

Memories of our Duluth Town Hall

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My first connection to our Town Hall started before I was born. Our parents, Alphonse and Gertrude Anderson, had their wedding reception there. They told of cranking up the old Model A Ford and going to the dances, parties, accordion concerts, vaudeville shows and plays that were a regular occurrence back then.

On November 8th, 1932, they went to the Town Hall to vote for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After voting they decided a trip to the hospital was a good idea. After a few hours, a small 4lb 3oz baby girl arrived. Ten minutes later a 7lb boy entered the world. We were named after my Dad, Alvera Caroline and Alvin Carl. Our middle names for Swedish Royalty. My Dad was heard to mutter, "when they come in two's, you quit"! In the heart of the depression, this made a lot of sense!

Growing up, I remember the school plays on the stage, especially the hero and villain ones. I learned to dance with my father and friends on the smooth Hall floor. The schottische was my favorite. I'd try to cover the whole floor in three steps, and wonder why no one asked me to dance!

In March of 1973 I was honored to be the first woman elected to the three-person Board of Supervisors, serving with Orrin Moe and Walter Johnson. That was a very enlightening three years of my life. Participating in our grass roots government, township road maintenance, Palmers Cemetery upkeep, interpreting zoning laws, budgets, Town Hall meetings and serving on the three-member county-wide Board of Adjustment, kept me very busy. I loved every minute of my Township term and really became bonded to our historical Town Hall.