

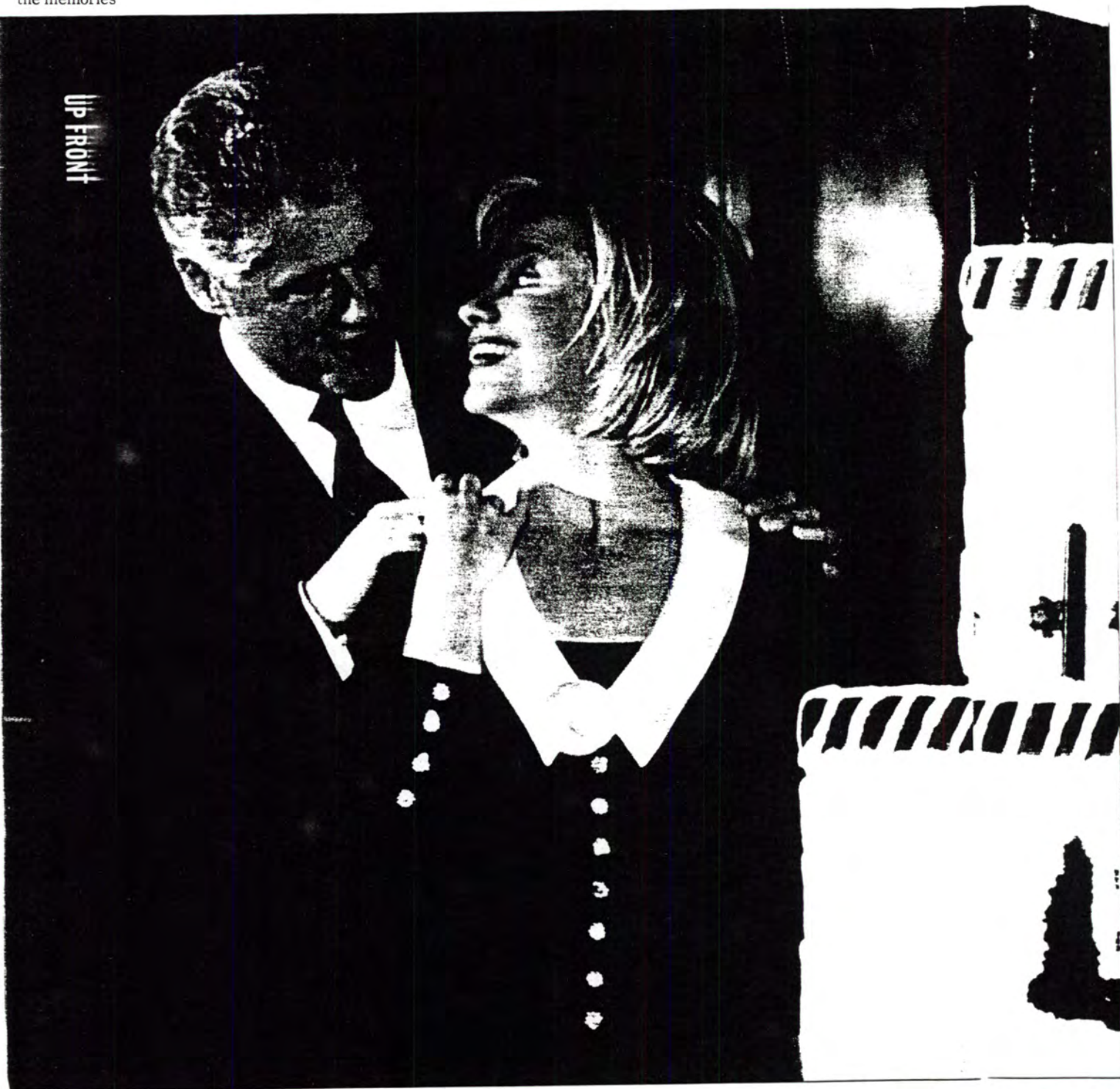


October 27th-28th

Heading back to Chicago for her 50th. First Lady **Hillary Clinton** thanks her hometown for the memories

11/10/97 PEOPLE

Up Front



HAPPY RETURN

Celebrating hitting the half-century mark, Hillary Clinton takes the cake (lots of them!) as she revisits her hometown in high style

Photographs by Christopher Little/Outline



A Bill Clinton flew in from D.C. in time for his wife's evening bash.

◀ Young Hillary "stood out from the crowd," said her former teacher.

THE CAKES ALONE MIGHT HAVE done in a lesser woman: a red, white and blue sheet cake, a multiflavor cheesecake and a six-foot Sara Lee. But not once during Hillary Clinton's extended 50th-birthday fete—a nostalgic, day-long visit Oct. 27 to her hometown of Park Ridge, Ill.—did the honoree's enthusiasm flag. (Her actual birthday, Oct. 26, was celebrated at the White House with a surprise visit from Chelsea, home from Stanford.) "I could not ask for a better way to turn 50," she told students gathered for a marching-band welcome at Chicago's O'Hare airport. "It has happened so fast."

Hillary, who had kept a relatively low profile until recent months, seemed happy to be at center stage for her big day. Radiant in a tailored black-wool pantsuit and gold necklace—a birthday gift from the President—she led two busloads of friends on a tour through Park Ridge's leafy streets. At Eugene Field Elementary School her second-grade teacher Caroline O'Laughlin praised A-student Hillary as "my incentive" to keep teaching. At the Chicago Historical Society, where the First Lady sat for an interview with historian Carl Anthony, the audience watched video clips of her mother, Dorothy Rodham, 78, recalling her young daughter. "She was kind of an exasperating little girl because she was right most of the time," said Rodham. Then, along with Mom and brothers Hugh, 47, and Tony, 43 (Hillary's father, Hugh, a drapery manufacturer, died in 1993), Hillary dedicated a park in her name, revisited her childhood home at 235 Wisner Street and accepted a Chicago Bulls jacket from Michael Jordan's mother, Deloris, after joining the President for a bash at Chicago's Cultural Center.

Not that the day was a total lovefest. A handful of right-to-life protesters picketed Hillary's motorcade, while over at Field Elementary, former classmate Sukkie Askew Stanley teased her about having been better at earning Girl Scout badges than attaching them to her sash ("I'm still working on my sewing badge," joked the First Lady). But if hitting the big five-o was taking a toll, it didn't show. "I think the pain of turning 50 is gone for her," said TV producer and longtime friend Linda Bloodworth-Thomason. "When you consider the alternative, she's pretty happy to be here."

■ KIM HUBBARD

■ LINDA KRAMER in Park Ridge



▲ At O'Hare airport, students gave the First Lady a birthday card, while two bands played her high school fight songs.

◀ At her childhood home, Hillary (with Mom) admired her commemorative blanket, a gift from the town.

▼ Hillary reminisced with old school chums (like Carol Farley Munson, right) and teachers (Caroline O'Laughlin, left).





MICHAEL SNEED

A Rodham rodeo . . .

Mama's daughter: When first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** flies to Chicago for her 50th birthday bash next week, she will be accompanied by her mother, **Dorothy Rodham**, and her brothers, **Hugh** and **Tony**.

Hillaryville . . .

Stats and chat about the big Chitown birthday bash: The first lady did NOT want it to be a fund-raiser a la her hubby's birthday bash. . . . It was **Mayor Daley** and wife **Maggie's** idea to throw a party when they discovered Clinton already was coming to town to do Oprah Winfrey's show on Oct. 28th. . . . And it was hizzoner's idea to dedicate a park in the historic Prairie Avenue District to Hillary. . . . Hillary "has a passion for Chicago hot dogs and pizza," said a close pal, so they'll be served at her party.

Chicago Sun-Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1997

First lady's party puts spotlight on Chicago

Hillary's 50th hits home

By MICHAEL SNEED
AND LYNN SWEET
STAFF REPORTERS

She's not running from her age. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th birthday party will put the national spotlight on Chicago during a daylong extravaganza that will include a visit by the president, a

film crew and a nostalgic tour of her childhood influences.

The celebration will take place on Oct. 27, the day after the first lady's birthday. Historian Carl Anthony, who is doing a documentary on Clinton's life and Chicago's impact on her, and a film crew will capture the day.

The celebration will culminate

with an evening party at the Chicago Cultural Center—complete with a miniature Taste of Chicago, with her favorite local foods.

The first lady's Chicago friends are organizing the activities. The group of hometown buddies will take a bus to Clinton's childhood home in Park Ridge and visit her elementary school and First Unit-

ed Methodist Church, which she attended as a child. Later, Clinton will visit Orchestra Hall, where she once heard the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak in the early 1960s.

"Instead of cruising like teenagers, we are going to cruise like 50-year-olds in a bus," said the first lady's pal Betsy Johnson

Ebeling, who spoke with Clinton about the event but is keeping some details secret.

"I didn't want to tell her everything. I told her she will have to have some surprises," Ebeling said.

The first lady also will attend a \$125 a person Democratic Nation-

Turn to next page

50-fest set for Hillary in Chicago

Continued from previous page

al Committee fund-raiser.

How big will the 50-fest be? Commerce Secretary Bill Daley has joked that the city will send up fireworks.

Oprah Winfrey also will help Clinton make sense of turning 50 when she interviews her from her Chicago studio on Oct. 28.

Later, Clinton will be interviewed on the role of the first lady at the Chicago Historical Society. The interview will be conducted by Anthony.

Finally, the land surrounding the city's oldest house—the Widow Clarke House, 1800 S. Prairie in the Prairie Avenue Historic District—will be renamed as a park in honor of the first lady as part of an overall plan to honor women.

The splash for the first lady will come as she enjoys her highest approval rating since 1993, according to a new poll by U.S. News and World Report.

Most of the costs of the day's activities will be underwritten by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and private donations.



MICHAEL SNEED

Scoop city . . .

Hillary Rodham Clinton's new press secretary is **Steve "Scoop" Cohen**, who replaced the affable **Neel Lattimore**. Steve hates the name Scoop, which was given to him out of affection.

Hillaryville . . .

Tipsville: Here's an exclusive peek at some more details of the first lady's schedule when she hits town Oct. 27 for her big birthday bash.

■ Touchdown: She'll arrive at O'Hare Airport in the first lady's plane, called Executive One. (The president will arrive on Air Force One that night.)

■ During her visit to her hometown of Park Ridge, she'll address an assembly and see her old teachers at Field Elementary School, where she'll also cut a birthday cake made by Chicago Metallic Co. of Lake Zurich, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

■ She will then go the Prairie Avenue Historic District, where the park surrounding the Widow Clarke House will be named the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park of Chicago.

■ The first lady then will head to a discussion on race relations with young people from throughout the city at Orchestra Hall, where she heard a memorable speech by the Rev. **Martin Luther King Jr.** with her church group in the early '60s. Members of her church group also will attend.

■ Clinton picked restaurateur **Phil Stefani** to dole out the eats at her big birthday bash at the Chicago Cultural Center. The birthday cake she'll cut there is a big secret, but it's being made by Sara Lee. (Eli's Cheese-cake will also make a cake, but it won't be the big one.)



**Hillary
Rodham Clinton**
Big bash is brewing

Chicago Sun-Times Friday, October 17, 1997



KUP'S COLUMN

By Irv Kupcinet

THE CHICAGO visit of first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will be recorded for broadcast and archival purposes by **Bill Kurtis** and **David Axelrod**. Hillary also would like a tape of their efforts.

METRO

Donors to pay for most of Clinton birthday bash

BY LYNN SWEET

SUN-TIMES WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Organizers of Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th birthday festivities in Chicago say most of the goods and services it needs will be donated.

The names of all donors will be made public, said Rick Jasculca, who is helping to organize the birthday homecoming. There is no budget for the events, which are still being planned, he said.

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce will host the events, but is not raising money or providing staff. The chamber's role is to "make sure the city and the region get as much positive publicity as possible" from Clinton's visit, said Gerald J. Roper, president and chief executive officer.

Clinton, born in Edgewater Hospital, 5700 N. Ashland, and raised in Park Ridge, will turn 50 on Oct. 26.

She will come to Chicago Oct. 27 for a celebration capped by a party in the Cultural Center, which the president plans to attend.

The day also is set to include a bus trip with childhood friends to Park Ridge and Chicago sites that were important to the young Hillary Rodham. The trip will be used

as a backdrop for a documentary about her.

The financing of the documentary has not been finalized. Neither have arrangements been made to cover costs, if there are any, associated with a Chicago Historical Society program in which historian Carl Anthony will interview the Clinton as part of the documentary, museum spokesman Phyllis Rabineau said.

The city will dedicate a park to Clinton as part of a women's historic project at 1800 S. Prairie.

Lois Weisberg, Chicago's commissioner of cultural affairs, said the city is not charging for use of the Cultural Center, and few costs are associated with the park dedication.

Private and corporate parties pay to throw parties at the Cultural Center; nonprofit organizations do not.

"She is the first lady of the country," Weisberg said. "She is not a major corporation who comes here to have a party."

On Oct. 28, Clinton will speak at a Democratic National Committee Women's Leadership Forum fundraiser at the Sheraton Chicago Hotels and Towers.

Chicago Sun-Times Sunday, October 19, 1997



MICHAEL SNEED ON SUNDAY

Posey patter . . .

South Africa has named a creamy-white Star of Bethlehem lily after veep wife **Tipper Gore**. (The gesture was a thanks to her hubby for focusing on the environment.)

P.S. A rose is named after **Nancy Reagan**. A tulip after **Hillary Rodham Clinton**.



MARY A.
MITCHELL

Chicago Sun-Times Sunday, October 19, 1997

Should the first lady be last lady we pity?

Before we get too sappy about Hillary Rodham Clinton's upcoming 50th birthday, let's remember one thing: She will turn an easy 50.

She will be a 50-year-old woman who is still married to a powerful husband. She will have an empty nest, but she will also have the means to fly off and see her baby anytime she darn well pleases.

At 50, Hillary still will have the perfect job. When that job is over, instead of fretting over her youthful competition, the first lady is guaranteed a cushy seat at the top of whatever list she chooses to put her name on.

At 50, Hillary will have been on the cover of all the major magazines, sat in the presence of royalty and heads of state, written a best seller, and influenced the lives of millions of people she will never meet.

While no one's private life is ever as glamorous as their public persona, most women would gladly jump into her pumps. To mark her 50th birthday, Hillary will not get mere golden trinkets, but an entire Chicago park will be named in her honor.

Even so, pundits are sure to depress the rest of us by unduly bemoaning poor ol' Hillary's fate. Time magazine's cover story this month actually portrayed her 50th birthday and empty nest as a symbol that "embodies the challenge facing baby boom women: What's the next act?"

Huh? What "next act"?

Hillary Clinton's life is hardly an example of what women facing 50 are up against. Yes, she may have the crow's-feet and middle-age spread, but she also has a lot less to deal with than the average baby boomer. I'm only a few steps behind her, and I'm already a bit winded.

Although I'm a grandmother, I still have a daughter to get through college, a son to get through high school and college, a niece to get through elementary school, high school and college, and a stepson to get through kindergarten, elementary school, high school and college.

That means I'm still looking at a lifetime of field trips, graduations, homecoming dances, proms and weddings. On the flip side, I have a mother and father, both of whom are in their 70s.

Whatever new challenges that are supposed to come when I turn 50 will have to wait. I will be too busy dealing with the ones I already have. The crossover into the last passage of my life won't find me looking for things to keep me busy. Instead, I will be struggling with responsibilities until the final chapter closes.

If Hillary Clinton's experience epitomizes the angst of female baby boomers turning 50, then many of us are likely to feel a bit cheated when we will have to wait until we are 70 years old to turn 50. There's no way most of us will be able to take a breath and breeze on to the next victorious moment.

At times like this, I wish baby boomers would act like normal people and just get on with it. The same thing happened when I turned 40. It seemed that every female celebrity in the country turned the corner around the same time. Instead of crying over the loss of their youth, these women coined the phrase "fine and fabulous 40."

They flaunted their defiantly long hair and strutted their firm bodies in short skirts across magazine covers. These were women who actually wanted to have babies after 40, and they succeeded in convincing many of us that we could have it all—the home, the kids, the career—without skipping a beat.

By the time my 40th birthday rolled around, I was in the throes of a midlife crisis. Without drastic action on my part, I was destined to go to my rocking chair a bitter woman who had accomplished nothing more than raising a family and laboring under unfair conditions just to pay the bills.

Before I even thought about it, I had quit my job and was back in college working on a degree. A few years later I had accomplished my goal. It didn't matter that I was stretched in 10 different directions. The only thing that did matter was that I was living up to the image of what a 40-year-old baby boomer's life was supposed to be about.

My success left a bittersweet taste in my mouth.

So, I'm not getting caught up in Hillary's Fortunate 50s birthday bash. I don't begrudge her her success, I just don't want her experience to set the standard for the rest of us. Besides, her picture-perfect transition doesn't inspire me to see 50 as a golden age of opportunity. But the challenge facing a former co-worker does.

After decades of trying, she finally got pregnant at 40 years old. When she turns 50, her biggest challenge will be mustering up the energy to deal with an adolescent brat. Still, my old friend won't be torn between her career aspirations and her desire to watch her baby grow up.

As for turning 50, she'll do it the hard way. I doubt she will even notice

Chicago Sun-Times

An Independent Newspaper

Sunday, October 19, 1997

A fitting birthday bash

No doubt first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is taking stock of her life, as many of us do when we hit 50. Hers has been a full one: Yale Law School graduate, high-powered attorney, key player in the election of her husband, first as governor of Arkansas and later as president of the United States.

She attempted to wrestle the health care reform bear. She has argued forcefully for women's rights around the globe. Her book, *It Takes a Village*, was a best seller. She helped mold a toothy kid into a poised and polished young woman.

On Oct. 27, she will celebrate her birthday here in Chicago. She and her friends, as one pal described it, will "cruise like teenagers" on a Memory Lane trip to her Park Ridge home, school and church. The first lady will visit Orchestra Hall and cap the day with a party at Chicago's Cultural Center, a soiree that will include a mini-Taste of Chicago.

The city will name a park in her honor in an area known for the number of small enterprises recently started by women, a fitting tribute. Much of the goods and services for this bash will be donated, including the use of the Cultural Center as the venue for the birthday bash. Other donations will come from private sources—all of which is fine, provided the names of the donors are made public, as organizers promise.

Chicago Sun-Times Sunday October 19, 1997

Kup's Column



That toddlin' town

First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, during her 50th birthday celebration in Chicago on Oct. 27, wants to reach out to the many people and organizations that touched her life here. That includes her Park Ridge schools, her church, Gallery 37, the Kinzie grade school, Orchestra Hall (where she heard the Rev. **Martin Luther King Jr.** speak), the Robert Taylor Homes and the Chicago Historical Society's 50th anniversary celebration of **Burr Tillstrom's** "Kukla, Fran and Ollie." She seldom missed the show.

One more time

And the next day, Mrs. Clinton will appear on the **Oprah Winfrey** show and address a Woman's Leadership fund-raiser. (And on the seventh day, she will rest.) **President Clinton** flies in for the birthday gala, and the couple will overnight in Chicago.

Prairie Ave. district puts focus on women

Creativity thrives on historic S. Side

BY DELLA DE LAFUENTE
STAFF REPORTER

Once the home of 19th century millionaires, historic Prairie Avenue now is becoming a culturally rich enclave driven by women.

Chicago women who work in art, history and culture abound on the elegant, tree-lined street where the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park will be dedicated on Oct. 27.

Opening restaurants, galleries and an upscale inn, entrepreneurial women are hanging their shingles in the famed Victorian area, hoping to share in the success of the Near South Side's renaissance.

"Women are doing a lot in the neighborhood to make it successful," said Barbara Lynne, president and executive director of the Near South Planning Board. "The park will be a catalyst for encouraging other women to come here to do creative things."

Partners Janet Bloch and Beate Minkovski last month opened their WomanMade Gallery on the first floor of the Elbridge G. Keith Mansion, 1900 S. Prairie. It specializes in art designed and created by women. The home belongs to the daughters of the late Joy Darrow, grandniece of Clarence Darrow.

Inside the year-old National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, 1801 S. Indiana, chef Cali N. Bergold began dishing up good, healthy cooking at a new eatery called Cafe V in August.

"This neighborhood is very much about art, women, creativity and having a place to gather as a community," said Bergold, who decided to venture into business solo after she tired of trekking to her cooking job in Glen Ellyn.

"Here, we're nurturing ourselves in our work, which helps nurture the community. You also see a lot of cross-marketing going on between businesses. The museum brings people to the neighborhood, and we all benefit," she said.

So far, Bergold's decision has paid off. Her first big catering job—a dinner honor-



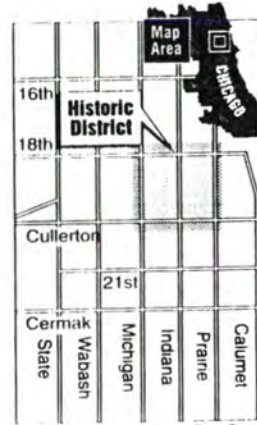
An 1893 sculpture recalling the Fort Dearborn massacre is on the grounds of the new Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park.

ing Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper—came even before she opened the restaurant. A three-year resident of the neighborhood, Bergold lives in a loft apartment across the street from the cafe.

Sondra Varco, a founder and executive director of the veterans museum, also is serving up culture in the Prairie Avenue Historic District by featuring the artwork of combat veterans from countries involved in the Vietnam War.

A Victorian mansion on Calumet Avenue, previously the headquarters of Murphy Butter & Egg Co., is being restored and converted to a bed and breakfast by owners Debra and Scott Seger. It's scheduled to open next year.

The new 4-acre park on Prairie Avenue is intended as a sort of sanctuary for women.



SUN TIMES



JOHN H. WHITE/SUN TIMES PHOTOS

Beate Minkovski shows off some of the artwork at the WomanMade Gallery, on the first floor of the Keith Mansion, 1900 S. Prairie. Many female artists and entrepreneurs have found a home in the Prairie Avenue Historic District.

said Lois Weisberg, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Her department will oversee the park. Chicago is one of a handful of cities, including Miami, to create a park in honor of women.

"The neighborhood fosters a wonderful concept of women of the past, present and future," Weisberg said. "We want to develop a park that embraces that idea."

An advisory council of women representing 15 organizations will help design the park, Weisberg said.

"It could include a place to reflect privately or gather with others, maybe with some flower and herb garden,"

said. "It could include a place to reflect privately or gather with others, maybe with some flower and herb garden,"

Green space for the park is in the center

of the 1800 block of the historic district bordered by the Glessner House to the north, the Keith House to the south and the Clarke House to the southwest on Indiana Avenue.

The property is secured with a wrought iron fence and sits atop land that previously supported the elegant homes of Chicago's captains of industry. Concrete remnants of some of the demolished homes remain on the property, resembling odd sculpture.

Near the brick wall of the Glessner House an 1893 bronze sculpture titled "Massacre Monument" commemorates the Fort Dearborn Massacre.

Commissioned by George Pullman and designed by sculptor Carl Rohlf-Smith, the monument portrays the rescue of Margaret Helm by Potawatomi chief Black Partridge Dr. Isaac Van Vorhees lies dying at their feet, and a child with open arms represents the 12 children killed in the struggle.

Only the white-frame Greek revival Clarke House, the city's oldest residence built in 1836, remains on the site planned for the park.

About 10,000 people visit the historic district annually

HEVRDEJS
& CONKLIN INC.



Hillary beat: Don't expect **Hillary Clinton's** birthday party to be a buttoned-up event—not when the guest of honor requested a cross-section of Chicago talent for entertainment. First to be inked for the evening's bill is Rockin' Johnny and the LA-Z Boys, a blues group that raises the rafters Thursdays at Bricks. Will **Bill Clinton** and his sax jam with the group?

Reunion: If you've been in a public photo-op with **Hillary Clinton** on one of her many trips here, you may be hearing from the First Lady soon. We hear she wants to invite a wide variety of people she's chatted with to the birthday bash planned for her later this month. White House staffers are painstakingly tracking down these casual acquaintances.

Daily Southtown
Tuesday, October 21, 1997

"She's learned a lot about how
to just let things roll off her."
Former press secretary Lisa Caputo

First lady now more at ease with her role

Kinder, gentler Hillary turns 50 Sunday

WASHINGTON (AP) — She wickedly mimics an old law client and his spittoon. She's got a knack with Game Boy that many kids would envy. And friends say her interest in people's lives makes her a terrific gal-pal.

Meet the other Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Five years into her turn as America's first lady, with her 50th birthday arriving Sunday, Mrs. Clinton is letting down her guard a little even as she raises her profile once more in an activist role.

After too many image makeovers even to count, Mrs. Clinton remains a White House force not to be trifled with, earnest as ever in her advocacy for women and children. But friends see a woman less burdened by the weight of her policy passions.

"She now looks at ways to get things done and is much more relaxed about her role," says Ann Stock, her former social secretary. "She's really enjoying where

she is and this stage in life."

Some lessons along the way have been rough.

She once stubbornly held out against an independent counsel investigation of the Clintons' financial dealings that everyone else — her husband included — seemed to think was inevitable.

Now she's the woman pushing for an out-of-court settlement in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case against her husband to avoid an embarrassing trial.

The woman who wanted to overhaul a huge chunk of the U.S. economy with a sweeping health-care reform plan has become the woman who plugs away at bite-sized steps to expand Americans' access to medical care.

Once openly defensive, she's now quietly pragmatic.

"She's learned a lot about how to just let things roll off of her," says Lisa Caputo, a confidante and her former press secretary. "She's learned a lot about herself and her limitations."

Better



AP file photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton, speaking at the University of Maryland this month, is five years into her turn as America's first lady.

And if Mrs. Clinton is more comfortable with her role these days, so are the American people.

The first lady's poll ratings are at their highest levels since 1993, even though people remain divided on whether she should be shaping policy or simply using her stature to spotlight problems that need attention.

To mark this landmark, longtime friends stretching back to

grammar school plan a week-end of celebratory events in Washington, then a trip Monday to her home turf in the Chicago suburbs.

The first lady says she feels awkward about all the hubbub and mental musings surrounding her birthday; the bigger milestone to her lies in the departure of her only child, Chelsea, for college this year.



MICHAEL SNEED

Grub gab . . .

Don't be surprised if Cubs legend **Ernie Banks** is a star at **Hillary Rodham Clinton's** 50th birthday bash Monday. The first lady loves Ernie. . . . **Harrison Ford**, a Hillary fan who hails from Chicago and starred as the president in "Air Force One," is in Japan filming and can't attend the party. But he sent his regards. . . . Gold Coast Dogs and Vienna Beef will be doing the dogs for Hillary's fete. . . . Hey, we got no bananas! **Jeanine Gits-Carmody**, owner of Diana's Bananas—one of 13 Taste of Chicago vendors who will feed Hillary's guests—won't be serving bananas. Jeanine's bananas were deemed "too big," so she'll serve chocolate-covered strawberries instead.

MAD gets the lowdown on Chelsea

By James Warren

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The president and first lady are empty-nesters, their daughter off to college. And now there's dramatic evidence of how her freshman year is going.

Well, not really dramatic. In fact, it's totally fictional, part of "The Chelsea E-Mails" in the October **MAD**, that still-breathing bastion of satire for youth.

For example, there is an initial message from Chelsea to her mom:

"Today all the incoming Stanford Freshmen heard a welcoming speech by President Gerhard Casper. I liked his comment, but my roommate Alisa told me not to believe a word he said because he's a lawyer and lawyers never tell the truth. When I told her she was wrong because both you and daddy are lawyers, she laughed for five minutes straight! Roommates can be a little weird, I guess."

In another fictional message, Chelsea reveals she's having problems in her accounting class but doesn't really like the professor, who thinks "it's impossible to legally turn \$1,000 into \$100,000 on the futures market in a few weeks, even after I told him that you and your friend Mr. Tyson did," a not-so-veiled allusion to her mom's controversial futures windfall.

Hillary Rodham Clinton responds to that one, telling Chelsea that she may have somehow inherited "your father's lousy business sense. Remember all those funny stories I told you

Magazines

about the Whitewater Development Corporation?"

The most droll e-mail is her dad's subsequent response to Hillary's mention of the Whitewater investment:

"I saw mommy's e-mail to you. She seems to have forgotten that investing in Whitewater was her idea, not mine. It's very important that you have this story straight—one never knows when one might be called before a Senate committee."

"Remember," the father continues, "they can't impeach mommy. She's not an elected government official! (Although from the way she acts around here, you'd never know it!)"

Quickly: Oct. 27 **Newsweek** is excellent on the at-times-ambiguous matter of learning disabled children. As the society, law and public policy become more expansive in its treatment of those so labeled, a rising array of critics wonders whether the tag can merely obscure lazy kids, lousy schools and overambitious parents who seek a rationale for a child's underachieving ways. There's also a brief but handy primer for parents on the symptoms of bona fide learning disabilities. . . . November **Vanity Fair**, for which President Clinton and Vice President Gore posed (this is the same Clinton who claimed the Paula Jones lawsuit would disrupt his awesome schedule), includes a withering Robert Sam Anson profile of renowned inves-

tigative reporter Seymour Hersh. There's no shortage of journalists for whom Hersh, chronicler of the My Lai massacre and various CIA misdeeds, is a hero. But this chronicle of his overzealous, slimy modus operandi in pursuing documents related to the Kennedy family for a new book may raise doubts even among longtime acolytes. . . . The Nov.-Dec. issue of **American Enterprise**, from the conservative American Enterprise Institute, again shows why this is a vastly improved, engaging and accessible bimonthly. It focuses on the Republicans' failure to sharply cut the size of the federal government (indeed, actually increasing

spending by many billions of dollars), and relies heavily on examples of state and local successes to suggest there are plenty of road maps for the GOP to follow. Elsewhere, there's a good debate between virtuecrat William Bennett and the famously failed Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork about whether we should get tougher on controlling liquor sales. Bennett says yes, asserting a link between booze and lots of inner city problems, while Bork demurs, contending that society should focus on heightening personal responsibility. (\$6 via 1150 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or call 202-862-5886).

Flurry of events set for first lady's 50th

Grade school visit, park dedication included in return to hometown

BY JIM ALLEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Turning 50.

Turning a little gray.

Maybe turning up the husband's first hearing aid.

In a series of appearances on Monday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be turning to Chicago to celebrate the bittersweet joy of completing a half century of life, not to mention serve as a reminder to all baby boomers how they now can join the American Association for Retired Persons.

Referring to the publicity surrounding the event, spokeswoman Marsha Berry said, "She said she can never lie about her age now."

Coming a day after her official birthday, Mrs. Clinton's visit to the area will be spent meeting with longtime friends, attending ceremonies and visiting several of the places that shaped her life, including her home and grade school in suburban Park Ridge.

"It's a celebration of Mrs. Clinton's life in Chicago, and she's going to be spending it with the people who mean a great deal to her," Berry said. "The places the first lady will be visiting ... made the foundation of her life and those experiences have contributed to who she is. Acknowledging these milestones is part of what we all do."

A bus tour with her friends will

open with a trip from O'Hare International Airport into Park Ridge, where Hillary Rodham spent her early years. At the same time, White House planners tried to accommodate a little "spontaneity" for surprises along the way.

After landing at O'Hare, Clinton's first stop will be her first alma mater, Field Elementary School. There, she is scheduled to speak to the student body.

Clinton plans to revisit her childhood home at 235 Wisner in Park Ridge.

In the afternoon, Clinton will travel into Chicago to attend the dedication of a park in her honor in the South Loop on 18th Street between Indiana and Prairie

avenues.

She also will participate in a late-afternoon discussion at Orchestra Hall, the place where she was moved by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1961.

The day's events also will be chronicled by historian Carl Anthony, who plans to interview the first lady at the Chicago Historical Society.

The capstone event will be a birthday party at the Chicago Cultural Center, where the city has been throwing daily birthday parties to celebrate that institution's century milestone. Officials said traditional Chicago fare, including hot dogs, pizza and cheesecake, are certain to be served.

Chicago Tribune

Sunday, October 26, 1997

First lady's 50th casts golden glow on Boomer women

By Bonnie Miller Rubin

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In 1947, when Hugh and Dorothy Rodham brought their first child home to their Park Ridge residence, women accounted for less than 3 percent of all students in law and medical schools. The business world wasn't much better: With the exception of clerical staff, downtown office buildings were as white and male as any country club. Even the "help wanted" ads were segregated by gender—and would remain so for another 24 years.

But Hillary Rodham Clinton was born at the front end of the Baby Boom—a cultural, social and political force that would roar through the second half of the 20th Century. Women, in particular, were the beneficiaries of expanded opportunities and led vastly different lives from their mothers. By their sheer numbers, they have shaken up every American institution, from marriage to the military.

And now, Boomer women are ready to rewrite the second act. Turning 50 at the rate of 2 million a year, they will stampede into the golden years (new terminology: "second middle age") and drive the demand

Hillary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for designer bifocals the way they did for Barbie lunchboxes, college admissions, suburban starter homes, running shoes and minivans. As they receive their AARP cards, it's clear they will be looking for more than bargain matinees and discounts at Sizzler.

But what? Without any blueprint, how will the first lady and her peers confront this great sweep of life, between 50 and 80? They could launch entirely new careers. (And, given longer life expectancy, still end up with a handful of years in which to contemplate the sunset.) Or they could stay in their current fields, but work in different ways. Or will they chuck the paycheck altogether, embracing inner contentment through volunteerism or sailing the Caribbean?

There's even debate over what they will look like. After decades of beating a path to the gym, will they surrender to the wrinkles and generous laps that go along with being a grandmother? Or will they fight it all the way, nipping and tucking to the end?

"To be a Baby Boomer woman is to be in the driver's seat," said Daniel Perry, executive director of the National Alliance for Aging Research, a not-for-profit organization based in Washington. "And we won't see the end until 2064, when the last Boomer—and it will be a woman—goes to her final reward."

In Hillary's case, while there are still three years left in her husband's administration, it is her next step that has generated far more speculation. Perhaps that's because we have seen ex-presi-

dents make this segue before, but it's new ground for a "middle-age" first lady with a blue-chip résumé.

Some see Mrs. Clinton on a college campus; others see her overseeing a foundation or on the lecture circuit. TV producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason wants her to run for the Senate. "But when I tell her this, she just laughs," said Bloodworth-Thomason, whose friendship with the Clintons goes back to the '80s. "I honestly don't think she has any idea."

The one trend that comes across loud and clear is that the preoccupation with career will give way to a craving for meaning and balance, said J. Walker Smith, of Yankelovich Partners.

That would spark a renewed interest in do-goodism, which has always resonated for the '60s generation. The first lady herself espoused those ideals—as a youth group member at First United Methodist Church, where she baby-sat for migrant workers; later, with a feisty commencement speech at Wellesley College, denouncing "acquisitive and competitive corporate life."

Now, free of the demands of work and family, it will kick in once again.

"We have had so many doors open to us that we have an obligation to help others who haven't been as fortunate," said Susan Fox Gillis, president-elect of the National Association of Women Lawyers—but also a board member for Grateful House, a residential center that serves alcoholic and chemically dependent women in Oak Park. "Many of us are feeling a great need to give back . . . to return to the ideals we had when life was simpler."

Already, examples abound: Jane



Reuters photo

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton share a light moment during a gathering last week. Clinton will celebrate her 50th birthday on Sunday.

Fonda has retired from movies, but stumps for the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, carrying the message to young girls that self-esteem flows from achievement, not whom you sleep with.

Faye Wattleton, head of Planned Parenthood during its most turbulent years, left to start the Center for Gender Equality, a New York-based think tank for women's issues. Erica Jong created an

endowment fund for young women who teach writing at Barnard College, her alma mater.

"At this stage of life, I think it's very normal to want to nurture the next generation," said Jong, who has penned more than a dozen books. "What surprised me, though, was that the need was so strong."

Such altruism will be possible because we won't mind tightening the belt, if it means a saner, more

significant existence.

"All the showoff badges are declining," said Yankelovich's Smith. "They already carry half the weight they did in the early '90s—and that is a fundamental shift. Think about it: You probably see more people who own Mercedeses than who are in control of their lives—and that's what people envy."

Some in the first lady's inner circle predict she will use her formidable legal skills to tackle a cause—such as quality child care, the focus of a White House conference last week.

"Children are a passion. . . . From her years in Arkansas and now traveling across the country, she has heard plenty of horror stories, and I think she could come out swinging on this issue in a way that she can't now," Smith said.

Contrary to popular belief, women become more radical as they get older, experts say. Perhaps they've been paid less, faced a health crisis, gone through a divorce and couldn't collect child support. "These are life experiences for most women," said Gloria Allred, a Los Angeles-based attorney who specializes in feminist issues.

The political awakening of Ginger Speigel Lane, 57, resulted from a skiing accident 13 years ago that left her paralyzed—an especially cruel fate for a dancer.

"The civil rights movement and the women's movement passed me by because I was busy raising a family. But after my accident, I discovered what it meant to be marginalized; to be set up either as pitiable creatures or superheroes—neither of which we wanted."

So Lane went to Washington and fought for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Two years later, she enrolled in a master's program and is now the peer counseling coordinator for Access Living, an independent living center, and a board member at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

"I've learned to never set 5- or 10-year plans," Lane said. "I can live with an uncertainty that I wouldn't have thought possible when I was younger."

Such an attitude will serve women well. Sheer economic survival will keep many of them on the payroll far longer than they had envisioned. What about those generous early-retirement packages offered just a few years ago? "That's going to stop," Perry said. "In fact, corporations will offer incentives for those who stay."

But, like everything else, it will be in a slightly different way. Alternative arrangements—flex time, part time, telecommuting—pioneered by Boomer women to accommodate child-raising also will suit their lives at 68 or 75.

Beyond professional concerns, staying healthy—both physically and financially—is a priority.

Boomer women have fewer children than their predecessors. With the realities of divorce, many more are likely to be single and unable to count on the support of family in their later years. Add rising health-care costs and cutbacks in pensions and government programs, and it's apparent that the safety net for women is fraying, Perry said.

On the plus side, women are better educated, have higher incomes and wield more political clout than at any time in history, all of which has made a tremendous impact on the frontiers of medicine. "Their blatant omission as research subjects has turned the medical establishment on its head, affecting everything from breast cancer to osteoporosis," Perry said. "And menopause? It was barely talked about with their mothers . . . now it's a national obsession."

So is staying and looking young. But does that mean diet and exercise or going under the knife? "The question is whether you want to be ageless or mature. That doesn't mean that we don't want to look as good as we can for as long as we can, but it's up to you to define what that means," said Myrna Blyth, editor of *More*, a magazine launched in April geared to the mature woman, a demographic that advertisers have all but ignored.

That strategy is quickly being scrapped, as Boomers will make up not just the largest market, but the richest. In the current issue—with a 50-year-old Cheryl Tiegs on the cover—the glossy pages are dominated by ads for cosmetics, not denture cream. Editorial content focuses on topics such as aging parents, getting along with adult children and dating when you are no longer at your "Cosmo-like" best.

"Women feel very good about themselves. They've had experiences—both good and bad—and survived. There's a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for this stage of life."

That would sum up the first lady's journey. She has navigated choppy waters, weathered setbacks and displayed resiliency, but without the self-indulgence so often associated with Boomers, her friends say.

"She never overly dramatizes or analyzes her life," said Bloodworth-Thomason. "Her attitude is very much, 'Let's get on with it.'"

Daily Herald

Sunday, October 26, 1997

Alas, youth flees at 50 — but not if some can help it

BY BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

They come in and look for something fast, red and young — like a Corvette.

"I'm thinking they are trying to refuel some energy or replay that tape (of life)," said Louis Mathews, who sees plenty of new fiftysomethings as a salesman at Horizon Chevrolet in Naperville. "(They want) something with speed in it, something that will call attention and has a lot of excitement."

Whether it's buying a fast car or joining a health club, hitting the half-century mark often inspires some attempt to hold on to youth.

And as the country's most-famous

50-year-old today, some might expect first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to start sporting trendy clothes or signing up for step aerobics.



Hillary Rodham Clinton

"No, I don't think so," said Betsy Ebeling, the first lady's best friend, as she was rushing off to Washington, D.C., for the East Coast bash. "She has all of us to get her through it, so she'll be just fine."

Ebeling and husband Tom, of Arlington Heights, will return to Chicago on Monday with the first

lady, a Park Ridge native, for a birthday retrospective.

Clinton will visit with old (long-time) friends and stop by her grade school, childhood home and several other local haunts as she marks this rite of passage.

Though life expectancy continually increases, turning 50 still is "the mark of coming of old age," said Bernard Beck, associate professor of sociology at Northwestern University. "It's time you take stock," Beck says. "This is the point at which you are ... no longer on your way to somewhere, but it is where you've gotten to."

It's a time when people ask themselves if they are where they want to be financially and professionally,

Beck said.

And as baby boomers — reluctant to step aside for younger people to take over — they want to hold on to youth, Beck said. Thus, the sporty car or exercise program.

"They don't have to be a mom anymore. They have time to take care of themselves," said Anne Adolfson, who sees some first-time 50-year-old exercisers at Women's Workout World in Arlington Heights.

For others, the fifties are a wake-up call to do something to prevent problems their elders face, like heart disease or other illness.

"It doesn't dawn on them until they are 50 ... it's a mortality thing," Adolfson said.

But Dr. Stewart Segal warns that

health risks are more than just a state of mind.

With the 50s comes a greater risk of heart disease and cancer because, basically, the body is aging.

Instead of mourning, Segal says, people should "physically invest in their health" — eat well and exercise.

And, as for the theory that says people have lived the best part of their lives when they hit 50: "That's bull, unless you believe it," says Segal, who practices at Lake Zurich Family Treatment Center.

Beck obviously agrees.

"It's just a number," he said. "There are plenty of people who are washed up before they're 50 and others who are turning heads (with accomplishments or physique) long after."

Kup's Column



A reporter's report

With **Hillary Rodham Clinton** celebrating her big 5-0 birthday today, the first lady revealed her three major wishes on her natal day in an interview carried by L.A. Times International. "The first would be world peace," she declared, "wishing that between my birthday and, say, the end of the year we could see a breakthrough in Northern Ireland, further reconciliation in Bosnia and a renewal of meaningful peace talks in the Middle East."

More Hillary birthday wishes

"My second wish," continued the first lady, "is that families the world over could be healthy and that love and kindness and civility would prevail."

Every mother's concern

"My third wish is more personal. I wish I could stop feeling so bereft about **Chelsea's** being away at college. She is such a joy to us, and I *know how capable she is*. Still, I wish I could feel more positive that everything is fine. Perhaps then I could quit worrying about her. Perhaps then I could more wholeheartedly enjoy her new adventure."

That toddlin' town

Mayor Daley, who spent last week nursing a severe cold, will be up bright and early Monday, ready to announce his stronger ethics rules to prevent another "Huels" embarrassment. . . . The first lady's jam-packed birthday celebration Monday in the Cultural Center, with the president flying in to join the festivities, will be followed Tuesday by her speech to the Women's Leadership Forum at the Sheraton Hotel.

Now hear this

The political changes continue: In the wake of **Loleta Didrickson's** decision to change her goal from secretary of state to U.S. senator, another Republican who planned to run for the same Senate seat, former Rep. **Michael Patrick Flanagan**, now is having second thoughts and may not run. . . . The 8th Ward Democrats will salute **John Stroger**, their ward committeeman and Cook County chairman, Tuesday at the Martinique restaurant. Stroger's campaign for re-election as County Board president will be directed by political veteran **Jerry Austin**.



MICHAEL SNEED ON SUNDAY

First lady to get taste of poetry, blues at bash

Morning matters: First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, who is heading to Chicago Monday to celebrate her 50th birthday, will be eating Ann Sather's famous cinnamon buns on her birthday bus.

■ Afternoon addendum:

Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois' poet laureate, has written a very special poem in honor of the first lady, which will be read by her daughter, **Nora Brooks Blakely**, at 2:15 p.m. Monday at the dedication of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park on 18th Street between Indiana and Prairie avenues.



Gwendolyn Brooks

■ Evening attire: Headline entertainment for Clinton's evening birthday party at the Chicago Cultural Center will be **Buddy Guy** and **Koko Taylor**. Dance music will be provided by the Gentleman of Leisure.

■ Hmmm. At last peek, **Oprah Winfrey**, on whose show Clinton is scheduled to appear Tuesday morning, had expressed an inability to attend her birthday party.

Sneedlings . . .

U.S. Sen. **Carol Moseley-Braun**, who is devoted to cultural and historic preservation, took time out recently to address the Artifact Conservation symposium chaired by the Chicago Area Conservation Group, which is headed by conservator **Craig Deller** of Geneva. . . . Chicago Sun-Times editorial board member and columnist **Mary M. Mitchell** will speak on health issues Nov. 6 at a Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization forum at the Association House of Chicago.



■ **Over the Hill(ary):** As part of her 50th birthday celebration, Hillary Rodham Clinton will unwrap the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park in the 1800 block of South Prairie on Monday. The first lady has scheduled a two-day birthday visit to her home turf.



**Hillary
Rodham Clinton**

NEWSFEATURE

■ As Hillary Rodham Clinton turns 50, she joins other women who are shattering stereotypes about age. But some problems—such as poverty—persist, writes staff reporter **Brenda Warner Rotzoll**, 58.

50 ♀



RUTH FREMSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

No one could say that Hillary Rodham Clinton, at 50, is over the hill.

Milestone no longer millstone for most women

Female and 50. From pantyhose and comfortable shoes to education, health, jobs and leisure, it's not what it used to be—thank heaven.

Fifty used to sound like the end of life as we'd known it. Kids gone, looks going, opportunities few. Often it meant being put on the shelf—in your own mind, and in other people's minds.

Today, who can think Hillary Rodham Clinton is going to be put on the shelf because she turned 50 Sunday. With her child off to college, the first lady isn't playing empty-nester. She's taking up the battle for child care.

Clinton will be tearing through Chicago at a marathon runner's pace today as her old school friends toss a moveable feast of a birthday party for the Park Ridge native.

Women no longer have to look young or wear high heels to be accepted.

"I had a face-lift when I was in my 50s. I would no more fuss over that now," said Nancy Roberts, 70, of DeKalb, who globetrots regularly on behalf of the American Refugee Committee. She wears comfortable clothes and shoes and remembers with joy the advent of pantyhose in the 1960s. Until then, women held up stockings with torture-chamber girdles or garter belts.

Working when you had children was frowned upon. Men needed jobs to support families. I remember my mother coming home white-faced and shattered when, times being tough in my father's business around 1950, she sought to return to the small-town bank she had once all but run. No jobs for married women with children, she was told.

Today, women over 50 may be doctors, lawyers or top corporate executives—although the majority still have much more humdrum and lower paying jobs. They may be sought out for the experience they bring to a job. Or, like many men of the same age, they may find themselves forced out through corporate downsizing and be unable to find a new job commensurate with their talents.

One thing that applies to almost every woman of 50 today is that she is healthier than her mother and grandmother were at the same age.

"Everybody's health is better nowadays. We're more into exercise and healthy eating, and it's paying off. We do have people who are feeling better and living



JOHN H. WHITE SUN-TIMES

At 70, Nancy Roberts is too busy helping refugees to worry about her age.

longer," said Fran Lubelchek, 57, of Northbrook.

She and her two partners were over 50 when they decided to found Vital Times, a free Chicago monthly newspaper dealing with post-50 interests such as health, switching jobs, hobbies and travel.

"I've found it's fun being a senior because if you go to a motel or the movies, you can get discounts," said Edie Fitts, 63, of Elgin. She had very few role models when she went straight from college to a major

advertising agency on Michigan Avenue.

Fitts said she is happy with a wonderful family and a couple of grandchildren, but when she saw 50 approaching, she wanted to be sure that before she finished her career. "I had accomplished what I wanted to do." That happened when she combined her career with her private passion for music and spent seven years as marketing director for the Elgin Symphony.

"One of the biggest changes is in the electronics field. Women have learned to play with men's toys: cell phones, computers, cars," Fitts said.

The playing field may not yet be level, but at least women can get onto it more easily. Fitts recalled having to go in the side door at the Union League Club years ago, when women couldn't be regular members. Ten years ago, all seven major downtown clubs were forced by city ordinance to admit women to full membership, giving women access to the places where many of Chicago's largest deals are worked out over lunch or a squash game.

On the health front, 50 is kids stuff these days, says Dr. Martin Gorbman of the University of Chicago Hospitals. As a geriatrician, Gorbman specializes in the care of older adults. He said two big changes have been in the understanding of heart disease in women—smoke and drink like men and you'll get heart attacks like men and osteoporosis, the thinning of bones that can lead to broken hips.

He said if women start early enough with exercise, proper diet and preventive

MORNINGLINE

Is turning 50 niftier than it used to be?

Yes: (312) 408-3641

No: (312) 408-3642

Phone lines open until 5:30 p.m. today. (A charge for a local call to downtown Chicago applies.) Results in Tuesday's Sun-Times.

measures that may include calcium supplements, they can prevent osteoporosis and avoid fractures "that may lead to pain, immobility and reduction of activity."

Dr. Nehama Dresner, a psychiatrist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, noted that in 1900 a woman's average life-span in the United States was 50 years, whereas today it is 81. "There are many more

post-menopausal years women are living than they used to. That's a period of life we need to explore in much greater detail."

Irene Nelson, 74, president of the Southeast Chicago chapter of OWL, the Older Women's League, said that "I came along at a time when African-American people didn't have anything. My first job I made \$2.50 a week working in a home of some people who had a big plantation in Mississippi. Back then, by the time a woman was 50 she was so old she was barely able to get up."

Women's problems today are more apt to come after age 65, when most find that whether they've worked in the home or out of it, they haven't much to retire on.

Do women over 50 have it better? asked Roberta Weiner, OWL spokesman in Washington, D.C. "The big dirty little secret is that despite the media image that all of us are carrying briefcases and going to offices, the majority of women entering the workforce are still entering in low-paying jobs with few if any benefits. Women 65 and over in 1995 had a median income of \$9,945.

"We have to educate younger women so that they take steps to mitigate the kind of poor old age that women have today," Weiner said, teaching them to put money into IRAs and 401k retirement savings, and to seek jobs with benefits, even if they are low-paying jobs.

Helen Thomas, who at 77 is UPI's very active White House correspondent, said these days being older "has a very big liberating effect" in what women expect of themselves. The down side, she said, is that when still working at her age, "you have to defend yourself for still being alive. I don't see why that's necessary."

Full, festive day here for first lady

The two-day extravaganza marking first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th birthday in her hometown will begin with a visit to her girlhood home and elementary school in Park Ridge.

Then she'll travel to 18th and Prairie for the dedication of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park and the reading of a poem in her honor by Illinois poet laureate

■ Party day in D.C.: Page 26.

Next, it's off to the newly renovated Symphony Center, followed by an interview with historian Carl Anthony at the Chicago Historical Society, then a birthday bash for "Pillars of the Chicago Cultural Center."

Clinton in Brooks // Admire, Deal

Private parties in D.C. mark Hillary's 50th



Hillary Rodham Clinton
Chicago celebration today

By **SONYA ROSS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—A steady drizzle and damp chill didn't keep Hillary Rodham Clinton, who turned 50 on Sunday, away from a private birthday party attended by nearly 500 people on the South Lawn of the White House.

The guests at the three-hour party "were people from the different times of her life," Marsha Berry, the first lady's press secretary, said.

Also there were the president, daughter Chelsea, who was home from Stanford University, and Clinton's mother and two brothers.

Berry said the party, which was not open to the media, had a state fair atmosphere with the tent decorated to reflect the five decades of Clinton's life. In each area were friends and acquaintances from those periods, including people who knew her as a child, in college, in

Arkansas and in Washington.

The gathering was a prelude to what's in store for Clinton beginning today: a two-day public celebration in her hometown of Chicago that includes a speech, a chat with a historian, a birthday bash at the Cultural Center and a TV appearance with Oprah Winfrey.

In true Washington fashion, Clinton's special day was fodder for the Sunday talk shows. ABC-TV's "This Week" offered a video birthday card in which average Americans politely swore that Clinton looked much too young to be 50.

Clinton began celebrating her birthday minutes after midnight early Sunday during a surprise party at a Washington hotel. The first lady got a hint that something was up Saturday night when she and President Clinton left the annual black-tie gala of the National Italian-American Foundation and their limousine suddenly detoured from the White House toward the Sheraton Luxury Collection Hotel.

Mrs. Clinton turns 50 with 500 at party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—A steady drizzle and damp chill didn't keep Hillary Rodham Clinton, who turned 50 on Sunday, away from a private birthday party attended by nearly 500 people on the South Lawn of the White House.

The party, in a tent decorated with a different motif to reflect each decade of her life, interrupted what otherwise was a quiet and secluded Sunday for the Clintons. They didn't even emerge for church as they usually do.

Those invited "were people from the different times of her life," said Marsha Berry, the first lady's press secretary. Also there were the president, daughter, Chelsea, and Mrs. Clinton's mother and two brothers.

Berry said the party had a state fair atmosphere with different parts of the tent decorated to reflect the five different decades of Mrs. Clinton's life.

The gathering was a prelude to what's in store for Mrs. Clinton beginning Monday: A public, two-day celebration in her hometown, the Chicago area, that includes a speech, a chat with a historian, a birthday bash at the Chicago Cultural Center and a TV appearance with talk show host Oprah Winfrey.

Mrs. Clinton began celebrating her birthday minutes after midnight early Sunday by taking a few spins around the dance floor during a surprise party at a posh Washington hotel.

Wearing a red satin evening gown, the first lady got a hint that something was up Saturday night when she and President Clinton left the annual black-tie gala of the National Italian-American Foundation and their limousine suddenly detoured from the White House toward the Sheraton Luxury Collection Hotel on embassy-lined Massachusetts Avenue.

Still, aides said, she was genuinely surprised by the party, attended by about 100 friends and daughter Chelsea, who trekked across the country for her mom's birthday.

It was Chelsea's first trip home since she began her freshman year at Stanford University a few weeks ago.

HEVRDEJS
& CONKLIN INC



Democrats to put First Lady on grill for fundraiser

With all the hoopla over **Hillary Clinton's** visit, be assured there is a commercial break in her schedule. The First Lady plans to headline a fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee and its women's leadership council on Tuesday, when, for \$125, you might get to question her in a "town hall" meeting at the Chicago Sheraton. Co-chairs are attorney **Chaz Ebert** (wife of movie whiz **Roger**) and food exec **Sue Gin**.

Daily Southtown

Monday, October 27, 1997

Chicago-style birthday bash awaits Hillary

CHICAGO (AP) — The party for Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th is just beginning.

The first lady spent a quiet birthday at home Sunday, but her Chicago friends plan a celebration Monday that starts with a tour of her old neighborhood and ends with a cake so big it needs to be delivered in three vans.

Hillary also plans to squeeze in a visit to a Democratic fundraiser during her two days in Chicago, where she'll be joined by the president and a film crew making a documentary on her life.

About a dozen of Hillary's friends plan to take her on a bus tour of Park Ridge, the suburb where she grew up. Monday will be proclaimed Hillary Rodham Clinton Day by the mayor.

There will be a stop at Hillary's childhood home, which she has not visited since she graduated from Maine East High School in 1965, her spokeswoman Marsha Barry said.

Then the group plans to visit Field Elementary School and First United Methodist Church, both of which the first lady attended as a child. At Field,

fifth- and sixth-graders got ready for Mrs. Clinton's visit by painting about 150 pictures of her.

Later, her friends plan to take her to Chicago's Orchestra Hall, where she once heard the Rev. Martin Luther King speak during the 1960s.

As a gift from the city, a new four-acre park will be named in her honor. One proposal for the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park of Chicago calls for a special walk honoring women's contributions to the city.

The day will culminate with an

evening party with about 1,000 people at the Chicago Cultural Center — with a mini-Taste of Chicago, featuring pizza, hot dogs and many other of Hillary's favorite foods.

Sara Lee Corp. is making the birthday cake. The Chicago-based company is keeping the details secret, but company spokesman Doug Dome said it took six bakers to make and will need to be transported in three vans.

Private donors are paying for most of the festivities.

Daily Herald

PADDOCK PUBLICATIONS 126th Year, No. 13

Monday, October 27, 1997

A surprise for the first lady on her 50th

WASHINGTON

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spent her 50th birthday at home Sunday, where family and a few hundred friends treated her to a "surprise" party.

The tent party on the White House lawn had a "state fair" theme with booths featuring foods and memorable events from each of the five decades of the first lady's life.

Among the guests were Holly-



Hillary Clinton

wood pals Ted Danson, Mary Steenburgen, Linda Bloodworth-Thomason and Harry Thomason, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and Clinton's kindergarten buddy from Illinois, Ricky Ricketts.

In addition to President Clinton and daughter Chelsea, family members on hand to help celebrate included her mother, Dorothy Rodham, and brothers Tony and Hugh.

Today, the first lady is to visit Park Ridge, her childhood home, for more commemorations and an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey show.

See story on Page 2.

First lady spends quiet 50th birthday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton spent a quiet 50th birthday Sunday, ensconced at home with her husband and daughter after a surprise party that had her dancing until the wee hours. She is expected to return to her hometown of Park Ridge on Monday to celebrate her birthday with childhood friends.

The weather in Washington was in the low 50s and damp, which kept the first family firmly indoors. Not a peep came from the White House residence all day; the Clintons didn't emerge for church or even an impromptu birthday brunch.

In true Washington fashion, Mrs. Clinton's special day was fodder for the Sunday talk shows. ABC-TV's "This Week" offered a video birthday card in which average Americans politely swore that Mrs. Clinton looked much too young to be 50. "Oh, to be 50 again! Just a kid!" said host Sam Donaldson, 63, as he wished Mrs. Clinton a happy birthday with a quote from poet Robert Browning: "The best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first was made."

Sunday's low-key activity was in stark contrast to what's in store for Mrs. Clinton beginning Monday: A public, two-day celebration in her hometown of Chicago that includes a speech, a chat with a historian, a birthday bash at the Chicago Cultural Center and a



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is surprised with a birthday cake by hotel banquet manager George Pulles while attending the National Italian American Foundation dinner in Washington on Saturday.

Associated Press Photo

TV appearance with talk show maven Oprah Winfrey.

But a relaxed birthday seemed in order because Mrs. Clinton began celebrating in the minutes after midnight by taking a few spins around the dance floor during a surprise party at a posh hotel here.

Wearing a red satin evening gown, the first lady got a hint

Granger along for the ride on first lady's visit — Page 7

that something was up Saturday night when she and President Clinton left the annual black-tie gala of the National Italian-American Foundation and their limousine suddenly detoured from the White House toward the Sheraton Luxury Collection Hotel on embassy-lined Massachusetts Avenue.

Still, aides said, she was genuinely surprised by the party, attended by about 100 friends and daughter Chelsea — who trekked across the country for her mom's birthday. It was Chelsea's first trip home since she began her freshman year at Stanford University. The first daughter crept into the White House from the airport about 2 a.m. Saturday.

The surprise party was planned by Washington socialite Buffy Cafritz and Ann Jordan, wife of Clinton's adviser Vernon Jordan. Party-goers sipped cocktails, then enjoyed a buffet dinner and a giant mocha cake with white icing and far fewer than 50 candles.

Finally—Bears win first game of season Back Page

Chicago Sun-Times



Chicago/Suburbs
50¢ Elsewhere

SUNNY Pages 2, 68

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1997

Late Sports Final



ROBERT A. DAVIS/SUN-TIMES

Birthday wishes for first lady

Hillary Rodham Clinton thanks Nicholas Poplawski (right), after he and other students at her alma mater, Field Elementary School in Park Ridge, helped her blow out the candles on a cake for her 50th birthday. Clinton blew into town Monday for a day of parties and other honors. Story, Page 3.

Wall St. holds its breath

Dow plunge halts trading

BY DAVID ROEDER
BUSINESS REPORTER

The big-money folks slashed their stock holdings Monday, causing a near free fall in the Dow Jones industrial average and widespread worry that small investors would do the same starting today.

Analysts were worried that many small investors, who have gotten used to steady gains in mutual funds and retirement accounts, would join the selling parade and put their money in the bank instead of stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average, foremost barometer of quality

stocks, sustained its worst point loss ever—554.26 points, or 7.18 percent, to close at 7,161.15. The day recalled Black Monday of 1987, when the Dow fell 508 points—a 22 percent drop because the Dow was much lower.

Analysts said declines of the Dow since the middle of last week have been caused by concerns over the Hong Kong stock market, where losses are getting worse. In trading early today, the Hong Kong stock index was off more than 15 percent, extending its loss to about 34 percent for the year.

■ Details, Pages 52-53, 56



Kevin Orie, third baseman of the Cubs, gives Hillary Rodham Clinton with a Cubs jersey commemorating her 50th birthday. President Clinton attended the festivities at the Chicago Cultural Center Monday night.

TOM CRUIZE SUN TIMES

"It is possible to come home. . . . I could not ask for a better way to turn 50."

—Hillary Rodham Clinton



ROBERT A. DAVIS SUN TIMES

Betsy Eberling and Ricky Ricketts, former classmates at Field Elementary School in Park Ridge, hold up an autographed photo of Hillary Rodham from the 1958-59 school year during a visit Monday to their alma mater.

Hillary happy to be home

Celebrates 50th with friends, family

BY ADRIENNE DRELL
SUN-TIMES STAFF WRITER

Hillary Rodham Clinton just turned 50, and just to be sure nobody here missed it, the first lady blew into town Monday for a birthday bash in her old hometown.

"It is possible to come home," she said.

Of course, she had a little help.

Mayor Daley proclaimed it "Hillary Clinton Day," the mayor of Park Ridge named the street corner outside her childhood home in her honor, a South Side women's park was dedicated to her—and friends and people from her past sang "Happy Birthday" at least five times.

"With a day like that even Thomas Wolfe might not have minded going home again."

"I could not ask for a better way to turn 50," Clinton told friends, family and people from her past as she arrived at O'Hare Airport.

It was a combination birthday party, homecoming and symbol for others of her generation as they approach the big 5-0.

There was no talk of Whitewater or campaign finances. But during a stop at her alma mater, Eugene Field Elementary

School, Clinton joked about her sophomore year at Maine East High School, where she was the only girl in a speech class and the boys "tried to rattle me."

"After that, Washington's nothing," she said.

The day was laced with such memories, as the first lady barnstormed the area with her mother, Dorothy Rodham, younger brothers, Hugh and Tony, and an entourage that included old teachers, classmates and her Girl Scout leader.

President Clinton joined the first lady late Monday for her party at the Chicago Cultural Center, joking that it seemed like they had been celebrating her birthday for 51 days.

"Before I knew Hillary, you could put what I knew about Chicago in a thimble and still have space left over," the president told the crowd. "But after I met her there was no other city on the face of the earth."

The gala was a Who's Who of Democratic politics with a dash of show-biz thrown in.

Former Cook County Assessor Tom Hynes and former Attorney General Neil Hartigan mingled with actor Ted Danson and Blues great Koko Taylor.

But much of the visit was a trip down memory lane.

One friend remembered the time a sixth-grade Hillary put her all into an effort to persuade her father to let her wear nylons to a commencement, circulating petitions and coaxing other girls to sign. She wound up wearing white anklets.

Just before a tour of her girlhood home her first since her parents sold it in 1987, Clinton remembered playing softball out front, using manhole covers as bases. And she told reporters about the first time she brought future husband Bill to meet her gruff Republican father, Hugh Rodham.

"In three days' time [Bill Clinton] totally charmed him," Clinton said. "It was the first Democrat he ever liked."

Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha named the nearby corner, Elm and Wisner, in the

first lady's honor.

Clinton also took time out for a stop at Orchestra Hall for a discussion with high school students about race. She told the young people about coming to hear the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak there in 1962.

The Rev. Donald Jones, who brought the 15-year-old Hillary and her classmates to hear the civil rights leader, told the students Monday about his charges being introduced to King backstage.

"She followed the path of Martin Luther King in volunteerism," Jones said.

From there, Clinton went to a park dedicated to her near 18th Street and Indiana Avenue.

And just in case the message was missed, Clinton underscored it early, after the Child's Play Touring Theater of Chicago sang "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," the title of the first lady's 1996 bestseller.

"On the plane, I thought back to the years I lived in Chicago, and the song made me realize I had a village to raise me—churches, neighbors and social groups," she said. "That's really why I came back to thank everybody that was a part of my upbringing."

HEVRDEJS
& CONKLIN INC.



No shortage of 'crashers' for Hillary's bash

For a party that was supposed to be for a mere 200 of her closest friends, **Hillary Rodham Clinton's** 50th birthday party Monday at the Chicago Cultural Center mushroomed into a lot more—a crowd of more than 1,000, including pals **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen**.

How hot was the invite to the party? Organizers were still getting calls from folks wanting to celebrate with Hillary at 4 p.m.

Some observations:

- Lots of sports figures, from **Billy Williams** and **Harry Caray** to **Willye White**.

- Political figures? Everywhere you turned, there was a Daley, plus **President Clinton's** ace assistant, **Rahm Emanuel**, a Chicagoan who replaced **George Stephanopoulos**. Also, **David Wilhelm** was there as was **Jim Burns** and **Tom Hynes Jr.**, drumming up votes for his Illinois comptroller bid.

- City Hall honchos included **Gery Chico**, **Jim Sheahan** and **Forrest Claypool**.

- We got advice for Hillary on the joys of turning 50 from Mike's mom, **Deloris Jordan**: "You feel good about who you are. You know where you're going and you don't have to take anyone's mess at this stage of the game."

- At one stop on Hillary's day of meet and greet, a woman wanted a photo with the First

Ghoulish figures: Vice President **Al Gore** and his wife, **Tipper**, strike a scary pose Sunday night at their Washington home. The Gores were dressed up for their Halloween party.

Lady but no one was available to snap it—until a Secret Service agent took the camera and shot the picture.

School daze: President Clinton's staffers are worried about his recent hoarseness during this visit. In particular, it could impact his Tuesday morning photo op at Oscar Mayer School. The prez, **Mayor Daley** and U.S. Rep **Rod Blagojevich** (his district) are speakers in what will be another love fest over **Paul Vallas'** progress with city schools. Blagojevich is the only speaker who is actually a Chicago public school alum.

Chicago Tribune

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

First lady's 50th: Cake, pizza, memories

**By Bonnie Miller Rubin
and Ginger Thompson**
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

From the moment her plane touched down in the early-morning frost at O'Hare—where she was greeted by marching bands from her alma maters, Maine East and Maine South High Schools—until the last morsel of deep-dish pizza was consumed some 16 hours later, Hillary Rodham Clinton took a trip down memory lane to celebrate her 50th birthday.

The day was capped with a birthday bash held in the marble ballroom of the Chicago Cultural Center, a glittering affair attended by some 1,000 people—including actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, singers Koko Taylor and Buddy Guy, Deloris and Juanita Jordan (Michael's mom and wife), broadcaster Harry Caray and assorted



Tribune photo by Charles Cherney

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, admire her giant birthday cake.

current and former Cubs players. When Bill Clinton stepped to the podium, it was as a husband rather than a president.

"This has been an unforgettable day in her life," Clinton said. "You could not have made a kinder, warmer gesture than the one you made today and

SEE FIRST LADY. BACK PAGE

Birthday girl gets to be homecoming queen

First Lady Hillary Clinton comes home to celebrate her 50th birthday, visiting old haunts with family and friends, who remembered when she was Hillary Rodham.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I am profoundly grateful.

"Before I met Hillary, what I knew about Chicago you could fit in a thimble. After I met her, I thought it was the only city in the world."

...her birthday was Sunday—but that didn't dampen Chicago's enthusiasm Monday, including a half-dozen cakes and countless choruses of "Happy Birthday" echoing from her Park Ridge elementary school to a Near South Side park. The park was renamed Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park in her honor.

"I'm filled with gratitude for all the people who helped me grow up," said the first lady, who spent her formative years in suburban Chicago. "I had a village of adults—at school, at church, in the neighborhood—all that it takes to raise children."

Accompanied by her mother, Dorothy, and her two brothers, Hugh and Tony, the celebration was part "This is Your Life" and part 1950s time capsule—with references to "Weekly Reader," "Kukla, Fran & Ollie," Girl Scouts ("I'm still working on my sewing badge," she said), and going home for lunch (Campbell's tomato soup and grilled cheese, cut in triangles).

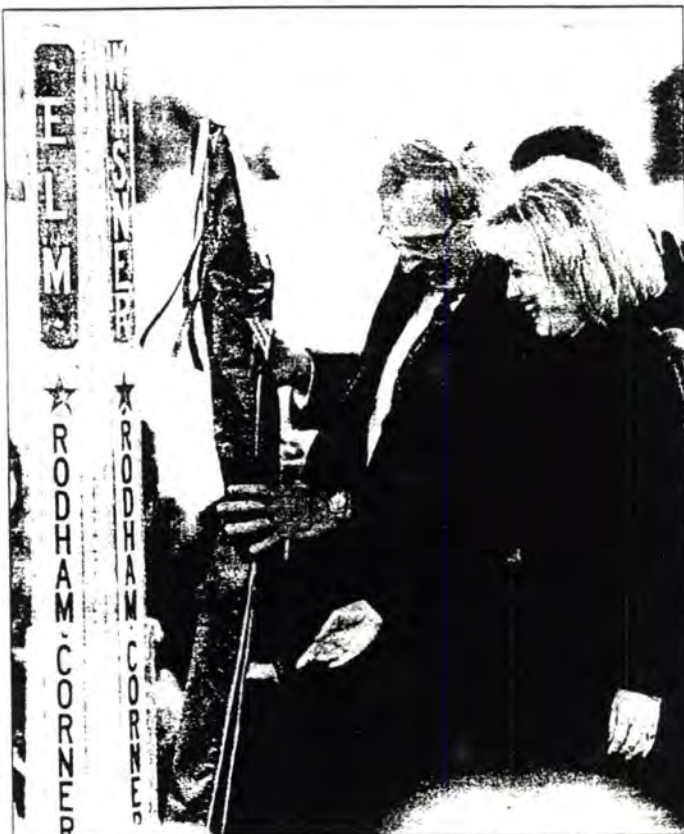
At Field School in Park Ridge, campaign reform and Whitewater seemed light years away as the first lady sat in the library surrounded by 11 friends and former teachers. One by one, they shared their favorite memories about her.

"I feel so lucky that we've stayed in touch," Hillary said. "This is the best part of my husband's public life."

With the Cold War era as a back drop, Ricky Ricketts—a friend for more than 45 years—recalled a teacher who preached "Better dead than Red." When Ricketts leaned over to a young Hillary and whispered, "I'd rather be alive," it triggered a wave of giggles that got them both kicked out of class.

That appeared to be Hillary's only transgression. Other than a rocky performance in driver's education, tales of 75-page term papers, student council and homecoming floats dominated the day.

Next to the rowdiness of her brothers—"the boys" as everyone



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood

Hillary Rodham Clinton watches as Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha unveils a sign near her childhood home at Wisner and Elm Streets on Monday, designating it as Rodham Corner.

seems to call Hugh and Tony—a running theme was the strictness of her father. Classmate Marcia Boemi Buchanan recalled how their parents forbid the daughters to wear nylons for Field's 6th grade graduation.

Already adept in the democratic process, the two girls circulated a petition asserting that they should be allowed to cross that all-important hosiery threshold to young womanhood. (The dreaded anklets remained.)

Turning 50 was not nearly as treacherous a transition as adolescence—specifically. Hillary recalled, being the only sophomore girl in a speech class full of senior football players.

"They took it because they thought it would be an easy A... and they would sit up front and insult me and rattle me," said Hillary, wearing a gold choker the president gave her as a birthday present. "After that, Washington was nothing."

At the Rodhams' Park Ridge home, crowds lined up to welcome the first lady back to the old neighborhood—the first time Hillary has returned since her family sold the house in 1987. Neighbors stood four deep along the leafy street, anxious for a glimpse of the first lady. "I toured the handsome brick Georgian."

"This is very exciting," said one woman, who didn't give her name.

"Although I think there'd be even more enthusiasm if her husband was a Republican."

Mayor Ron Wietecha presented the family with a water color of the Pickwick Theater, a favorite childhood haunt, and a street sign designating the intersection of Wisner and Elm Streets as "Rodham Corner."

The house sparked more reminiscences, particularly about being courted by a certain Arkansas boy.

"My father didn't know what to make of him," said Hillary, whose trip continues Tuesday with an appearance on "Oprah" and speaking engagements. "But after three days, Bill had charmed everybody."

On Chicago's Near South Side, to where the entourage traveled from Park Ridge, a new park celebrating the achievements of women was dedicated to the first lady by Mayor Richard Daley on a 4-acre plot of land that sits amidst a cluster of Victorian mansions once home to notable women's rights figures. Hillary donated several tulip bulbs from the White House garden to the park, saying she hoped each spring their blooms would represent her presence in the city when she is unable to be here.

The audience of some 300 people, mostly women, were unabashed fans, and one person shouted "Hillary for president."

After leaving the park, the first lady visited Orchestra Hall. In 1962, the future first lady and several students from her church group were there to hear Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver a sermon.

On Monday, she said the sermon was a "social awakening" and talked about the experience with a group of high school students along for the visit. The first lady listened raptly to their thoughts on race relations.

But, mostly, the birthday bash was not about public policy or current events. Earlier Monday, while watching the proceedings, television producer and longtime friend Linda Bloodworth-Thomason said: "It's just a simple, uncomplicated outpouring of love. And, in this business, that doesn't happen every day."

Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, October 28, 1997

FROM PAGE ONE



Tribune photo by Charles Cherney

Cub great Billy Williams presents First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton with an encased baseball bat as Harry Caray (left) and the president look on.

First lady goes home for birthday bash

Chicago visit also is meant to polish image

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Hillary Rodham Clinton, 50 years old but giddy as a schoolgirl, returned Monday to the *Leave it to Beaver*-style neighborhood of her childhood to reminisce and reintroduce herself as a hometown-girl-made-good.

It was a day to exhaust any baby-boomer superwoman: She left Washington just after sunup, was serenaded by high school bands on arrival in Chicago, visited her elementary school and the house where she grew up, toured the hall where she met the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1962, and was interviewed by a historian before an audience of hundreds — all before being feted at the fourth gala in a row to mark her birthday, which was Sunday.

"I am just thrilled," she declared, holding her hand over her heart after being saluted in a military hangar at O'Hare Airport. "This is the best present I could ever ask for."

The celebration was capped by a lavish birthday party at the city's Cultural Center. It followed three parties over the weekend in Washington and a surprise trip home by daughter Chelsea from Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif.

The celebration here went way beyond cake. Chicago's Chamber of Commerce put out a 20-page brochure on her early years. Mayors Richard Daley of Chicago and Ron Wietecha of Park Ridge proclaimed "Hillary Rodham Clinton Day." Chicago dedicated a new park to her. Schoolkids sang. Wietecha unveiled a "Rodham Corner" street sign at the intersection in front of her old house.

White House aides say publicly that she is only doing what she has always done: working on issues affecting women and children.

But privately, they acknowledge that the day was also part of a careful plan to remake the image of a woman who clearly wants to be remembered for something more than testifying before a Whitewater grand jury, who wants a legacy that will overshadow the failed effort in her husband's first term to



Birthday party: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gets help blowing out candles on her cake from students at Field Elementary School, which she attended as a child, in Park Ridge, Ill., on Monday.

overhaul the nation's health insurance system.

Her latest foray into policy, starting with last week's White House Conference on Child Care, is a new beginning of sorts for a first lady who has largely avoided a lead role lately.

With her husband re-elected and her only child off to college, she is re-emphasizing public life. In the past couple of weeks, the woman known for a prickly relationship with the media has appeared on the cover of *Time* and on all the network morning shows. On Monday, she invited a sizable contingent of reporters to follow her down memory lane. Today, she's on *Oprah*.

Conservatives, anticipating an expensive "big government" approach to child-care solutions, are wary.

"If she does for child care what she tried to do for health care, it'll be disastrous for her," warns Bradley Keena of the Free Congress Foundation, a lobbying group.

"We're not nervous," says Rahm Emanuel, adviser to President Clinton. "She said it best herself: He decides the policies."

But she can draw attention to the need for safe, affordable child care, White House aides say.

On Monday, talk of childhood was more personal.

At Field Elementary School, she got together, with TV cameras rolling, with a

dozen classmates and teachers for a lively, free-floating talk about a time 40 years or so ago when kids didn't use locks on their bikes.

During a round of introductions, Clinton's second-grade teacher, Caroline O'Laughlin, identified herself, then

turned to her and joked, "And who are you?"

The first lady threw her head back and roared with laughter. "Oh, yes! This is the question we're all trying to answer," she responded.

The answer kept coming throughout the day: a smart

Midwestern girl from a middle-class, hard-working family who developed a social conscience in the 1960s and did right by her community and her country.

Her friends recalled an outspoken girl who once organized a petition to try to persuade the parents of a classmate to allow their daughter to wear nylons to sixth-grade graduation. The girl wore socks.

Clinton recalled how football players in her high school public speaking class tormented her with insults whenever she had to deliver a speech.

After that, she joked, "Washington's nothing."

An hour later, outside the two-story Georgian brick house where she grew up, the first lady told about 200 on-lookers that some of her most cherished memories were made at the corner of Wisner and Elm streets.

"I have such a sense of appreciation and gratitude for what I was given," she said.

And she shrugged off questions about whether she's trying to craft a new image.

"I don't think so," she said. "I think I'm working on the same things I've always worked on. ... I'm so energetic about what I want to do. I feel that the next three years are a great opportunity."

By Charles Bennett, AP

CHICAGO DEFENDER - Tuesday, October 28, 1997



Photo for Defender/Charisse Linder

A tribute to Hillary

First lady Hillary Clinton (second from right) is joined by Mayor Daley, his wife, Maggie, and Nora Brooks Blakley, daughter of Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, at the dedication of a park at 1804 S. Prairie Ave. in the first lady's honor Monday. Mrs. Clinton was in town to celebrate her 50th birthday with a visit to her suburban hometown of Park Ridge and a party at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Hometown Is Where the Heart Is for First Lady at 50

By DIRK JOHNSON

PARK RIDGE, Ill., Oct. 27 — Back in her hometown to celebrate her 50th birthday, Hillary Rodham Clinton sat in her old grammar school today, surrounded by old chums and teachers, reminiscing about the innocence of their childhoods.

Mrs. Clinton recalled walking to school as a kindergartner. Another friend noted that bikes never had locks. Somebody else remembered the freedom "to go everywhere, trick-or-treating at every single house — except maybe for the one place, where some real old lady lived."

"Yeah," chimed in a fellow Baby Boomer, "she was probably 50."

While most people in their 40's are not particularly eager to turn 50, it must help to come home as a globe-trotting celebrity greeted adoringly by foreign crowds, and to then be able to show off the gold necklace given to her by her husband, the President.

In what seemed as much like a day on the campaign trail as a birthday celebration, Mrs. Clinton arrived at O'Hare International Airport to high school bands playing "Sweet Home Chicago," and then whisked around her hometown, sharing hugs and handshakes with old neighbors and going to a new park in Chicago being named the "Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Park."

After that was a big party at the Cultural Center on Michigan Avenue, with Mayor Richard M. Daley and other dignitaries, celebrities and movers and shakers on hand to toast the First Lady.

There were a few anti-abortion pickets in Park Ridge, where one sign denounced her as the anti-life co-President. And inside the Happy House coffee shop here, a man grumbled into his soup about Mrs. Clinton's being feted so extravagantly.

"Why should we be proud of her?" he asked. "And who's footing the bill for all this?"

But no sooner had the elderly man spoken, muttering something about women "belonging in the kitchen," than the restaurant's owner, Soula Tsapralis, the mother of three daughters, dispatched with that customer-is-always-right business.

"Women are equal," she told him.

In general, Mrs. Clinton, whose birthday was on Sunday, was showered by praise all day. And she returned the favor at every turn, paying homage to Park Ridge for teaching her lasting values.

Park Ridge, a prosperous, uniformly white, conservative-to-the-bone Chicago suburb, did not, however, succeed in keeping her within the



Todd Buchanan for The New York Times

Showered by praise, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited her elementary school in suburban Chicago yesterday to mark her 50th birthday, which was on Sunday. The First Lady also visited her old home in Park Ridge.

Republican fold. There are still people here who regard the bright, well-behaved Rodham kid from Wisner and Elm as something of a wayward daughter, abandoning the good sense of her childhood years — she belonged to Youth for Goldwater as a teen-ager and played Carrie Nation in a high school play — and straying into the clutches of the Democrats.

Standing in front of her childhood home, a brick colonial with arching windows and tall shade trees, Mrs. Clinton recalled the day she brought "this Arkansas boy" to meet her father, a "gruff, strict" man, especially when it came to young suitors.

"He didn't know what to make of Bill Clinton," she said.

But within three days, she added, her father was "completely charmed" by the future President, and even traveled to Arkansas to do some campaign work for him.

"And this was a man," she said of her father, "who never had anything

good to say about a Democrat in his entire life."

Her mother, Dorothy, and her brothers, Tony and Hugh, also came home for the celebration.

While young Hillary was irresistibly drawn to academics — a freshman teacher recalled her handing in a 75-page typed term paper — her brothers had more luck as wrestlers and football players, and succeeded in ruffling a few feathers at school.

Mrs. Clinton waited until a bit later to ruffle feathers. A lightning rod for conservatives and a hero to liberals, Mrs. Clinton's politics have long been a point of discussion around Park Ridge. A few years ago, the suggestion that the library hang a portrait honoring the local-girl-made-good sparked fierce letters to the editor, on both sides. In the end, no portrait went up on the library wall. A painting of Mrs. Clinton ultimately was put up in her high school.

Mrs. Clinton made a trip to Or-

chestra Hall in Chicago this afternoon, the place where her youth pastor took her to listen to a speech by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on a day in 1962 that Mrs. Clinton says made a lasting impression.

Even as a child, Mrs. Clinton seemed to be trying to change the world, one parent at a time. When a friend was forbidden by her father to wear nylons to the sixth-grade dance, young Hillary circulated a petition among the students asking the strict parent to reconsider. He did not.

Besides the academics, Mrs. Clinton recalled, there were other things in Park Ridge that prepared her for the world of politics.

In speech class as a freshman Mrs. Clinton recalled, some of the senior boys in the front row, most of them football players, "would sit there and insult me, say mean things," to try to get her rattled.

"So," she said, with an easy smile, "Washington's nothing."

Hillary Clinton, in Her Element

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

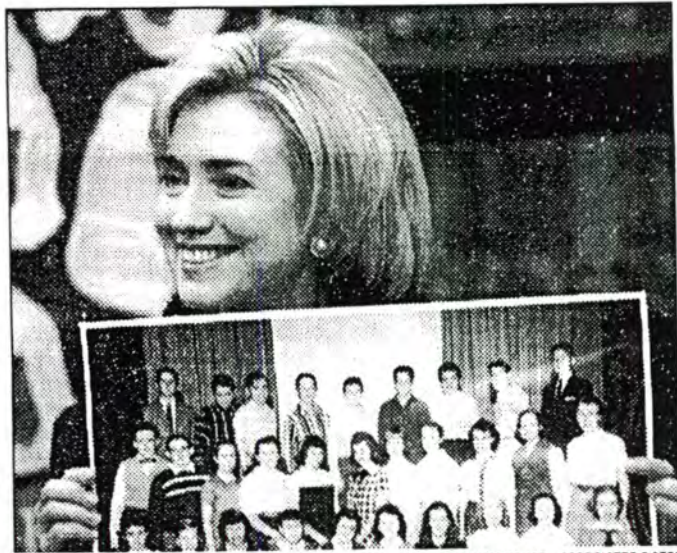
THAY sat around tables in the Eugene Field Elementary School library, taller, thicker and grayer than they had been during their allotted time here four decades ago. One at a time, the friends and teachers of Hillary Rodham Clinton introduced themselves. Finally, it came around to Clinton herself.

"And who are you?" her lifelong friend Betsy Johnson Ebeling asked mischievously.

Clinton laughed. "This is the question we're trying to answer today," she said.

Like so many others who turn 50, the first lady is using the occasion for a little introspection. For answers, she returned today to her hometown for a nostalgic,

See CLINTON, E8, Col. 1



BY RON EDMONDS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first lady holds a 1959 class photo during a visit yesterday to Eugene Field Elementary School in Illinois.

A Clinton Class Reunion

CLINTON, From E1

this-is-your-life tour of the landmarks of her early years.

The Hillary Clinton who roamed the elm-shaded avenues of this middle-class Chicago suburb today bore little resemblance to the guarded, distant and occasionally bitter figure the nation has come to know in the past five years. This was a person rarely revealed to the public, a warm and funny woman whose eyes pop wide open at a favorite memory. This was the Hillary who once was thrown out of history class for laughing too much. Who loved to play softball with the boys in the intersection, with manholes serving as the bases. And who was predicted in sixth grade to be the future dean of women at Northwestern University, yet in a high school newspaper article expressed her ambition to "marry a senator and live in Georgetown."

"I sort of missed," she noted dryly today. "I don't live in Georgetown."

Her trip took her—and buses of aides, friends and reporters—to the old neighborhood haunts, from Eugene Field Elementary School, which she attended through sixth grade, to the nearby brown-brick Georgian house where she lived from age 4 to 18, to the First United Methodist Church, where the conservative "Goldwater Girl" got her first tiny taste of social activism.

Relaxed and engaging, Clinton joshed with her brothers, Tony and Hugh, about their childhood high jinks, lamented her difficulties learning to drive and earning her Girl Scout sewing badge and recalled giving speeches before classes filled with boys from the football team.

"They'd sit there and insult me and say mean things all during my speech, just to rattle me," she remembered. "Washington's nothing!"

This, friends said, is the true Hillary, or at least the one they knew growing up. "Hillary has always been a very warm person—she's been very maligned in that respect," said Marcia Boemi Buchanan, a friend from first grade who was on hand today. "We always say, 'Hillary, this is what

you need to project to the public because this is what you really are.'"

Even after all the years of hearing Park Ridge stories, her chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, said she understands the first lady a little better after visiting the school with her. "This is very revealing," Verveer said. "Our formative years really tell us a lot about who we are and where we come from."

Although the first lady's birthday was actually Sunday, the locals missed no opportunity to help her celebrate. She was serenaded with "Happy Birthday" at least four times before noon—including a cha-cha version by Field School's current student body. The city unveiled signposts outside her childhood home naming the intersection Rodham Corner. A local park was rededicated in her honor. The refurbished Chicago Orchestra Hall invited her to stop by to look at the place where she met Martin Luther King Jr. in 1962. President Clinton was scheduled to fly into town to join her at a gala party for 1,000 at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Outside the old Rodham residence, she recalled bringing a young Bill Clinton home to meet her gruff, tobacco-chewing, Democrat-hating father. "My father didn't know what to make of him," she recalled. "My father . . . was very strict and very hard on other people, particularly boys that I went out with. And I have to tell you, my father was totally charmed within about three days by Bill Clinton."

To commemorate the first lady's 50th, a colorful 24-page booklet was published, filled with pictures of her favorite area locales and old black-and-white snapshots of her childhood, including a sixth-grade picture in which the resemblance to daughter Chelsea is striking. In the back were birthday wishes from everyone from Michael Jordan to Studs Terkel to Siskel and Ebert.

Because it was Hillary Clinton, this trip through the time warp had to start with a round-table discussion, the first lady's favorite means of communication. It is a technique she has employed everywhere from Tanzania to Panama, usually as scintillating as a seminar on inflation.

Yet her session with onetime classmates and instructors turned into an unusually spontaneous series of reminiscences about pot pie lunches, square dancing with boys and Yahtzee games in the basement.

On her first day of elementary school, they recalled, their parents allowed them to walk on their own. "But they followed us!" Clinton said. "I learned years later." Dorothy Rodham, it turns out, skulked behind her, slipping from tree to tree.

As they talked today, there seemed to be a wistfulness not only for lost youth but for a sense of lost innocence. "It was really a simpler time because . . . kids could walk to school . . . and not feel threatened," Buchanan said as her classmates nodded. "We could go trick-or-treating at every house except there was one house we didn't go to—not because it was dangerous but because an old woman lived there."

She was "probably 50," Caroline O'Laughlin, the first lady's second-grade teacher, offered wryly.

It was clear from today's recollections that Hillary Clinton was always an overachiever—one teacher said she turned in a 75-page typewritten term paper in high school—and always a political organizer. Even in the sixth grade, when her friend Sukkie Askew Stanley was forbidden to wear nylons to the school graduation ceremony, young Hillary helped put together an unsuccessful petition drive that was intended to change her mother's mind.

The feminist first lady also recalled a gender gap in school council elections. "The boys would always vote for the boy," she said. "He didn't even really need to be able to stand up and talk. The girls would always make these very considered decisions. And so the boys always won."

She said this in a tone more amused than resentful. This was not a day for grievances but for happy memories and coming home. "I can't go back and pretend that I can erase time and turn the clock back," she mused, "but I can come back as I've done today . . . with such a sense of appreciation and gratitude for what I was given. It seems like it just was yesterday I was walking to school. And I think when people get to be my age and even older it's hard to believe you've lived so many years."



MICHAEL SNEED

The birthday girl

Ring, Ring. First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** phoned this column late Tuesday just before she left town.

So what was one of the biggest surprises during her birthday bash? A mailbox. "The lovely woman who now lives in my house in Park Ridge had found an old mailbox that once belonged to my family," Clinton told Sneed. "She put it up on the wall outside the door. It brought back so many memories of waiting for my mail.

"And she gave it to me before I left."

And what won't she ever forget? "What struck me the most is that I felt that I was right back where I had been. Nothing seemed strange or different. It was like going back in time."

Hillaryville . . .

Spots & jots from the first lady's birthday tour:

■ **Mom's story:** When Clinton and her mother, **Dorothy Rodham**, arrived at their old home in Park Ridge, Rodham chose not to go inside. "She wanted to remember things the way they used to be and keep the memories in tact," said a close friend. "So Mrs. Rodham visited neighbors instead."

■ **Kiss 'em:** **Fritzi Konstantelos**, a Miller Beer veep, is so affectionate he not only was the first to kiss Clinton after she cut a birthday cheesecake at the Chicago Cultural Center, he knocked out **President Clinton's** earpiece when he tried to hug him.

■ **Hair scare:** Actor **Ted Danson** showed up with wife **Mary Steenburgen** at the big 5-0 party minus a hairpiece and a dye job. Danson's hair was gray and thinning and he looked . . . terrific!



KUP'S COLUMN

By Irv Kupcinet

The question of the day: Who made a quicker comeback, the Bears or Wall Street?

AMONG THE MANY GIFTS first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** received during her Chicago birthday celebration was one from the Chicago Historical Society's president, **Doug Greenberg**. He gave her a lifetime membership and added, "Now only you and **Abraham Lincoln**, our nation's 16th president, have received such memberships." . . . Clinton had visited the society to view its 50th anniversary exhibit of **Burr Tillstrom's** famed "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" TV puppet show. And she was delighted to see old friends **Newton Minow** and wife **Jo** at the exhibit. Minow had been Tillstrom's attorney.

LOIS WEISBERG, COMMISSIONER of cultural affairs, is being applauded for arranging all details in the Cultural Center for the arrival of **President Clinton** and **Hillary**, including food, drinks, checking room facilities and ample waiters to accommodate the overflow crowd, plus the entertainment of legendary **Buddy Guy** and **Koko Taylor**. But many guests, because of the huge crowd, departed early to get to a TV set to watch the Bears in their surprising victory over Miami.

Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, October 29, 1997

HEVRDEJS
& CONKLIN INC.



Birthday break: President Clinton, before Hillary Clinton's 50th birthday bash Monday at the Chicago Cultural Center, stopped in the Museum of Broadcast Communications' gift shop there and plunked down \$21.64, the museum's **Bruce DuMont** tells us. He bought a book ("Wisdom Made in America: Common Sense and Uncommon Genius from 101 Great Americans") and cassettes (including "Lum and Abner," a '30s comedy show out of Arkansas). He pondered a postcard of Abe Lincoln, but decided against it. "I've got the original of this in my house," quipped the Prez to shopping pal, Commerce Secretary **Bill Daley**.

Mother's day: Couldn't help notice Hillary Clinton's mom, **Dorothy**, accompanied her daughter to Tuesday's **Oprah Winfrey Show**.

Hillary's haul: a medal, a goat

'Oprah,' fund-raiser end birthday bash

BY ADRIENNE DRELL
STAFF REPORTER

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in accepting the College Board Medal for Distinguished Service to Education on Tuesday, joked, "In case you might have missed it, it was my birthday Sunday. I was 50 years old."

It would have been hard to miss the three-day, two-city birthday bash, which finally ended with two events Tuesday: an early morning appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and a "town hall meeting" fund-raiser at night.

The medal may have been the most significant birthday gift that Clinton has received, including a set of leather bound books from Winfrey, a live goat that she said had been transported to the White House, a giant greeting card from Chicago's schoolchildren and an album full of memories.

The presents actually began to arrive 50 days before her birthday when, Clinton disclosed, her husband, daughter and friends surprised her with a 50-candle ceremony at the White House.

She also received small pre-birthday presents, including calcium pills and a magnifying glass, which she admits she needs "because all of a sudden you can't see the way you used to."

Clinton told Winfrey that turning 50 was marked not just by years, but by daughter Chelsea's departure for college.

"I miss her desperately," Clinton said, adding that she missed the "sightings" of a typical teen daughter. "But it is kind of fun to have all this time now for yourself."

A lot of that time will be spent campaigning



George Burns - Associated Press
Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday gives Oprah Winfrey a piggy bank from the White House for Oprah's Angel Network, which uses viewers' spare change to send students to college.

for long-held passions: issues affecting women and children, Clinton said. These issues were the carefully planned underlying theme of the birthday celebration.

Close associates admit Clinton's emphasis on education and families in the midst of festivities was part of an effort to ensure her place in history with a meaningful contribution rather than as a

grand jury witness in the Whitewater case.

Her public day concluded Tuesday with a \$125 a person fund-raiser at the Sheraton Chicago, sponsored by the Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee. The forum included questions from Chicago teens, who were sponsored by area corporations and campaign donors.

Clintons praise effort in education

By Bonnie Miller Rubin
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

At two separate stops Tuesday, President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton lauded the Chicago public schools, praising the system's efforts to improve test scores and raise academic standards.

The president's only stop of the day, following his arrival Monday night for a 50th birthday party for Hillary at the Chicago Cultural Center, was at Mayer School, 2250 N. Clifton Ave. There he hailed school reform initiatives and cited "high expectations, higher standards and accountability" as the way back to respectability.

"You've strengthened curriculum, renovated buildings, expanded pre-school education, kept schools open longer and in the summertime to give children who need it extra help," said Clinton, according to wire reports.

Clinton was joined at the school by Mayor Richard M. Daley and U.S. Rep. Rod Blagojevich before he returned to Washington.

Clinton added that he will direct the U.S. Department of Education to implement similar programs elsewhere in the country.

Meanwhile, the First Lady, winding up her second day in Chicago, also focused on learning at the annual College Board National Forum, attended by 2,000 educators at the Chicago Marriott



Tribune photo by John Lee

First Lady Hillary Clinton greets a well-wisher after she was presented a huge birthday card at the College Board National Forum Tuesday.

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Chicago Public Schools Supt. Paul Vallas, who shared the dais with the First Lady, delivered a mammoth birthday card on behalf

since Chelsea went off to college, which included a few wistful stops in her daughter's empty room—where she has run into the president.

However, this passage has also brought "a burst of energy ... where you can think about your calling, your passion." She said she has not looked ahead to life after the White House, but plans to use her three remaining years of her husband's term to work to improve the welfare of children.

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Clintons praise school system's efforts in education

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MetroWest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

Mary Schmich



Even the trivial can be inspiring with Oprah, Hillary

So there was Hillary on "Oprah" Tuesday talking about her hair and her calling.

About her daily multivitamin and her commitment to kids.

About the self-consciousness of having the world know her age and about the way her 50th birthday provoked her to contemplate her life.

They sat before the cameras in Oprah's talk show studio, Oprah Winfrey in red, Hillary Clinton in black, two of the most powerful women ever on the planet, whipsawing from the personal to the communal, from the puny to the grand, the way ordinary women do on the phone or over lunch.

And that's a portion of their power. These two women, so famous but so familiar that we know them by their first names, haven't lost touch with their inner gal.

Some people, of course, are uncomfortable with the sight of powerful women talking

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personally, as if any show of galishness is an appallingly frilly bow on a woman's suit of armor. We fought too long and hard for power to talk about vitamins and hair, didn't we?

Let's hope not.

Hair is an endlessly amusing topic. Vitamins are interesting. Life is a complex equation of the frivolous and the serious, of the bodily and the high-minded. It's about the magnifying glasses and calcium pills Hillary's friends jokingly gave her for her birthday. It's also about the nature of what Hillary and Oprah call a "calling."

Life, for men and women both, is the art of evolution, of imagining the way you want to live and inventing it as best you can. Hillary and Oprah, because they seem so close to normal, help many other women to invent and to imagine.

When Oprah, who is 43, told the First Lady, "You look great," it was a comment on her trim skirt suit and her gilded hair. But it was also a reflection on Hillary's ability to move through the middle of her life in a way unknown to most women of earlier generations. Middle age, as Hillary noted, once marked the moment that in many life arenas, women bowed out.

In midlife, Oprah and Hillary are more engaged than ever. But like so many other women of their age, they continue to concoct their lives without a recipe. How they use their power and their time in midlife helps guide other women.

At this age, Oprah said, "You can really begin to think about your calling, your passions."

When these two women talk in public about following a "calling," they open up the thought to other women. Don't think career. Think calling. What social good can you do with your talents and your time? How can you leave your mark?

Oprah's calling includes founding a book club that has made readers out of people who hadn't held a book in years. Hillary's includes working on behalf of children and urging women around the world to fight for better lives.

Men can find inspiration in these women, too, just as women can learn from the lives of men. But the lives of women have a particular potency for other women.

When I was a kid, I scoured the school library for biographies of women. The shelves were packed with tales of male politicians, explorers, scientists and saints. I liked reading about Thomas Jefferson and Daniel Boone and Louis Pasteur, but they didn't move me like the rare book about, say, Susan B. Anthony or Madame Curie or Joan of Arc. Theirs were the stories that helped me and other girls imagine who we might be.

Hillary and Oprah are biographies in progress, and only the naive would expect them to be the purebred heroines of comic books. Delve too deeply into either life and you're sure to find something you don't like and perhaps do not respect.

And, as the cynics are sure to note, their TV tête-à-tête on Tuesday stood to earn ratings points for Oprah and political points for Hillary.

Even so, it was an impressive pairing: two middle-aged women helping to redefine life at midlife. Two powerful women who remind us that with power comes not just opportunity but obligation. Two women normal enough to know that the life well-lived leaves room to discuss hair and vitamins.

METROWEST

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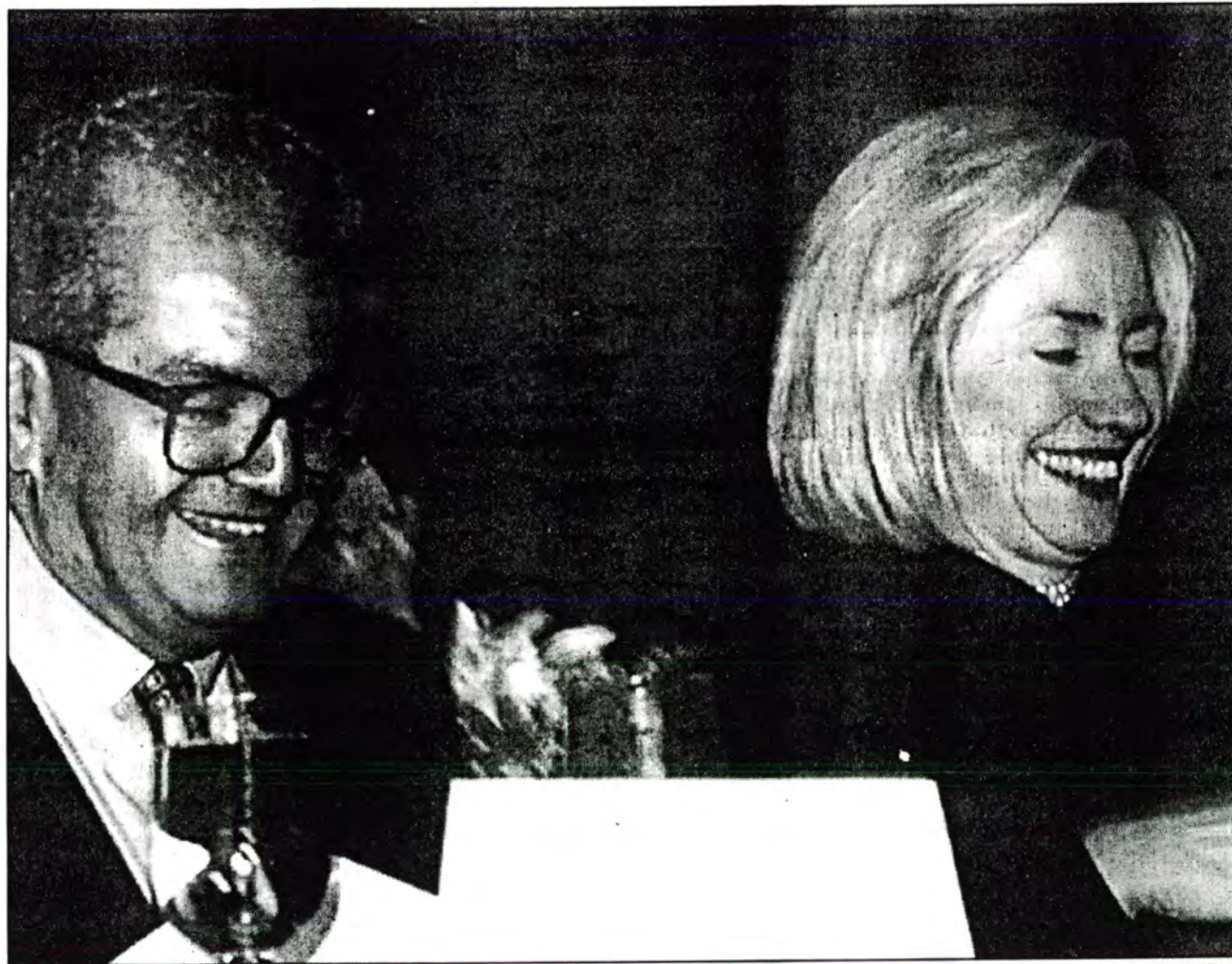
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CHICAGO DEFENDER - Wednesday, October 29, 1997



Defender/Hank Martin

Fighter for education

First lady Hillary Clinton chats with College Board President Donald Stewart during a National Forum held Tuesday at the Marriott Hotel. Stewart presented Clinton with the Medal of Distinguished Service to Education. Past winners include Bill Cosby and Dr. Benjamin Mays.



MICHAEL SNEED

Hillaryville . . .

■ Tress twaddle: **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, who loves to change hair styles, had her tresses done by **Joel Mallet** of the Lacques des Sange salon on Oak Street before she did the **Oprah Winfrey** show. Mallet's clients include Miss America **Kate Shindle** and charity doyenne **Donna LaPietra**.

■ Hillary and pals **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen** stayed at the Ritz-Carlton during their stay. A section was roped off. No keys were needed.

■ Hillary hit Lino's eatery for a private party before leaving town Wednesday night. The connection: Lino's is owned by **Phil Stefani**, her favorite Chi-town restaurateur, who she asked to be in charge of food at her 50th birthday bash. (One of the eateries Stefani got food from: Arun's, a Thai gem. And owner **Arun Sampanthavivat** personally dolloped his Thai concoctions at the Hill bash.) P.S. Hillary's buddies also gave her a 1965 jukebox laden with her favorite moldy oldies.



It makes sense when you consider Arkansas as an alternative

Is there more than a grain of truth in chatter that Hillary Clinton's 50th birthday bash here inaugurated a **laying-down-stakes effort** by the First Couple? Here's the iffy scenario: After leaving the White House in 2001, Bill Clinton becomes a Mayer Brown & Platt partner, joining Cabinet-level buddies Bill Daley and Mickey Kantor. Then, Park Ridge native Ms. Clinton gets a chance to run for office herself. Guv in 2002?

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HILLARY

A CHICAGO CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 27, 1997

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