

EDNA SAFFY: REMEMBRANCES OF FJC/FCCJ/FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE @ JAX

1968-2008

AUDITORIUM OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – SUMMER 1968 – HIRING FOR FJC

BRUCE WILSON, PRESIDENT

GRANVILLE DIFFIE, VICE PRESIDENT

BOBBY TULLIS (“THE DEATH THAT CAME TO B.T.”)

~TEACHERS IN JACKSONVILLE WERE ON STRIKE

~BLACK POWER WAS ON THE RISE

~WOMEN WERE BEGINNING TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

~WOMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR PANTSUITS TO WORK.

~CUMBERLAND CAMPUS (LATER KENT) WAS ONLY CAMPUS, AND COLLEGE WAS JUST BEGINNING. THE BUILDINGS WERE OLD MILITARY HOUSING, WITH BATHTUBS IN EVERY OFFICE.

~IN THE BEGINNING, COUPLES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK ON THE SAME CAMPUS. EDNA AND GRADY FOUGHT THAT, GOING TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD TO HAVE THE RULE CHANGED, THEN DROVE OTHERS CRAZY WHEN WE DIDN'T WANT TO TEACH ON THE SAME CAMPUS OURSELVES.

~EXPANDED TO SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, THEN MOVED TO DOUGLAS ANDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, WITH TINY DESKS AND TINIER TOILET FACILITIES—A PROBLEM FOR MANY OF THE MEN, ESPECIALLY.

~QUICKLY GREW TO OTHER CAMPUSES: DOWNTOWN, SOUTHSIDE, NORTHSIDE

~EDNA WROTE THE GRANT THAT STARTED THE WOMEN'S CENTER, NAMED FOR ROSEANNE HARTWELL, THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER.

~EDNA AND DOLORES WEAVER WORKED ON THE RITZ THEATRE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD TO ESTABLISH THE RITZ THEATRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND MUSEUM, AND CURRENTLY FIGHT TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT EVER GO AWAY.

~FCCJ IS A SOURCE OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREES, ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN ARTS AND SCIENCES, CERTIFICATES IN BUSINESS SPECIALTIES, AND NOW BACHELOR DEGREES AS WELL. THE FACULTY AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COLLEGE ARE PERMITTED TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THESE COURSES AND DEGREES.

~EDNA MOVED FROM DOUGLAS ANDERSON TO NEW SOUTHSIDE CAMPUS, WITH OFFICE VIEW OF THE LAKE IN FRONT, ALLIGATORS AND ALL.

~EDNA RETIRED IN DECEMBER 2007.