



## **Snow No Match for Stothert and Her Roasters**

*By Don Summerside, Omaha Press Club Publications Committee*

The newest “Face on the Barroom Floor” was forewarned and forearmed.

After a morning snowfall created a rush-hour nightmare on Nov. 9, Omaha officials (and more specifically, the Mayor’s Office) felt the heat from the driving public.

So Mayor Jean Stothert, OPC “Face” No. 159, walked to the podium to rebut her roasters – carrying a snow shovel, a box of salt and a bottle of de-icing brine.

KFAB’s Scott Voorhees, emcee for the event, summoned a formidable list of notables to roast Omaha’s “first openly female mayor.”

The lineup included KFAB’s Jim Rose, Congressman Don Bacon, former Gov. Dave Heineman, Police Chief Todd Schmaderer, and “Omaha Live” entertainers Matt Tompkins and Tracie Mauk.

Street jokes were mandatory, of course.

Bacon said: “I apologize for being the last one here. I hit one of those big potholes. I couldn’t see it because the snow was covering it.”

Chief Schmaderer said: “The Police Department has set a lot of records. This morning was another: the most accidents in the City of Omaha before 7 a.m.”

Other popular targets were Stothert’s strong management style and her penchant for texting at all hours. Voorhees began the roast by asking Stothert “to sit up here (at the podium facing the roasters) not only as a seat of honor but also to make sure you’re not texting us as the evening goes on.

“I’m not saying the mayor likes to control things, but she did write all of these jokes.” Added Rose: “I’m not suggesting that Jean is an unpopular boss, but when all of your employees vie for the chance to put crushed Valium in your coffee every morning . . . maybe you should adjust your management style.

“How tough is Jean? When she gets on an airplane, her comfort animal is a wolverine.”

Heineman praised Stothert’s budget surpluses and suggested restaurant tax relief “so (wife) Sally and I can afford to eat out in Omaha again.”

Chief Schmaderer offered a video presentation of the Stothert nonstop texting style and then addressed the mayor’s husband: “Joe, I helped Jean pick out a gun to give you for your birthday. I had my own motives. I wanted it to be a fair fight between the two of you.”

Tompkins and Mauk wound up the roast by portraying the mayor’s fictional long-lost sisters, Joan and Jan. The two threw darts at all the roasters as well as their “sibling:”  
“They say our sister Jean will never get a street named after her because nobody crosses her and lives!”

Artist Jim Horan’s “Face” caricature pictures the mayor holding a to-do list. “Fix all potholes” leads the list. In the background are the Omaha skyline and a group of new police officers. Also in the drawing is Jean’s husband, Joe, dressed in his scrubs as a trauma surgeon at the UNMC/ Nebraska Medicine.

In rebuttals to the roast, Mayor Stothert tossed good-natured insults at her verbal assailants and then concluded with some serious thank-yous and thoughts about the press.

“Being named a ‘Face on the Barroom Floor’ is a great honor (bestowed on recipients) for the last 47 years,” she said. “While I hardly feel in their company, I accept the recognition.

“I want to thank the Omaha Press Club for your leadership and your membership. Free and open press is one of the most important safeguards of American freedom. Holding the powerful accountable and providing transparency into all things good and bad is vitally important.”

## **Artist Jim Horan's Description of the Face:**

### **Jean Stothert, Omaha Mayor – 159<sup>th</sup> Face on the Barroom Floor (and Dr. Joe Stothert, UNMC/Nebraska Medicine – Omaha's first man)**

Mayor Stothert is holding a to-do list:

- Fix all potholes.
- Lower taxes.
- Even more police officers and firefighters.
- Free ice cream – that's a joke – I just wanted to see if anyone is paying attention!
- More jobs.
- Streetcars (with a bunch of question marks after it) ???
- Heavy waste containers – is that 96 pounds or 196 pounds?

Jean's husband, Dr. Joe Stothert, is dressed for work. He's in his scrubs with rubber gloves and blue shoe covers. An emblem for UNMC/Nebraska Medicine is on a sign next to Dr. Joe.

The street beside Mayor Stothert has some cracks in it as well as some potholes that have been repaired – kind of.

In the background is the Omaha skyline and a proud group of new Omaha police officers.

I probably should have left the potholes and cracked pavement out of the drawing, but – what the heck – I couldn't resist. Hey, this is supposed to be fun – isn't it???

So there you have it. That's my rendition of our outstanding mayor – Jean Stothert – the 159<sup>th</sup> Face on the Barroom Floor.