrude Lawrence and Beatrice Lillie. The bride joked to her husband, an oil distributor in Charleston, S.C., that after he bought the baseball team he dreamed about, he should get her the hotel.

Although Mr. Bodne toyed with buying the Pittsburgh Pirates, he never bought a ball club. But in 1946 he paid around \$1 million for the 200-room hotel at 59 West 44th Street, between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas. The couple promptly moved in.

For the former Mary Mazo, the Algonquin was the final address in an odyssey that began in Odessa, Ukraine, where she was the second child in a large Jewish family that fled the pogroms when she was an infant. A family story has it that the baby Mary began to cry in an attic while Cossacks rampaged below, but that she miraculously hushed up before it was too late. It is said that Mrs. Bodne's later loquaciousness was compensation for that momentary silence.

The Mazo family immigrated to Charleston, where the father, Elihu, opened the city's first Jewish delicatessen. When George Gershwin and DuBose Heyward were working on "Porgy and Bess," they were frequent customers. They would also discuss the creation of the show at dinners in the Mazo family home.

Decades later, the Mazo tradition of hospitality would continue at the Algonquin. Mrs. Bodne cooked chicken soup for an ailing Laurence Olivier. She baby-sat for Simone Signoret, who called her "one of my three trust friends."

Mrs. Bodne had a gift for acquiring house seats for sold-out Broadway shows for desperate friends. Ella Fitzgerald was so grateful that she regularly sang to Mrs. Bodne whenever she stayed at the hotel.

The Irish writer Brendan Behan was so touched by a courtesy that he declared, "Mary, your son will live to be pope," even though Mrs. Bodne was Jewish and had two daughters.

The daughters, Renee Colby Chubet and Barbara Anspach, both live in Manhattan. Mrs. Bodne is also survived by four sisters: Annie Rabin and Celie Weissman, both of

Manhattan, and Minnie Meislin and Norma Mazo, both of Charleston.

The Bodnes bought the Algonquin, built in 1902 in the French Renaissance style, from Frank Case, who had catered to writers and editors from The New Yorker and other nearby publications. Among them were Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Franklin P. Adams, Edna Ferber and Alexander Woollcott. They gathered around several tables before settling on the round one that became famous, not least because of Mr. Case's knack for publicity.

When he bought the hotel, Mr. Bodne, who enjoyed promoting boxing matches, said he would not attempt to recreate Mr. Case's role as boniface of the literati. But he said he regarded the Algonquin as an investment and, as such, had no intention of changing its essential character. So he kept the mahogany panels and deep-pile carpeting, while adding such amenities as color television and air-conditioning.

The Bodnes ended up playing host to a new generation of literary and show business celebrities, like the writer John Henry Faulk when he was blacklisted and exiled from Hollywood. Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe made so much noise working on a musical that the other guests complained; the show was the hugely successful "My Fair Lady."

Mr. Bodne, who died in 1992, had vowed that he would sell the charmingly dowager hotel the day it needed self-service elevators. He sold it in 1987 to the Aoki Corporation, the Brazilian subsidiary of a Japanese corporation, which in a 1991 renovation installed self-service elevators.

In 1997, Aoki sold the hotel to the Camberley Hotel Company, which promptly did its own \$4 million renovation, promising no major changes. In an article in The New York Times, Julie V. Iovine noted that the newsstand had been sacrificed for space to sell coffee mugs, and that door numbers had been replaced by plaques featuring remarks by the famed Algonquin wits. The impression, she wrote, was "self-consciousness verging on kitsch."

At a party celebrating the makeover, Mrs. Bodne sat on the new velvet chair that had replaced her beloved old sagging one. "What I've seen looks very nice, but it will never look like my old Algonquin now," she said. "No, darling, I know it will never be the same."

Except for the cat. Each owner of the Algonquin, including the Bodnes, has kept a lobby cat. The current one is named Matilda.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH DAHLIN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to strongly commend and honor Sarah Dahlin of Vermillion, South Dakota. Sarah has been a highly-valued member of my legislative staff for approximately eight years, and I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank her for years of hard work and dedication to the people of South Dakota. Sarah will no longer be working on my staff after this week, and I, along with my entire staff, will miss her greatly. I have had the pleasure of knowing Sarah and her family for years, as we are both residents of Vermillion.

Fortunately for us and for Congress, Ms. Dahlin will not be leaving Capitol Hill, as she will be joining the office of Representative KAREN MCCARTHY. Sarah is truly a public servant, as dem-

onstrated by her efforts in my office since 1992, when she joined my staff in the House of Representatives as a legislative correspondent. Sarah quickly earned my trust and confidence, as well as that of my senior staff, and she soon became a legislative assistant covering my Natural Resources Committee assignment, as well as a whole range of issues, from energy and environment, to defense and education, issues that are critically important to South Dakota. Issues and projects that Sarah has worked on for me and the people of South Dakota are too numerous to list, but Sarah has left a lasting contribution in many ways, from helping rural transit-providers receive a fair share of federal transit funds to helping South Dakota recover from devastating blizzards and flooding. Sarah's efforts over a number of years have helped make the Springfield bridge over the Missouri River a reality, with the Vermillion bridge not far behind. Sarah is the staff person who worked with me to pass an amendment to secure federal funds for the ongoing rehabilitation of the James River in South Dakota, an effort that will have a longstanding positive impact on the James River valley. She has helped create a new National Park Service facility to preserve a missile silo site, as well as help preserve important historical sites known as Spirit Mound and Blood Run.

After working on my House staff for more than four years, Sarah moved over to my Senate staff where she became a Senior Legislative Assistant. As well as staffing my Energy and Natural Resources Committee assignment during the last three plus years I have served in the Senate, most recently Sarah has also been responsible for staffing my Senate Budget Committee assignment. During consideration of the fiscal year 2000 and 2001 budget resolutions, Sarah has been instrumental in the passage of my amendments to increase funding for veterans health care, as well as the passage of an amendment to create a reserve fund for military retirees health care.

I know Sarah's parents, family, friends and colleagues are all very proud of her. She has a wonderful career and life in front of her, and I know she will continue to succeed at whatever she chooses to do. Hopefully she will have an opportunity to one day again serve the people of South Dakota. Mr. President, on behalf of my wife Barbara and I, and my entire staff, I want to thank Sarah Dahlin for her dedication and years of hard work for the people of South Dakota. •

REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

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