

Submitter: Bob Packwood  
On Behalf Of:  
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Roger was one of the closest friends I ever had in politics. I knew him way way way back. I can't remember if I first met him in the Trumpeters or I first met him when he ran for the legislature in 1964. He was not one of the candidates I recruited although I would have recruited him. Roger was convinced that he and his campaign manager I think was named Ferguson knew everything that needed to be done. You know the history. But I knew he was a decent guy, would be a great legislator and a great future candidate for the party. So I recruited, seven candidates, trained them, helped them with advertising, helped them with everything, In 1964 six of them won and it was enough to turn the House of Representatives from Democrat to Republican. In 1966 I wanted to help Roger but again he was too convinced that his buddy Ferguson and he knew what to do. Then luck intervened. Two Pacific Northwest Bell employees had married. The wife didn't think that they should both work in the company at the same time so she quit working. One evening at a party she came up to me and said she'd like to work on my campaign. I asked her how much time do you have. She said 24 hours a day. I didn't need her. My campaign was going to be a shoe in. But I called Roger and said Roger I've got a woman that I think would be of help on your campaign. He grumbled a bit but because it was me calling and I had a good record with success with candidates he allowed her to come to a meeting in mid July. The rest of history. By Labor Day, she was running the campaign. He won. He brought her to Salem as his secretary. In 1968 she and her husband jointly managed my US Senate campaign. Weeks later, Vic was the speaker. Somebody asked him if McCall and Roger had called him after the primary victory. He said Roger called immediately. Tom Cole didn't call for several days and spent two or three days trying to figure out how he could run us independent and win before he gave up on that idea.