

Save America's Treasures Media Clips



December 1998

New York Press Clips

Event in New York kicks off first lady's tour of 'treasures'

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis team up today at an unpretentious two-story frame house in Queens to celebrate its renowned longtime resident, Louis Armstrong.

The event is intended to support plans to open the Louis Armstrong House as a museum in 2000 — the 100th anniversary of Satchmo's birth — and efforts to preserve 650 reel-to-reel tapes of his conversations and performances that are in danger of deterioration.

The quick visit to the borough's Corona neighborhood is the first stop by Hillary Clinton in an intermittent four-city tour over the next nine days. She will highlight several of what she calls "America's treasures" in need of restoration, part of a project sponsored by the White House Millennium Council.

"Each case is an American story" that deserves attention, says Ellen Lovell, director of the Millennium Council.

At each stop, Clinton will announce private contributions to help with the restoration projects. In New York, individuals and music companies will donate \$130,000 to help restore Armstrong's house and fund his archives at Queens College.

Marsalis, the first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for music, will perform. Arvell Shaw, a member of Armstrong's band, will attend. And children from the Louis Armstrong elementary and intermediate schools will sing his signature *What a Wonderful World*.

Later stops on Clinton's tour:

► The Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, Mass., a house built for a wealthy Tory in 1759 that was used as a hospital for wounded American soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Gen. George Washington had his headquarters at the house as he planned the siege of Boston. In the 19th century, it was the family home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Managed by the National Park Service, the site is now closed for reconstruction.



Undated file photo

Armstrong: Music legend's home in Queens to open as museum in 2000

► The African Meeting House in Boston, built in 1805 or 1806, the oldest standing African-American church in the USA. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass recruited the historic 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry here. The building is owned and operated by the Museum of Afro-American History and managed in partnership with the National Park Service.

► The Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles, a historic synagogue. The Jewish Historical Society is working with the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council and the East Los Angeles Community Corporation to establish a museum honoring Jewish heritage.

► The Broadway Theater district in Los Angeles, a neighborhood of vaudeville and movie houses.

► The Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco, built of glass and redwood and modeled after London's Royal Conservatory of Kew Gardens. The elaborate conservatory, which houses endangered plants from the rain forest and plants with prehistoric origins, has been closed to the public since 1995 because of deterioration from earthquakes and age.

The first lady is scheduled to be in Massachusetts on Saturday, Los Angeles Dec. 10 and San Francisco Dec. 11.



Gannett News Service

Douglass: Abolitionist, statesman

December 01, 1998, Tuesday

SECTION: Suburban; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 296 words

HEADLINE: IN THE NABES FIRST LADY TO AID JAZZ TREASURE

BODY:

FLUSHING First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will visit the Queens College campus Thursday morning as part of the Save America's Treasures campaign.

The focus of her visit is the Louis Armstrong House and Archives, which she has identified as an important cultural resource.

This summer, the First Lady announced her intention to raise funds for the preservation of Louis Armstrong Archives materials, notably 650 homemade tape recordings of Satchmo speaking and playing the trumpet.

The archives also contains 5,000 photos, 85 scrapbooks, 350 pages of autobiographical manuscript, 120 awards, 270 sets of band parts and five of the jazz great's trumpets. Armstrong, who was born in New Orleans, lived in Corona until his death in 1971.

Jamaica

St. John's University School of law is launching the country's first LL.M. (Master of Laws) degree in bankruptcy, school officials announced.

The program, which will be offered in the fall, has won approval from the state Department of Education. American Bar Association approval is pending.

Courses will cover such areas as bankruptcy accounting, bankruptcy taxation, domestic relations in bankruptcy and multi-national case management.

Kew Gardens

Borough President Claire Shulman yesterday launched the borough's red-ribbon Tie One On for Safety campaign.

Shulman was joined by Ken Carpenter, executive director of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, and representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving as she tied a red ribbon to her official car.

The campaign is aimed at getting drivers to tie a red ribbon to their vehicles to remind motorists not to drink and drive. The red ribbon is also a sign that the motorist has pledged to drive sober. In the Nabes

In the Nabes

LOAD-DATE: December 01, 1998

December 04, 1998, Friday

SECTION: Suburban; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 347 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY VISITS SATCHMO HOME

BYLINE: By DONALD BERTRAND

BODY:

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday toured the Corona home of jazz great Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong, and she proclaimed the place a "wonderful piece of Americana."

The tour was part of her Save America's Treasures program, an effort to bring attention to America's treasures and insure their survival.

Few people were on hand to greet the First Lady as she pulled up to Armstrong's home at 34-56 107th St. about 10:45 a.m.

"If we knew she was coming, there would have been a real welcome for her," said the Rev. Ora Jenkins, who lives a few doors from the Armstrong house.

"We are all Democrats here, and we just love the First Lady and her husband, too," Jenkins said.

"It is really important that she comes here," said Jenkins' neighbor Beverly Jackson.

Both lived on 107th St. when Satchmo was alive and recalled how after tours he would go out on his balcony at 6 a.m. and play.

"He really woke up the neighborhood," Jenkins said.

After touring the home where Armstrong lived until his death in 1971, the First Lady went to Queens College for a look at the Louis Armstrong Archives, which include 650 homemade tape recordings, 5,000 photographs, 85 scrapbooks, music manuscripts and five trumpets.

Then there was a concert by the Queens College Jazz Orchestra, with special guests Wynton Marsalis, Arvell Shaw and John Hendrix. Also performing were the Louis Armstrong Elementary and Intermediate School choirs.

The college is leading the drive to open Satchmo's home as a museum, hopefully on July 4, 2000, Armstrong's 100th birthday.

"It will be a great magnet for jazz lovers and Armstrong admirers all over the world," the First Lady said.

She also said it is a "wonderful piece of Americana, because it is decorated in the style I remember from the 1950s and the 1960s and the early 1970s. And

Daily News (New York) December 04, 1998, Friday

so when you walk into that mirrored bathroom and the turquoise kitchen, you are going to say, 'I remember being in these places. That is where I grew up. That is where my family and friends lived all those years ago.' "

GRAPHIC: BILL TURNBULL DAILY NEWS FIRST LADY Hillary Rodham Clinton at Queens College yesterday.

LOAD-DATE: December 04, 1998

December 4, 1998, Friday, QUEENS EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Page A35

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: SATCHMO'S MUSIC, LIFE CELEBRATED

BYLINE: By Mae M. Cheng. STAFF WRITER

BODY:

Wynton Marsalis trumpet solos and Hillary Clinton's praise for Louis Armstrong during a tribute to the jazz great yesterday might have embarrassed "Pops," who enjoyed simple comforts and chose to make his home in the working-class Corona neighborhood.

But the red carpet was rolled out for Satchmo nevertheless. Armstrong's friends and jazz legends with whom he performed joined politicians and school children for a celebration at Queens College to honor his memory and focus attention on efforts to turn his Corona home into a museum.

All were treated to Armstrong's raspy, evocative voice and the sweet notes Armstrong played on the trumpet, which played on speakers at the Colden Center for Performing Arts.

"He belonged to the world, but he represented America," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told the crowd.

"He was not only an American ambassador overseas," Clinton said, referring to Armstrong's ability to cross the borders of many countries due to the worldwide appeal of his music. "He was an ambassador of another kind . . . between and among races."

Clinton's appearance at the celebration kicks off the second of her "Save America's Treasures" tours. The initiative seeks public and private funding to help preserve the nation's documents, artifacts, monuments and historic sites most in danger of deterioration.

In July, Hillary Clinton visited 11 sites during a four-day trip from Washington, D.C., to upstate New York. This second tour will take Clinton to Boston Saturday and then to Los Angeles and San Francisco next week for visits to such places as the African Meeting House, the oldest standing African-American church in the country, and the Breed St. Shul historic synagogue.

After a tour of the Armstrong archives at Queens College, the first lady told of \$ 130,000 in newly-promised private funds to preserve hundreds of reel-to-reel tapes Armstrong recorded, along with other memorabilia.

Before that, more than \$ 680,000 had been donated from the city and from the Queens Borough President's office to restore Armstrong's three-story, brick house in Corona, a designated national and city landmark. In addition, the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation has been contributing \$ 150,000 annually for the last three years.

Queens College, the administrator of Armstrong's home, is working to open the museum on July 4, 2000, the 100th anniversary of the day Satchmo celebrated his birthday. (After his death in 1971, it was determined Armstrong was born on Aug. 4, 1901.)

Yesterday's audience included jazz greats Lionel Hampton and Jon Hendricks, and it was evident in the musical tributes and praise on behalf of Armstrong that his influence has lived on.

"He represents soul, dignity and sophistication," Marsalis said. "His music is timeless."

GRAPHIC: Newsday Photos / Audrey C. Tiernan- 1) Wynton Marsalis with the Queens College Jazz Orchestra plays a tribute to Louis Armstrong. 2) First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who lauded Louis Armstrong as an American ambassador, greets members of the Louis Armstrong Elementary and Intermediate School Choirs. 3) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, onstage at Queens College, called Louis Armstrong 'an ambassador . . . between and among races, at a tribute to him yesterday (Page A02 Q). 4) AP Photo- Above, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton takes a tour of the Louis Armstrong House and Archives in Corona, led by Michael Cogswell, the museum's executive director. Clinton, who kicked off her second "Save America's Treasures" tour in Queens, promised \$ 130,000 in private funding to help restore Armstrong audio tapes and memorabilia (Page A42 NS). 5) Photo- Louis Armstrong (Page A42 NS).

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 5, 1998

STANLEY
CROUCH



Hillary, sweetheart of swing

HILLARY Clinton, perhaps chastened by the public humiliation brought to her and her daughter by these many months of scandal, has become a great lady of the nation.

She seems to have absorbed what the jazz saxophonist Stan Getz said about tragic experience: It can make you bitter or compassionate.

I thought of all this on Thursday as I watched her bring her campaign to Save America's Treasures to Queens.

She visited the Louis Armstrong House in Corona and the Louis Armstrong Archives at Queens College, both made possible by the Louis Armstrong Foundation, which chose not to sell the home and loaned Armstrong's material to Queens College.

By the time Clinton stood up at the public ceremony to speak of Armstrong, it was obvious that she had become what can only properly be called a sweetheart of swing.

She has not always been such in my eyes. In fact, I once thought exactly the reverse of this woman. When I first saw her, she reminded me of those harsh and huffy women who are forever waiting to lead the nation to the Promised Land that they have chosen.

But the scrapper who lost the White House battle for a health care program back in '94 was the cocoon out of which a butterfly of elegance, vitality, strength and feeling

has emerged.

Her refusal to slip down into the whining and abrasive self-pity of the era endeared the First Lady to the country. People were shocked. They saw somebody step up and handle a terrible situation with a kind of beleaguered grace quite unusual in this Jerry Springer world.

As she stood shaking hands and being photographed at the Armstrong Archives, I was reminded of the majesty Jackie Kennedy brought to the funeral of her husband.

Clinton's dignity and warmth had the spiritual elevation

*From a cocoon of suffering
comes a butterfly of grace*

we are accustomed to in Mahalia Jackson and the classic singers of the blues.

And, we can be sure, if anybody knows the feeling of the blues, that person is Hillary Clinton.

She lifted up that burden of blues and went out to save the Democratic Party in this last election, campaigning and campaigning, impressing one gathering after another with how much she appeared to believe in the marriage vow about living through it, for better or for worse.

That gave a lyrical sting to what is obviously a serious

kind of feminism, one in which a woman can mount the same charger Eleanor Roosevelt rode while maintaining a position above the sordid totalitarianism that pursues the nasty, never the noble.

The First Lady came to the podium after Wynton Marsalis played a number with the Queens College jazz band and after brief speeches from all the Queens politicians who did so much to help the Louis Armstrong Foundation preserve the great artist's legacy.

Well, what can you say? She has become a babe, too. Sorry, she was looking too good for that not to be observed. But what she had to say went beyond what met the eye.

Hillary Clinton knows that Louis Armstrong was one of the great Americans and that he, far better than most, represented the challenges and the accomplishments of this nation. He came from nothing to something. His innovations indelibly influenced the course of music in this country and the world.

He was a Negro. He was a musician. He was a genius. He embodied the grand dream of modern civilization in his rejection of prejudice on the planes of color, religion, sex, class and nationality. He was one who conquered the world with a carnival of joy in the jubilee of his soul.

As she spoke of him, the First Lady said a number of unscribed things about Louis Armstrong that were high-order improvisations, possessing the spirit we associate with his horn and his voice.

She spoke with authority, humor, joy and communal feeling. She was truly a sweetheart of swing.

Sunday 10/6/98 - Daily News -
From: Phil Leskin

Boston Press Clips

December 5, 1998 Saturday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 011

LENGTH: 401 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton will explore Boston's treasures today

BYLINE: By DARRELL S. PRESSLEY

BODY:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be touring several of Boston's historic sites today as part of her national campaign to save some of America's valued treasures.

"It is just an exciting, exhilarating opportunity," said Sylvia Watts McKinney, executive director of the Museum of Afro American History yesterday.

This is a "wonderful opportunity" for Clinton to see some of the rare artifacts of African-American history at the museum's African Meeting House, McKinney said.

The first lady's visit is also a confirmation of the museum's importance in preserving and sharing African-American history, she noted.

Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Joseph Moakley will join Clinton on the tour.

Among the historic treasures at the Museum of Afro American History is a rare first-edition book by poet Phillis Wheatley.

"You can touch a book that is dated in the 1700s from a person who was taken from her homeland as a child, brought to this country to be a slave and serve in a Boston household," McKinney said.

The African Meeting House is the oldest standing African-American church in the United States.

Clinton will also visit the Longfellow House, the historic home of famous poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Clinton will address the importance of preserving American treasures for future generations on both tours and will announce new partnerships and financial gifts.

The Longfellow House contains a historic house museum and research center in Boston.

"This is probably the most exciting visit in decades," said James Shea, museum manager.

"We are showing her some of the great treasures that have not been seen for quite some years," Shea said.

The Boston Herald, December 5, 1998 Saturday

Clinton will examine the museum's archives containing 600,000 papers that include some of George Washington's letters. The Longfellow House was Washington's headquarters during the siege of Boston in 1775-76, Shea said. "This is extraordinary for us."

This afternoon, The first lady will visit the Franciscan Children's Hospital and Rehabilitation Center and then head to the Massachusetts College of Art to speak at the school's 125th anniversary gala.

Art education will be the topic of Clinton's speech at the gala event tonight. She will fly back to Washington following the speech.

The college, established in 1873, is hoping the gathering will help raise \$ 500,000 to renovate the school's North Hall into a multimedia space.

LOAD-DATE: December 05, 1998



Hillary Rodham Clinton applauded students from the Cambridgeport School, who read the first lady a poem at the Longfellow House.

Clinton looks to the future of history

By Stephanie Elbert
GLOBE STAFF

Touting the importance of preserving not only historic places but historic ideas as well, Hillary Rodham Clinton swept through the Boston area yesterday, visiting the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge and the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill.

In her second visit to Massachusetts on the "Save America's Treasures" initiative, the first lady stressed the theme "Honor the past, imagine the future" that guides the campaign to preserve historic places.

"We are certainly spotlighting the monuments and houses, but more than that, the ideas, the conviction, the beliefs, that made these places alive and that are still coming up with stories today," she said.

"There are so many things to learn about what we have all brought

to this wonderful experiment and adventure known as America," Clinton told a packed crowd at the African Meeting House, the oldest standing African-American church.

Built in 1805 and 1806, the meeting house became the hub of both worship and activism, used during the Civil War by Frederick Douglass to recruit the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first black unit to fight for the North, and by white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to rally antislavery forces.

"As we seek to learn from and even grapple with our past, it is this constant measuring of how we live up to our own ideals of Americans that can help us move closer to those ideals and navigate into the future," Clinton said.

At the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Cambridgeport School students read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "Paul Revere's

Ride," and Clinton was joined by U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and poet laureate Robert Pinsky.

The 1796 house served as George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. Now managed by the National Park Service, it is currently closed for a yearlong renovation project.

Clinton announced new donations for the upkeep of both historic sites. The Longfellow House will receive \$225,000 from Fidelity Foundation of Fidelity Investments, and \$80,000 in matching funds raised by Save America's Treasures. The African Meeting House—which recently got a \$1.4 million appropriation from Congress—received another \$40,000 from private sources, including \$10,000 from Donna Harris Lewis, the widow of Celtics captain Reggie Lewis, who died of a heart attack in 1983.

At the meeting house, Clinton

was flanked by congressman Joseph Moakley and Kennedy, who called Massachusetts the first lady's second home. Clinton graduated from Wellesley College and has many ties to the state. As she made her way through the meeting house crowd, her face lit up when she saw Ken Keniston, a former Yale professor who worked with her at the Carnegie Council on Children.

"She was then Hillary Rodham, going around with this big bag from Arkansas," Keniston joked afterward.

In the afternoon, Clinton met with sick and disabled children at the Franciscan Children's Hospital. She delivered the keynote address at a celebration of the Massachusetts College of Art's 125th anniversary last night prior to returning to Washington.

1 of 2



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO - JIM DAVIS

A SMALL CHAT - Hillary Rodham Clinton visited with a patient at the Franciscan Children's Hospital during her visit to Boston yesterday. All

2 of 2

Mrs. Clinton looks to future of history

By Stephanie Ebbert
GLOBE STAFF

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Hillary studies Hub history

By AZELL MURPHY CAVAN

Standing in the library where Henry Wadsworth Longfellow met with politicians, writers and artists of the 1800s, Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday promoted her continuing effort for historical preservation.

"We have to make sure the poetry that Longfellow created within these walls will be told and retold and never forgotten," Clinton told a small audience of National Park Service rangers and Friends of the Longfellow House, at 105 Brattle St. in Cambridge.

The first lady spent part of her day in Boston yesterday touring that house and the African Meeting House to promote the "Save America's Treasures" program, a project she and the president initiated to celebrate American history as the new millennium approaches.

After a tour of the two-story wooden home where Gen. George Washington made strategy for the siege of Boston during the Revolutionary War and where Longfellow later lived, Clinton admitted feeling "overwhelmed."

"Within these walls, you learn of what it took to create the United States of America," she said.

"We see history come alive, and we see so much of what makes us the people and the country that we are today."

Closed since Oct. 25, the house is in the midst of a \$1.6 million renovation. The National Park Service will use some of the funds to install fire-protection devices and to preserve papers and other precious memorabilia.

U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), and Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky toured the home with the first lady.

Praising Clinton's efforts for historic preservation, Kennedy joked about Massachusetts being the first



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL SEABANS
CULTURED LADY: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts College of Art's 125th anniversary gala last night.

tended Wellesley College here.

"Many things are happening in our country today, but I don't know of any more important," Kennedy said. "This is the best of our past, and it reminds us of our future."

Yesterday, Clinton called on all Americans to contribute to historic preservation. "We are trying to inspire more Americans to understand and appreciate the wonderful historical treasures we have in our midst," she said.

The first lady also toured the African Meeting House — the oldest standing African-American church in the nation — where she

serve American history.

Built in 1806, the meeting house stood just around the corner from abolitionists' homes and stops along the underground railroad.

"It offered a place where slaves and people of color could worship in dignity. It was a sacred and secular center," Clinton said. "You can almost hear the voices of the past, black and white voices joined together, demanding freedom."

Clinton also announced \$40,000 in private donations pledged to restore and preserve the meeting house and its artifacts, including a collection of first-edition poems by Phillis Wheatley, a former slave

Artful first lady lends hand at fund-raising gala

By DANA BISBEE

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton concluded yesterday's visit to Boston by attending the Massachusetts College of Art's 125th anniversary gala.

Speaking at the college, Clinton appealed for public support of the arts and praised the institution as the nation's only publicly supported arts college.

"We are living in a time when so little public space is devoted to the arts," she said to a crowd of 600 gathered at the college for a black-tie anniversary gala.

"It is important that the body politic support the arts and not leave it to the commercial marketplace," she said. "There needs to be a replenishing of our public commitment to the arts."

Clinton agreed to speak at this gala a year ago as a favor to Jo-

hanna Branson, the college's vice president of academic affairs and a Wellesley College classmate.

At their weddings, Clinton and Branson were also each other's maid of honor.

The gala was co-chaired by art gallery owners Pat and Arthur Stavaridis and Kathryn and John Hamill, she an alumna and he president of Fleet Bank. It raised \$700,000 to support the renovation of the college's North Hall.

College president Katherine Sloan said the figure so impressed state lawmakers, \$2 million more of public funds has been allocated for capital improvements.

"We have retreated from the kind of commitment to the arts we had at the end of the last century," Clinton said. "One of the ways we hope to celebrate the millennium is to ensure more public support of the arts."

"The (African Meeting House's) artifacts are of national significance, and we must continue to secure these goals for future generations," said Sylvia Watts McKinney, executive director.

Yesterday's tours marked the first lady's second visit to Boston for the "Save America's Treasures" program. In July, she made a one-day stop in Pittsfield at the Colonial Theater, a century-old building activists are trying to restore.

Two weeks later, the U.S. Commerce Department announced a \$37,000 grant for theater restorations.

noon, Clinton toured the Franciscan Children's Hospital in Brighton, where she met with sick and disabled children.

A group of children from the hospital's pedi-care day-care center presented the first lady with a bright-red quilt that featured their handprints and the words "Our hands, our hearts."

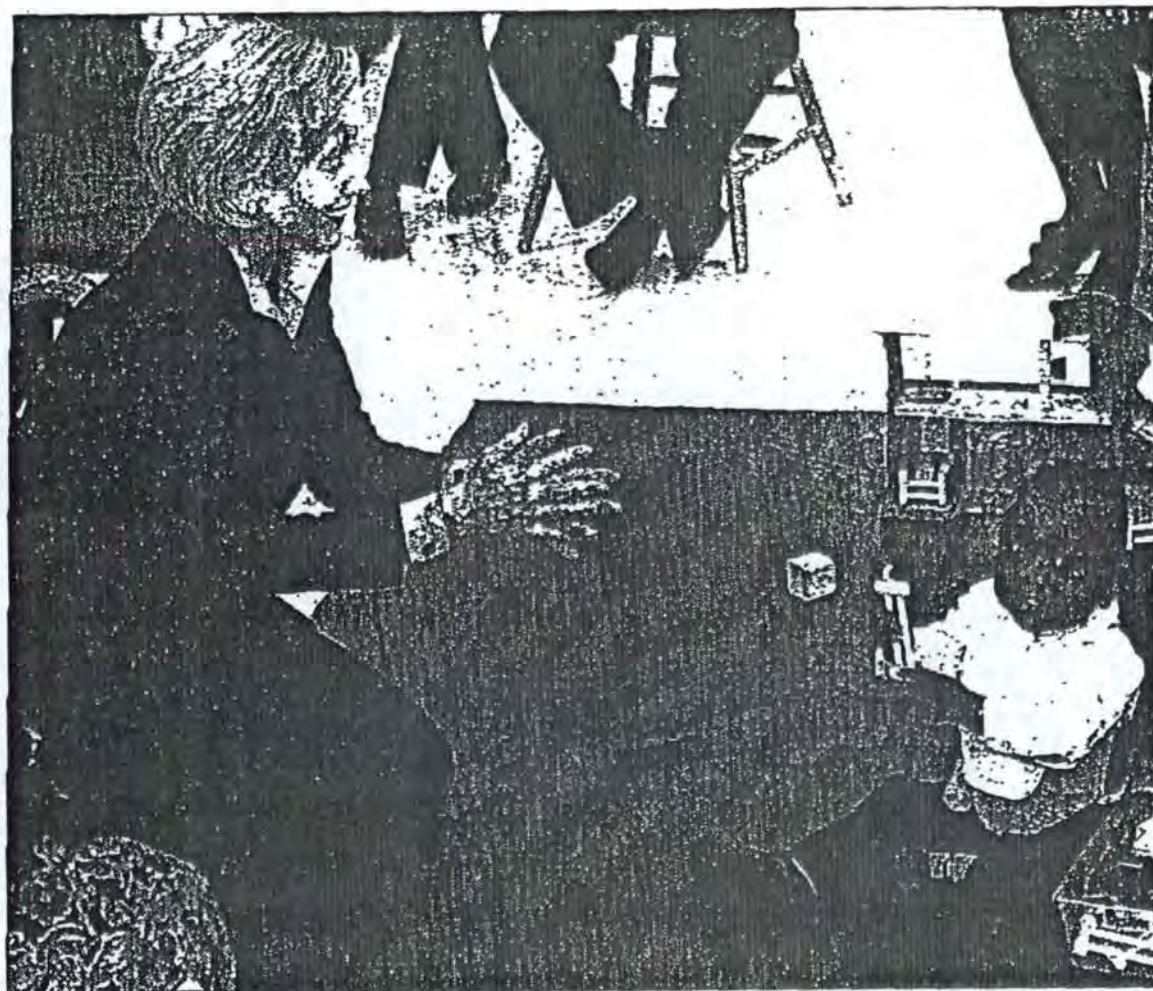
"It's great that the first lady took time out of her schedule to come here," said Holly Miner, director of the pedi-care program. "It shows she really does care about America's children."

The Associated Press



STAFF PHOTOS BY RENEE DEKONA

HAVING FUN: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a busy but enjoyable day in Boston yesterday. Above, she shares a laugh with Sen. Edward Kennedy at the African Meeting House. At right, she applauds the play habits of tiny Damon Goodwin at a Brighton day-care center.



December 7, 1998 Monday ROP Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 08

LENGTH: 344 words

HEADLINE: First lady praises state's historic restoration efforts

BODY:

BOSTON (AP) -- As part of her continuing effort to promote historical preservation, Hillary Rodham Clinton came to Massachusetts this weekend to announce private grants totaling more than \$ 300,000 for restoration projects.

The first lady's visit included a nod to the ghosts of writers past, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Charles Dickens, and the memories of a one-time slaves gone free.

Clinton toured the two-story yellow wooden home of Longfellow in Cambridge, where writers and artists gathered in the late 1800s and -- nearly a century earlier -- General George Washington plotted Revolutionary War strategy during the siege of Boston.

While taking in wallpaper and floor coverings nearly 150 years old, and looking over the same portraits Longfellow himself enjoyed, the first lady called on all Americans to honor the past.

"I felt overwhelmed," Clinton said. "We have a lot of work to do to make sure this house can convey what happened here."

U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky toured the home along with Clinton and were greeted by a group of school children who read them Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride."

Kennedy joked about Massachusetts being the first lady's second home because she attended Wellesley College here, and he praised her efforts for historic preservation and nearly \$ 300,000 raised for the Longfellow House by private donors.

"Many things are happening in our country today but I don't know of any more important," Kennedy said. "This is the best of our past and it reminds us of our future."

It was Clinton's second visit to Massachusetts this year to promote the "Save America's Treasures" program, a project that grew out of the Clinton administration's effort to mark and celebrate the coming of the new millennium.

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First lady a classy backdrop to Mass Art gala

By Julie Hatfield
GLOBE STAFF

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, dressed in an understated black evening suit edged in black sequins, gave graciously of her time to the Massachusetts College of Art's 125th anniversary celebration on Saturday night. She shook hands and chatted with each of the VIP guests who had paid \$1,000 at the cocktail reception, including Joan

Partylines

and David Kaufman of Newton — he retired as an internist to study sculpture at MassArt — and although Clinton didn't stay for the dance party that followed the dinner, she spoke informally to those who approached her at the table she shared with co-chairs Kathryn and John Hamill and Pat and Arthur Stavaridis, all of Boston, and she remained through the first part of the gala night to give the keynote address to the crowd of 600 on the "extraordinary legacy" being celebrated by the school, how important arts edu-

PARTY LINES, Page D3

Mary Briggs and husband, John Holland, of Lexington, at the Mass College of Art gala; he's chairman of the media and performing arts department.

■ PARTY LINES

Continued from Page D1

cation is to the full education of the individual and in particular to children who are at risk, and to say "I hope that what you've done here will inspire others to make the commitment to arts education for all students."

No mention was made of her husband save for her note that "the president's committee on arts and humanities has proved that when arts programs are organized in the public schools, it can make a difference in lives of accomplishment or lives of hopelessness."

Jennifer Ha Than of New York, class of '89, wore a dramatic black velvet pants outfit of Vietnamese design that she hand painted in gold, and she handed the first lady's assistant a sketch of a similar outfit she'd

like to make for Mrs. Clinton. Francoise Thiese of Newton, co-owner of Adesso, and her husband, attorney Jay Thiese, hosted

a table that included art collectors Barbara Fish Lee and her escort, Louis Nerman of Kansas City.

The evening generated \$700,000 from the contributions of guests, as well as a major gift from Elizabeth and Robert Pozen of Newton — he is a Fidelity executive and she is on the foundation board of trustees of MassArt. The school also received \$2 million from the state earmarked for capital improvements and scholarships.

Partylines

PHOTOS BY BILL BRETT

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Los Angeles Press Clips

SECTION

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Los Angeles Times

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 11, 1998 CC

METRO

First Lady Visits Historic Synagogue, Movie House

■ **Preservation:** Trip to L.A. promotes White House drive to save key landmarks. Getty Trust gives \$1.1 million in support of nationwide project.

By JOSEPH TREVIÑO
and CAITLIN LIU
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

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GINA PERAZZI / Los Angeles Times

First Lady Hillary Clinton shares a laugh with Stevie Wonder after he sang at the Los Angeles Theater.

(Full text follows.)

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Los Angeles Times

December 11, 1998, Friday, Home Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 704 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY VISITS HISTORIC SYNAGOGUE, MOVIE HOUSE;
PRESERVATION: TRIP TO L.A. PROMOTES WHITE HOUSE DRIVE TO SAVE KEY
LANDMARKS.
GETTY TRUST GIVES \$1.1 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONWIDE PROJECT.

BYLINE: JOSEPH TREVINO and CAITLIN LIU, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BODY:

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Last week Clinton was in New York to visit Louis Armstrong's archives and in the Boston area for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's house and the African Meeting House. Today she plans to tour San Francisco's Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

The Breed Street Shul is the last remaining synagogue in Boyle Heights, once a center of Los Angeles' Jewish community. The Los Angeles Theater, built in 1931, was the last palatial movie house constructed on Broadway.

On Thursday afternoon, Clinton stood in front of the dilapidated synagogue and addressed more than 500 people who gathered outside.

"This shul and the work we are doing together to preserve it for future generations is an important statement," she said. "We believe that there must be continuity between generations."

Boyle Heights, Clinton said, always has been a community for immigrants.

"Boyle Heights immigrants today can think back to those immigrants 60 to 70 years ago who did not speak English--they spoke Yiddish," she said. "In honoring this particular building, we honor the past."

At the synagogue, it was announced that the J. Paul Getty Trust will award a \$ 1.1-million grant to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The grant will support as many as 25 model projects throughout the United States that are part of the Save America's Treasures campaign.



Los Angeles Times December 11, 1998, Friday,

The Breed Street shul is the recipient of a \$ 15,000 grant from the Getty to allow for emergency repairs to the structure, damaged during last year's winter storms. Built in 1923, the synagogue was an integral part of the flourishing Jewish community from the 1920s to the 1950s, when Boyle Heights was home to about 90,000 Jews, then the largest Jewish population west of Chicago.

As the Jewish community moved to other areas, so did the synagogue's worshipers. By the late 1970s, the congregation wasn't able to gather a minyan of 10 men to pray.

The congregation ceased services in 1993, when the last rabbi of the Congregation of Talmud Torah wanted to raze the building and sell the property. Last July the City Council voted to buy the synagogue and turn it over to the Jewish Historical Society.

The shul has great personal significance to several City Council members. Councilman Hal Bernson's Bar Mitzvah was held there, and Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg's aunt, uncle and cousins were members of the congregation. Councilman Mike Feuer's mother grew up a few blocks away.

After Clinton spoke at the synagogue, she addressed a crowd at the Los Angeles Theater, which is one of the magnificent historic theaters in the city. Designed by S. Charles Lee Charles, its splendid French Baroque interior, with chandeliers, murals and paintings, are considered unmatched by any other construction of its kind in Los Angeles.

An album to raise funds for the Save America's Treasures campaign is scheduled to be released in May. The retrospective of voices and songs is intended to form a musical tapestry of the nation's history. Plans for the musical tribute treasury were announced Thursday at the Los Angeles Theater.

"Sing, America: A Celebration of America and its Music," will include songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald and the New York Philharmonic. A book and television show are also planned.

The proceeds will be used to preserve and restore historic sites and memorabilia, such as Thomas Edison's laboratory, Ellis Island and Revolutionary War-era documents.

City Councilman Richard Alatorre, who pushed to help preserve the shul and

the theater, remembers how during the 1950s his grandmother would take him to the Los Angeles Theater after she went to see her doctor.

"She would treat me to lunch at Clifton's," Alatorre said, "and to the movies at the theater."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: (San Fernando Valley Edition / B1) HONORING THE PAST: First Lady Hillary Clinton speaks at the Historic Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights during a visit to Los Angeles to advance a White House effort to save key landmarks. PHOTO: First Lady Hillary Clinton shares a laugh with Stevie Wonder after he sang at the Los Angeles Theater. PHOTOGRAPHER: GINA FERAZZI / Los Angeles Times PHOTO: A crowd of students await the arrival of the first lady in front of Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights. PHOTOGRAPHER: AL SEIB / Los Angeles Times

Copyright 1998 Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

December 12, 1998, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 4; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 145 words

HEADLINE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA / A NEWS SUMMARY;
THE LOCAL REVIEW / DEVELOPMENTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY;
JEWISH FEDERATION GIVES \$15,000 TO HISTORIC SHUL

DATELINE: BOYLE HEIGHTS

BODY:

In an effort to preserve a historic synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles has announced a \$ 15,000 grant to be used for the landmark Breed Street Shul.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the synagogue Thursday as part of the Save America's Treasures campaign, which seeks to preserve America's historical sites.

The Jewish Federation grant will be used to install a temporary roof covering for the shul, which was closed in 1993 and was damaged in last winter's storms.

The fund is similar to one announced Thursday by the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Jewish Federation Vice President John Fishel said the grant is one of many upcoming programs intended to nurture cultural bridges between the Latino and Jewish communities.

The Boyle Heights area, which once had a vibrant Jewish community, today is populated largely by Latino immigrants.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 12, 1998

Billboard

\$5.95 (U.S.), \$6.95 (CAN.), £4.95 (U.K.), ¥2,500 (JAPAN)

NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL NEWSWEEKLY OF MUSIC, VIDEO, AND HOME ENTERTAINMENT • REACHING 110 COUNTRIES • DECEMBER 18, 1998

GOOD WORKS

Warner Bros.
Records Inc.
Teaming On
Millennium
Project ... P10



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WB's 'Sing' To Benefit U.S. Treasures

BY EILEEN FITZPATRICK

LOS ANGELES—Warner Bros. Records Inc. is joining first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's effort to raise money to save America's treasures.

On May 18, Warner Bros. will release the multi-artist benefit album "Sing, America: A Celebration Of America And Its Music," featuring previously released folk, country, classical, and jazz tracks and other songs that were born in the U.S.A.

Net proceeds from the album, which carries a suggested \$16.98-



\$17.98 list, will go to the first lady's Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures, which is overseen by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a federal nonprofit agency.

The committee, formed earlier this year, is soliciting donations from the corporate and nonprofit sectors to establish a fund to restore a variety of American heirlooms. Projects slated for restoration include the original manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the Louis Armstrong archives, Mount Rushmore, Ellis Island, and other historical documents and landmarks.

David Altschul, vice chairman of Warner Bros. Records Inc., who spearheaded the project, says the goal for "Sing, America" is to include a broad collection that "contains inspirational music and lyrics that evoke American history."

"But we don't want this to be a history lesson," he adds. "We wanted to create an album that

tainig."

Fifteen tracks have been scheduled, but Altschul says another three or four may be added before the release date. He stresses that the project is a one-off and will not develop into a series.

The title track of "Sing, America" is an original song penned by former Warner Bros. TV producer James Kellahin and Ian Seaberg. It will be rerecorded by opera singer Denyce Graves.

The song has previously been released as a single to Armed Forces Radio and has been played during Fourth of July broadcasts for the past several years.

*'We wanted to
create an album
that today's
listeners would
find entertaining'*

Graves performed at the launch of the Save America's Treasures project earlier this year and was recommended for "Sing, America" by Warner Bros. Records Inc. VP of A&R Gregg Geller, who, along with Altschul, is a co-producer on the album.

"This song is very different from what I normally do," says the RCA artist best known for her highly charged version of "Carmen." "It's very majestic, and the lyrics are very powerful and befitting of America. It's the kind of song that makes you cry."

Classic American folk songs are represented by "This Land Is Your Land," performed by Peter, Paul & Mary; "City Of New Orleans" by Arlo Guthrie; "Amazing Grace" by Judy Collins; and "Oh, Susanna" by James Taylor.

As an example of the album's diversity, Bob Dylan's war-protest anthem "Blowin' In The Wind" is included with "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver. Rounding out the collection are Paul Simon's "Graceland"; "Living In The Promiseland" by Willie

Nelson; "Summertime" with Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald; "The House I Live In" by Frank Sinatra; "This Is My Country" by Curtis Mayfield & the Impressions; "Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder; "America" by Neil Diamond; Aaron Copland's "Fanfare For The Common Man," performed by the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Leonard Bernstein; and "If I Can Dream" by Elvis Presley.

All net proceeds for the album will be donated to the Millennium Committee, of which Altschul is a member. Warner Bros.' distribution company, WEA, has waived its normal fee in support of the project, and participating labels and artists are donating royalty and licensing fees.

Altschul wouldn't place a sales goal on the title but says that Warner is prepared to commit its resources to fully promote "Sing, America."

"It would be wonderful if we could sell enough units to make a multi-million-dollar contribution to the committee," he says.

Marketing plans include a companion book and a promotion on the Home Shopping Network.

Altschul says Home Shopping Network's sister channels, the History Channel and USA Networks, will cross-promote "Sing, America."

Warner plans to seek out niche markets, such as gift stores in national parks, to also sell the title.

Warner will also embark on a campaign to get donated air time for a yet-to-be-produced public service announcement on VH1, MTV, and other music channels.

"Every dollar we can save through donated advertising will allow us to contribute so much more to Save America's Treasures," Altschul says.

A radio single and retail promotions are also planned. Altschul says the company hasn't decided which track will be the single.

"Our hope is make this album like a 'We Are The World,' " he says, "and generate a lot more public attention to this cause."



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton waves as she and Steve Sass of the Jewish Historical Society greet crowd at the Breed Street shul.

AL SEIB/Los Angeles Times

First Lady Visits Historic Synagogue, Movie House

■ **Preservation:** Trip to L.A. promotes White House drive to save historic sites. Getty Trust gives \$1.1 million in support of nationwide project.

By JOSEPH TREVI O
and CAITLIN LIU
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

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Please see HISTORY, A11

L.A. Times
12-11-98
National Edition
Pages A3,A11

HISTORY

Continued from A3

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

December 10, 1998, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 551 words

HEADLINE: First lady tours California as hearings continue in Washington

BYLINE: ANTHONY BREZNICAN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton began a two-day tour of California's historic treasures Thursday as a congressional inquiry that could lead to her husband's impeachment moved forward in Washington.

Mrs. Clinton referred to her husband twice during the day, but not in the context of the sex scandal that has plagued her husband since January or the ongoing impeachment hearings.

Thursday evening, as part of the Save America's Treasures tour, the first lady visited the Los Angeles Theater on Broadway in downtown's onetime bustling theater district.

Mrs. Clinton only made remarks to a crowd gathered inside the theater, and did not speak to reporters.

"It was logistically not a part of the program," Mrs. Clinton's press secretary Marsha Berry said. "It's not a forum to have a press conference."

At the event, Warner Bros. Records Inc. representatives announced the release of a compact disc titled, "Sing, America: A Celebration of America and its Music."

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

A Los Angeles-based theater group made up of high school and college students called "Living Literature: Colors United" also performed.

Mrs. Clinton recalled that the students performed at her husband's 1993 inauguration. She also mentioned that President Clinton helped start Save America's Treasures.

Earlier in the day, she visited a damaged synagogue in Boyle Heights.

The only mention of the president there came when she told the crowd standing outside about her holiday travel plans. The Clintons will visit Jerusalem for the start of Hanukah.

"There we will light the menorah," Mrs. Clinton said. "And after that we will travel to Bethlehem, where we will also light a Christmas tree."

Standing in front of the shuttered Talmud Torah, also known as the Breed Street Shul, the first lady thanked local volunteers and praised the Jewish Historical Society of Southern California for leading the effort to renovate the synagogue and turn it into a museum honoring the many ethnic heritages of Boyle Heights, a working-class neighborhood east of downtown Los Angeles.

The historic synagogue, closed for more than a decade, was the heart of the community's large Jewish population in the first half of the century. Mrs. Clinton said turning the decaying synagogue into a museum would "culturally unite generations and create connection among people."

The congregation of the brownstone synagogue dwindled with the neighborhood's Jewish population in the 1950s and 1960s. It has been closed for more than a decade after earthquakes damaged its foundation and its aging roof began falling in.

Renovation is scheduled to begin in the spring.

On Friday, Mrs. Clinton was scheduled to visit San Francisco's Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park before heading back to Washington.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 11, 1998

It features music by American legends, such as Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, Neil Diamond and Elvis Presley. Profits of the compact disc, which hits stores May 18, will be donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The theater is one of the national city landmarks Mrs. Clinton is embracing in her campaign to preserve historical sites.

Wonder introduced Mrs. Clinton, who then asked him to sing.

Wonder obliged, saying, "just because of my love for you and your husband, I'll do that." He sang a free version of "Sir Duke."

—>

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City News Service

December 10, 1998, Thursday

LENGTH: 199 words

HEADLINE: Preservation Grant

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

The J. Paul Getty Trust awarded \$1.1 million grant today to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help establish standards for the conservation of historic districts nationwide.

The grant will support 25 model projects as part of the trust's "Save America's Treasures" campaign, an initiative started by the White House Millennium Council headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The first lady joined Robert F. Erburu, the head of the Getty's board of trustees, at the old Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights to announce the grant.

"This grant signal our commitment to increasing the public's understanding of the importance of preserving the tangible symbols of our nation's past," Erburu said.

The long-abandoned Talmud Torah synagogue in what used to be city's main Jewish enclave will benefit from a separate \$15,000 grant, also from the Getty. It will help pay for emergency repairs to the 75-year-old shul.

The Getty also announced a local preservation initiative. It includes a survey of Los Angeles' historic buildings, and grants will be awarded for planning emergency "stabilization" work at key sites.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 11, 1998



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I = Interview; CR = Graphic; PC = Press Conference; R = Reader; SI = Studio Interview; T = Tapes; TZ = Tossed Segment; V = Visual

Monitoring Report

Hillary Clinton In LA 12/10 To 12/11

- 1) Eyewitness News This Morning *Jason*
KABC-TV (ABC) CH 7 Los Angeles 12/10/88 5:30-6:00 AM
21.10 T; Winds, Hillary Clinton, Firefighters.
- 2) Eyewitness News This Morning
KABC-TV (ABC) CH 7 Los Angeles 12/10/88 6:00-7:00 AM
05.45 Hillary. Broad Street school will see Hillary Clinton today.
Councilman Alatorre who saved the temple there will tour her per
Millennium Council's preservation of historical landmarks. 06.00
- 3) Eyewitness News
KABC-TV (ABC) CH 7 Los Angeles 12/10/88 6:00-6:30 PM
05.45 Hillary. Boyle Hts. got visit from Hillary Clinton during
restoration of historic Jewish temple. V: Singers at Grieve St. Shul
temple. sign; Congregation Talmud Torah. I: Women says it was the largest
shul W. of Chicago. V: Sign near Hillary; Hillary Rodham Clinton Saving
America's Treasures. The SAT campaign sponsored event. I: Hillary says
saving the past saves the family. \$1 mill. grant came from J. Paul Getty
Trust and \$15,000 grant will stabilize it after El Nino damage. Leslie
Sykes. 07.23
- 4) Eyewitness News
KABC-TV (ABC) CH 7 Los Angeles 12/10/88 11:00-11:35 PM
02.42 Impeachment. The House Judiciary Committee may vote on impeachment
tomorrow. Leslie Sykes reporting. V: House Judiciary Committee hearings
being held, videotaped deposition by president. I: David Schippers,
majority counsel. I: Abbe Lowell, minority counsel. V: Hillary Clinton
holding up cap, her hugging Stevie Wonder. She is on a Saving America's
Treasures tour. 05.15
- 5) Eyewitness News
KABC-TV (ABC) CH 7 Los Angeles 12/10/88 11:30-12:00 PM
12.58 Hillary Clinton. V: She's visiting a school in LA. 13.15
- 6) 8 News Noon Report
KCAL-TV (NBC) CH 9 Los Angeles 12/10/88 12:00-1:00 PM
10.18 Clinton. Hillary Clinton will be in the southland today to help
restore historical landmarks. 10.35

Hillary Clinton in LA Continued....

- 7) 8 News 2 O'Clock Report
KCAL-TV (IND) CH 8 Los Angeles 12/10/88 2:00-3:00 PM
32.00 Hillary. Hillary Clinton is in the Southland to participate in saving historic landmarks. The Millenium Council is the name of the organization. 32.10
- 8) 8 News 10 O'Clock Report
KCAL-TV (IND) CH 8 Los Angeles 12/10/88 10:00-11:00 PM
8.05 Southland Visit. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in Boyle Heights. V; Clinton in Boyle Heights. 8.27
- 9) CBS 2 News At Eleven
KCBS-TV (CBS) CH 2 Los Angeles 12/10/88 11:00-11:35 PM
9.46 Hillary Clinton. Campaign to save America's treasures in Boyle heights had a special visit from Mrs. Clinton. V; Clinton at program. 10.01
- 10) UPN News 13
KCOP-TV (UPN) CH 13 Los Angeles 12/10/88 10:00-11:00 PM
04.00 Impeachment. Closing arguments of democrat and republican counsel. V; Abbe Lowell, democrat counsel. V; Dave Schlppers, republican counsel. V; Video of Clinton deposition in Paula Jones case. V; Rep. George Gekas rending perjury. V; Rep. Jerrold Nadler, defends the President. Rep. Bill McCollum pleads obstruction of justice. Rep. Charles Schumer, says in normal court, President would be acquitted. Jim Getafy reporting. > Hillary Clinton in the Southland. V; First Lady in Boyle Heights. I; Unidentified woman says Hillary is terrific. V; Councilman Richard Alatorre and Governor-elect Gray Davis shower her with praise. V; Synagogue Mrs. Clinton plans to get restored. I; Various women express their admiration. Hal Elner reporting. 08.22
- 11) Today in LA
KNBC-TV (NBC) CH 4 Los Angeles 12/10/88 6:00-7:00 AM
08.41 People in the News. > Hillary Clinton will be downtown today. > Raquel Welch will open a pizza place at the Block of Orange. > Mighty Joe Young premieres later today. 08.22
- 12) Channel 4 News
KNBC-TV (NBC) CH 4 Los Angeles 12/10/88 8:00-8:30 PM
08.25 Hilary Clinton, Hillary Clinton visited Boyle Heights to speak on preserving the past to better know how to move forward. SB; Hilary Clinton on preserving history. 08.05
- 13) Channel 4 News
KNBC-TV (NBC) CH 4 Los Angeles 12/10/88 11:00-12:00 PM
08.21 Clinton. Clinton is holding a service to stress Human rights. C; Hilary Clinton speaking about being born free in this country. 08.08

Hillary Clinton in LA Continued....

- 14) Channel 4 News
KNBC-TV (NBC) CH 4 Los Angeles 12/10/98 11:00-11:35 PM
07.12 Southland Visit. First Lady Hillary Clinton visited Boyle Heights.
V; Clinton. 07.38
- 15) News At Ten
KTLA-TV (WB) CH 5 Los Angeles 12/10/98 10:00-11:00 PM
25.11 T; V; Hillary Clinton. smuggling ring. money business, firemen,
supermodels in cyberspace. 25.39
* * *
28.48 TZ; Southland Visit. First Lady Hillary Clinton visited the
Southland today. SB; Clinton. V; Scenes in Boyle Heights. 30.42
- 16) Fox Morning News
KTTV-TV (Fox) CH 11 Los Angeles 12/10/98 8:00-7:00 AM
35.05 Hearings GOP proposing articles of impeachment. More video tape of
President to surface today. V; House Judiciary. I; Rep Charles Schumer,
Ass Hutchinson. Gr; Draft articles of impeachment. V; Monica Lewinsky. I;
Bob Barr, says President should be removed from office. I; Lindsey Graham
says White House launched smear campaign. James Kennedy writes there is
nothing compelling impeachment. V; Clinton and Hillary at lighting of
New Christmas Tree. 38.37
- 17) FOX 11 News
KTTV-TV (Fox) CH 11 Los Angeles 12/10/98 10:00-11:00 PM
02.51 California Visit. First Lady Hillary Clinton visited southern CA
today. V; Clinton in Boyle Heights. V; Scenes at Los Angeles Theater. I;
Teenagers at the theater. Christina Gonzalez reporting. 04.24
- 18) KFVB News 98
KFVB-AM (IND) Freq 980 Los Angeles 12/10/98 4:00-5:00 PM
23.00 Boyle Heights Synagogue. Hillary Clinton has spoke at a synagogue
today where the Getty Foundation has made a contribution. I; Clinton says
thanks to Roosevelt HS. Pete Demetrio Reporting.
- 19) KFVB News 98
KFVB-AM (IND) Freq 980 Los Angeles 12/10/98 5:00-6:00 PM
23.00 Boyle Heights Synagogue. Hillary Clinton has attended a gathering
where the Getty Foundation has presented preservation funds. I; Hillary
Clinton says thanks. FEMA will also donate funds. Pete Demetrio
Reporting.
- 20) KFVB News 98
KFVB-AM (IND) Freq 980 Los Angeles 12/10/98 6:00-7:00 PM
03.00 Boyle Heights Synagogue. Hillary Clinton has attended a gathering
where the Getty Foundation has presented a grant. I; Hillary says the
neighbors worked together. Pete Demetrio Reporting.

For videocassettes or transcripts of any of the above segments, contact your nearest VMS office

Hillary Clinton in LA Continued....

- 20) KPWB News 88 [continued...]
 KPWB-AM (IND) Freq 880 Los Angeles 12/10/98 8:00-7:00 PM
 43.00 Boyle Heights Synagogue. Hillary Clinton has attended a gathering where the Getty Foundation has provided a grant. I: Clinton says we learn by looking backwards. Clinton went to the LA Theater afterwards.
- 21) KNX 1070 NewsRadio
 KNX-AM (CBS) Freq 1070 Los Angeles 12/10/98 4:00-5:00 PM
 14.00 Boyle Heights Jewish Community. A landmark synagogue has been given a grant by the Getty Foundation. Hillary Clinton was on hand and she will next go to the LA Theater and the preservation project with Warner Brothers. Gayle Ikenthal Reporting.
- 22) Action News This Morning
 KCBS-TV (CBS) CH 2 Los Angeles 12/11/98 6:00-7:00 AM
 5.15 Hillary Clinton. Hillary Clinton was in California yesterday. She was on a mission to preserve the nation's history. She visited a synagogue in Boyle Heights and the Los Angeles Theater last night. 5.30.
- 23) Today in LA
 KNBC-TV (NBC) CH 4 Los Angeles 12/11/98 5:30-6:00 AM
 05.41 Clinton. Hillary Clinton spoke in Boyle Heights yesterday. V: Clinton speaking. 06.03
- 24) KTLA Morning News 5:30 Edition
 KTLA-TV (WB) CH 5 Los Angeles 12/11/98 5:30-6:00 AM
 05.10 Hillary Hillary Clinton is in the Southland on a tour, she is involved with the Save Americas Treasures project. V: Save Americas Treasures. SB: Hillary talks about the project and saving a historic synagogue. 06.50
- 25) KTLA Morning News Early Edition
 KTLA-TV (WB) CH 5 Los Angeles 12/11/98 6:00-7:00 AM
 08.30 Hillary Hillary Clinton is in the Southland on a tour, she is involved with the Save Americas Treasures project. V: Save Americas Treasures. SB: Hillary talks about the project and saving a historic synagogue. 09.10
- 26) KTLA Morning News
 KTLA-TV (WB) CH 5 Los Angeles 12/11/98 8:00-9:00 AM
 05.00 Hillary Hillary Clinton is in the Southland on a tour, she is involved with the Save Americas Treasures project. V: Save Americas Treasures. SB: Hillary talks about the project and saving a historic synagogue. 05.50

Hillary Clinton in LA Continued....

- 27) **Bill Handel in the Morning**
KFI-AM (MBS) Freq 640 Los Angeles 12/11/98 6:00-7:00 AM
 29.07 News > Search on for man who kidnapped and killed a woman from Long Beach. Amy Pellegrini tried to get away from suspect. She was pushed from truck and hit by it. Man driving 1980s Ford Pickup. > Reportedly there are survivors of Thal Airways Jet liner crash. Initial reports say one engine exploded. > Developers digging trench to send trains through Alameda Corridor. I: Gov Pete Wilson says it will easily prove worth to CA saying it will increase CA Economy by roughly 25% by the year 2010. The Alameda Corridor will link the ports with transcontinental rail network east of downtown. > Hillary Clinton spearheading grant program to save Amer Treasures and one is Bred Street Schul in Boyle Heights. I: Hillary Clinton, talking about Schul. Getty Trust donated a million dollars to the program.
- 28) **Bill Handel in the Morning**
KFI-AM (MBS) Freq 640 Los Angeles 12/11/98 7:00-8:00 AM
 30.08 News > Thal tv station reporting 8 or 8 survivors in crash of Thal Airways plane with 148 people on board. > Eric Ford used scanner to listen to cellular phone call to provide The Globe a story about Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman I: US Atty Tom Reasac (?) on economic gain and presenting evidence to FBI for prosecution. Each of 3 wire tapping charges possible 5 yrs in prison. > DAs office says there is not enough evidence to prove that Sheriffs Lieutenant tried to get money from Nate and Chris Holden to make statutory rape case against Chris Holdens wife go away for money. She is accused of having sex with the family 15 yr old babysitter. I: Chris Holden announced candidacy for mayor of Pasadena yesterday. He is current member. > Hillary Clinton working to save Bred St Schul (?) in Boyle Heights. She is leading natl preservation effort. I: Hillary, on honoring the past through Save Americas Treasures, a private public partnership grant program. Getty Trust donating 1 million to the cause. The schul will be used as museum and cultural center.
- 29) **KNX 1070 NewsRadio**
KNX-AM (CBS) Freq 1070 Los Angeles 12/11/98 6:00-7:00 AM
 11.57 LA Jewish groups are preserving the last remaining temple in Boyle Heights. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Jewish Federation have given grants and Hillary Clinton was on-hand to celebrate the donation. PC: She talked about connections among people.
- 30) **KNX 1070 NewsRadio**
KNX-AM (CBS) Freq 1070 Los Angeles 12/11/98 7:00-8:00 AM
 08.52 Clinton to visit Israel tomorrow. Hillary and Chelsea to visit New Shalom.

For videoconferencing or transcripts of any of the above segments, contact your nearest VMS office

** TOTAL PAGE. 05 **

Los Angeles Times



FRIDAY

DECEMBER 11, 1998

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Calendar

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

F2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1998

Morning Report

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTS FROM THE TIMES,
NEWS SERVICES AND THE NATION'S PRESS.

Historic Sites and Sounds: A retrospective of voices and songs said to form a "musical tapestry" of the nation's history will be combined on an album benefiting "Save America's Treasures," an effort to preserve and restore historic sites and memorabilia, such as Thomas Edison's laboratory, Ellis Island and Revolutionary War-era documents. "Sing, America: A Celebration of America and Its Music," scheduled for a May release, will include songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald and the New York Philharmonic. A TV show and book are also planned. The "Save America's Treasures" preservation effort is chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who announced the project Thursday at the historic downtown Los Angeles Theater on Broadway, a site that's included on the campaign's list of restoration projects.

Copyright 1998 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

December 11, 1998, Friday

DISTRIBUTION: Business Editors, Religion Writers

LENGTH: 279 words

HEADLINE: The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles Joins Emergency Funders of Breed Street Shul Renovation

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

Dec. 11, 1998--Continuing its commitment both to historical preservation and to community relations, The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles announced a \$ 15,000 grant to be used toward the immediate installation of temporary roof coverings of the landmark Breed Street Shul, also selected as a Millennium Council "Save America's Treasures" site by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Getty Trust matched the \$ 15,000 immediate emergency fund.

John Fishel, executive vice president, stated, "The Jewish Federation believes that the renovation of the Breed Street Shul will provide an important resource for an ethnically varied neighborhood and a valuable historic testimony for the Jewish community."

The Jewish Federation funds numerous cultural projects including the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, The Jewish Genealogical Society, The Jewish Historical Society and more.

The organization will announce its long-term investment in the project and a slate of programming intended to create cultural bridges between the Jewish and Latino communities. The Jewish Federation raises more than \$ 450 million annually in the Greater Los Angeles area to be used for nonsectarian social services.

The Breed Street Shul was built in 1932 in Boyle Heights and was the heart of Jewish life from the 1920s to the 1940s.

COPYRIGHT 1998 City News Service, Inc.
City News Service

December 11, 1998, Friday

LENGTH: 184 words

HEADLINE: Shul Renovation

DATELINE: BOYLE HEIGHTS

BODY:

The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles announced today it will give \$15,000 for the immediate installation of a temporary roof over the landmark Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights.

The synagogue is being restored as part of the "Save America's Treasures" campaign, an initiative of the White House Millennium Council headed by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Getty Trust matched the federation's \$15,000 grant to help build the temporary roof, said John Fishel, executive vice president of the federation.

"The Jewish Federation believes that the renovation of the Breed Street Shul will provide an important resource for an ethnically varied neighborhood and a valuable historic testimony for the Jewish community," he said.

The Jewish Federation funds a number of cultural projects, including the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, the Jewish Genealogical Society and the Jewish Historical Society.

The Breed Street Shul was built in 1932 in Boyle Heights and was the heart of Jewish life there from the 1920s to the 1940s.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 12, 1998

Copyright 1998 Tower Media, Inc.
The Daily News of Los Angeles

December 11, 1998, Friday, VALLEY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. N4

LENGTH: 277 words

HEADLINE: GETTY DONATES TO FIRST LADY'S PROJECT; \$ 1.1 MILLION TO HELP
CONSERVE
HISTORIC U.S. SITES

BYLINE: Reed Johnson Daily News Staff Writer

BODY:

With first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Gov.-elect Gray Davis looking on, officials of the J. Paul Getty Trust on Thursday announced a grant of \$ 1.1 million toward conservation of historic buildings and districts throughout the United States.

The award, one of the largest in the Brentwood-based foundation's history, is being made to the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation and will support up to 25 model projects, said Robert F. Erburu, chairman of the Getty's board of trustees.

Those projects will be part of the Save America's Treasures campaign, an initiative of the nonpartisan White House Millennium Council, chaired by the first lady. The council aims to protect artifacts and sites of historic value to the nation.

"If we lose these monuments, we can lose the history of who we are," Erburu said at an afternoon ceremony at the Breed Street Shul, a historic Jewish synagogue in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, once a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, now heavily populated by Latinos.

The preservation initiative sends "a statement that we believe there must be continuity among generations, and there must be connections among people," the first lady said.

Projects are to be chosen through a national juried competition administered

by the National Trust. Individual grants will range up to \$ 50,000 and will be matched dollar for dollar by the recipients.

To augment the national initiative, the Getty also announced a Los Angeles preservation initiative to compile a survey of historic buildings and districts in Los Angeles, award planning grants and fund selected demonstration projects.

GRAPHIC: photo;

PHOTO: First lady Hillary Clinton greets well-wishers in Boyle Heights after accepting a grant for the Save America's Treasures campaign.;

Evan Yee/Daily News

Los Angeles Times December 11, 1998, Friday,

Heading Home: Funk singer Rick James is scheduled to be released from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center today, nearly five weeks after suffering a stroke from a broken blood vessel in the back of his neck. A spokesman for James, 50, said: "The doctor estimates that he'll be at 80% capacity in about six months. . . It's a long recovery period."

✓ Historic Sites and Sounds: A retrospective of voices and songs said to form a "musical tapestry" of the nation's history will be combined on an album benefiting "Save America's Treasures," an effort to preserve and restore historic sites and memorabilia, such as Thomas Edison's laboratory, Ellis Island and Revolutionary War-era documents. "Sing, America: A Celebration of America and Its Music," scheduled for a May release, will include songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald and the New York Philharmonic. A TV show and book are also planned. The "Save America's Treasures" preservation effort is chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who announced the project Thursday at the historic downtown Los Angeles Theater on Broadway, a site that's included on the campaign's list of restoration projects.

Pay-Per-View Unity: The promoters of last weekend's Hip-Hop Unity Festival at the L.A. Sports Arena say tapes of the show are being edited for a pay-per-view special, and they dismiss criticism of the show's final lineup, which lacked several advertised headliners. An Edgewater Entertainment executive said Thursday that the concert--attended by about 6,000, half of those paid tickets--was "a great success and a show of peace for the hip-hop community," despite the absence of billed acts including Shaquille O'Neal, Kurupt and DMX. Among the more than one dozen who did perform were KRS-One and Slick Rick.

QUICK TAKES

Carol Marin, the Chicago-based news anchor who drew headlines in 1997 when she quit the NBC-owned station there because it hired talk host Jerry Springer onto the news staff, has been named a contributor to "60 Minutes II," which premieres Jan. 13. Marin, who worked on Bryant Gumbel's CBS News show last season, received a Peabody Award this year for her investigative reporting and "commitment to ethics and integrity." . . . "The Magnificent Seven" will rejoin CBS' lineup on Jan. 8, airing Fridays at 9 p.m. in place of "Buddy Faro," the new Dennis Farina drama, which has been canceled. . . . The Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. has declared a record 203 feature films, 25 foreign-language films, 122 TV series and 73 miniseries or TV movies eligible for the 56th annual Golden Globe Awards. Nominations will be announced Thursday.

San Francisco Press Clips

San Francisco Examiner

First lady brings good news about Conservatory

In San Francisco to report \$11 million raised for landmark

**By Michael Dougan
and John Koopman**
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

When first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton saw the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on a list of endangered historic places, she said, "My heart sank."

Following a tour of the storm-damaged glass structure Friday, Clinton declared, "It truly is an attraction that you can't get out of your mind ... depending on the angle you see it from, it looks like a wedding cake or a huge bird cage."

Clinton came to San Francisco to announce that more than

\$11 million in public and private funds have been raised to restore the 1870s conservatory, which has been closed since a windstorm ravaged it on Dec. 12, 1995.

Clinton heads the White House Millennium Council's "Save America's Treasures" campaign, which promotes fund-raising to salvage endangered, historically significant structures throughout the country.

The first lady praised Richard Goldman, president of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, for donating \$5 million to the conservatory restoration project. The Madeleine H. Russell Fund and the Columbia Foundation pledged an additional \$1 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has allocated \$1.2 million.

"FEMA resources now are

[See FIRST LADY, A-16]



Hillary Rodham Clinton and Richard Goldman, whose foundation donated \$5 million to restore the Conservatory of Flowers, look at the plants in the damaged building in Golden Gate Park.

EXAMINER/CHRISTINA KOCI HERNANDEZ

◆ FIRST LADY from A-1

First lady helps to save Conservatory

available to repair and restore historic sites after national disasters," the first lady said.

She made her remarks in a gathering at the Hall of Flowers, where about 250 people gave her a one-minute standing ovation as she took the podium.

Before her speech, Clinton took a tour of the conservatory.

Upon entering, she made a bee-line to an enigmatic clutch of dangling green pods.

She asked George Marcopulos, director of the conservatory, what kind of flowers they are. Carnivorous, he explained, from Borneo.

"Oh my god, don't get too close," she said with a laugh, backing away and pretending to hide behind Goldman, who accompanied her on the tour.

Clinton seemed fascinated by the carnivorous plants and asked Marcopulos several questions, including whether park staff feed them. She wanted to know how many other plants there are in the world that "eat animals." About 40 species, more or less, she was told.

She later opened her speech with a mock boast: "I stood right next to carnivorous flowers."

Clinton was trailed in the tour by Sen. Barbara Boxer and Mayor Brown.

Along with the Taj Mahal, Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and Angkor Wat, San Francisco's 121-year-old Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park is listed among the world's 100 most endangered architectural sites.



AP/PAUL BAKUMA
Hillary Rodham Clinton, in town to help save the Conservatory of Flowers, and Mayor Brown are all giggles.

What distinguishes the conservatory from most of its architectural peers is that a campaign is under way to raise the \$31 million needed to restore it to its former magnificence.

Three volunteer organizations are raising money for the restoration.

The glass-and-redwood conservatory is a state and national historic monument, a masterpiece of Victorian architecture and the old-

est conservatory in the United States.

The 1995 windstorm broke large sections of glass and destroyed many of the plants. Though it has been closed to the public ever since, many of its rare plants — including a world-famous collection of rare orchids — are still being cared for in the conservatory and in nearby greenhouses.

On her national tour, Clinton has also visited the Louis Arm-

strong House in Queens, N.Y., William Wadsworth Longfellow's home and the country's oldest standing African American church in Boston, and a historic synagogue and a collection of vintage theaters in Los Angeles.

This is the latest in many trips made by the first lady to San Francisco and the Bay Area. She was in The City in late September to help raise money for Boxer's re-election campaign.

Hillary Clinton Visiting Gate Park

Conservatory rebuilding benefits

By Yumi Wilson
Chronicle Staff Writer

Hillary Clinton will come to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park today to boost the effort to rebuild the storm-damaged Conservatory of Flowers and help announce a private foundation's \$5 million grant for the project.

As part of her "Save America's Treasures" program, Clinton is expected to challenge San Francisco businesses, residents and government to come up with an additional \$10 million for the conservatory.

The money would satisfy a 2-to-1 matching grant offered by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The foundation's \$5 million offer is the biggest single pledge so far toward rebuilding the 120-year-old conservatory.

Repairing the main structure is expected to cost as much as \$18 million overall. Supporters have raised \$3.5 million so far from state, city and private sources, and have decided the rest will be easier to get through donations than from government.

The Goldman Fund's president, Richard Goldman, said the challenge grant will "inspire others to assist with the renovation of one of San Francisco's architectural icons."

Clinton is also expected to announce several other gifts for the 12,000-square-foot conservatory, said Donna Ernstson of the Friends of Recreation and Parks, which raises private dollars for public parks.

The first lady's "Save America's Treasures" program is a national private and public fund-raising effort that she and her husband launched last year. The pro-

Supporters have tried to find money to repair the building, which had already been weakened by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

"Back in July, the Goldman Fund recognized the need to save this architectural treasure, and it was the fund that approached the city and asked what can we do to help," said Duane Silverstein, executive director of the fund. "And that's how the challenge grant was formulated."

and other gifts. Mayor Willie Brown is scheduled to be there as well.

The Conservatory of Flowers, a glass and wood-beamed Victorian built in 1878, is the state's oldest greenhouse. It has housed more than 700 rare and exotic plants.

But since the violent storms of 1995, when 100-mph winds blew out 30,000 fogged white glass panes and weakened the creaky structure, the conservatory has been closed to the public.

home of jazz great Louis Armstrong. Earlier this week she visited several sites in Los Angeles, including a historic synagogue where supporters are trying to create a museum honoring Jewish heritage.

Today, Clinton will take a private tour of the dome-topped conservatory before announcing the Goldman Fund challenge grant

gram is jointly run by the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the goal is to save the nation's monuments, artifacts and documents from being lost or destroyed.

Last week, Hillary Clinton went to New York to tour the

BAY AREA

CLINTON: Park Visit Today

From Page A25

WB ***** San Francisco Chronicle A33

Flower Power

First lady joins push
to repair conservatory
in Golden Gate Park



Hillary Clinton and Richard Goldman at the conservatory.

By Carl Nolte
Chronicle Staff Writer

On the same day the House Judiciary Committee voted to impeach her husband, Hillary Rodham Clinton came to San Francisco to help save the lovely old Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

The scene was nearly surreal: As her husband's activities made history, Clinton talked about preserving a building that represented the nation's history, a symbol, she said, of "the best of the past".

She never mentioned the president or his problems, not once. And neither did her San Francisco audience, which paid her respectful attention and gave her a standing ovation.

Clinton delivered a clear and warm 10-minute address, then mingled with the audience, smiling and shaking hands.

There were no questions about Topic A, no shouted remarks, no innuendos, nothing.

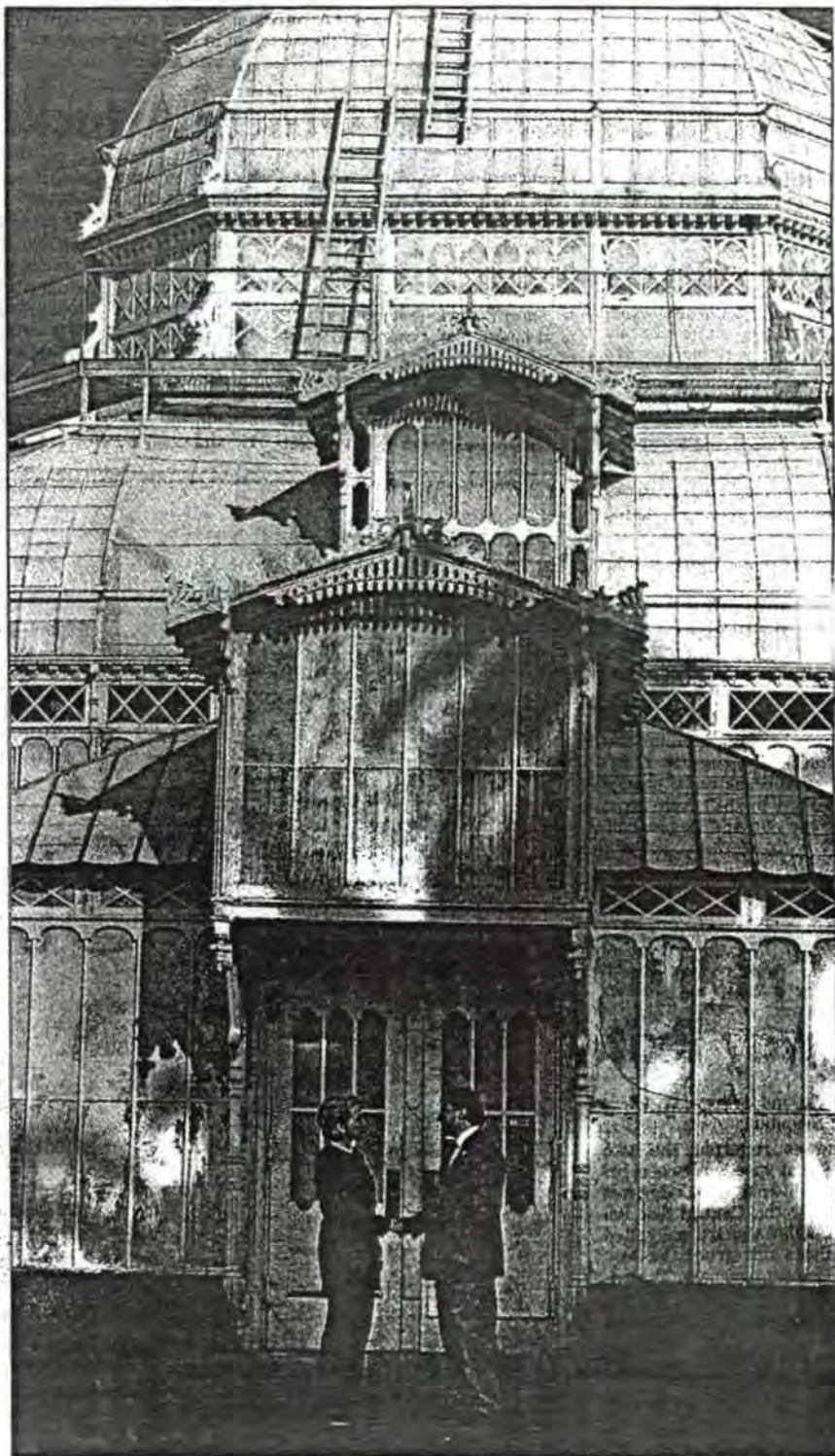
Later in the day, the president appeared outside the White House to apologize again for misleading the nation and his family and for the pain he had caused.

In San Francisco, however,

CONSERVATORY: Page A23 Col. 1



Hillary Clinton met Richard Goldman (left) and Conservatory of Flowers Director George Marcolpus (below).



PHOTOS BY SAM DEANER/THE CHRONICLE

BAY AREA

CONSERVATORY: First Lady Lends Support

From Page 19

Hillary Clinton was in the politest of company, where it would have been bad manners to mention anything that might cause the first lady pain.

Reporters later asked the audience, a mixture of politicians and civic leaders, for reaction to Washington developments. They had no comment, but they didn't even say even that. They merely looked away.

While Washington has been riveted with the impeachment drama, Hillary Clinton has been traveling around the country, lending her support to efforts to save cultural landmarks. She was at Louis Armstrong's home in New York City on December 3, the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Cambridge, Mass., last Saturday, and two historic sites in Los Angeles earlier this week.

She said she had been given a list of endangered national treasures, and saw the San Francisco Conservatory's name on it. "My heart sank," she said, and decided to help.

She began her San Francisco day with a tour of the conservatory, badly damaged in a fierce wind storm that blew in off the Pacific three years ago to the day.

In her talk at the nearby Hall of Flowers, she told of her respect for the 120-year-old glass and redwood relic of Victorian times. It is "a national treasure," she said. "One of the most important landmarks in the entire country."

The Richard and Rhoda Goldman foundation has given \$5 million contingent on an additional \$10 million being raised by the end of 2000.

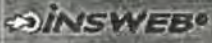
Clinton also brought a \$1.24 million federal grant, and thanked

other donors, among them the Madeline H. Russell Fund and the Columbia Foundation, Robin and Marsha Williams, Mark and Susie Tompkins Buell, Richard and Marianne Peterson, the Swig Foundation, William and Jean Lane, Philip Schlein and Ellen Klutznick and Nan Tucker McEvoy.

Earlier, Senator Barbara Boxer spoke fondly of how she had taken her children to the conservatory 30 years ago. She did not mention that one of her children, her daughter Nicole, had grown up to marry Anthony Rodham, the first lady's brother.

It was not necessary to mention the connection. The audience understood.

Clinton then went to Stanford University to visit her daughter, Chelsea, before returning to Washington. She will accompany her husband to Israel today.

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Flower Power: First lady joins push to repair GG Park conservatory

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Chronicle / Sam Deaner

Hillary Clinton and Richard Goldman at the conservatory. Chronicle Photo by Sam Deaner

[Read the Full Story](#)



**Flower Power: First lady joins push to repair
GG Park conservatory**



Hillary Clinton and Richard Goldman at the conservatory. Chronicle Photo by Sam Deaner

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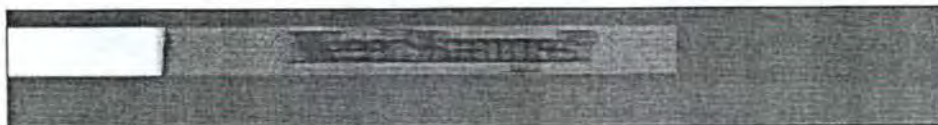
**Flower Power: First lady joins push to repair
GG Park conservatory**



Chronicle / Sam Deaner

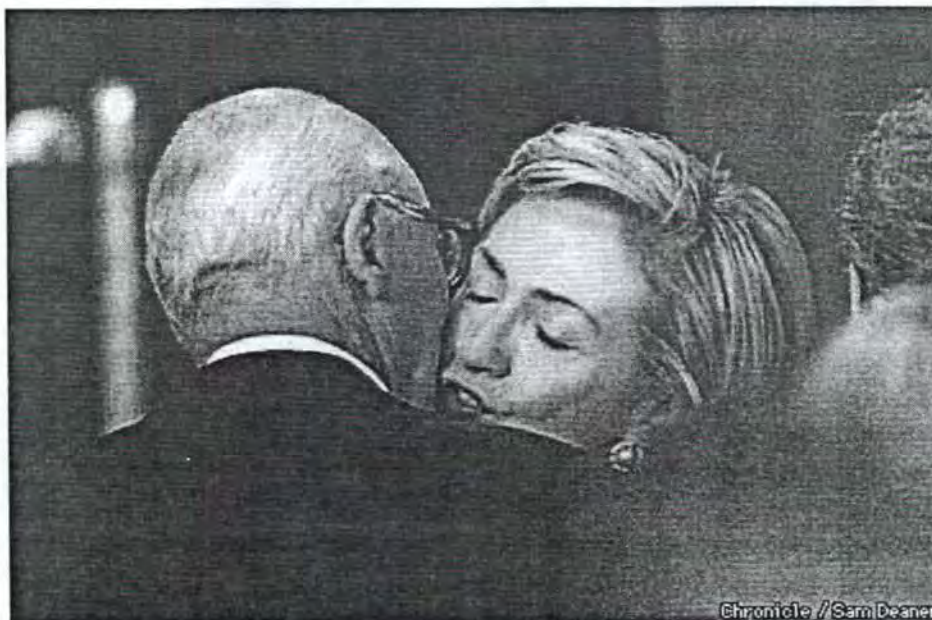
Willie Brown and Hillary Clinton share a laugh. Chronicle Photo by Sam Deaner

[Read the Full Story](#)



**Flower Power: First lady joins push to repair
GG Park conservatory**

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**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gives a warm good-bye to Richard Goldman.
Chronicle Photo by Sam Deaner**

Read the Full Story

Copyright 1998 The Hearst Corporation
The San Francisco Examiner

December 11, 1998, Friday; Second Edition

SECTION: METRO; Pg. A-32

LENGTH: 369 words

HEADLINE: First lady captivated by S.F.'s carnivorous plants

SOURCE: OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

BYLINE: MICHAEL DOUGAN and John Koopman

BODY:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton toured the Conservatory of Flowers Friday morning and made a beeline to a beautiful bunch of hanging plants.

She asked George Marcopulos, director of the conservatory, what kind of flowers they are. Carnivorous, he explained, from Borneo.

"Oh my god, don't get too close," she said with a laugh, backing away.

Clinton toured the Conservatory of Flowers, the oldest greenhouse in California, as part of a series of regional tours called "Save America's Treasures."

Following the tour, which began about 9:30 a.m., Clinton was to make an announcement of a new public / private effort to raise money to help restore the landmark building.

The first lady seemed fascinated by the carnivorous plants and asked Marcopulos several questions, including whether park staff feed them. She wanted to know how many other plants there are in the world that "eat animals." About 40 species, more or less, she was told.

Clinton was trailed by Sen. Barbara Boxer, Mayor Brown and Richard Goldman, who has given \$ 5 million for restoration of the conservatory.

Along with the Taj Mahal, Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and Angkor Wat, San

Francisco's 121-year-old Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park is listed among the world's 100 most endangered architectural sites.

What distinguishes the conservatory from most of its architectural peers is that a campaign is under way to raise the \$ 31 million needed to restore it to its former magnificence.

Three volunteer organizations are raising money for the restoration.

The glass-and-redwood conservatory is a state and national historic monument, a masterpiece of Victorian architecture and the oldest conservatory in the United States.



The San Francisco Examiner, December 11, 1998

The post-Gold Rush showpiece was badly damaged during a windstorm in December 1995 that broke large sections of glass and destroyed many of the plants. It has been closed to the public ever since, although many of its rare plants are still being cared for in nearby greenhouses.

This is the latest in many trips made by the first lady to San Francisco and the Bay Area. She was in The City in late September to help raise funds for Boxer's re-election campaign.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO 1 (AP / KEVORK DJANSEZIAN)

Caption 1, First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton holds up a hat that says, Save Our Shul, above, while Steve Sass of the Jewish Historical Society announces a \$ 1.1 million grant to renovate the "shul," a historical synagogue in Los Angeles. At left, the first lady is surrounded by members of a troupe that performed at the newly renovated Los Angeles Theater on Thursday. Clinton's tour on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was to continue Friday in San Francisco with an appearance at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

PHOTO 2

(AP / REED SAXON)

Caption 2, SAME AS PHOTO 1

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 12, 1998

Copyright 1998 Ventura County Star
Ventura County Star (Ventura County, Ca.)

December 11, 1998, Friday

SECTION: News; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 287 words

HEADLINE: Briefs: First lady begins visit to California/Photographer faces charges/Diversity official leaves bank/Davis names legal affairs secretary.

BODY:

LOS ANGELES

First lady begins visit to California

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton began a two-day tour of California's historic treasures Thursday as a congressional inquiry that could lead to her husband's impeachment moved forward in Washington.

She made no mention of the sex scandal that has plagued her husband since January or the ongoing impeachment hearings.

She visited Boyle Heights as part of her Save America's Treasures campaign to preserve historical sights.

She also was scheduled to visit a historic theater.

Photographer faces charges

A celebrity photographer was arrested Thursday on charges of illegally listening to a cellular phone call between actor Tom Cruise and his wife, Nicole Kidman, and selling details of the conversation to two tabloids.

Eric Ford, 27, was arrested by FBI agents at his Studio City home.

He was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges of illegally intercepting a wire communication and disclosing its contents for financial gain.

SAN FRANCISCO

Diversity official leaves bank

The woman who ran Bank of America's diversity program resigned after NationsBank, which took over BofA, removed her from her post.

Valerie Crane left the bank at the end of November, two months after the takeover, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday.

She was replaced by Lorraine Stimmel, who had been in charge of the human resources department at BofA.



SACRAMENTO

Davis names legal affairs secretary

Gov.-elect Gray Davis named Demetri Boutris, a veteran government and corporate lawyer and currently attorney to one of America's wealthiest men, as his legal affairs secretary on Thursday, making him Davis' top law adviser.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 1998

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

December 11, 1998, Friday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 554 words

HEADLINE: Far from impeachment hearings, first lady tours greenhouse

BYLINE: SCOTT LINDLAW, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: SAN FRANCISCO

BODY:

As members of Congress debated whether to impeach her husband, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spent Friday in a faraway sanctuary: the Conservatory of Flowers, a once-grand greenhouse shuttered by storm and earthquake damage.

Mrs. Clinton toured the still-thriving gardens on the same day President Clinton issued another apology for his affair with former intern Monica Lewinsky.

While she was in the nation's oldest municipal garden of its kind, the president was in the White House Rose Garden assuring the nation that congressional punishment "would pale in comparison to the consequences of the pain I have caused my family. There is no greater agony," he said.

Mrs. Clinton gave no hint of any emotion concerning the crisis back home as she basked in the goodwill evident in this traditionally Democratic city.

She toured the palatial white complex in the heart of Golden Gate Park, marveling at a hanging plant known as a nepenthes that eats small animals.

"Oh my gosh!" she said. "Do you feed it?"

When a passerby shouted "Yay, Hillary! We love you!" she smiled and yelled

back, "Hello!"

She beamed during a long standing ovation before her speech, and appeared to relish the chance to promote her pet cause.

The first lady announced several new grants that move the conservatory about halfway toward raising the \$ 20 million to \$ 25 million needed to raze and rebuild it, including more than \$ 1.2 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$ 250,000 from actor Robin Williams and \$ 5 million from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

"We can see once again that California is a model as to how best to preserve America's treasures in the next millenium," she said.



The Associated Press State & Local Wire

"This is one of the most important landmarks in the entire country, and certainly on the West Coast," she said.

The conservatory was the latest stop in Mrs. Clinton's effort to spotlight preservation projects. On Thursday, she visited a historic theater and a synagogue in Los Angeles. Last weekend in Boston she toured historic homes and churches.

Mrs. Clinton is honorary chairwoman of Save America's Treasures, a project that identifies symbols of American history and solicits donations for their preservation. On Friday, the conservatory received the designation of a Save America's Treasures site.

The conservatory was built in 1878. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake weakened the domed, glass structure, and a storm three years ago blew out windows and further undermined it.

While it appears slightly run-down, there was little evidence of damage inside or out on Friday. Inside it teems with hundreds of rare plants from around the world, and fish swim in its pond.

Yet after the storm of 1995, city officials deemed it too weak to allow public admission, largely because the wood that supports the building and thousands of glass panes have rotted, said Bruce D. Judd, architect of the replacement building.

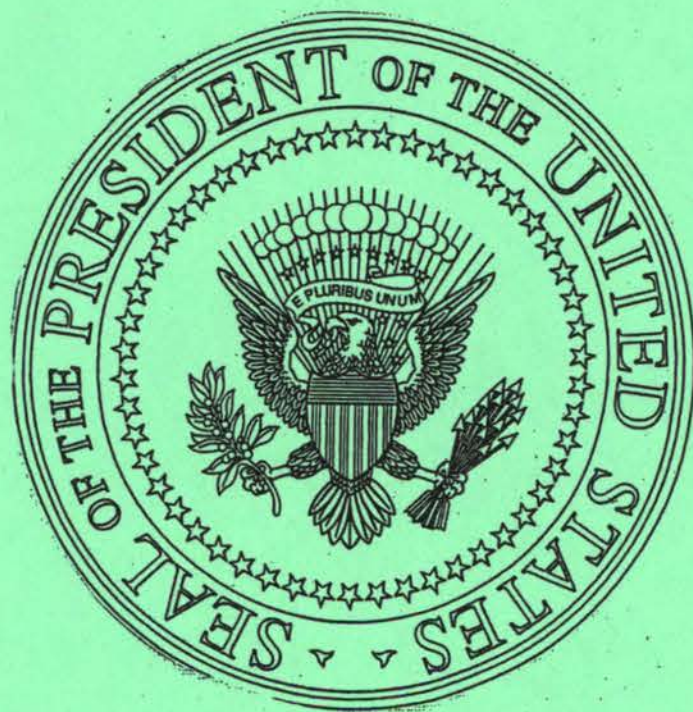
It is to be torn down and rebuilt with earthquake-proof glass, a new heating system and handicapped-accessible walkways, said conservatory director George Marcopulos, who led Mrs. Clinton on her tour with Sen. Barbara Boxer, Mayor Willie Brown and Richard Goldman.

Later Friday, Mrs. Clinton scheduled a brief visit with daughter Chelsea Clinton, a Stanford University undergraduate.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 11, 1998

Holiday Clips



Winter 1998



By Joel Rensch, AP

Going up: Workers erect the Capitol Christmas Tree on Monday. The lighting ceremony is next Tuesday.

Christmas trees spruce up D.C.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

A 50-foot-tall Fraser fir arrived on Capitol Hill from the Unaka Mountains of western North Carolina. The lighting ceremony is next Tuesday.

The National Christmas Tree, on the Ellipse south of the White House, will be topped today with a 42-inch ornamental star. Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Gore, will ride in a hydraulic lift to put the ornament atop the live, 40-foot Colorado Blue Spruce that was planted on the Ellipse in 1978. The tree is adorned with more than 4,000 lights and traditionally is illuminated from dusk to midnight through New Year's Day.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will receive the White House Christmas tree today. It will be displayed in the Blue Room. This year, the tree comes from James and Diane Chapman of Endeavor, Wis. They won the annual National Christmas Tree Association contest to provide the ceremonial tree and two smaller ones for the Clinton family private quarters in the White House.

Written by Paul Leavitt with staff and wire reports

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Clintons kick off season with delivery of Christmas tree

Santa Claus was sweating as the White House Christmas tree rolled up to the South Portico yesterday on a horse-drawn carriage. First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** was joined by tree donors **James** and **Diane Chapman** of Endeavor, Wisc., along with St. Nick and two dozen singing schoolchildren on an unseasonably warm day. Along with the 18½-foot balsam fir for the Blue Oval Room, which will be decorated by midnight Saturday, the Chapmans have donated the family tree for the Yellow Oval Room. That will take three or four days to decorate, Mrs. Clinton says: "It takes us a long time, because we have to take out every ornament and say, 'Awww, remember this ornament?' And, 'No, don't put it there; put it somewhere else.' ... It's one of the things we do together as a family."

Wisconsin State Journal

December 2, 1998, Wednesday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: Front, Pg. 2A

HEADLINE: WISCONSIN TREE ARRIVES

GRAPHIC: Associated Press

"When you think about this weather, it's a little hard to get into the Christmas spirit," says Hillary Rodham Clinton, a comment on Washington's summer-like weather on the first day of December. But the arrival Tuesday of the 18 1/2 -foot White House Christmas tree will help, according to the first lady. Joining her were James and Diane Chapman, who grew the winning balsam fir at their Silent Night Evergreens Farm in Endeavor, Wis. The tree will be placed in the Blue Room.

LOAD-DATE: December 03, 1998

December 2, 1998, Wednesday, THREE STAR EDITION

SECTION: MAIN, Pg. A2

LENGTH: 265 words

HEADLINE: White House welcomes Christmas tree

BODY:

The kids singing 'Jingle Bells' on the White House steps wore furry red caps and short-sleeve shirts. Santa Claus broke a sweat over his thick white beard. And for Hillary Rodham Clinton, it just didn't feel like the Christmas season.

An improbably warm, summerlike sun greeted the 18-foot White House Christmas tree Tuesday as it rolled up to the South Portico on a horse-drawn carriage.

'When you think about this weather, it's a little hard to get into the Christmas spirit. Except that I think it'll start building here at the White House,' the First Lady said.

She was joined by James and Diane Chapman -- who grew the winning balsam fir at their Silent Night Evergreens Farm in Endeavor, Wisc. -- as well as two dozen local schoolchildren in the Mann-Murch Chorus, and a fully costumed Santa.

The White House will be shuttered this weekend, the First Lady said, as teams of volunteers 'with a Santa's-workshop feeling' scurry to finish the mansion's elaborate holiday decorations by midnight Saturday, including the main tree in the Blue Oval Room.

It will take much longer for the Clinton family to dress the tree -- also donated by the Chapmans -- in the Yellow Oval Room of their personal living quarters.

'It takes us a long time, because we have to take out every ornament and say, 'Awww, remember this ornament?' And, 'No, don't put it there; put it somewhere else.'

'We decorate over three to four days. It's one of the things we do together as a family. Then, as friends and family come in they all get to kibitz and add to it,' she said.

LOAD-DATE: December 3, 1998

Holiday Decorations Fit for the White House

By MARIAN BURROS

THE call came in from the White House on Nov. 10. Could Colette Peters, fantasy cake decorator to Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, Al Pacino, Joan Rivers and Rockefeller Center, make edible Christmas decorations for the mantels in the Red Room and the Green Room and for the Grand Foyer? And could she have them installed by Saturday night, Dec. 5?

Not too many people say no to the White House. Neither did Ms. Peters, who gave up a career as a painter — that thing about making a living — to bake and decorate cakes for the rich and famous. The cakes turned out to provide a very nice living.

To prepare for the holiday request, which came through Robert Isabell, the New York party designer and florist who is also doing some White House decorations, Ms. Peters cleared her shop on Washington Street in the West Village and set to work with the tools of a painter and sculptor. This week, her workroom looked like a set for "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy": any visitor standing still risked being coated with rolled fondant and decorated with nonpareils.

With royal icing, gum paste, fondant, pastillage, silver and gold dragées, Karo syrup, lemon extract and a plastic-foam base, she has created an edible Christmas tree decorated with elegantly wrapped packages for the foyer, a lacy ice palace and ice garden to sit on the mantel in the Green Room under a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, and for the Red Room, a whimsical

A supplier of cakes to the stars turns her attentions to another form of artistry.

tableau of polar bears, igloos and snowflakes.

It is the painstaking details that make Ms. Peters's work so unusual — closer to sculpture than to cake decoration. The snowflakes look like tracery. The white wrapping paper and silver and gold ribbons for the packages on the tree are all patterned icing.

After studying at the Pratt Institute and the Rhode Island School of Design, Ms. Peters decided to give up the life of an artist for the life of a designer at Tiffany's, where she also did all the cakes for John Loring's Tiffany books. Twenty years ago, she went into cake decorating full time. Last year, Tiffany's asked her to do its Christmas windows.

That's the kind of work she likes best, leaving the baking to her assistants. "If I never had to bake a cake again, I'd be happy," she said. "I'd rather spend the time decorating."

Although she did not put a price tag on her White House creations, she estimated that it would cost her at least \$2,000 in supplies and trips to and from Washing-

ton for herself and her staff. And in order to take on the White House project, Ms. Peters has had to turn away about \$10,000 in commissions.

The minimum price for a Colette Peters cake is \$250; most cost \$1,000. The six-foot cake for the wedding of Marie-Chantal Miller to Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece in 1995 was "more than \$25,000, but less than \$100,000," Ms. Peters said. It was decorated with the same flowers that are used on Flora Danica, the pricey Danish china originally made for the Prince's royal northern relatives.

Since each of the 1,500 guests at the wedding had an individual cake, the main cake remained untouched. So Ms. Peters brought it back to New York and, from time to time, scavenged flower decorations from it.

Barbra Streisand's wedding cake, from a Los Angeles bakery, looked exactly like her design for the Prince, Ms. Peters says, and others have lifted ideas from her books. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery Ms. Peters must be flattered to death. But credit, she said, would be even better.

Which is all she will be getting at the White House. Still, "I didn't think a minute about accepting the job," she said, adding: "It's a great honor. And it's a chance to do something of my own design."

Glimpses of Ms. Peters's designs can be had during public tours of the state rooms, starting Monday and continuing through Dec. 31. What with 4-year-olds who cannot resist snacking and grown-ups who cannot resist touching, the icing, gum paste, pastillage and fondant will not be recycled.



Sam Lahoz for The New York Times

A PRESIDENTIAL PALACE (NO SNACKING)

Colette Peters with her edible lacy ice palace.

First Lady Lights Rockefeller Tree

By Katherine Roth

NEW YORK (AP) — You could hardly hear 11-year-old Shadashja Jackson in the crowd, but one thing was clear: The lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree was her signal for the start of the holiday season.

"I've been singing 'Silent Night' and waiting for this wonderful moment for so long. I can't wait for it to snow," said Miss Jackson, who danced and shouted with joy as the tree was lit Wednesday night in her hometown.

Thousands of people crowded into the midtown Manhattan plaza cheered when the 26,000 lights on the 75-foot-tall Norway spruce twinkled on at 8:52 p.m. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and country singer Garth Brooks switched on the lights.

"I'm thrilled," Mrs. Clinton said. "I've heard about this and seen it on TV so many times but to see it in person is entirely different."

Retired schoolteacher Marie Rivera of North Bergen, N.J., waited hours to get a front row spot to watch the lighting of the tree as she has every year since 1948.

"Oooh, it's beautiful!" she gushed. "It's grand!"

The crowds listened to Christmas music performed by singers that included Brooks, Jewel and Cyndi Lauper and watched Olympic gold medal skater Kristi Yamaguchi do a few elegant turns at the famous ice rink.

"This is so cool," said Friday Malcolm Ruiz, 8, of Elizabeth, N.J., who waited outside for nearly eight hours. "It's my second time, and I love it."

The celebration began humbly in 1931. Depression-era workmen building the center placed a small unadorned evergreen on the muddy site to lift their Christmas spirits. Two years later, another tree was erected, this time decked out in 700 lights.

And in 1951, the tree-lighting was televised for the first time on NBC's "The Kate Smith Show," ushering in a tradition that has grown into a mega-media production. Wednesday's lighting — on an unseasonably balmy day — was televised live by NBC across the country.

The 7 1/2-ton tree arrived on Nov. 12 from Richfield, Ohio, where it graced the front lawn of Ethel and Adolph Szitar's ranch house for 60 years.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Szitar, 81, was impressed with her tree.

"It looked larger and taller than even when I saw it at home. It's very beautiful," Szitar said.

It is not the tallest the plaza has seen. In 1948 and 1996, the tree towered 90 feet over the famous Rockefeller Center skating rink.

And right now there is a tree far above it, at least in Manhattan. A 3-foot tree decorated with toothpaste tubes, gloves and subway tokens is strapped to the roof of the World Trade Center, 1,377 feet above the street.

END

White House needs elves year round

The Christmas season starts early each year for the staffers who prepare the president's home for the holiday. Now, their creations are being unwrapped.

By Bob Dart
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington

In a cramped hallway, about eight tiny reindeer-lengths from the Diplomatic Room fireplace, White House cooks were merrily stamping out gingerbread men on an autumn afternoon.

"Every slow day is a day we use for Christmas preparation," explained pastry chef Roland Mesnier, guiding a visitor past this culinary assembly line. "If there is an empty corner in the White House, you will find somebody rolling cookies there."

Like Santa's elves, some White House staffers regard Christmas preparation as a never-ending job.

On Monday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will unveil the 1998 Christmas theme and decorations at the White House, kicking off the traditional round of seasonal tours and parties at the presidential home.

During the next three weeks, about 15,000 guests will marvel at Christmas trees laden with 50,000 lights and handmade ornaments from across America, hear seasonal songs of musicians from every state and consume 50,000 cookies, half a ton of fruitcake and 250 gallons of eggnog.

Such festivities take a tad of forethought. The fruitcake, for instance, was baked in June and stacked in refrigerators in two-pound blocks to await the holiday parties.

"Truthfully, right now I'm making mental notes for next year of what didn't work very well this year," said Nancy Clarke, head florist at the tiny flower shop beneath the North Portico. "When Christmas decorations are still up, we start talking as a group about next Christmas because that's the best time to do it."

"It's certainly a yearlong project," agreed Capricia Marshall, the social secretary in charge of all White House events. "We start in early January thinking about the theme for that year's Christmas."

The tradition of a theme for the official Christmas tree in the Blue Room was begun by Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. The first theme was the "Nutcracker Suite." Last year's theme was "Santa's Workshop," and ornament designer Christopher Radko served as an artist coordinator to carry the theme throughout the White House.

This year's theme is still a secret, but Marshall hinted that it is "super sweet," and noted that New York cake designer Colette Peters is the coordinating artist.

The theme was chosen in February



Photos by RICK MCKAY / Washington Bureau

Every available space is used for cookies when the White House culinary staff begins baking for Christmas.

after meetings between White House staffers and Clinton. Mesnier was consulted on how to portray the theme in the gingerbread house he makes each Christmas. Clarke envisioned ornaments for the Blue Room tree. Clinton had the final say.

A fruitcake people like

Then the White House enlisted creative people from around the country — from glass blowers to fashion designers to needlepoint artists — to come up with ornaments and decorations. Governors' spouses helped select artists from their states.

By early summer, Mesnier had begun to prepare the Christmas party fare. Fruitcake is first because it keeps well in refrigerators.

"We have a fruitcake recipe that was designed for the White House," said Mesnier, who was born in France and was working at the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia when he was hired by Rosalynn Carter in 1980. "It has been changed every year since I've been here. We always try to make it more earthier, if you will, by reducing the sugar content, the calories and all that. . . . We use naturally dried fruit."

"Many people have come to me who swear that they hate fruitcake. They detest it. But when they taste this one, they absolutely love it," said Mesnier.

Also months ahead of time, an

assortment of unbaked Christmas cookies is cut out and frozen raw. During the party season, "we bake them as we go along to serve fresh," the chef explained.

Other traditional White House Christmas treats are completed months ahead and put in freezers. Yule logs are made of coffee mousse with walnuts and coated with chocolate. There are Christmas cakes — a raspberry and chocolate combination, pumpkin cake, double applesauce cake and an orange cake similar to pound cake.

"In all, there will be 120,000 cookies or pieces of cake served," Mesnier estimated.

Plans for this year's gingerbread house were finished in August. The sheets of gingerbread were baked in mid-November.

"The gingerbread must be very dry," said Mesnier. "I do not use any support that is not food. Many people use cardboard or plastic to support the house. This house is totally food — gingerbread, chocolate, sugar icing. It weighs close to 150 pounds."

Florist Clarke can't freeze her creations for later presentation, but plans decorations down to the last red bow and poinsettia.

Months ago, she focused her digital camera on all the public White House rooms. The digital images were converted into computerized stage sets

where the virtual furniture could be moved around and would-be decorations inserted or removed.

"That's the easiest way to do it. We have an instant visual," she explained. Then she and Marshall, the social secretary, made a presentation to Clinton on proposed Christmas decorations for each room.

The first lady "is very hands-on in the entire process," said Marshall. Once the presentation is made, Mrs. Clinton "starts tweaking it. She has wonderful ideas."

Clarke oversees a staff of four full-time floral designers and 11 part-timers. They are reinforced by 60 volunteers to decorate the White House for Christmas.

Finishing touches under way

"The volunteers come in the Monday after Thanksgiving. They go to our warehouse in Riverdale, Md., and start working on bows and all the arrangements and getting everything prepared," said Clarke, a White House volunteer for several years before being hired by Nancy Reagan in 1981.

Everything is readied to move into the White House on the Friday before the Kennedy Center Honors feting prominent artists, which this year are Sunday. The decorating will be finished Saturday night, and the next afternoon the first family welcomes

A White House Christmas

It's a year-round thing: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton needs 50,000 cookies and half a ton of fruitcake to serve to 15,000 guests at various Christmas functions. So White House chef Steven M. Palumbo, shown working on hazelnut pastries, and his staff got off to an early start. **Page E4**



Head florist Nancy Clarke uses a digital camera to help her decide where she and her staff can place seasonal flowers and arrangements in the White House.

the Kennedy Center honorees to a White House freshly decked out in holiday finery.

This busy weekend requires some precision. Wreaths are ordered from a company in Oregon — 168 small wreaths, 92 larger ones. Last year, 486 feet of garland were draped inside the White House and another 862 feet on the grounds. The Christmas tree in the Blue Room, chosen by the National Christmas Tree Association, has more than 6,000 lights and 2,000 ornaments. There are a dozen or so other Christmas trees in the White House and on the grounds. The traditional White House crèche has 47 figures. The decorations will include more than 1,000 bows.

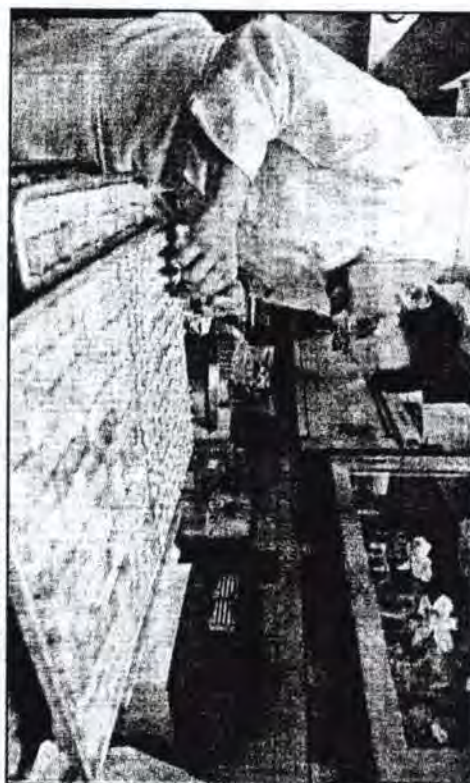
All must be in place for about 50 parties and for thousands of visitors who will go through on special holiday tours. Official parties, such as the Congressional Ball, are paid for with government funds, and other events are funded by the Democratic National Committee.

Menus and guest lists are planned months in advance, Marshall said. About 2,500 entertainers are recruited from around the country for three weeks of activities. Security checks must be completed on them all long before they actually enter the White House.

Marshall will attend all the parties, making sure everything goes as planned and taking mental notes on how to do the 1999 holidays.

"And oh, yes, there's the Christmas card," says Marshall. In February or so, Clinton selects an artist to paint the traditional White House card. They talk about what to depict — the first lady picks the scene. The finished cards will be mailed Monday.

"There is a lot of pressure this time of year," conceded chef Mesnier. "I wake up in the middle of the night and think of Christmas."



RICK MCKAY / Washington Bureau

December 7, 1998

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 542 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY UNVEILS WHITE HOUSE DECORATIONS PHOTOS to accompany this story are being placed in the National folder on the Cox server. 550 words

BYLINE: BOB DART

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

With the weather outside more delightful than frightful, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the holiday season in the nation's capital Monday by revealing a Winter Wonderland inside the freshly and festively decorated White House.

"We wanted to try something different this year," said Mrs. Clinton, showing reporters a White House gleaming with chilly shades of white, silver and gold instead of the season's usual red and green.

With temperatures in the 70s and sidewalk Santas sweltering beside their iron kettles, a family of snow folk welcomed White House visitors to the East Colonnade. Mantels over fireplaces in historic rooms were filled with penguins, polar bears, igloos, an ice palace, an ice garden and Christmas packages wrapped in icy silver and white.

The mantelpiece decorations were all edible -- the sugary creations of Colette Peters, a confectionery artist from New York.

Beside being starkly beautiful, the decorations "are wonderful to smell," the first lady noted.

In addition to announcing "A Winter Wonderland" as the holiday theme -- a tradition begun by Jackie Kennedy in 1961 -- Mrs. Clinton presented this year's White House Christmas card. A watercolor painting of the State Dining Room, the card shows a table set for a holiday dinner and a cheery fire in a hearth below a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. The painting is by Ray Ellis, an artist from Martha's Vineyard, the Massachusetts island where the Clintons have spent several summer vacations.

Following the Winter Wonderland theme, this year's gingerbread house is a castle with oversized versions of presidential pets Socks the Cat and Buddy the Dog ice-skating at both ends. Resting on a table in the state dining room, the completely edible castle comprises 90 pounds of gingerbread, 40 pounds of chocolate and 20 pounds of sugar icing.

"It's been a challenge -- especially the round tower," said Roland Mesnier, the pastry chef whose culinary creations have become another White House tradition.

A chocolate Santa and laden sleigh, pulled by sugary reindeer, are preparing to leave the castle while Mrs. Claus decorates a Christmas tree inside its walls.

The official White House Christmas tree -- so tall that the snowman on top is pushed forward by the 20-foot ceiling -- is the centerpiece of the Blue Room. Its ornaments were made by artists from all 50 states, and a handmade green velvet tree skirt has a panel from every state and territory.

Of course, Christmas trees abound in the White House. In the East Foyer stands a tree decorated with ornaments made by hundreds of Peace Corps volunteers stationed in remote spots around the globe. The library features two trees decorated with pine cones from every region of the country. The Grand Foyer is a glistening forest of frosted birch trees.

The traditional White House creche is the focal point of the East Room. Made in Naples two centuries ago, it features 47 carved figures and has been displayed every Christmas for the past three decades.

The White House will feature its usual array of holiday parties, said Mrs. Clinton, but the president and first lady will not be able to attend some because of their trip that begins Friday to the Mideast.

ENDIT

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 08, 1998

The Washington Times

FINAL

<http://www.washtimes.com>

WASHINGTON, D.C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1998 ***

Prices may vary outside
metropolitan Washington area **25 cents**

WHITE HOUSE WONDERLAND



Photo by Karen Ballard/The Washington Times

Announcing the White House's 1998 Christmas-decorations theme, "A Winter Wonderland," yesterday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton finds figures of presidential pets Buddy and Socks amusing. Story, A4.

'Winter Wonderland' arrives at White House

First lady introduces annual holiday-theme decor

By Ann Geracimos
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Holiday decor was officially presented yesterday at the White House, complete with Santa Claus in a red-and-white imitation fur-trimmed suit.

Given the day's temperatures, Santa might have been more comfortable in swimming trunks.

Following tradition, Hillary Rodham Clinton led a preview of the predominantly gold, silver and white effects that will be displayed in the mansion through the end of the month. The theme "A Winter Wonderland" was introduced by the first lady as "the only winter wonderland on the East Coast because of the weather this season."

Some 180,000 people are expected to visit on tours and for special events, with members of Congress invited last evening for the first of 15 formal parties. The Clintons, who are leaving soon on a trip to the Middle East, will not be attending all of them.

This year's highlights include a 600-pound, 14-foot wreath of golden dried ornamental objects and candles, created by New York designer Robert Isabell, suspended horizontally over a buffet table in the East Room. A 2,000-pound wreath of greens with blue lights hangs outdoors over the South Portico.

An 18½-foot fir from Wisconsin, the official White House Christmas tree touching the ceiling in the Blue Room, is decorated with interpretations of holiday snowmen made by individuals and groups from around the country. They include mittens and hats from members of the Knitting Guild of America, a sled from Las Vegas and an American Indian sculpture ornament from South Dakota.

Models of Socks and Buddy, the house pets, are featured in a spectacular turreted gingerbread castle that is the centerpiece of a tableau in a refurbished State Dining Room.

"They really do depict their personalities very well. Buddy is about to have an adventure and Socks, as usual, is in his own world," Mrs. Clinton noted. The two animals are shown twirling together amicably on either side of the structure and in smaller versions around the 150-pound house. A Santa Claus and his reindeer sleigh are rushing through the front gate.

Eighteen conical trees fill the East Room, where the focal point is an 18th century Italian-made creche that has been shown in the White House since 1967.

The Green and Red parlors, as well as the Grand Foyer, are decorated with delicate edible iridescent sugar sculptures from the hand of New York confectionery artist Co-



Photo by Karen Ballard/The Washington Times

The White House Christmas tree from Wisconsin features handmade ornaments from people all over the country.



An array of ornaments decorate the 18-foot White House Christmas tree.

lette Peters, a former designer for Tiffany.

The 1998 White House greeting card is a painting of the State Dining Room by Ray Ellis, a resident of Martha's Vineyard, that Mrs. Clinton described as "a very warm card. I'm very fond of it."

White House Braces for A Cold Spell

For the holidays, the White House has been transformed into a "winter wonderland," a shimmering excess of silver and gold garlands and swags, with white birch trees twinkling with lights and walls drenched in glitter.

"When we picked this theme, we couldn't have imagined this would be the only winter wonderland on the East Coast," first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** said yesterday, referring to the unseasonable temperatures licking up against wretched windows. She did not mention that she couldn't have known that holiday jingle would collide with impeachment jangle, but she didn't need to: Many in the crowd of nearly 100 reporters came to see how the first lady was bearing up in these least festive of times and murmured to themselves about the surreal nature of it all.

But the show goes on, the gingerbread house must be admired, as well as decorator **Robert Isabell's** incredible gilded vision. And the brilliant Hillary smile is at the ready. The White House throws open its doors to welcome about 10,000 guests in more than a dozen receptions over the next few weeks. This year, **President Clinton** and the first lady will stand in fewer receiving lines and mingle more with their guests.



PHOTOS BY RON EDMONDS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

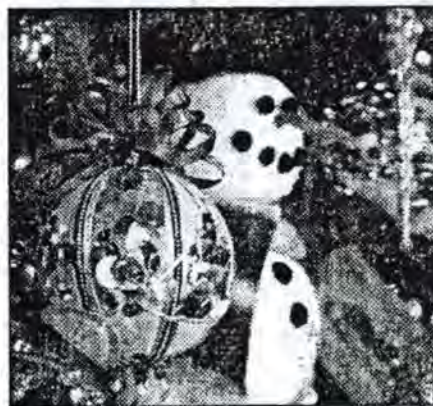
Warm wishes: Hillary Clinton with gingerbread house, and an ornament on the White House tree.

More than 1,200 members of Congress and staffers accepted the Clintons' invitation to the annual holiday party last night, where the official photographers were standing by.

"I have seen a wonderful mixture from both sides of the aisle," said White House social secretary **Capricia Marshall**. "I think quite a few people put partisan politics aside during the holidays."

Or at least they do while gorging on lamb chops and eggnog and getting their grip-and-grin photo op for the office fame wall.

"You'd be stunned at the biggest bashers who bring the whole family and want the picture," said a former White House official.



Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1998 **D3**

First lady unveils White House 'Wonderland'

By Bob Dart

WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington — With the weather outside more delightful than frightful, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the holiday season in the nation's capital Monday by revealing a "Winter Wonderland" inside the festively decorated White House.

"We wanted to try something different this year," said Mrs. Clinton, showing reporters a White House gleaming with chilly shades of white, silver and gold instead of the season's usual red and green.

With temperatures in the 70s and sidewalk Santas sweltering beside their iron kettles, a family of snow folk welcomed White House visitors to the East Colonnade. Mantels over fireplaces in historic rooms were filled with penguins, polar bears, igloos, an ice palace, an ice garden and Christmas packages wrapped in icy silver and white.

The mantelpiece decorations were all edible — the sugary cre-



RICK MCKAY / Washington Bureau

Hillary Rodham Clinton shows off this year's White House gingerbread house.

ations of Colette Peters, a confectionery artist from New York.

Beside being starkly beautiful, the decorations "are wonderful to smell," the first lady noted.

In addition to announcing "A Winter Wonderland" as the holiday theme — a tradition begun by Jackie Kennedy in 1961 — Mrs. Clinton presented this year's White House Christmas card. It's a watercolor painting of the State Dining Room, showing a table set for a holiday dinner and a cheery fire in a hearth below a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. The painting is by Ray Ellis, an artist from Mar-

tha's Vineyard, the Massachusetts island where the Clintons have spent several summer vacations.

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TODAY

Life

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1998

The Clintons deliver 'Winter Wonderland'

By Katy Kelly
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — It was an unseasonable 76 degrees here Monday as Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled Christmas '98 at the White House: "Winter Wonderland."

"When we picked that theme last spring, I'm not sure we could have imagined that we'd have the only winter wonderland on the East Coast," she said.

The first lady also showed off the 1998 White House Christmas card. Painted by noted artist Ray Ellis, it depicts the newly redecorated State Dining Room with table set for a holiday dinner.

At first, Ellis didn't take the White House call seriously. "I thought it was my kid brother

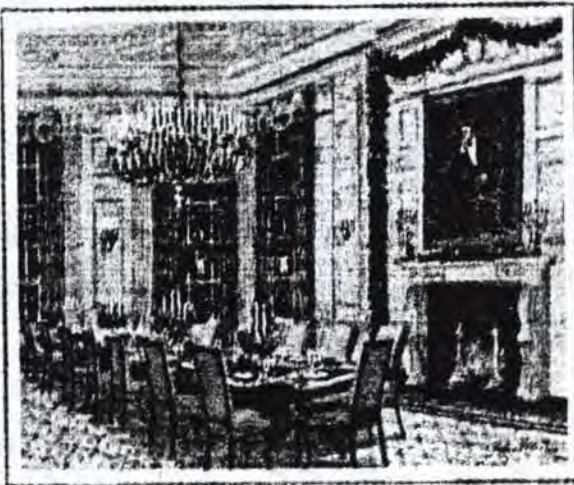
calling," the artist said.

Once convinced, he visited 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and saw the room, which was still being redecorated. He painted the card to match expectations.

The message inside: "May peace and joy be yours at the holiday season and through-

out the year."

The White House is festooned with 720 lengths of garland and 344 wreaths. Hot designer Robert Isabell dreamed up the 18 gold-and-silver faux trees and the 14-foot gold-and-silver wreath that hangs from the ceiling in the East Room.



THE WHITE HOUSE: The State Dining Room, 12/8

December 08, 1998; Tuesday 04:12 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 422 words

HEADLINE: White House Decked Out for Holidays

BYLINE: ROBERT BURNS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Edible polar bears decorate an 'iceberg' in the Red Room. Sugar-coated likenesses of Buddy and Socks ice skate in the State Dining Room. Frosted birch trees stand in the Grand Foyer.

With Christmas approaching, the White House has been transformed for the holidays.

'Winter Wonderland' is the theme chosen by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and brought to life by armies of artists from across the nation who designed their interpretations of snowmen for the 181/2-foot balsam fir Christmas tree that stands in the center of the Blue Room, sparkling with 2,700 lights.

President Clinton and the first lady are hosting a series of Christmas parties in the White House, starting with the annual Congressional Ball for the 535 members of Congress on Monday evening.

The centerpiece of the White House's winter wonderland is the Blue Room tree, which was donated by Jim and Diane Chapman of the Silent Night Evergreens tree farm in Endeavor, Wis. Its branches are covered with lights, silver balls, colorful wooden ornaments and miniature snowmen from all 50 states.

Also hanging from the tree are knitted mittens and hats made by members of the Knitting Guild of America. The tree's green velvet skirt has individual quilted panels designed by artisans from every state.

Conspicuous in the collection of holiday decorations are the first family's pets, Buddy the brown Labrador and Socks the cat. They are featured in an elaborate gingerbread castle crafted from 100 pounds of gingerbread dough, 20 pounds of icing and 30 pounds of chocolate in the center of the State Dining Room. Edible likenesses of the pets also stand on either side of the castle, ice skates strapped to their paws.

Mrs. Clinton dropped by the State Dining Room on Monday to view the decorations and hear carols sung by students from Oak Ridge Elementary School in nearby Arlington, Va. She said her winter wonderland theme was a departure from tradition.

'In the past years we had lots of green lots of green trees, lots of green everywhere as part of the decorations,' she said. 'This year we decided to do something a little different to create this kind of silver, gold, crystal winter wonderland.'

The decorations in both the State Dining Room and the East Room are dominated by gold hues. The East Room features 18 slender conical trees and a traditional Advent wreath made of gold holly. The State Dining Room is accented with gold trees trimmed with gold holly, cinnamon sticks, pine cones and crystallized fruits.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 08, 1998

December 8, 1998, METRO FINAL

SECTION: MAIN NEWS; Pg. A2

LENGTH: 282 words

HEADLINE: DECKING THE HALLS IN D.C.

BYLINE: Deborah G. Guadan, from Bee news services

BODY:

The mood might be chilly on Capitol Hill, but at the White House the holiday decorations are top news, with frosted birch trees in the Grand Foyer and sugar-coated likenesses of Buddy and Socks ice-skating in the State Dining Room.

"Winter wonderland" is the theme chosen by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and brought to life by the artistically inclined from across the nation who designed their ver-sions of snowmen for the 18 1/2-foot balsam fir Christmas tree that stands in the center of the Blue Room, sparkling with 2,700 lights.

President Clinton and the first lady are hosting a series of Christmas parties in the White House, starting with Monday evening's annual Congressional Ball for the 535 members of Congress.

The centerpiece of the White House's winter wonderland is the Blue Room tree, which was donated by Jim and Diane Chapman of the Silent Night Evergreens tree farm in Endeavor, Wis. Its branches are stuff-ed with lights, strings of small silver balls, colorfully painted wooden ornaments and miniature snowmen from all 50 states.

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Conspicuous in the collection of holiday decorations are the first family's pets, Buddy the brown Labrador and Socks the cat. They are featured in an elaborate gingerbread castle crafted from 100 pounds of gingerbread dough, 20 pounds of icing and 30 pounds of chocolate in the center of the State Dining Room. Edible likenesses of the pets also stand on either side of the castle, ice skates strapped to their paws.

GRAPHIC: Associated Press photograph

The White House's holiday decorations wouldn't have that same dash of esprit with-out an appearance from first pets Buddy and Socks with skates strapped to their paws. They are part of an elaborate gingerbread castle in the State Dining Room. And if all goes well, the real-life pets won't get a chance to munch on their gingerbread counterparts, at least before Christmas.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 9, 1998

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December 9, 1998, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 507 words

HEADLINE: Clintons lead lighting of national Christmas tree

BYLINE: SANDRA SOBIERAJ, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

With a "3-2-1, Light the tree!" order from President Clinton, home run hitter Sammy Sosa and a pair of local scouts fired up thousands of green and gold pinprick bulbs on the national Christmas tree Wednesday night.

"It takes all of us to make the world the best it could be," said little Jessica Scott, who sported her Brownie beanie on stage with the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Washington-area Cub Scout Edgar Allen Shepard Jr. beseeched the bundled-up crowd on the National Mall to "think about the meaning of the holiday and pray for the homeless and less fortunate."

Just as the House Judiciary Committee Republicans - a few blocks up Independence Avenue - released four proposed articles of impeachment against him, Clinton appeared absorbed in the holiday spirit. He gazed open-mouthed as guitarist Jose Feliciano strummed a stirring rendition "Little Drummer Boy," and the president sang along to the "bah-rum-pum-pum-bum" chorus.

And, with Mrs. Clinton at his side, he nodded along to the groove of Tony Bennett's martini-lounge rendering of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Clinton recognized Christmas as the celebration of the infant Jesus: "'Blessed are the peacemakers,' he said, and his words still call us to action."

The president took care to find meaning in the Christmas tree's glow for different faiths. "Like the Star of Bethlehem, these lights shine upon us with hope and renewal. Like the candles of Hanukkah, they stand for freedom against tyranny. Like the lamps that will soon light the mosques in the coming months of Ramadan, they evoke a call to community," Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton invited Sosa to help preside over the annual "Pageant of Peace" after the two met in October, during her hurricane relief travels to his native San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic. His Chicago Cubs are a hometown favorite of the first lady.

The Santa suit fell to Al Roker of NBC's "Today," while the cast of Broadway's "Cats" and opera singer Leona Mitchell filled out the celebrity lineup for the evening festivities.

The national Christmas tree has stood on the Ellipse between the White House and Washington Monument since 1978, when it was transplanted from a farm in York, Pa.

Surrounded by 56 smaller trees representing the states and territories, the 40-foot centerpiece blue spruce is lighted with the help of solar power - part of "the Clinton administration's commitment to expanding the use of solar power and reducing greenhouse gas emissions for a cleaner environment," the White House said.

The annual lighting ceremony dates back to Christmas Eve 1913, when President Woodrow Wilson staged a "civic Christmas" on the Capitol plaza. Sir Winston Churchill made a surprise cameo appearance with President Franklin Roosevelt at the 1941 tree lighting, which took place in the shadow of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Wartime blackouts kept the tree dark from 1942 until 1944 and, after the Korean War, the lighting ceremony was officially named "Pageant of Peace."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 9, 1998



At left, Sammy Sosa and his wife, Sonia, joined M. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, to sing carol and light the national Christmas tree.

Talking It Over

By Hillary Rodham Clinton



Christmas is fitting time to back children's rights

One day, many years ago, when Eleanor Roosevelt was scheduled to give a speech in New York, she was so sick that everyone urged her to cancel. But she refused. She drove from Hyde Park to 125th Street in Harlem, and when she got out of the car, a young child, her face beaming, handed the former first lady a bouquet of flowers. Mrs. Roosevelt turned to the person with her and said: "You see, I had to come. She was expecting me."

Without fanfare, Eleanor Roosevelt went anywhere she thought her presence would make a difference, seeing for herself the everyday violations that rob individuals of their dignity and humanity. Then, she rolled up her sleeves and tried to do something about what she saw.

Part of Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy is to open our eyes and hearts and inspire us to fulfill the promises of what is perhaps her greatest achievement — the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The declaration, which was adopted 50 years ago this week, reads, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." It does not exclude people of color. It does not exclude women. And it certainly does not exclude children.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child — adopted in 1989 and ratified by every country except the United States and Somalia — every child is born with the right to be protected from abuse and abduction as well as from violence and work that threatens his or her development. Every child has the right to worship freely and express opinions and aspirations. And every child has the right to health, education and life.

It is up to each of us to make good on these promises.

In some parts of Africa, neighbors greet each other not by saying, "Hello," but by asking, "How are the children?" The answer today — 50 years after the Declaration of Human Rights and nearly 10 years after the U.N. Convention — is that in some ways, they're doing better, but in other ways, too many are left behind.

Although the health of the world's children is improving, 7 million children still die of malnutrition every year. And although we know that education is the single best investment any country can make, 140 million primary school age children are not in school.

Children are forced or sold into labor every day. In the developing world, 120 million children work full time, deprived of education and a better future for themselves and their families.

On my recent trip to Haiti, I learned that an estimated 230,000 children there are forced by their families' grinding poverty to work as domestic servants. And on a visit to Thailand, I met 12-year-old girls dying of AIDS — children whose parents had sold them into prostitution.

Traditionally, wars have been fought between soldiers, but in the past 20 years, the nature of warfare has changed dramatically. Civilians — including children — are now the targets, the victims and even the instruments of war.

Girls are kidnapped into slave labor and raped; boys are used as child soldiers or human shields. In the developing world alone, 100 million children live on the streets — out of school and without homes or families. Left to care for themselves, they roam their cities in tattered clothing, selling gum, begging and digging through the trash for food.

We cannot condemn homelessness or violence against children in other countries, though, and ignore the plight of children here at home. This is why it is so important to continue to fight for the best education and health care for our children and to protect them from abuse and neglect.

I've been pleased that my husband's administration has put the protection of children around the world on the front burner by fighting against abusive workplace conditions, increasing awareness of children's health issues and working to combat the trafficking of human beings. But so much remains to be done.

We may not have the stature of Eleanor Roosevelt, but each of us can contribute to a child's life. We can make sure we are part of a society that values health care, universal education and strong families. We can continue to promote democracy around the world, giving parents a voice at the ballot box and an opportunity to raise their children free from violence, abuse and war. And I hope we can ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Eleanor Roosevelt knew that even on a day when she was sick, a child needed and expected her. In this Advent season, as Christians celebrate the birth of another child who brought a message of peace to a troubled world, it is especially fitting to remember every child today who needs and expects us to fulfill the promises we made 50 years ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

• To find out more about Hillary Rodham Clinton and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

December 10, 1998, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: HOME; Pg. T04; HAPPENINGS

LENGTH: 672 words

HEADLINE: CAPITAL ORNAMENTS

BYLINE: Sarah Booth Conroy

BODY:

Decking the tree with history is a handsome way to have a White House Christmas without having to be elected or invited.

The White House Historical Association captures presidential history through its series of three-inch square ornaments, traditionally hung on the Blue Room tree. Based on research by White House curator Betty Monkman and historian William Seale, the collectibles number 18. Presidential families give them as presents, and collectors snap up each year's new trimming at \$ 11 and \$ 14. (Proceeds go to acquire historic furnishings and art for the White House permanent collection and to preserve its public rooms.)

The ornaments honoring the presidents are mostly chronological, interspersed by historic events. Fifteen commemorate specific presidents. This year, a white bisque American eagle flies over a Union shield insignia from crystal dinnerware bought by President Andrew Jackson, used later President James Buchanan. The 24-karat gold-finished wreath blooms with white magnolias and pink camellias, a design suggested by Harriet Lane, Jackson's niece and hostess. She was fond of turning the White House into an indoor garden with camellias embellishing magnolia blossoms from a tree planted by Jackson still flourishing in the White House garden.

This is the second design related to Jackson. The 1988 decoration was inspired by an invitation about 150 years ago: "The children of President Jackson's Family request you to join them on Christmas Day at 4 p.m. in a frolick in the East Room."

The nonprofit historical association produced its first decoration in 1981, a Christmas angel in flight honoring George Washington. The 1983 ornament shows the White House's north facade, without wings, as John and Abigail Adams, its first occupants, saw it when they rode into Washington on Nov. 1, 1800. Their son, John Quincy Adams, is recalled on the 1987 design taken from the sandstone portal and double mahogany White House doors, adorned with evergreen wreaths and red poinsettias.

William Henry Harrison, in full military regalia topped with a plumed headpiece, rides across the 1991 ornament. Millard Fillmore designed the 31-star seal superimposed over the north portico on the 1996 ornament.

Thomas Jefferson in 1803, Seale says, was the first to celebrate Christmas in the house. The 1984 ornament Peace symbols--crossed peace pipes and handshakes--is based on Jefferson's peace medal, minted in 1801 to be presented to Indian dignitaries.

The 1992 edition marks the bicentennial of the White House cornerstone-laying; the 1989 one marks the bicentennial of the office of the president.

Call 800-555-2451 to order.

Sarah Booth Conroy writes the Chronicles column in Style. "Ulysses S. Grant Claus." Flag needlepoint pillow, from Decatur House. \$ 10.50. 202-842-1856 1998 White House ornament. \$ 14. 800-555-2451 Lincoln Memorial, from National Building Museum. \$ 22. 202-272-7706. Limited edition Supreme Court ornament with red velvet from the courtroom's original draperies. \$ 21.95. 202-554-8300. George Washington "Epaulet" ornament commemorating the bicentennial of his death. Mount Vernon. \$ 16.50. 703-799-6301. Robert E. Lee Claus, carved mantel Santa from the South Pole, to pair or not with Ulysses S. Claus from up North, lower left. U.S. Capitol Historical Society. \$ 36. 800-887-9318. Smithsonian Castle ornament. At shops in the Museum of American History (202-357-1528) and the Museum of Arts and Industry (202-357-1367). \$ 10.95. Washington Monument ornament. American Institute of Architects/Rizzoli bookstore. \$ 34.99. 202-626-7541. Marble Capitol ornament made from the original East Front steps of the House of Representatives. \$ 19.95 from U.S. Capitol Historical Society. 800-887-9318. Kennedy Center "Honors Star" blown-glass ornament by Christopher Radko. \$ 35; 202-416-8346. Decatur House Museum White House. \$ 33. 202-842-1856. Washington Capitol, from American Institute of Architects/Rizzoli bookstore. \$ 39.99. 202-626-7541.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 10, 1998

December 13, 1998, Sunday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

SECTION: FLORIDIAN; PEOPLE; Pg. 10F

LENGTH: 831 words

HEADLINE: Engineering winter at White House

BYLINE: MARY EVERTZ

BODY:

America's home, the White House, has been transformed into a Winter Wonderland for the holidays.

When first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her staff came up with the idea for this year's decorations they never dreamed it would be 76 degrees in Washington in early December.

"When we picked the theme last spring, I'm not sure we could have imagined that we'd have the only winter wonderland on the East Coast," Mrs. Clinton said as she unveiled Christmas '98 at the White House on Monday.

In keeping with the theme, the White House is festooned in "a shimmering excess" of silver and gold garlands and swags, with white birch trees twinkling with lights and walls drenched in glitter. The mantle in the Red Room is decorated as a Polar Bear Christmas at the North Pole, complete with igloo, penguins, snowflakes and ice cube-shape presents.

The centerpiece of the White House's "Winter Wonderland" is the 18 1/2-foot balsam fir that stands in the center of the Blue Room. The tree has 2,700 lights, strings of small silver balls and colorfully painted wooden ornaments and miniature snowmen for all 50 states.

Designer Robert Isabell also came up with 18 gold and silver faux trees and the 14-foot gold and silver wreath that hangs from the ceiling in the East Room.

A handmade menorah decorates the West Wing Lobby. The menorah is on loan from the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro, N.Y., the earliest surviving Jewish homestead in North America.

Coordinating and masterminding the Christmas decorating along with the first lady is her social secretary Capricia Marshall.

"You try to dream up ideas, how the house, the decorations, the ornaments will go, how to find artists," Marshall says.

She contacts and contracts with artisans from around the country to create ornaments and other crafts that perpetuate the year's theme. Some are for one season; others, such as the green velvet tree skirt that circles the Christmas tree in the Blue Room, can be used year after year. The tree skirt was made by

- More -

St. Petersburg Times, December 13, 1998

quilters from the 50 states and seven U.S. territories. "People love walking around the tree and finding their state," says Marshall.

Florida is well represented in this year's White House Christmas decorations. Some 40 painters, knitters and artists have contributed original works. Among the artists creating snowmen were Rebecca Gifford and Laura Militzer Bryant of St. Petersburg. Martha Street of Largo was one of the knitters, and Michelle Shrover and Betty Dowe of Tampa and Jill MacFarlane of Seminole were among the decorative painters.

During the holiday season, some 150,000 visitors will come through the White House to see the 23 decorated evergreen trees, 344 wreaths, 720 lengths of garlands and 47,950 tree lights.

Equally involved is White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, who last August already was thinking about Christmas 1999. His responsibilities include the White House's gingerbread house. A professional architect draws up the plans for Mesnier's gingerbread masterpiece. "We don't fool around," says the pastry chef. The masterpiece of edible architecture holds the place of honor in the State Dining Room.

A mountainous forest surrounds the gingerbread castle and its towers and bridges. Miniature versions of Socks and Buddy, the White House cat and dog, are included in the display.

"Christmas 1999, we will really have to come up with something special because of the passage from one century to another," Mesnier said. "To show you that we have not been wasting any time, I have been thinking about the things the president has said in his speeches."

Could this mean a gingerbread bridge to the 21st century? asks the Washington Post's Annie Groer. White House Holiday Card

The Clintons have sent out 300,000 Christmas cards this year. The card, painted by noted artist Ray Ellis of Martha's Vineyard, is of the newly redecorated state dining room, decorated for the holiday. The painting is awash in shades of gold and cream. The message inside: "May peace and joy be yours at the holiday season and throughout the year." Charity Bags Purses

Sotheby's, one of the world's master auctioneers, raised some \$ 253,905 Wednesday night to benefit the Community Research Initiative on AIDS. Among the items auctioned were the elephant-head minaudiere with garnet eyes and rhinestone tusks created by Judith Leiber, and donated by former first lady Nancy Reagan, and a green-leaf patterned silk crepe bag carried by Madonna to the London premiere of Evita.

Tiffany Dublin, Sotheby's fashion director, said the monies raised from the auction will make it possible for the AIDS group to pack its bag and move to a new location. "Collecting high-fashion accessories may have been spurred by the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction, but the real impetus may be the difficulty in finding things with great craftsmanship," Dublin notes. "Besides, people love collecting things as social history."

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO, Associated Press; COLOR PHOTO; First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton poses with a gingerbread house in the State Dining Room of the White



BY RON EDMONDS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putting on the dog (and cat): First pets Buddy, left, and Socks are the subjects of this ornament displayed in the White House State Dining Room.

Chronicles

The White House's Holiday Corps de Decor

By SARAH BOOTH CONROY
Special to The Washington Post

Warm sunshine melted some holiday spirits. Never mind: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's "Winter Wonderland" is the most glittery and glorious White House Christmas decoration the Chronicle remembers. The theme was chosen last spring, Mrs. Clinton said during last week's balmy weather, "but the only winter wonderland this season is inside the White House."

On the Blue Room's 18-foot balsam fir, given by the Chapman family's Silent Night Tree Farm in Endeavor, Wis., 2,700 lights shine on 2,343 ornaments. The snowmen, mittens and hats, wooden sporting equipment, balls, glass icicles, bead strings and some indescribable objects were made by 737 artists from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

Another 18 trees are on view, five in the West Wing. A centuries-old brass menorah in the West Wing lobby was lent by the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro, N.Y., the earliest surviving North American Jewish homestead. The East Garden Room tree has 400 ornaments made in 65 countries where Peace Corps volunteers served. The Oval Office tree was decorated by students from the Fillmore Art Center, a D.C. school.

Some 80 volunteers, paying their own expenses, come annually from near and far to deck the White House halls in a three-day dawn-to-midnight marathon.

Nancy Clarke, who volunteered some 20 years ago, now is the White House's chief florist. She and Robert Isabell, a noted New York floral designer, collaborated on the decorations, with Isabell and his staff of 40 spending almost a month gilding long garlands of magnolia leaves. They also made a 600- to 700-pound wreath topped with flickering candles that hangs from the East Room ceiling, and a massive 2,000-pound, 24-foot lighted wreath mounted from the South Facade roof to the Truman balcony.

Ed Gage of Nashua, N.H., has volunteered for 25 years. "I remember the years when the decorations in the big house were very traditional, magnolias on the mantels, poinsettias in the hall," he said. "In the Blue

Room, we used to put a wreath of wet moss, dripping all over the place. This year everything is different. I hung the grand staircase with ferns, silver branches and baby's breath greens. I said 'wow' when I saw the huge wreath in the East Room. The president and Mrs. Clinton walked through and spoke nicely to everybody. They're very gracious."

Charlie and Wendy Heather Elsasser of Heather and Honey Florists in Alexandria volunteered 15 years ago. Back then, she lived in New York, he in New Jersey; they courted while trimming the White House. Charlie Elsasser still volunteers—this year ornamenting the West Wing. His wife is now on the White House's florist staff and this Christmas was charged with festooning the second floor, where the first family lives. "They have a real tree in the Oval Yellow Room," Wendy Elsasser said. "We use silk flowers in deference to President Clinton's allergies. We wouldn't want him to lose his voice."

The most traditional trappings are the green tree skirt sewn by needle artists from every state, territory and the District for the Clintons' first White House Christmas, and a kissing ball by Washington needlepoint master Hyla Hurley and associates.

Even the gingerbread house seems to have been built with a magic wand. This legendary castle is built of 40 pounds of chocolate and 80 pounds of gingerbread, and features a sugary Socks and Buddy. White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier and his colleague Franette McCulloch, wearing the high white hats of their profession, accepted congratulations at the preview. Fondant fantasies by New York confectionery artist Colette Peters adorn mantelpieces. In the Green Room are an edible (you wouldn't dare) ice palace and garden and in the Red Room an igloo, penguins, icicles, snowflakes and trees.

Buddy, from all reports, is under 24-hour guard.

White House visiting hours are 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Saturday. For information about free White House tour tickets, call 202-208-1631 or go to the White House Visitors Center at 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

We Interrupt This Crisis . . .

At the White House, the Parties Must Go On

By ROXANNE ROBERTS
Washington Post Staff Writer

WHITE HOUSE, From D1

'Twas the night before the impeachment debate and all through the White House, not a creature was acting worried. They were not merely stirring, but eating, drinking and generally whooping it up.

"Pretty rowdy crowd tonight," said President Clinton, who was greeted last night with sustained applause and cheers at a black-tie gala celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Special Olympics.

As missiles glistened in the air over Baghdad and Speaker-elect

Bob Livingston confessed to mid-life indiscretions, hundreds of guests streamed into the executive mansion for another of this month's holiday soirees.

"While certainly what's happening overseas is on everyone's mind, given the season, people are very determined not to be distracted," said Washington lawyer Robert Altman.

There's a party at the White House every night until Christmas Eve: Tonight friends from Arkansas and Tennessee will have a

See WHITE HOUSE, D2, Col. 4

down-home celebration of the season. Tomorrow, Sunday and Tuesday nights, the president and first lady will host donors, supporters and friends at holiday dinners and receptions; Wednesday night is reserved for the resident staff.

Monday's gathering may be the most awkward of all: After reporters spend the weekend combing through the wreckage of the previous few days, they will head to the White House for the annual press party.

"I can't think of a better time to be at a party," filmmaker Michael Moore said last night. "Is something going on I don't know about?"

And that was before the Livingston story raced through the crowd. Reality had, once again, superseded fiction. But the gala, which had been planned for months, went on despite the chaos.

"These are things people count on and we can't disappoint them," said Marsha Berry, press secretary to the first lady.

"The holidays are so busy that truly we focus in on the parties, on the guests, the entertainers, the food and the holiday spirit," said social secretary Capricia Marshall. "I don't have time to focus on anything else."

But this year the White House has to balance the social obligations with a stunning series of current events. As Clinton's tiniest moves are dissected, the decision to attend or skip

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1998

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a White House party is viewed as yet another peek into the presidential psyche. To cancel or curtail a holiday event because of the impeachment battle could be interpreted as a sign of fear or weakness—clearly not the message the president or first lady wants to send out.

War is another matter entirely. It would be unseemly to appear playful while allied troops are at risk, and the president was careful to acknowledge those in Iraq during his toast last night. But as long as the airstrikes have not resulted in any allied casualties, it is considered acceptable to continue the holiday receptions and dinners.

"I think Washington needs a nice night of entertainment," said Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan.

Last night's gala was a feel-good celebrity affair. Whoopi Goldberg, Eric Clapton, Mary J. Blige, Sheryl Crow, Jon Bon Jovi, Run-DMC, Tracy Chapman and Vanessa Williams were all on hand to perform in a huge heated pavilion erected on the South Lawn to accommodate more than 300 guests. The show will be broadcast Sunday on TNT.

"I think it's important for us to celebrate the things about our nation that are so special—like the Special Olympics," Goldberg said. "And you know, it's important for us to be able to say to people, 'Yes, we are in tough times now. But there are great things going on and we can be part of that.'"

This party was off the charts on

the heartwarming scale. The guest list included dozens of Kennedys with adorable children in tow. Even Socks the cat made a quick appearance in front of reporters.

Dinner began with a parade of Special Olympics athletes. Then Hillary Rodham Clinton gave her most generous introduction to date: She was "particularly proud" of "my husband, my partner and our president."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics in 1968, was even more effusive: "Even if there were 300,000 people on the White House lawn tonight, Mr. President, you would find no greater loyalty, no greater faith in your leadership than right here among us tonight."

The crowd leapt to its feet as the president squeezed his wife's shoulder and looked terribly grateful.

Then it was time to shift from political nurturing to seasonal cheeriness, which proved difficult for this crowd at first. "You all got to wake up!" admonished Goldberg. "This is a party and we have to make America believe we're not depressed!"

The performances were spirited, especially a rousing encore that proved to be unintentionally hilarious. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" may be a holiday classic, but lusty refrains of "gonna find out who's naughty or nice" and "you better be good for goodness' sake" were just a teeny bit off-message.

"Life goes on," said an uncharacteristically serene Sen. Orrin Hatch. "We have to continue to do the things that count for our country."

Party on.



BY ROBERT A. REEDER—THE WASHINGTON POST

'Tis still the season to be jolly: The Clintons with Rita Lawlor, right, and other Special Olympics athletes last night.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1998

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An executive arrangement

N.H. florist behind
White House festivity

By Stacy Milbauer
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

NASHUA — People may not be surprised to learn there will be no star on top of the White House Christmas tree this year. But truth be told, there never is, according to a New Hampshire florist who has helped decorate the White House for Christmas since the Nixon administration.

Ed Gage, owner of Fortin-Gage Limited florists in Nashua, said the gloomy atmosphere of the impeachment hearings hasn't dimmed the Christmas glow at the White House.

First Ladies usually pick the theme for the holiday decoration, and this year Hillary Rodham Clinton chose "a winter wonderland."

"It looked truly beautiful," said Gage who was on hand to deck the halls with holly and other greens two weeks ago and to set up the giant tree in the Blue Room at the White House.

"Everything is all gold and silver. The White House is getting old and it needs a lot of work," he said, "but the decorations transform it and it looks just beautiful."

Each year Gage is among two or three florists and 40 volunteers who go to Washington about a month before Christmas to decorate. Gage said the volunteers are mostly retired military personnel and their spouses as well as women from garden clubs in the Clintons' home state of Arkansas.

Gage said he helps hang the ornaments from each state from the White House boughs. "The New Hampshire one is very beautiful," he said. "It's a lavender ball with lilacs



AP PHOTO

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, pose with the Christmas tree that New Hampshire florist Ed Gage helped decorate.

and purple beads . . . the Park Service puts up the lights and we do the rest. It really makes for a festive atmosphere."

But what about the other atmosphere in the White House? Gage says, "things are just too busy to be

depressing."

"The president flew in on the helicopter when we were there. He came in and said hello and seemed very cheerful," he said. "The First Lady looks very, very good."

December 20, 1998, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Real Estate; Part K; Page 1; Real Estate Desk

LENGTH: 1189 words

HEADLINE: HOT PROPERTY;

HIS ELVES ARE LIKE NO OTHERS;

In a Yuletide departure for "Hot Property," this week's column looks at how several celebrities are decking their halls and homes for the holidays.

BYLINE: RUTH RYON, TIMES STAFF WRITER

BODY:

Even as they were in the Middle East last week, Hillary and Bill Clinton were planning to spend a couple of days after they return decorating the Christmas tree in the first family's quarters of the White House.

It takes them that long because they like to reminisce over every ornament, which they have collected since they were married in 1975, said Julie Mason, the first lady's deputy press secretary. "They decorate the tree all themselves," she added, "and because they have been collecting ornaments for so long, the tree really gets weighted down."

The Clintons' tree is a 14-foot Fraser fir. The tree was donated by the same Wisconsin tree farm that gave the White House its official Christmas tree, an 18 1/2-foot balsam fir that sits in the Blue Room. There are 18 Christmas trees in the White House and 10 on the grounds.

Decorations in the first family's quarters were described as traditional, with many garlands and poinsettias. The rest of the White House is decorated in the white, silver and gold "Winter Wonderland" theme chosen by Hillary Clinton in June.

Among the official decorations is a gingerbread house in the State Dining Room. The edible castle, with towers and bridges, has miniature versions of Socks and Buddy, the Clintons' pets.

And in recognition of Hanukkah, the White House has a handmade brass menorah on display in the West Wing lobby. The menorah is on loan from the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro, N.Y., the earliest surviving Jewish homestead in North America.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 20, 1998

White House a Christmas winter wonderland

BY PHYLLIS D. BRANDON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Despite the Scrooges on Capitol Hill, it looks a lot like Christmas at the White House.

On a Dec. 7 when the temperature was more typical of May, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, assisted by Santa and social secretary Capricia Marshall, entertained 100 members of the media at a tea party and a close-up look of the White House Christmas decorations.

But a fantasy winter wonderland is, all gold, silver and crystal.

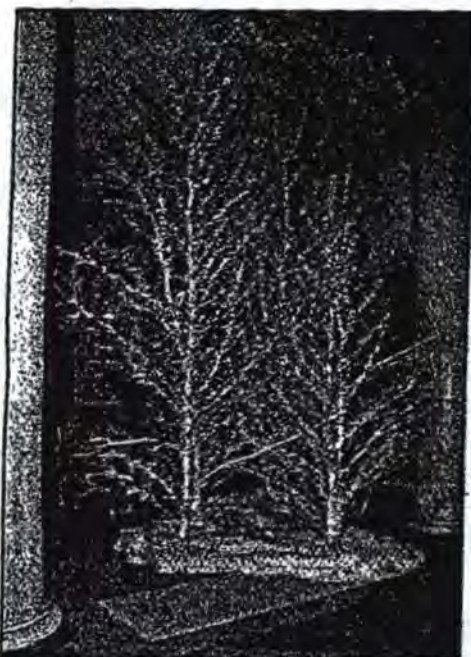
In the State Dining Room, the traditional gingerbread house is a castle almost touching the chandelier with Santa and sled leaving by drawbridge to make his rounds. Guards to the scene are likenesses of Socks and Buddy, the family's famous pets.

White House chefs told the group about the difficulty they had making conical shapes for the steeple out of gingerbread, which doesn't normally bend. It wasn't easy to move to the table — it weighs 150 pounds with 20 pounds of confectioners' sugar and 40 pounds of chocolate.

The official Christmas tree with 10 lights dominates the Blue Room. It's 18 1/2 feet tall and artists in the 50 states were invited to decorate it in the Winter Wonderland theme so the tree holds an abundance of small snowmen.

Arkansans contributing ornaments were Dianne Herman and Mary Springer, both of Eureka Springs; Ann Gray of Pleasant Hill; Linda Hardin of McGehee; Stewart of Mountain View; and Ward Wade Jr. of Marianna. Decorative painters were Sammie Ford and Bette Jo Kirkpatrick, of Hot Springs; Mary Ciontea of Springs Village; and Marjorie of Little Rock. Nearly 80 artists from across the nation spent time and talents to create the White House's Winter Wonderland.

At the base of the Blue Room's tree is a handmade green-velvet



The Grand Foyer with frosted birch trees

skirt crafted for the Clinton's first White House Christmas. Each panel represents a state and the outline of Arkansas is front and center, with a heart-shaped ruby marking Little Rock's spot on the map.

The tree in the East Garden Room has more than 400 ornaments sent by Peace Corps volunteers and staff from more than 65 countries.

Today, the Barbara Mashburn Scholarship Foundation singers from Fayetteville will perform at the White House. During the holiday season more than 2,600 people of all ages from across the country have been invited to participate in musical programs for White House guests.

The East Room has been decorated with 18 soaring conical gold trees, replacing the green trees of the past at the White House. Mrs. Clinton said it was felt that these trees would provide more room for entertaining. At the almost continuous holiday parties at the White House, not all attended by the Clintons, approximately 12,000 pieces of

shrimp and 285 gallons of eggnog will be served.

With a chandelier off being repaired, Robert Isabell of New York created a special Advent wreath for the room, topped with electric candles. Beginning with a 14-foot aluminum frame, 40 people worked two weeks day and night adding gold holly, white natural branches and assorted pine cones to create this dramatic Christmas fantasy well above the heads of the guests.

The East Room's focal point is a traditional Italian creche, dating to the late 18th century, with 47 carved wood and terra cotta figures. It was a gift to the White House in 1967.

For the Green Room, Collette Peters of New York, a confectionery artist, created an all-sugar mantel decoration featuring an ice palace and a crystal pavilion with three miniature trees inside. It took her three weeks to make it, she said. The pavilion sits on a bed of rock candy with assorted candy trees around it.

For the Red Room's mantel, Peters created a Polar Bear Christmas at the North Pole complete with an igloo, penguins, snowflakes, icicles and a snow tree.

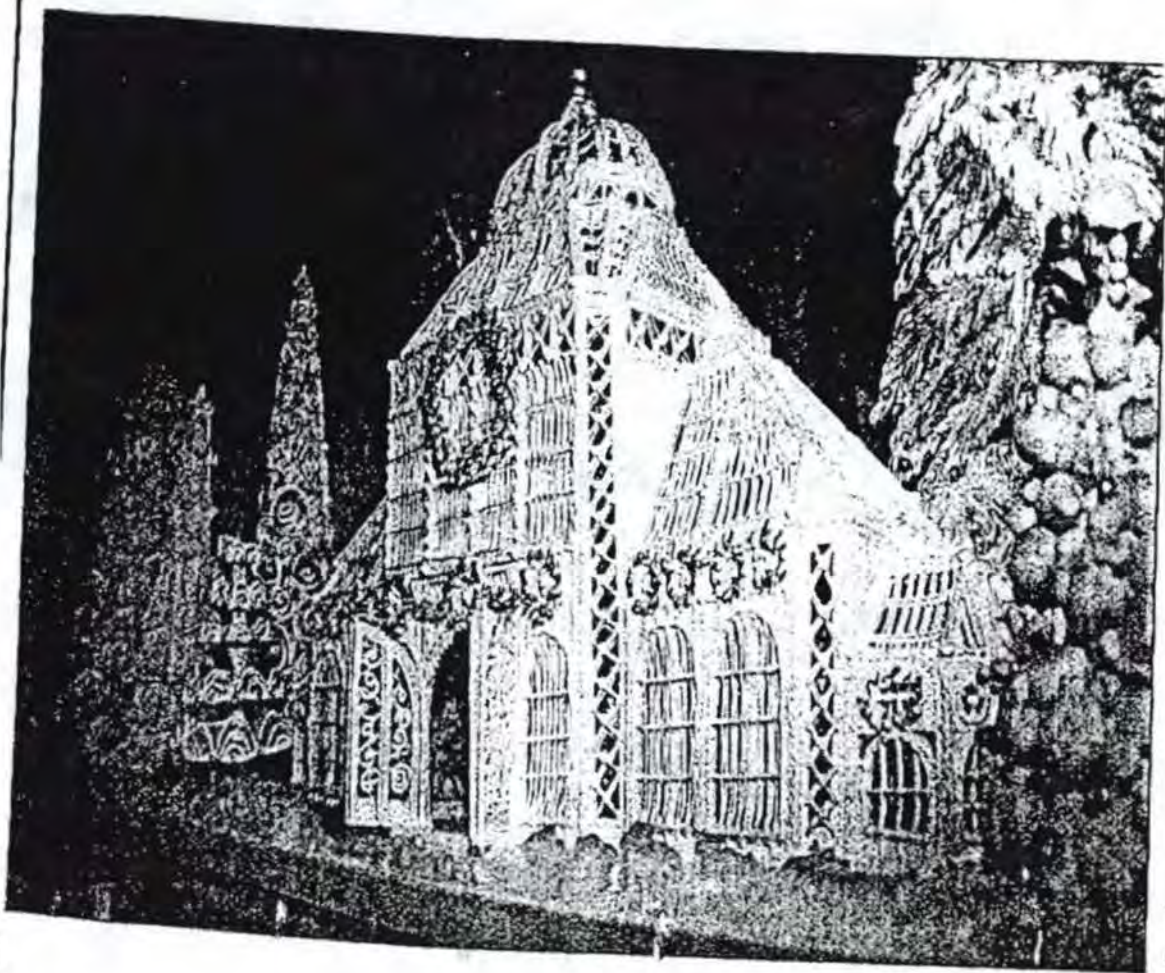
Ray Ellis of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., was selected to paint the White House's 1998 Christmas card. He was contacted Sept. 1 and asked to paint the card's cover which features the State Dining Room. (Ellis has illustrated three books by Walter Cronkite.) Ellis said the time taken to complete the project was about 70 percent deciding how he was going to do it and then, maybe, just a day to paint it.

The drama of the White House's Grand Foyer, its chandeliers glistering, is accented by a forest of frosted birch trees trimmed with mini-lights. Archways are framed by greenery dripping with pendants of gold magnolia leaves and silver branches.

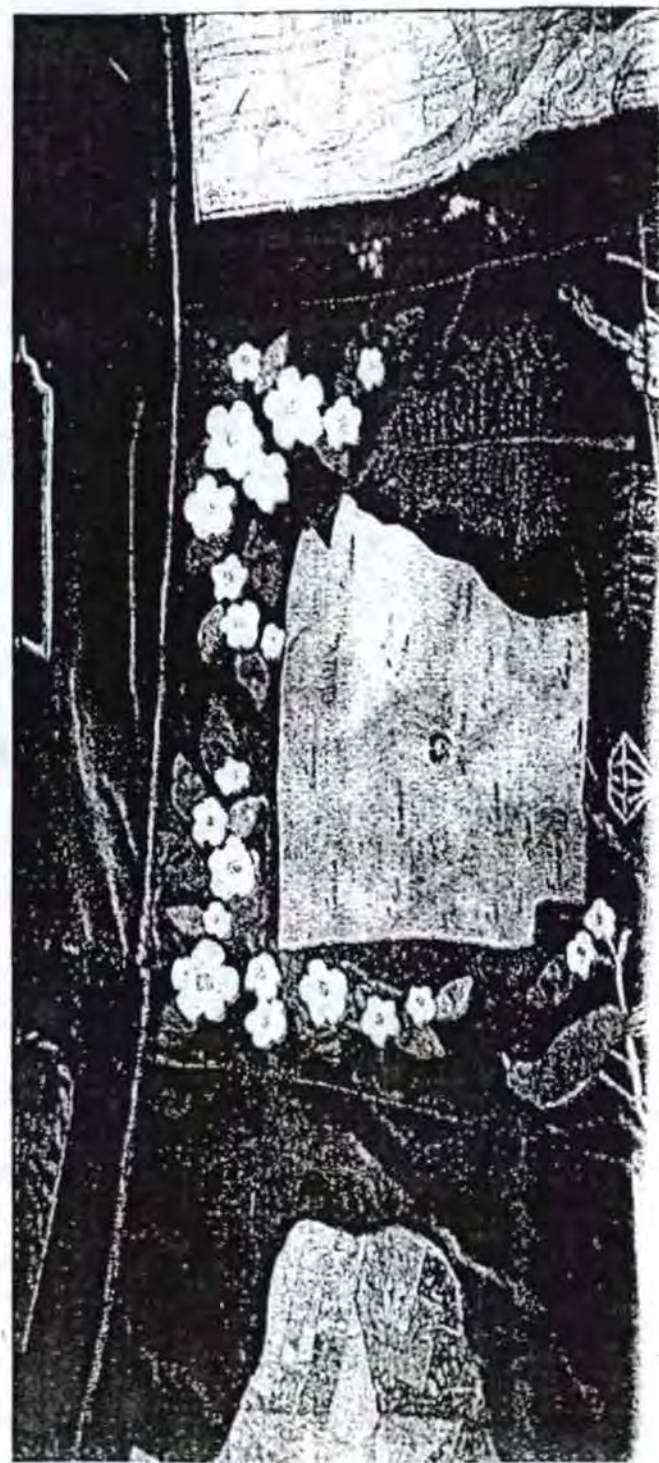
"When we picked this theme, we couldn't have imagined this would be the only winter wonderland on the East Coast," Mrs. Clinton said. More seasonal weather arrived over the weekend.

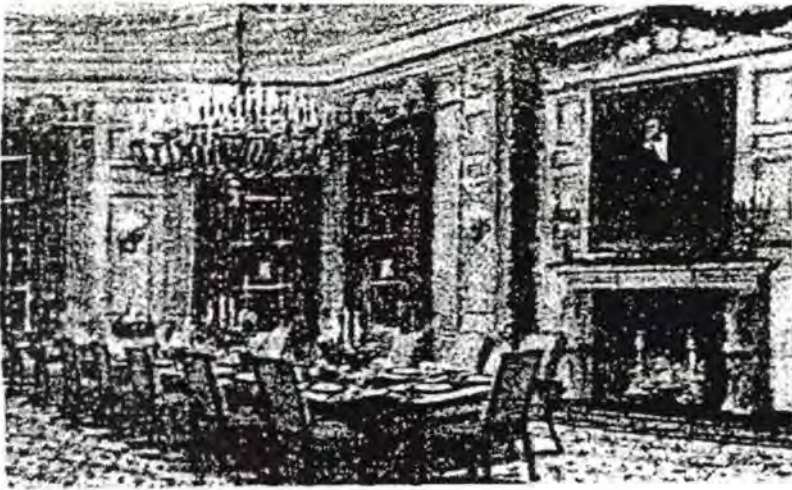


Official Christmas tree in the Blue Room



The all-sugar
crystal pavilion





Clinton Christmas card of State Dining Room



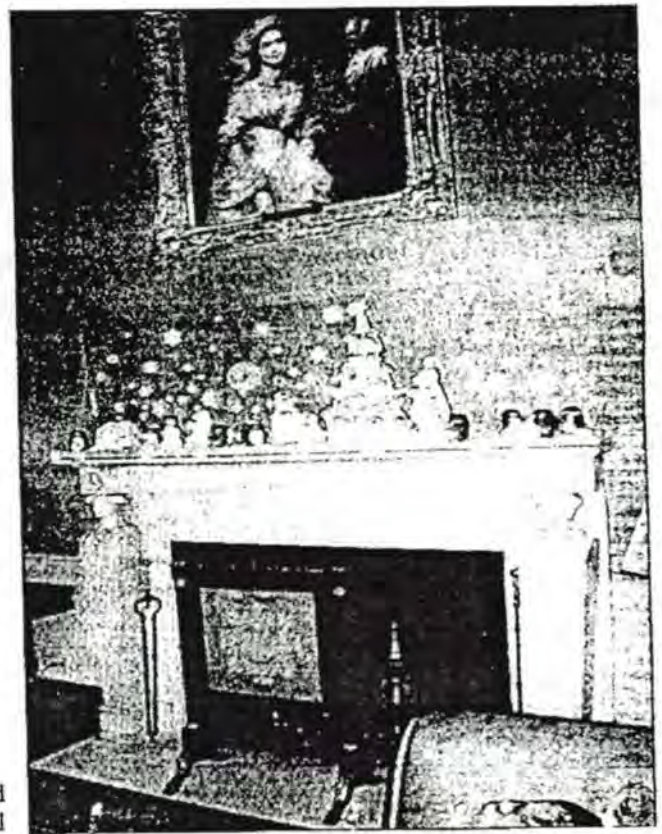
Capricia Marshall talks with media including Helen Thomas

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette photos
by Phyllis D. Brandon



Hillary and Santa with children singers

A polar bear Christmas on the Red
Room mantel



White House press party isn't what it used to be

By Andrea Stone
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — In this season of good cheer and impeachment, the White House is hosting nine holiday parties. President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton are shaking hands and posing for pictures with partygoers at eight of them.

But not Monday evening, when there was no receiving line for the White House press corps.

The Clintons made a quick stop. The president said a few words from the bandstand.

In the past, several smaller holiday parties for the news media were held in the State Dining Room and the East, Red, Green and Blue rooms, each decked out for the holidays. This year, there was one larger gathering, one of only two holiday parties being held on the South Lawn.

Press guests Monday visited the decorated rooms, then headed out to the tent for cookies and cakes.

The White House says the change from a fancy adult party in the state rooms to a more casual family "festival" with children was meant to repeat the fun of last summer's press picnic, which included a carnival.

"I don't blame the White House for wanting to minimize the amount of time spent with reporters who have been covering ... the impeachment story," says *Washington Post* media reporter Howard Kurtz. "It always seemed like cruel and unusual punishment for the president and Mrs. Clinton to have to stand through so many hours of forced smiles with journalists who want souvenir pictures."

Now that the president has been impeached, Kurtz says, "It's going to be awfully strange for media types to be yukking it up on the White House lawn just days later. In past years, some of the president's harshest journalistic critics have shown up and hit the buffet table, but this time around, it may be nothing short of surreal."

James Warren, Washington bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune*, says smiling for pictures with the president would be "too bizarre." But he was going Monday, as were some USA TODAY staffers.



By Ron Edmonds, AP

Buddy and Socks ornament: The media got a close-up look at White House decorations.

"It might be almost foolish to turn down the opportunity to get a sense of what the guy looks like at a time when his presidency could conceivably be going down the tubes," Warren says.

CBS White House correspondent Bill Plante, who attended other fetes during the Reagan and Bush years, says there's no reason not to take children to see the executive mansion's festive decorations.

"It's still the White House," he says. "It's the people's house. It's not just theirs."

Still, some colleagues told Plante they weren't going to go to Monday's party because they didn't want to make small talk with the Clintons. But eliminating the receiving line, he says, "relieves them of the obligation to be nice to us."

Adds Steve Holland of Reuters News Service: "I'm not even sure the holiday spirit can overcome this."

PUBLIC LIVES

Flights of Fancy From a Floral Designer for the Stars

By ELISABETH BUMILLER

HERE are some important pronouncements from Robert Isabell, the Manhattan florist who did Caroline Kennedy's wedding, Jacqueline Onassis' funeral, last year's Versace tribute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and, this year, the White House.

White lights on Christmas trees have become so tiresome that he has switched to the mixed colors considered so hideously downmarket in the 1980's. Poinsettias are overdone, but they last. Carnations can actually be chic, like the burgundy ones he used at the opening of the New York Public Library's Reading Room. ("Oscar de la Renta called and asked, 'What were those beautiful flowers?'")

Sunflowers are an unfortunate trend, but marigolds, like those he used for the opening of the Jackson Pollock exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, are marvelous. Magnolia leaves on Christmas mantels have become very big in the North. But never, ever use a vanilla-scented candle at dinner, unless you're in Bali.

"In New York City," he said, "it's just all wrong."

So went a conversation last week with Mr. Isabell, which started on his daily morning prowling through the 28th Street flower district, continued in his black Cadillac en route to his 13th Street office (where his staff was making snowmen out of, yes, carnations, for a "winter wonderland" party), and ended up at his West Village town house, a modernist villa with an atrium of cascading walls of philodendron, where he talked about his decorations for the White House.

"It was a great honor," he said, "maybe even more this year than other years. I hope we brought some happiness to the Clintons."

Mr. Isabell worked with Nancy Clarke, the chief White House florist,



Barbara Alper for The New York Times

Robert Isabell produces flower-laden parties for the rich and famous.

who has been there since the Carter Administration. He made 18 gold-leafed conical trees for the East Room, a lot of crystallized fruit for the State Dining Room and an enormous outdoor wreath of noble fir and blue lights for the South Portico. This he considers his masterpiece. He and his staff hand-dipped 1,500 bulbs into a blue gel used for theater lighting to get just the right hue — "Presidential blue," as he calls it.

"Royal blue is not the color of the Presidency," he said. "That's too dark. It has no life. And Navy blue is very blackish. This is a very intense, memorable blue. You'll always remember seeing a wreath of blue lights."

Mr. Isabell has been the premier florist and party producer for New York society and people with enormous amounts of money for more than a decade, but this is his first foray into the White House.

"We knew about him, of course,"

said Capricia Penavic Marshall, the White House social secretary. "And Mrs. Clinton had seen his work before, and noted it." In June, Mr. Isabell was invited to a White House dinner, and by September, Mrs. Clinton had her office give him a call. "She gave me the directions, specifically," Ms. Marshall said. "She said, 'I would like to bring in Robert Isabell to work with Nancy Clarke.'" Mr. Isabell got along famously with the First Lady, Ms. Marshall said.

"They had a wonderful time," she added. "They walked from room to room, deciding where they were going to place things."

MR. ISABELL, who says he is in his "late 30's," said he came to Manhattan from Duluth, Minn., 20 years ago, which means he arrived in his late teens. This is entirely possible, since he didn't go to college. (Although in 1995, *Vanity Fair* said he

was 41.)

In any case, Mr. Isabell is murky and sensitive about his past. His mother was a homemaker; *Vanity Fair* described his father as a power-plant operator. "I don't want to talk about my father," Mr. Isabell said last week. "I just don't want to even get into it."

Mr. Isabell, who is tall, dark and handsome, with a soft Minnesota accent, did say he worked in a Duluth greenhouse from a very young age, then for the society florist Renny when he first arrived in New York. Soon he had started his own business — and was planning events for Studio 54. In August 1989 he created the 50th-birthday party for Saul Steinberg at which two children dressed as cherubs wheeled out a five-tier cake covered in gold and silver leaf. But his biggest party to date was the three-day celebration in 1995 of the wedding of Marie-Chantal Miller, the second daughter of a billionaire, and Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece. For the pre-ceremony ball, Mr. Isabell created a Greek temple at an estate outside London.

"The party went on until six in the morning," he said. "I've never seen so many young girls wearing couture."

Nonetheless, friends describe Mr. Isabell as shy, a little mysterious, and private. "You run into him at these places, and there's Robert in the corner, in a little denim jacket, watching everything," said Wendy Wasserstein, the playwright.

And yet, Mr. Isabell does 300 to 400 events a year, from the 50-foot moss-covered Eiffel Tower he once built for Bendel's to Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's lily-of-the-valley wedding bouquet.

Why flowers? "I don't even know," he said. "It always brings joy to people. People use them at the important moments of their lives."



Reuters

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, helped Conna Simons, left, and Jill Mueller, right, ladle lasagna yesterday at a Washington soup kitchen.

AP Online

December 22, 1998; Tuesday 16:36 Eastern Time

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 483 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Focuses on Christmas

BYLINE: SONYA ROSS

AP-Clinton ,0514

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton busied himself with Christmas activity Tuesday, reading 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' to about 50 children who chimed in with many of the words and gave him hugs.

'If you know the words, you can say it too. If you don't know the words, that's OK,' Clinton said as he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton settled on a long red bench with Nanna Chen, 8, sandwiched between them.

The children, mostly 4- to 8-year-olds from Washington schools, came through with the better-known stanzas of Clement C. Moore's 1822 poem about a father's Christmas Eve encounter with Santa Claus. It is more popularly known by its opening line, 'Twas the night before Christmas'

When Clinton finished, most of the children raced off for cookies and other treats. A few lined up and hugged the president. Andrew Smith, 6, whispered in Clinton's ear, and Tyron Dingell, 8, shook the president's hand and gave him a Christmas tree made of green construction paper.

Clinton fit the reading in before a regular meeting with aides about Social Security and a pair of holiday receptions in the White House residence for about 500 people.

Wearing a tie featuring Christmas trees, Clinton strode into the White House East Room to read just as some children began to tire after a third rendition of 'Jingle Bells.' Mrs. Clinton followed him, wearing a red-and-green Christmas cardigan sweater and black slacks.

The president paused several times to show the children his favorite illustrations from the book, saying, 'It has great pictures.'

Fortney Stark, the 3-year-old son of Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., scooted close to Clinton's feet, plopping his worn Winnie the Pooh bear on the floor beside him.

Clare Lockhart, 4 the daughter of White House spokesman Joe Lockhart held first to the seat she staked out on the bench, despite her dad's efforts to lure her to a spot on the floor. Mrs. Clinton sat beside her.

'You knew so many of the words!' Mrs. Clinton exclaimed as she stroked Clare's shoulder. 'I'm very proud of you.'

The Clintons did not sing Christmas carols this year, leaving that job to Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, a chorale dressed in turn-of-the-century garb and a tall Rudolph the reindeer, whose red nose flashed in time with the singing.

They did pose for a group photograph, with the president coordinating the shot to make sure every child's face could be seen. Mrs. Clinton pulled out a copy of 'Dear Socks, Dear Buddy,' her current book of children's letters to the presidential pets.

'He's a great golfer, Buddy is,' the first lady said, showing the children a picture of the Labrador retriever with Clinton on the golf course. She then surveyed the children to find out who had cats and who had dogs.

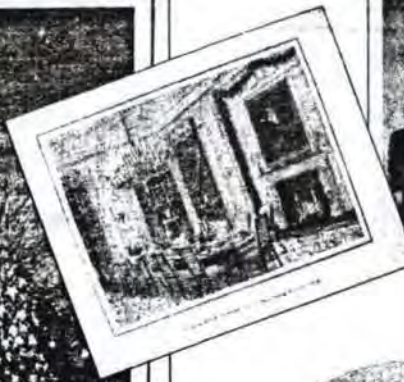
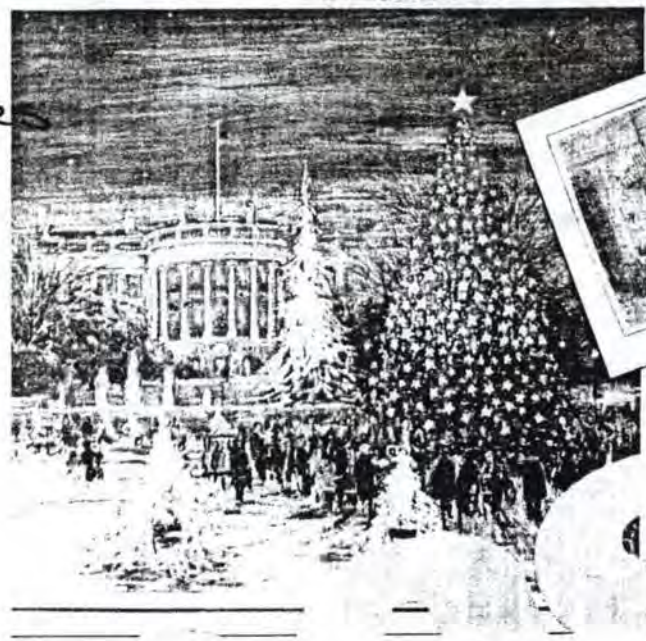
'Who has a cat and a dog?' she asked. A third of the children raised their hands.

The president raised his hand too.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 22, 1998

The Washington Times
Wed., 12/23/98



In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford and his family chose this Christmas card depicting a winter church scene.

May this be a very special Christmas for one and all

greetings from The White House

By Christine Montgomery
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Every December, Richard Wightman neatly arranges the political ghosts of Christmases past on a bookshelf in his living room.

His White House holiday card collection begins with greetings from President Richard M. Nixon and continues through to the Clinton administration.

This free-lance writer has 25 presidential Christmas greetings in all, each a heavy-stock reminder of his days as a White House correspondent for Fairchild Publications.

He covered the White House during Lyndon B. Johnson's tenure and stayed through Ronald Reagan's early years, when pressed for his age, he only admits "not senile."

Mr. Wightman got on the presidential mailing list early in his career and continues to get cards almost every year — although sometimes, he says, they don't arrive until January.

This White House tradition began decades ago with President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the first first couple to mass-mail a holiday greeting.

Each White House occupant since then has followed suit, sending cards to reflect his personality and Christmas spirit.

"Nixon is more imaginative," Mr. Wightman says, noting that the cards

from Mr. Nixon include one that bears an 18th-century depiction of the White House by N.C. Wyeth.

"Ford is the only one who did not have pictures of the White House. Clinton, his messages are more personal and less formal," he says.

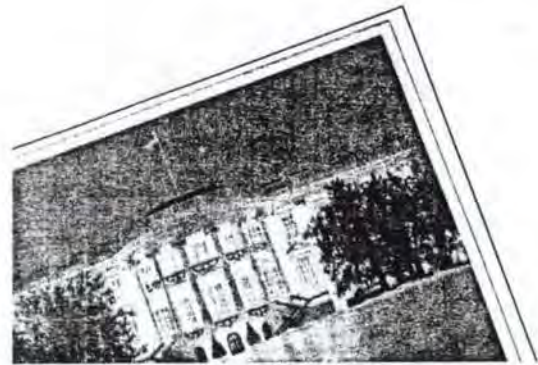
All six Clinton cards include a notation on the back that doesn't appear on any earlier ones in Mr. Wightman's collection: "Paid for by the Democratic National Committee."

It cost about \$300,000 to make and mail some 500,000 cards this year, according to DNC press secretary

Melissa Ratcliff. That includes 300,000 greetings from the president and 200,000 from Vice President Al Gore.

For this year's card, Martha's Vineyard artist Ray Ellis was commissioned to re-create the newly refurbished State Dining Room in watercolor. He had to use color swatches for the curtains and carpets because they weren't installed by the time he began painting.

The note (a tad more formal than in happier years past) says: "May peace and joy be yours at the holiday season and throughout the year." It's signed by Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, like every White House card, it's embossed with the presidential seal.



Richard Wightman poses with two of the 25 White House Christmas cards he has collected over the years.



AP

Christmas tale

President Clinton reads "A Visit from Saint Nick" — to the delight of Nanna Chen, 8, and other children from the District. Mr. Clinton read the story at the White House as Hillary Rodham Clinton looked on.

By Annie Groer and Ann Gerhart

Take My Husband. Please!

■ You're the boss and guest of honor at the office Christmas party. But you've pulled a muscle in your back and need to take it easy.

What to do? Send the husband alone, of course.

Thus **President Clinton** arrived at the home of **Melanne Verveer**, **Hillary Rodham Clinton's** chief of staff, for Hillaryland's annual Christmas fete Monday night. (Earlier in the evening, he briefly appeared in a jammed tent outside the White House to welcome 4,000 newsies, their kids and kin to enjoy cookies, gingerbread and live clowns.)

"She aggravated a back muscle that she injured earlier in the year by climbing a bunch of stairs late last week," said the first lady's spokeswoman, **Marsha Berry**. "She's trying to stay off her feet when she can."

Clinton's staff sang to her by phone and sent over her holiday gift of ski togs. The president, no doubt grateful to be among friends, stayed about two hours.



Clinton, recuperating.

FILE PHOTO

6A • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1998 • USA TODAY

CLINTONS' CHRISTMAS: President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton plan to spend Christmas at the White House with family members, spokesman Joe Lockhart said. The Clintons will make their annual trip to the Renaissance Weekend in Hilton Head, S.C., on Dec. 30, and return to Washington on New Year's Day. Hillary Clinton is trying to stay off her feet this holiday season because she aggravated a back muscle she injured in the spring, aides said. The first lady moved slowly but showed no apparent discomfort Tuesday as she and the president read a holiday story to children at the White House.

— Bill Nichols

USA

*White House pastry chef creates
sweet memories that last a lifetime.*

Just desserts for the president

By James N. Thurman

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON — There are few pots in Washington this holiday season that aren't boiling over with impeachment news and scandal speculation.

But in a quiet corner of the White House, just a stone's throw from the Oval Office, a rarefied holiday air reigns supreme.

It's found here in the kitchen of White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, where Christmas delicacies are imagined and prepared from one presidency to the next. A sort of holiday pilot light. Chef Mesnier ignites this time of year as an undaunted spirit of Christmas, no matter who's in the Oval Office or what political currents swirl outside.

"It's very special here," smiles Mesnier, attired in chef garb and white clogs. While he does not forbid talk of current events in his kitchen, the veteran chef, who has served four presidents from both political parties, is more intent on preserving the one-of-a-kind experience visitors receive when invited to the White House — especially the thousands fortunate enough to be invited during the holidays.

"You should see this place at Christmas," he says, adding that preparations for the winter celebration actually begin back when the jonquils are blooming.

"Right after Easter, we start cooking and planning for Christmas. That's when I begin making a thousand pounds of fruitcake," Mesnier says, offering a slice.

Cranking out cookies

Each year Mesnier cranks out tens of thousands of macaroons and leckerle, linzer cookies and chocolate truffles, not to mention the legion of gingerbread men — each individually decorated. There are hundreds of buch de Noel logs and dozens of loaves of panettone.

According to the White House, Mesnier will use 500 pounds of sugar and 300 pounds of chocolate in making tens of thousands of cookies and bite-sized pieces of confectionery, proudly presented to guests.

Many invited to holiday events can be seen slipping one of these cookies, delicately wrapped in a White House napkin, into a coat pocket or purse for someone back home.

"You want them to know it came from the White House," the pastry chef says, "and that it's special."

Mesnier was somewhat overwhelmed to learn that his first interview for the White House job in 1979 would be with the first lady herself, then Rosalyn Carter. Even

more unnerving — a state dinner for Margaret Thatcher was under way that very day. To hear Mesnier describe it, it was like interviewing for a quarterback job the day of the Super Bowl.

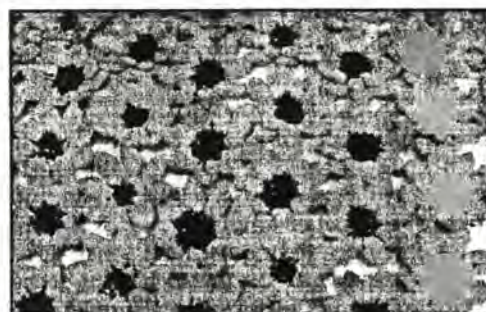
In the years since, he has continued the White House's standard of quality, insisting everything be made in-house by expert hands.

Remarkably fit given his vocation, Mesnier exudes the quiet confidence of a clean-shaven Sean Connery. The French native, one of nine children, has come a long way from his quaint village of 120 people to uphold a White House tradition.

"There have always been French pastry chefs," says William Seale, author of "The President's House" and a White House historian. "Most of them became preeminent

as a result."

Fourth US President James Madison, Mr. Seale explains, enjoyed the efforts of Jean-Pierre Stoussat, nicknamed "French John." This French chef was known for creating and rushing frozen-on-the-inside, hot-on-the-outside pastries up backstairs before



they melted.

Mesnier has, in fact, achieved a preeminent status in his field, not only for his holiday creations but for his indefatigable efforts throughout the year.

His desserts, wheeled out during official state dinners, are highly anticipated Washington events. Mesnier carefully researches the background of each visiting head of state and then incorporates a national and personal theme in his creations.

"We listen carefully when the desserts go in, to the sounds of the voices and the laughter," he beams. "[Desserts] are like the fireworks."

Doing his pastry homework

Before a recent state dinner for Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Mesnier did his homework. He learned the leader's home town of Bologna is also home to a large twin tower. So the pastry chef crafted more than a dozen sets of the towers from confection and chestnut ice cream — Prime Minister Prodi's favorite. They were a huge success.

Evidenced by the fact that none of the towers began leaning. It's apparent Mesnier has learned much about engineering over the years, including the delicate architecture involved in making the traditional gingerbread house centerpieces displayed in the State Dining Room.

This year's gingerbread house, a castle really, is built from 40 pounds of chocolate and 90 pounds of gingerbread, complete with towers and bridges. It's surrounded by an edible forest and inhabited by Santa's clan and confectionery versions of first pets Socks and Buddy.

All of Mesnier's work is done in an impossibly small workspace, which he customized to his liking. He measured every inch, placing ovens and refrigerated counters to optimize the tiny space.

Nevertheless, the brightly lit, immaculate kitchen reflects Mesnier's positive work-with-what-you-have attitude.

"To be creative, you have to be happy," he winks. "If I am unhappy or grumpy, then the people who work for me are. It's not a way to spend your very good days."

That philosophy has created for Mesnier a reputation that flies in the face of the temperamental, rolling-pin wielding chef who screams when the cookies burn. It's also earned a genuine affection from those he's touched.

"He's in a league of his own," says Dan Michel, pastry chef at the Monarch Hotel in Washington. "He's a nice and humble person in a league of his own, and he likes to help bring people along with him."



PHOTOS BY ANDY NELSON STAFF

FEAST FOR THE EYES: White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier is charged with creating thousands of memorable delicacies (like those above) for White House events. He is kept especially busy during the holiday season, and begins planning for it in April.

MIETRO

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1998

"She was the only person who had maintained any kind of record of buildings being torn down."

— MARK G. GRIFFIN, lawyer and history buff

The artist at work: Lily Spandorf has been using her watercolors and pen and ink to show the holiday decorations at the White House since the Johnson administration.



BY BILL O'LEARY—THE WASHINGTON POST



Spandorf scenes: Spandorf is known for street scenes like the one above, a stretch of 11th Street NW slated for redevelopment, as well as White House holiday scenes like these East Foyer snowmen.



A Perennial Draw Pictures Washington

'On-the-Spot' Art Preserves City's Past

By DAVID MONTGOMERY
Washington Post Staff Writer

It's Winter Wonderland time at the White House, and crowds are filing through to ogle the annual profusion of evergreen, glitter and gingerbread. In the Grand Foyer, they spy a little lady with snowy hair and a red blouse hunched over a makeshift easel, painting pictures of the holiday decorations.

Murmurs of "Who's that? Who's that?" ripple through the crowd. "That's Lily Spandorf," reply those in the know. "She's been doing this for over 30 years."

Cameras flash as people snap instant portraits of the artist. Spandorf hardly notices. She is on assignment, one of the last great deadline artists.

There was a time not too long ago when it was not an exaggeration to say that a large measure of Washington's physical image of itself flowed directly from the pens and brushes of Lily Spandorf.

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, she drew the mourners paying respects to the leader lying in state. When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have A

Dream" speech, she was on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with her pens and ink. She captured hippies frolicking in Dupont Circle and children rolling Easter eggs on the White House lawn.

Back then, her work would appear the next day in the paper, usually the Washington Star.

The big dailies no longer care much for artistic renderings of news events, except for courtroom scenes from which cameras are barred. And so now Spandorf is dispatched to draw the White House Christmas decorations by the Georgetown.

Pressures of the trade don't get any easier with experience, and in the heat of painterly reportage, Spandorf suffers inquiries from someone whose medium is notebook and pen.

"I have a deadline, too, you know," she says. "I'm rushed and tense and worried and so forth."

Her voice is hued with old Vienna, which she left as an art school graduate in 1938.

Never mind how old she is, she says. Just put this down: "I like doing it, of course. It's my work."

Spandorf at the peak of her

See SPANDORF, B5, Col. 2

Artist Draws on District Scenes, White House Splendor

SPANDORF, From B1

career was prolific outside her newspaper freelancing, painting for pleasure if not on commission. Almost from the day she arrived in town in 1960, she specialized in street scenes, recording casual yet colorful moments in everyday life.

Eschewing the monuments and other Nation's Capital clichés, she haunted the parks and markets and circles. She called her work "on-the-spot" painting and crafted an aesthetic of the fleeting that was instantly popular. The art was distinguished by Spandorf's canny rendering of Washington's pleasant, old architecture, all mansarded and corniced, before the invasion of the glass office boxes. The city then reminded her of Europe.

Before long, presidents were presenting Lily Spandorf's watercolors to visiting heads of state. The U.S. Post Office issued a stamp of her painting of the National Christmas Tree. A Senate committee ordered the temporary closing of Delaware Avenue NE so Spandorf could set up her easel in the middle of the street, affording a view of the Russell Senate Office Building with the Capitol looming beyond.

A few years ago, a woman in South Africa wanted to send a fan letter but didn't have Spandorf's address or even the correct spelling of her name. The missive reached the artist's door in Dupont Circle anyway, marked simply: "Miss Lily Spandorf. Paints Buildings. Washington, D.C. United States of America."

She explored a paradoxical zone between the quick and the eternal, and her obsession with the quotidian paid off. No one else gave it a thought, and suddenly it started disappearing, like an endangered species.

Lawyer and history buff Mark G. Griffin spotted the artist one day on the sidewalk painting attached commercial buildings on the east side of 11th Street NW, between G and H streets, which were condemned to make way for the Grand Hyatt Hotel. She told him she wanted to rescue the structures in watercolor.

"She was the only person who had maintained any kind of record of buildings being torn down," Griffin said.

It turned out Spandorf had an exhibit's worth of work she called "Washington Never More," which, with Griffin's help, led to a 1988 coffee-table book and a film about the artist by documentarian Barr Weissman.

"She's one of the few artists I've ever seen who supported themselves with their art," Griffin said. "She's very feisty.... She has

created herself and kept herself re-created. Think about someone coming from nowhere and parachuting into Washington with no contacts."

Spandorf didn't exactly come from nowhere. She had had shows and success in New York and Europe. About her deeper past, in prewar Austria, she is resolutely silent, except for a reference in the documentary to a play she wrote that was supposed to be produced "just before the Nazis came." During the war, she volunteered for the Red Cross in Scotland. She never married.

If she was no one to Washington society when she arrived for her first show here in

"I just develop a feeling for color and emphasize it with line work."

— Lily Spandorf

1960, within months a broken wrist had changed that. Visiting her doctor at Georgetown Hospital, she discovered that Jackie Kennedy was going to have her son, John, christened in the hospital chapel. No photographers were allowed. Before the service, Spandorf slipped in and drew the altar decorations, then used a hospital pay phone to call the Star. Her instinct for the main chance was on target.

"Bring it right over," said an editor of the women's page, and the next day Spandorf's first drawing for the paper was being circulated across the city.

She lives up a flight of stairs in a hundred-year-old apartment building in Dupont Circle. Her former place, on the top floor with the good light at the corner of Connecticut and Q, was leveled to make room for the Dupont Metro station. Before the wrecking ball swung, she memorialized the yellow row house in a painting called "My Old Corner."

Once she told an interviewer: "Houses are like people; they have faces."

One wall of her current living room is given over to tall, deep shelves containing hundreds of paintings and drawings, unframed and slipped in edgewise. Hanging on one wall of a long, high-ceilinged corridor off the living room are two closely spaced rows of framed works.

Her output has diminished somewhat in recent years. After a serious illness, she says,

she is glad to be able to do any work at all. She is self-conscious about her appearance, imagining that age has altered her too much. Yet her hands remain slender and strong, even young-looking, able to create ink lines that are sure and true.

She's also prickly about her image in print. Talking about herself, she edits and censors. Opinionated bursts of self-revelation frequently conclude, "But of course, you can't write that."

Setting out to paint the White House Christmas decorations—which she has done nearly every year since the Johnson administration—she follows her familiar preparations for on-the-spot work.

Her folding stool and her supplies must fit into a heavy-duty plastic shopping bag, which she straps to a two-wheeled cart for travel. The packing job is a miracle of efficiency. Foam trays make excellent palettes because they are light and disposable. Plastic umbrella sleeves are perfect brush holders. Her easel is a square of cardboard, which she will support on the handle of the cart when she is ready to paint.

"A lot of my medium and technique is by reason of necessity," she says. "I don't drive. I have to have the material at a minimum of bulk and weight. So oils, for instance, aren't for me. Then I just develop a feeling for color and emphasize it with line work."

She rolls her cart into the White House and sets up in the Grand Foyer. She also selects views in the Blue Room, Green Room, Red Room and State Dining Room. Access to the White House is not a problem for her. Head usher Gary Walters has been following her holiday work for nearly three decades.

One year when George Bush was president, according to Spandorf, he looked over her shoulder as she drew the gingerbread house and jokingly instructed her to include first dog Millie playing in the snow, which she did.

Bah-humbuggers might say that when you've seen one White House Christmas, you've seen them all, but Neil Horstman, executive vice president of the White House Historical Association, says Spandorf's systematic impressions of the executive residence over time have documentary value. A few years ago, his group acquired Spandorf's collection of more than 100 White House Christmas drawings.

Subtle trends are evident. The greenery and holiday fantasy scenes grew increasingly elaborate with the Reagans, while the Clintons have brought a more modern, glittering look to the season, especially this year.

"We've always liked her work," says David Roffman, editor-at-large of the Georgetown, which has published Spandorf periodically for several years. "It's got a warm feel to it."

Spandorf made her deadline, staying up late to finish this year's White House Christmas drawings.

But newspaper work has its vagaries, alas, and editors are notoriously inscrutable. When Spandorf opens the latest edition of the Georgetown, she finds only a single drawing, depicting some East Room trees, cropped and buried on page 19.

A moment of empathy is shared.

She looks up from the paper and glowers at the pen-and-notebook man. "Don't let that happen to my story," she commands.

Twilight in Dupont Circle. The artist surveys the shelves and shelves of work, sheafs of moments, arrested time, adding up, to decades.

That spring day in a courtyard in Southwest Washington before urban renewal, when the schoolchildren flocked around her to watch. "A good painting is a poem in color," she had said that day.

The many views of her beloved Dupont, as changeable as Monet's waterlilies, and as worthy of recording in all its guises.

What will become of it all when her time is up?

"That's a big question," she says.

She doesn't know the answer, and it worries her. While pieces of her life's work, such as the White House Christmas images, have been acquired by collectors, the bulk of it lacks a permanent home.

She has specialized in stopping time, and the drama of each image she created is contained in the knowledge that, of course, time doesn't stop.

When those White House tourists develop their photos, they will see the little lady in the red blouse, painting—a classic Washington scene preserved on film. But the cold and literal eye of the camera could never do her justice.

Lily Spandorf belongs in a watercolor.

Public tours of the Christmas decorations continue through Wednesday. An exhibit of Spandorf's Christmas drawings at the White House back to the Nixon administration is on display at the White House Visitors Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, through Jan. 10.

METRO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1998

Waiting at the White House Is No Holiday

Visitors Endure Outside Cold To Be Able to See Inside Glow

By PAMELA CONSTABLE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sophie Sawatzki said she wanted her sons to feel "neighborly" with the Clinton family at Christmas. Standing in the chilly, three-hour line yesterday for the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of the White House, the 40-year-old Northwest Washington mom kept Atticus, 5, and Augustus, 4, distracted with candied popcorn.

Paul Toombs, 55, a bartender from Arlington and a serious aficionado of first family Christmases, said he hoped for something between the "elegant and splashy" decor of the Reagan era and the "homey" holiday look of the Bush White House.

Mary King, 76, who had left Clinton, N.C., in a van at dawn, kept her muffler wrapped tightly around her face and hoped the wait was worth it. "At least it's not snowing," she said. "And I've heard it's like a real wonderland inside."

These hardy souls joined thousands of people, including tourists from as far away as South Africa, who spent the afternoon in line outside the executive mansion waiting for a glimpse of holiday magic. They sipped coffee from thermoses, walked in circles to keep their feet warm and made new



BY LARRY MORRIS—THE WASHINGTON POST

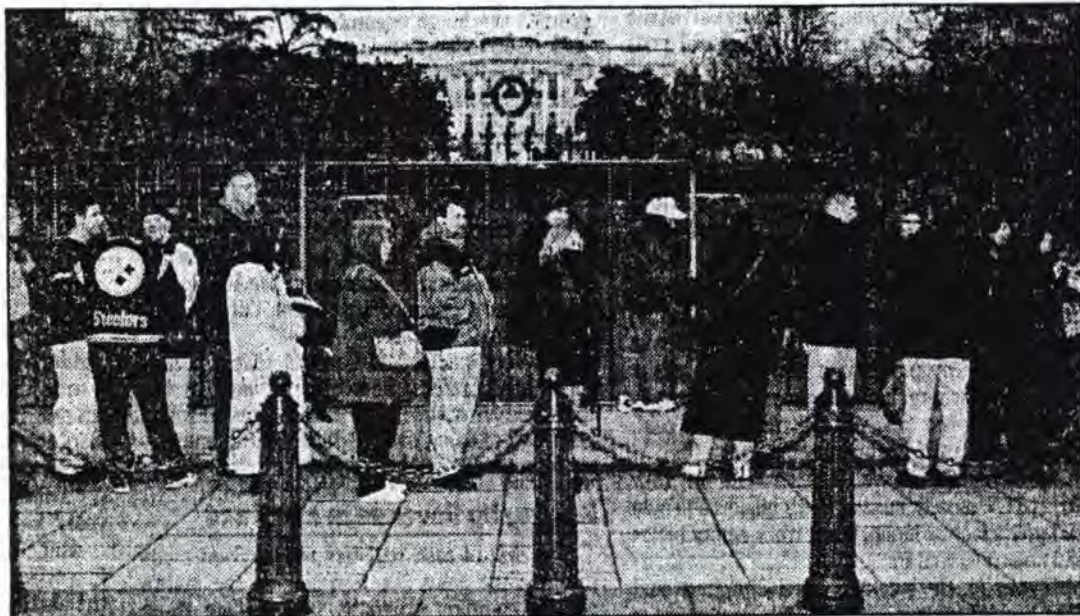
Sophie Sawatzki and keeps sons Atticus, 5, and Augustus, 4, busy while waiting for the Christmas Candlelight Tour.

friends in the fast-fading light.

Some had never been to Washington before; one or two claimed not to have missed a Christmas Candlelight Tour since 1969, when first lady Pat Nixon established the tradition of a free evening stroll through the public rooms of the White House, twinkling with lights and decorated with a different theme each year.

"It's kind of a crazy day, but almost everyone is in a

See TOUR, B5, Col. 4



BY LARRY MORRIS—THE WASHINGTON POST

At the White House, visitors stand in a three-hour line for the chance to see the Christmas decorations by flickering light.

Waiting for White House Twilight Tour

TOUR, From B1

good mood," said Phil Walsh, a National Park Service ranger monitoring the line. "They wait a long time in the rain or the snow, but they still say, 'Merry Christmas.'" Walsh said he expected 4,000 to 6,000 visitors would make it into the White House between 5 and 7 p.m. yesterday. The tour also is offered today and tomorrow.

In the line, there were numerous remarks about President Clinton's current woes; some ribald, but almost all generous of spirit. Several people wondered whether they would get a glimpse of Monica S. Lewinsky or imagined what holiday greeting they might offer Clinton if they bumped into him.

"His morals are not too good, but he's been a good president," said King, as her two sisters nodded. "If I saw him in there, I'd say, 'Merry Christmas, Bill, why'd you mess up?'"

Dagmar Painter, 48, a dealer of antique textiles from Falls Church, expressed a feeling shared by a number of people in line: that the majesty of the White House in holiday regalia could not be tarnished by the problems of its current occupant.

"This building will last longer than any particular president, and it is always very festive at Christmas," she said.

Among the few children in line, there was particular interest in the possibility of glimpsing Socks or Buddy, the first pets.

And for some visitors, the chance to see the glittering White House was far less important than being reunited with loved ones for a few days. Carlotta Burt, of Arlington, Tex., beamed as she clung to her son Casey, 19, who recently joined the Army and was assigned to Fort Myer.

"They said he couldn't come

home for Christmas, so we decided to come here and be with him," she said. "It's his first Christmas away from home."

Once 5 p.m. arrived and the White House security men began motioning visitors inside, conversation faded and anticipation rose. Guides offered brochures describing the 18th-century carved crèche in the East Room, the 18-foot balsam fir tree in the Blue Room and the North Pole scene in the Red Room.

First allowed in was a group of 25 senior citizens from a Baptist church in Largo. Their eyes lit up as they tiptoed past the gold-ribboned trees, the garlands and wreaths, the white lights flickering on graceful bare branches.

A lively flute melody filled the air.

Outside, in the cold and the dark, thousands more waited for the fantasy to begin.

HRC Clips



Friday, December 11, 1998-
Wednesday, December 16, 1998



By Awad Awad, Agence France-Presse

In Middle East: President Clinton and Hillary Clinton sing Christmas carols Tuesday in Bethlehem. The Clinton family took a pre-Christmas tour on the last day of their visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

THE FIRST LADY

Hillary Clinton Tiptoes Through Praise in Gaza

By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

GAZA, Dec. 14 — Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has been hailed here as a champion of Palestinian statehood, walked a careful diplomatic line in public appearances today, praising Palestinian national aspirations while avoiding comments that could be considered a call for sovereignty.

But it was clear as she traveled through Gaza today that her seemingly offhand endorsement seven months ago of eventual Palestinian independence has made her something of a heroine, even though her comments were immediately disavowed by the White House and were never publicly repeated.

She was greeted with thunderous applause as she walked through the door of the Palestinian National Council gathering here this afternoon. The ovation was repeated with equal enthusiasm as she was introduced from the podium by Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Earlier in the day, as she visited a center for disabled children and a refugee settlement with her daughter, Chelsea, and Mr. Arafat's wife, Suha, Mrs. Clinton was acclaimed by local civic leaders as if she were one of their own.

"We are very proud of you and your support for the Palestinian people and their own state," said Hanan Matar, a Gaza City lawyer, as she welcomed Mrs. Clinton to a workshop on family law and women's rights. Mrs. Clinton smiled and asked for a clarification on the jurisdiction of local religious courts in disputes over a wife's right to work or to seek further education.

In her public remarks here, Mrs. Clinton praised "the leadership of Chairman Arafat" in the peace efforts and the "hope for the future" embodied in building new institutions, both civic and physical, like the Gaza International Airport that her husband and Mr. Arafat formally inaugurated today.

But she appeared to prefer stressing more generic themes, such as the social benefits of spending on higher education for women. The capstone of her Gaza tour was a session seemingly calculated to scare off all but the wonkish: "Women's Empowerment Through Micro-Lending."

While President Clinton pushed publicly for further progress in the peace talks, Mrs. Clinton went to the gritty heart of one major unresolved problem: the Arab refugees from the Middle Eastern wars of a half-century ago, and their direct descendants, who remain virtual wards of United Nations refugee camps. Of the 1.1 million refugees in 59 United Nations settlements in four countries, about 760,000 live in the Gaza Strip, and they constitute three-quarters of Gaza's population.

Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Arafat visited the most densely packed of Gaza's eight refugee settlements. Known as simply "the Beach," the Gaza City seafront camp has 65,000 people crammed into 70 sandy acres of low-rise cinder block, many of them living three or more to a room. "I know that for many here in Gaza, life has been too hard for too long," Mrs. Clinton said during her visit today, announcing a modest increase in the annual United States contribution to the United Nations refugee



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton joined President Clinton, the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and his wife, Suha, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday to dedicate the new Gaza International Airport.

program for the Arab refugees to \$73 million from \$70 million.

Mrs. Clinton's visit and the international attention that comes with it "is like a blessing," said Ron Wilken, the spokesman for the United Nations' Gaza refugee program. "These people are so desperate for a little bit of recognition. People don't realize how little they have, and how little they are asking for."

As she did in Israel on Sunday, Mrs. Clinton avoided reporters' questions about independence and statehood, and her aides again strove to avoid photographs of the First Lady framed by the Palestinian flag.

Still, her itinerary in Israel on Sunday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife, Sara, by her side and her tour through Gaza today with Mrs. Arafat was seen in both places as a display of conscious symmetry.

Mrs. Arafat, usually not the most public of figures here, was clearly pleased by Mrs. Clinton's companionship.

"Thank you for witnessing with us the construction of our country," she said, introducing Mrs. Clinton at the micro-lending forum, "and I hope you will be able to be with us to witness our Palestinian state."

Palestinians pack streets to welcome Hillary Clinton

By Laura King
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinians crowded into the streets and clambered onto rooftops Monday to welcome Hillary Rodham Clinton to a seaside refugee camp.

The first lady skirted the sensitive topic of statehood, hailing Palestinians' hope and determination but stopping short of endorsing their independence drive as she had done last May in remarks to a youth summit.

With her daughter, Chelsea, Clinton began her day with a stop at a center for handicapped children founded by Yasser Arafat's wife, Soha.

Hundreds of Palestinians, many of them schoolchildren clutching small,

plastic American flags, lined the first lady's route to the camp, cheering as her motorcade passed. Security was extremely heavy, with Palestinian police, intelligence agents and soldiers every few steps.

At a U.N.-funded job-training center for women, the first lady listened attentively as a law professor lectured two dozen young women on their legal rights under *sharia*, or Islamic law. The women learned they could include clauses in their marriage contracts prohibiting their husbands from taking other wives or giving them the option of continuing to work after marriage.

Speaking to recipients of U.S.-funded "micro" loans used to start businesses, Clinton praised women with

"small loans and big dreams" for transforming the lives of their families and communities. She announced 10 new loans for businesses such as vegetable vending and dressmaking.

Accompanied by Soha Arafat, Clinton alluded to their husbands' efforts to implement the Wye River land-for-peace agreement, pledging that they would continue "hard work to achieve peace." She said, "We have the chance to pass down to our children a world of peace."

Rawia Abdel Wahad, 25, said she considered the first lady an important friend to Palestinians:

"Visiting us here in our refugee camp, she gives us importance and hope that our lives will get better after years of suffering."



In Gaza: Yasser Arafat's wife, Soha, right, and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton admire a traditional Palestinian embroidered robe presented to Clinton by women at a refugee camp in Gaza Monday. Clinton wore the robe for the rest of the visit. She was accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, not pictured

By Adel Hana, AP



Associated Press

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, second from right, admires a traditional Palestinian embroidered robe that was presented to her as a gift by women at the Beach refugee camp in Gaza on Monday. At right is Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha. The Palestinian women make the robes as a source of income.

First Lady Given Special Praise

By REBECCA TROUNSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

GAZA CITY—Of many standing ovations at the Shawa convention center Monday, one of the warmest went to the other Clinton in the house, the American president's wife, Hillary.

Welcomed by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as a "great and generous guest," Hillary Rodham Clinton beamed to the audience, daughter Chelsea at her side. Clinton and Arafat's wife, Suha, seemed genuinely friendly, walking arm in arm and whispering to each other as though sharing comfortable confidences.

While her husband is in Israel and the Palestinian territories to attempt to rescue an endangered peace, Hillary Clinton is making a few stops of her own. She visited a school for disabled children Monday. The day before, she went to a village where Arab and Jewish families live side by side.

Praised as a strong woman who stands by her family in the worst of times, she has attracted fans on both sides of the national divide. But especially among Palestinians, the first lady has earned special status because she is remembered for having declared, way

ahead of American officialdom, her support for a Palestinian state.

"I think that it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state . . . that has responsibility for providing education and health care and economic opportunity to its citizens, a state that has to accept the responsibility for governing," she said.

That statement in May set off alarm bells among Israelis, American Jewish organizations and an antsy U.S. State Department that was then attempting to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. The president's spokesman found himself having to distance Hillary Clinton's comments from her husband's official position.

On this trip, the Israelis have not mentioned their dismay over the matter, although Israeli television Monday night rebroadcast the comments, which the first lady made to a group of Israeli and Arab students.

And on Monday, as she visited Gaza children who serenaded her with drums and bagpipes, a reporter shouted out a question, asking whether she still supported a Palestinian state.

She ignored the reporter.

Instead, she announced an aid package of \$73 million to Pal-

estinian refugees and women's groups.

Palestinians who jostled to catch a glimpse Monday of Clinton or her husband said they were grateful for her statehood statements.

"There was an impression that the U.S. was only a friend of Israel, but when she said these things and then came here, there was a change in that impression," said Mahmoud Sawafira, working in his father's small grocery store.

Amal Dabbagh and her daughters were hanging off their third-floor balcony to watch the festivities as the Clinton motorcade whizzed by. Dabbagh, 43, had stayed up all night cooking, and done all her cleaning in the morning, so that she would be free when the Clintons came to town.

"It is a very good thing for our people that she could come with her husband and visit the Palestinian people, and that we could see them with our own eyes," she said.

In Israel, Hillary Clinton had admirers too.

"Hillary is a role model for me," said Jocelyn Gross, a 23-year-old originally from Philadelphia who is "making aliyah"—immigrating—to Israel. "She's an intelligent woman who can stand up for herself. And she dresses great."



Yasser Arafat's wife, Soha (right), escorts Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, at her Palestine Avenir Childhood Foundation. AP

First lady praises Arab women's work

Palestinians learn legal rights, find jobs

By Laura King
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinians crowded into the streets and clambered onto rooftops yesterday to welcome Hillary Rodham Clinton to a seaside refugee camp.

She praised women for learning about their legal rights and starting small businesses to help support their families. But the first lady skirted the sensitive topic of statehood, hailing Palestinians' hope and determination but stopping short of endorsing their independence drive.

As on other stops during her three-day visit with President Clinton to Israel and the Palestinian lands, Mrs. Clinton focused on women's and children's issues.

Accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, she began her day in the Gaza Strip with a stop at a center for disabled children. It was founded by Yasser Arafat's wife, Soha.

Later, at the beach camp, she urged women to stand up for themselves, for the good of themselves and their community.

"Women's rights are human rights, and are as important here in Gaza as anywhere else in the

world," she told refugees and aid workers, to warm applause.

Hundreds of Palestinians, many of them schoolchildren clutching small plastic American flags, lined the first lady's route to the camp, cheering as her motorcade passed by to a blare of sirens. Security was extremely heavy, with Palestinian police, intelligence agents and soldiers every few steps.

Under gray, foggy skies, veiled women and small children perched on the rooftops of the camp's rows of cement-block hovels, waving and hopping up and down in excitement as Mrs. Clinton and her entourage passed by.

At a U.N.-funded women's job-training center on the edge of the camp, the first lady listened attentively as a law professor lectured two dozen young women on their legal rights under Shariah, or Islamic law.

The discussion turned to marriage-contract provisions, and the women learned they could include clauses prohibiting their husbands from taking other wives, or giving them the option of continuing to work after marriage.

"Who enforces the contract?" Mrs. Clinton inquired. An Islamic court, she was told.

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998

In Gaza, Visit Is Seen As Sign of 'New Era'

By LEE HOCKSTADER
Washington Post Foreign Service

JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip, Dec. 14—Perhaps not since the day Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza from his years of exile in 1994 have Palestinians felt such a surge of hope and wonder as they did today when President Clinton came calling.

Part of it was pageantry: the 100-foot-long American and Palestinian flags that swaddled the brand new airport control tower like gift wrapping; the stifling security, freshly white-washed walls and ubiquitous welcome banners that announced this VIP was unlike any other; the big, noisy American choppers floating down one by one from a pale blue sky.

But even before they had heard him speak, Palestinians understood that the mere fact of an American president setting foot on their soil for the first time was a form of recognition and a symbolic windfall that would have been unthinkable until recently.

"Six years ago we were seen as distorted people, as terrorists," said Salah Tamari, a Palestinian lawmaker. "Now we are greeting and meeting the president of the United States. It's a practical recognition of our rights. If someone doesn't understand the significance of it, they are blind."

Said Sayed Shaban, an officer in the fledgling Palestinian navy: "Today we are in a new era

See GAZA, A31, Col. 1



Palestinians in Gaza wave U.S. flags to welcome President Clinton.

Gaza Sees Visit as Symbol of 'New Era'

GAZA, From A1

and a new situation. Time is required to change things much more, and larger steps are still to be taken. But we have hopes for new conditions. Today, the world is here."

In a place identified for years with the burning of American flags, suddenly American flags were everywhere in Gaza, and none was set ablaze. Palestinians hung American flags from high-rise apartments, affixed them to the backs of bicycles, and, in a few zealous cases, draped them around their bodies.

In a place long associated with terrorists and militants—the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups have their strongholds here—most Palestinians were at pains to explain to visitors that no one in his right mind could possibly wish harm to befall so honored a guest.

School boys with barely a word of English managed precisely two today when they encountered Americans in the streets of Gaza City: "Clinton good!"

Stapled to trees and plastered on tenement walls, posters, murals and banners appeared of Clinton and Arafat, smiling side-by-side, with the heading: "We have a dream, SAME as yours. A free Palestine."

Three hours before Clinton's arrival, thousands lined the route from the airport, only to discover much later that he would be transported around Gaza by helicopter. So many people were glued to their televisions, or intimidated by the numbers of Palestinian troops deployed, that traffic through Gaza City's ordinarily teeming streets simply evaporated. Shops closed in the center of town, and merchants called it a sign of respect for their eminent visitor.

One Palestinian cleric, who hinted he had not always been so great a fan of the United States, shrugged when asked about Clinton and said simply: "We will remember it forever."

The enthusiasm seemed genuine, but it was not undiluted. In the Jabaliya Refugee Camp, desperately poor, trash-strewn and badly overcrowded, this sudden recasting of the United States' role sparked a



Schoolchildren gather behind a Palestinian police officer along the route of President Clinton's motorcade in Gaza.



Suha Arafat, left, wife of Yasser Arafat, and Hillary Clinton speak with a disabled Palestinian boy at a child care center in the Gaza Strip.

new flicker of hope against a backdrop of traditional anti-Western resentments. In some cases, the result was confusion and cognitive dissonance.

Take the case of Abdul Fattah Sharfi, born and reared in Jabaliya's mean streets and a child of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli military occupation.

As a boy in the intifada, his idea of street theater was to torch an American flag in the gutter. Just because Clinton came calling in Gaza today, and thousands of his countrymen watched in awe, Sharfi was not about to scrap his conviction that the United States, Israel's ally, is fundamentally anti-Arab.

But somehow even Sharfi, 20, a history major at Gaza's Islamic

University, was touched and heartened by Clinton's visit.

"I can't carry an American flag today—my conscience won't permit it," said Sharfi, baby-faced and articulate. "But I think Clinton coming here is a step toward creating a Palestinian state.... It gives us some hopes."

The outpouring of hope unleashed by Clinton's visit was so great that it is almost certain to be followed by disappointment the morning after. It was a measure of the Palestinians' sense of grievance that so many seemed to invest so much into the appearance of one statesman for less than eight hours.

Several Palestinians said assuredly that when Hillary Rodham Clinton said earlier this year that

the Palestinians deserved an independent state, this most certainly could not have been an accident—even though the White House immediately distanced itself from the first lady's remark.

Clinton "will help us to regain our land, to regain Jerusalem, to regain what the Israelis took from us," said Khalil Mahmoud Biran, 54, a shop owner in Gaza City. "There is nothing wrong with the United States helping Israel, but at the same time we think now it can help us too."

Still, the president's appearance also prompted Palestinians to confront and discuss the question of Israel's security and its right to exist in a new, perhaps more realistic way.

"I was 16 when I went to work as a janitor in Israel, and I cried because even the room where they keep their garbage was nicer than the rooms we live in here in Jabaliya," said Shedadah Amoudi, 45, a shop owner. "Now the Americans are starting to understand the suffering of the Palestinian people. And we know that Israel has a right to exist, based on an agreement between both sides."

Were Palestinians willing to accept the United States as an ally, after so many years of mutual suspicion?

"We are Arabs—we are known for our hospitality," said Amoudi. "We always close our eyes to many past mistakes."

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton launches peace initiative for the new millennium

DATELINE: (Picture)

BODY:

JERUSALEM, Dec 15 (AFP) - US First Lady Hillary Clinton launched a new peace initiative Tuesday when she signed a peace calendar for the new millennium sponsored by former Israeli leader Shimon Peres.

The first lady warmly supported a Palestinian-Israeli "fruit of youth project" run by the Peres Centre for Peace by mingling with Israeli and Palestinian youths and telling them that through interaction they will flourish together and bring peace to the region.

"The Peres Centre is creating an opportunity for people, Israelis and Palestinians, not only to live together, but to really flourish together," Clinton said.

Some 120 youths were present at the meeting, half of them Palestinian from refugee camps and towns in the West Bank and the other half Israelis from different parts of the country.

Hagar Bromann, an Israeli 14-year-old, told Clinton that she spent three days recently in workshops with Palestinian youths as part of the Peres project and learned that Arabs were normal children, not hostile as she had imagined.

"We discovered we all want peace and we are in fact living through a special experience of crafting peace through interaction," said Bromann.

Hussein Issa, headmaster of a Palestinian school in Bethlehem, expressed the hope that the "fruits for peace" project would create a new Middle East -- long the goal of Peres, who was the main architect of the Oslo peace accords with the Palestinians.

"It is our dream also to show the Israelis that children are children and that there is no difference between children," Issa told AFP.

The calendar lists planned peacemaking events during 1999.

"From the birthplace of three religions, may the new millennium be the dawn of enduring peace, prosperity and security for all," it read.

The optimistic tone of the encounter contrasted with President Bill Clinton's failure during a meeting Tuesday with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to get

Agence France Presse, December 15, 1998

the peace process back on track.

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LOAD-DATE: December 15, 1998

THE NEW YORK TIMES **NATIONAL** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1998

Hundreds Rally at N.Y.U.

Artists, scholars and politicians, including Elie Wiesel, Toni Morrison and Gloria Steinem, criticized the impeachment proceedings as a hypocritical sham at a rally last night at New York University.

"Who shall judge the judges?" asked Mr. Wiesel.

About 700 people jammed an auditorium and an overflow room at the rally. Its organizers included Stephen Holmes, a professor at the law school, and the historian Sean Wilentz, both of whom testified last week on behalf of Mr. Clinton before the House Judiciary Committee.

Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat of Manhattan, along with the actor Alec Baldwin, urged audience members to lobby representatives to vote against impeachment.

E. L. Doctorow, the novelist, said the impeachment proceedings had "all the legitimacy of a coup d'état."

"I can't think of an American President that hasn't lied to the American people," he added. "Perhaps the problem with Clinton is that his lie is without grandeur."

Hillary Clinton Visits 'Oasis of Peace' Where Israelis, Palestinians Coexist

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER
Washington Post Foreign Service

NEVE SHALOM, Israel, Dec. 13—Call it what you will, by the Hebrew name it carries on Israeli maps, by the Arabic "Wahat Salam," or in English, "Oasis of Peace," this half-Palestinian, half-Jewish community of 32 families is anything but the gentle-touch kind of place that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of after a late morning tour today.

Founded 20 years ago as an exercise in coexistence, its residents remain adamant about sharing power democratically, educating their children bilingually and biculturally, and providing what they call a "living demonstration" of cooperation between the two societies with historical claims to this part of the world.

"Peace begins at home, in our schools and in our hearts . . . Thank you for doing God's work, the everyday work of peace," Clinton told community members at the start of a day in which she and Sara Netanyahu, wife of the Israeli prime minister, also visited a hospital and a preschool program for Arab and Jewish children. The choice of sites was obvious. As Clinton's husband tried to negotiate peace with the feuding Palestinian and Israeli leaders, she highlighted places where differences in religion and culture have faded.

But make no mistake, after the Ramadan lanterns and Hanukkah candles and Christmas lights are long extinguished at Neve Shalom, after the children sang their song with alternating Hebrew and Arabic verses, the differences still roil.

During the Persian Gulf War, as Scud missiles traversed from Iraq into Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, shouting matches erupted in Neve Shalom's cramped communal bomb shelter, with Jewish residents shocked that Palestinians wouldn't condemn Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and Palestinians shocked that their Jewish neighbors so fervently supported the United States-led gulf coalition.

On Israeli Independence Day, there have been uncomfortable moments as Jews unfurled their patriotism and their blue Star of David flags, and Palestinians, forbidden until a few years ago from displaying their national colors, wondered how they should respond on a day known in their culture as "the disaster."

Two years ago, after one community member's son was killed while stationed with the Israeli army in south Lebanon, there was a charged debate between those who felt a memorial should be erected and those who didn't want to condone the Israeli army's actions along the northern frontier. Eventually, a memorial was placed near the town's basketball court.

In short, nothing about this hot-house experiment in peace-building has led the two sides to forget themselves or their cultures or their emotions. Nothing has led to the conclusion that peace is easy work, a fact most knew when they accepted the challenge of living here.

"I don't say we don't have conflict," said Abdessalam Najjar, a Palestinian Muslim who was among Neve Shalom's original residents and is now the village's public relations director. "When it comes to the national conflict, the dynamics still occur."

What it has done is prove that the two sides can negotiate the rough spots and still run a successful school, create a successful community and build a life together.

There are no illusions about melting pots or assimilation or obliterating the centuries of conflict that have raged in the region. When the tensions mount, Najjar said, the



BY LAURENT REBOURS—ASSOCIATED PRESS
Hillary Rodham Clinton is surrounded by children in Neve Shalom, a "living demonstration," its leaders say, of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence. Clinton thanked the community for "doing God's work, the everyday work of peace."



two halves of this village's mosaic go their separate ways, allowing the Jews to vent their Jewish emotions and the Palestinians to vent their Arab ones. After that, he said, they can meet in an emotionally neutral way and listen to what the other has to say.

"In the U.S. the talk is of a melting pot," Najjar said. "We are not at that level. We still have to give legitimacy to diversity. We are two cultures, two peoples . . . We each have our identity."

If Clinton's visit here reinforced the hopes that led Father Bruno Hussar, a Dominican priest, to establish this place in the late 1970s, interviews with village officials and residents showed just how slender a foothold Neve Shalom has in Israeli society.

Funded in part by international grants, given land by a nearby Trappist monastery, the town has never been successful in its requests to the government for more acreage to expand. Though Neve Shalom would like to grow, that will have to come through further negotiations with the Trappist monks.

On the other hand, plans are being laid for developments on either side of Neve Shalom that could obliterate it in a sea of new suburban housing. Located in the hills between Tel Aviv and Jerusa-

lem, Neve Shalom's collection of small stucco homes may soon be surrounded by 400 houses built on a nearby farm and sold at market rates, and 300 others being planned by the government to house the families of a counterterrorist squad. Either development, locals say, would probably make it impossible to maintain centerpiece projects such as an elementary school where Palestinian and Jewish co-principals share authority and the students have lessons every week on Hebrew, Islamic and Christian culture.

A separate "Peace School," the site of training for high school students and Israeli and Palestinian adults, might survive, but the spirit of Neve Shalom would likely fade, along with its carefully balanced demographic mix.

Residents say they are uncertain how sympathetic local planning boards and other government agencies will be when presented with that fact—a situation alluded to when the town's leader, in remarks preceding Clinton's, made a pitch for support to Sara Netanyahu. "Politically we don't have big enemies, but we are not especially a favorite," said Daniella Kita'in, a 13-year resident of Neve Shalom whose 21-year-old son, Tom, was killed when two Israeli helicopters crashed en route to Lebanon.

Kita'in said, she grew up thinking of Arabs as "low," but now sees their culture as sophisticated and important in world history, and their society, like any other, textured with good and bad points, good and bad people.

That's the feeling that has been transmitted to the school playground as well, said her daughter, Orit, 11. "Many people are opposed to our being together, and think that Arabs and Jews are different," she said before her class sang for the first lady. "It is not true. . . . We are the same."

Asked, however, if there is ever a factional divide during recess, she and her friends acknowledged that there is.

"If the boys win a race or something," said one friend, "sometimes they make fun of us."

First Lady Starts Israel Tour at Cross-Cultural Oasis

By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

NEVE SHALOM, Israel, Dec. 13 — It took an Arab-Israeli village to provide Hillary Rodham Clinton with the ideal backdrop for her first appearance here, pleading the case to the Israeli public for the land-for-security plan that is now seen here as much more her husband's priority than the Israeli Prime Minister's.

This tiny planned community of 30 families an hour outside Jerusalem is one of the country's few experiments in cross-cultural living. It has a bilingual school that has won international honors and a carefully maintained ethnic balance of Arabs and Jews, all of them Israeli citizens. The self-described "oasis of peace" was chosen as a symbol of the possibility of reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians, the goal of the agreement brokered by President Clinton six weeks ago in Wye Mills, Md.

Flattered by the recognition, the town school draped a big hand-drawn "It Takes A Village" poster, a reference to the title of her recent book, behind the podium where Mrs. Clinton made her nationally televised remarks.

"I'm very grateful for the hard work that the Prime Minister and Chairman Arafat and my husband did at Wye that helped move us closer to fulfilling a dream of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, despite the setbacks that come when peace is being pursued," Mrs. Clinton said. Sara Netanyahu, the Prime Minister's wife, sat beside her.

"The strong belief that peace will prevail must once again be enforced," Mrs. Clinton said.

Arriving by White House limousine about 4 A.M. Washington time for her first stop, Mrs. Clinton impressed local people with her stamina and poise. Later in the day, she accompanied Mr. Clinton to a memorial gathering at the Mount of Olives grave site of the slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony at the Israeli presidential residence. She also attended Mr. Clinton's speeches to Israeli youth leaders and a state banquet.

But her independent itinerary be-



Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton was surrounded by Jewish and Arab children yesterday during her visit to Neve Shalom, Israel.

fore that was distinctly her own: an advertisement for her vision of multicultural education and community-based child-raising, and a carefully aimed appeal to ordinary Israelis on behalf of the American-brokered peace efforts.

Her visit to Neve Shalom was followed by a visit to the oncology ward of a Jerusalem children's hospital financed by an American Jewish women's group, where Or-

thodox Jewish patients and Palestinians from East Jerusalem receive state-of-the-art cancer therapy. Mrs. Clinton moved on to the headquarters of a home preschool program that was started in Israel to meet the needs of poor Arab and recent Jewish immigrant families, a program she helped adopt for use in rural Arkansas 12 years ago.

With fresh-scrubbed schoolchildren waving paper banners and

earnest young teachers discussing the frontiers of pedagogy, the scene at Neve Shalom seemed benignly archetypal for a Hillary Clinton visit. Three kindergarten children — Muhammed Najar, 4, an Israeli Arab Muslim; Kerem Ben-Yeshai, 5, an Israeli Jew, and Mouna Boulos, 4, an Israeli Arab Christian — stood in their classroom before a phalanx of cameras and solemnly lit a Ramadan lamp, a menorah, and, with an electric switch, a little tabletop Christmas tree.

And it was no coincidence that the banners held aloft at Mrs. Clinton's arrival were adorned not with national emblems but with hastily crayoned flowers and doves. The original plan was to greet Mrs. Clinton with real flags, residents said, but after fuller contemplation of the spectacle, the event's planners had second thoughts.

"They were going to have three flags, then they decided they didn't want Palestinian flags, so they decided on no flags," Laila Hasuna, an Arabic teacher at the Neve Shalom school, said with a wry smile.

It was widely presumed here that the ban on Palestinian flag-waving was imposed mainly to protect Mrs. Clinton, who, on the strength of one offhand comment this year, earned a reputation among Israelis as a back-room advocate of independence for the West Bank and Gaza, which she is scheduled to visit tomorrow.

Speaking in May via satellite to a gathering of European teen-agers, Mrs. Clinton said she thought it was "in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state and for it to be a state that is responsible for its citizens' well-being, a state that has responsibility for providing education and health care and economic opportunity to its citizens, a state that has to accept the responsibility of governing."

This seeming endorsement of statehood and her use of the officially taboo term "Palestine" was condemned by American Jewish organizations and quickly disavowed by the White House. During her tour today, Israeli journalists shouted questions on Palestinian independence but were ignored.



BY RON EDMONDS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putting on the dog (and cat): First pets Buddy, left, and Socks are the subjects of this ornament displayed in the White House State Dining Room.

Chronicles

The White House's Holiday Corps de Decor

By SARAH BOOTH CONROY
Special to The Washington Post

Warm sunshine melted some holiday spirits. Never mind: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's "Winter Wonderland" is the most glittery and glorious White House Christmas decoration the Chronicler remembers. The theme was chosen last spring, Mrs. Clinton said during last week's balmy weather, "but the only winter wonderland this season is inside the White House."

On the Blue Room's 18-foot balsam fir, given by the Chapman family's Silent Night Tree Farm in Endeavor, Wis., 2,700 lights shine on 2,343 ornaments. The snowmen, mittens and hats, wooden sporting equipment, balls, glass icicles, bead strings and some indescribable objects were made by 737 artists from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

Another 18 trees are on view, five in the West Wing. A centuries-old brass menorah in the West Wing lobby was lent by the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro, N.Y., the earliest surviving North American Jewish homestead. The East Garden Room tree has 400 ornaments made in 65 countries where Peace Corps volunteers served. The Oval Office tree was decorated by students from the Fillmore Art Center, a D.C. school.

Some 80 volunteers, paying their own expenses, come annually from near and far to deck the White House halls in a three-day dawn-to-midnight marathon.

Nancy Clarke, who volunteered some 20 years ago, now is the White House's chief florist. She and Robert Isabell, a noted New York floral designer, collaborated on the decorations, with Isabell and his staff of 40 spending almost a month gilding long garlands of magnolia leaves. They also made a 600- to 700-pound wreath topped with flickering candles that hangs from the East Room ceiling, and a massive 2,000-pound, 24-foot lighted wreath mounted from the South Facade roof to the Truman balcony.

Ed Gage of Nashua, N.H., has volunteered for 25 years. "I remember the years when the decorations in the big house were very traditional, magnolias on the mantels, poinsettias in the hall," he said. "In the Blue

Room, we used to put a wreath of wet moss, dripping all over the place. This year everything is different. I hung the grand staircase with ferns, silver branches and baby's breath greens. I said 'wow' when I saw the huge wreath in the East Room. The president and Mrs. Clinton walked through and spoke nicely to everybody. They're very gracious."

Charlie and Wendy Heather Elsasser of Heather and Honey Florists in Alexandria volunteered 15 years ago. Back then, she lived in New York, he in New Jersey; they courted while trimming the White House. Charlie Elsasser still volunteers—this year ornamenting the West Wing. His wife is now on the White House's florist staff and this Christmas was charged with festooning the second floor, where the first family lives. "They have a real tree in the Oval Yellow Room," Wendy Elsasser said. "We use silk flowers in deference to President Clinton's allergies. We wouldn't want him to lose his voice."

The most traditional trappings are the green tree skirt sewn by needle artists from every state, territory and the District for the Clintons' first White House Christmas, and a kissing ball by Washington needlepoint master Hyla Hurley and associates.

Even the gingerbread house seems to have been built with a magic wand. This legendary castle is built of 40 pounds of chocolate and 80 pounds of gingerbread, and features a sugary Socks and Buddy. White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier and his colleague Franette McCulloch, wearing the high white hats of their profession, accepted congratulations at the preview. Fondant fantasies by New York confectionery artist Colette Peters adorn mantelpieces. In the Green Room are an edible (you wouldn't dare) ice palace and garden and in the Red Room an igloo, penguins, icicles, snowflakes and trees.

Buddy, from all reports, is under 24-hour guard.

White House visiting hours are 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Saturday. For information about free White House tour tickets, call 202-208-1631 or go to the White House Visitors Center at 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.



Arab-Jewish work at Hadassah impresses the First Lady

By JUDY SIEGEL

JERUSALEM (December 14) - The sight of Jewish, Moslem, and Ethiopian immigrant children and parents sharing the same Jerusalem hospital wards and helping each other yesterday moved Hillary Clinton to hope that peace among different peoples could be built in the rest of the region as well.

The first lady arrived an hour late at the Mother and Child Center of Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, accompanied by Sara Netanyahu and welcomed by Hadassah president Marlene Post.

Young patients, hospitalized with anything from broken legs and neurological diseases to cancer, said they hoped people could live together peacefully in this region "like the Americans do."

Clinton was impressed by the hospital school, where patients study with specially trained teachers and computers at their own level while away from their own classrooms.

The Arab and Jewish children, who spent the time waiting for the guests' arrival by drawing pictures and making dreidels, waved the American flags they had been given and happily accepted the packages of sweets that Clinton and Netanyahu brought them.

Clinton said she had heard much in the US about how the Hadassah Medical Organization, with the support of over 300,000 members in the US and 32 other countries, is working to cure children and adults.

She added her country's thanks to Hadassah staffers for bringing their expertise to Kenya and saving lives after the terrorist bombing of the US embassy and nearby buildings earlier this year.

They then went to the Chagall Synagogue next door and marvelled at the 12 stained glass windows depicting the 12 tribes of Israel.

Post presented both Clinton and Netanyahu with silver-and-brass charity boxes made by the artist Gideon Haim, with peace doves and a Jerusalem skyline.

A dreidel for Chelsea Clinton, which had been taken to space by the Jewish astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman, was given to the First Lady as well.



Hillary gets view of 'the everyday work of peace'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

NEVEH SHALOM (December 14) - Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared to savor the first-hand lesson in what she termed "the everyday work of peace" she received yesterday from the children, teachers and parents she encountered at the village of Neveh Shalom and at a center for mother-child education in Jerusalem.

Not even long delays, repeated security checks or overcast weather could dull the sense of wonder and excitement pulsating through the children with whom she met, or the enthusiasm of Clinton and her escort, Sara Netanyahu.

"I want to show her my pictures," five-year-old Isam said as he and his fellow kindergarteners prepared for the special guests at the Neveh Shalom/Wahat al-Salam preschool and kindergarten at Neveh Shalom, near Latrun.

Outside the adjoining primary school, trees were decorated with hamsas and cherubs, and the title of Clinton's book *It Takes a Village* seemed to take on a new meaning in the excited village of Neveh Shalom, where Jews and Arabs live side by side.

Informed that her special guests had arrived, Adi Pressler, 9, of nearby Tsur Hadassah, trailing harem pants and scarves behind her she had donned for a special dance for the guests, hoped "this important lady" would forgive her if she messed up. "I don't want her to take any presents home from here, just the idea that there should be peace," she said.

That idea was brought home to the children's guests first by the lighting of a hanukkia, a Christmas tree, and a Ramadan lantern in the kindergarten, then in the primary school youngsters' song "A Time of Peace," which seemed to touch a chord with both Clinton and Netanyahu.

"I'm very grateful that the hard work that the prime minister and [Palestinian Authority] Chairman [Yasser] Arafat and my husband did at Wye helped move us closer to fulfilling a dream of peace here in the Middle East, and particularly between Israelis and Palestinians," Clinton said.

"Despite the setbacks that come anytime any great challenge is being pursued, the strong belief that peace will prevail must once again be reinforced."

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reinforced."

Praising the school's doctrine of bicultural, bilingual education, Clinton said: "If all children could have this experience, we would be that much closer to peace, where we would respect and look at each other as individuals, and not classify people according to the group from which they come."

"President [John] Kennedy once said that on this Earth, God's work is our own, and certainly the work of building peace and building trust is among the most important work we have to do. Thank you for doing God's work, the everyday work of peace," Clinton said, before she and Netanyahu stopped to pose and hug with some of the children.

"Clinton shares with all of us the hope for peace," Netanyahu said, 'that our people will live together, work together, dream together for a different better future for all of us.'

The two women seemed to have an easy rapport, nodding to each other as they shared ideas or explanations. That was also the case at their visit to Yad Rahel in Jerusalem's Katamonim neighborhood, where youngsters lined the street singing the first lady's name.

The two visited the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, a program designed to help disadvantaged mothers help their own children and themselves to learn. Five-year-olds from the Arab neighborhood of Beit Safafa and Ethiopian newcomers from Talpiot were busy with glue and brightly colored construction paper as they built small houses with their mothers, an exercise designed to stress the importance of family life and respect for each others' cultures.

Clinton first found out about the program - founded by Dr. Avima Lombard of the National Council of Jewish Women's Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1969 - in 1985, introduced it in her own state of Arkansas, and has been a major supporter of it since.

After seeing the youngsters and their parents sing and work together, Clinton praised the program and its sponsors, recalling the words of the Talmud. "It says that every blade of grass has an angel that bends over it and whispers: 'Grow, grow,'" she said. "Well, when it comes to our children, we all have an obligation to be those angels, and lean over and whisper: 'Grow and grow.'"

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December 13, 1998 Mideast-US-Hillary lead 11:58 GMT

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 364 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton visits Jewish-Arab school

DATELINE: (ADDS quotes. Pictures)

BODY:

NEVE SHALOM, Israel, Dec 13 (AFP) - US First Lady Hillary Clinton visited on Sunday this unusual Israeli town where Jewish, Moslem and Arab Christian children live and study together in a vibrant experiment in peaceful coexistence.

Accompanied by Sarah Netanyahu, the wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Clinton toured the village of Neve Shalom, Hebrew for Oasis of Peace, located about 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of Jerusalem.

At the town school, the first ladies were serenaded by a children's choir singing peace songs and attended a ceremony for the lighting of the first candle for the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hannukah.

Clinton said the village's effort to promote religious and racial coexistence was a living example of the kind of peace her husband Bill Clinton was trying to help foster in his efforts to rescue the US-brokered Wye River peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

"I think that the Wye agreement will lead to peace between Israel and Palestinians, we do hope that peace will prevail," she told the children.

"In order for that to be real, however, people need to live and work and go to school together" as you do here, she said.

"You can't just sign an agreement," she continued, "peace actually begins in our homes and communities like this."

Local organizers of the visit initially planned to raise Israeli and Palestinian flags in Neve Shalom but this was stopped by the Netanyahu government, which objected to having the Palestinian banner fly inside Israel, officials said.

Hillary Clinton also visited a joint Arab-Jewish school in Jerusalem and a mother and child care center at a hospital in the city.

Monday the Clintons are scheduled to visit the Gaza Strip, the first time a US president will travel to the Palestinian territories.

Agence France Presse, December 13, 1998

As Hillary visited Neve Shalom, her daughter Chelsea toured east Jerusalem's Old City.

Tuesday the Clinton family will pay a pre-Christmas visit to the Palestinian-run town of Bethlehem on the West Bank, which Christians believe was the birthplace of Christ, and then tour Masada, scene of an historic Jewish battle near the Dead Sea.

ChW/dm/txw

LOAD-DATE: December 13, 1998

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DISTRIBUTION: Europe;Britian;Scandinavia;Middle East;Africa;India;England;Asia

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HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton asks Arabs and Jews to live together

BYLINE: RON KAMPEAS

Mideast-Mrs Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru

DATELINE: NEWE SHALOM, Israel

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton lit a Hanukkah candle, a Christmas tree and a Ramadan lantern Sunday as she promoted Jewish-Arab coexistence as the basis for a lasting peace.

"Religion should not be an instigator of war, but a bridge to peace," Mrs. Clinton told school children in Newe Shalom, a village tucked into a hillside west of Jerusalem where 36 Arab and Jewish families live together.

Referring to the fragile Wye River peace agreement her husband helped negotiate and is now trying to rescue, Mrs. Clinton said that "the strong belief that peace will prevail must once again be reinforced."

The remarks were broadcast live by both Israeli television stations. At each stop of her tour, she was attended by a phalanx of Israeli reporters.

Israelis have paid particular attention to Mrs. Clinton's remarks since May, when she told high school students in Geneva that she thought a Palestinian state would make for a stabler Mideast. The statement was disavowed by the White House.

Israel says talk of Palestinian statehood is subject to final status negotiations. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has angered Israelis by saying he will declare a Palestinian state next year.

Israeli reporters repeatedly asked Mrs. Clinton accompanied at each of her stops by Sarah Netanyahu, wife of the Israeli prime minister, whether she still endorsed a Palestinian state.

She ignored the questions.

"The president's wife is here to see us, because there is peace here," said Manar Gabriel of Newe Shalom, a member of a fourth-grade dance troop bedecked with gold pantaloons and brightly-colored scarves.

The Utopian settlement's teachings have failed to catch on in Israel, where Jews and Arabs live separately, and its teachings are anathema to Netanyahu's

hard-line government a fact not lost on Rayek Rizek, the settlement's mayor.

After praising Mrs. Clinton's interest in the village, Rizek turned to Mrs. Netanyahu and said: "It is no secret that the interest of the world in (Newe Shalom) has never been matched by a similar degree of interest here."

It was a message subtly conveyed at all of Mrs. Clinton's stops.

At a children's ward in Hadassah Hospital, she praised the hospital for treating all patients equally, regardless of their backgrounds, and made a point of meeting with both Jewish and Arab children.

She especially praised the transplant work at the hospital, noting that organs had been transplanted from Arabs to Jews and Jews to Arabs.

"You are truly doing God's work by making us recognize our common humanity," she said.

That irked David Bar-Illan, a senior adviser to Netanyahu.

"I was really surprised that the president's wife was surprised that so many patients at Hadassah Hospital were Arabs and that the exchange of implants was done regardless of whether the patients were Arabs or Jews," he told The Associated Press.

BC-USMIDEAST-HILLARY:WA national

Hillary Clinton visits innovative Israeli preschool program

(HAS TRIM)

By Nomi Morris

Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT)

JERUSALEM Back in 1985, Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband to a Southern governors' conference where she happened to see a newspaper report about an innovative Israeli program for preschool children.

Nan Rich, a Miami-area resident who is now the president of the National Council of Jewish Women, had just launched the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) in Florida. It was designed to involve low-income parents in the early education of their children to give them a head start in life.

"Hillary cut out the article, took it home and then invited me and the program's founder to see her," Rich recalled Sunday as she waited for the First Lady to arrive at a HIPPY center in Jerusalem. "Hillary embraced it. She said, 'I have to have this program.' She made up her mind and brought it to Arkansas by 1986."

Under the stewardship of Clinton and Rich, HIPPY has since spread to 28 states, and has touched the lives of 17,000 American families. Pioneered by Avima Lombard, an Israeli professor, in 1969, the program has also been set up in seven other countries.

On Sunday at Yad Rachel, a community center in a working-class neighborhood of Jerusalem, Clinton met Jewish and Arab mothers and children who, with the help of program, have built self-esteem through song, dance, reading and other forms of play-centered learning.

"It struck a chord with me. I was immediately taken by the emphasis on assisting the parent, to be someone who could then in turn support her child," Clinton told the gathering. "Now we have actual scientific evidence that these kinds of activities with very young children are not only a nice thing to do, but they literally build brain cells. That by reading to babies, infants, toddlers, young children, you are helping create more connections in the brain."

For Clinton and Rich, who have remained close friends, the event was a kind of homecoming the first time Clinton has visited a HIPPY center in Israel.

"I feel that Hillary and Avima and I have come full circle," Rich said. "From Israel where it started, to Miami, my home community, where Hillary learned about HIPPY, to Arkansas where Hillary made it a reality. And now back to Israel, where it all began."

Clinton was accompanied by the Israeli prime minister's wife, Sarah Netanyahu, who studied psychology at the Hebrew University, where the National Council of Jewish Women runs the research institute that spawned HIPPY.

(EDITORS: STORY CAN END HERE)

The event capped a day of child- and family-centered stops for the First Lady, whose philosophies as articulated in her book, "It Takes A Village," seemed to come to life at every turn.

She and Netanyahu started out at Neve Shalom, a two-decade old village outside Jerusalem where 30 Arab and Jewish families live and work together. Children in an integrated kindergarten lit a Hanukkah candle, a Christmas tree and a lantern for the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, which begins later this month.

The theme of peace through tolerance also was emphasized at a newly built cancer center for parents and children at Hadassah Hospital.

"When we are at a hospital like this, it really strips us down to our common humanity," Clinton said. She continued, "You have been building a bridge to peace, by treating individuals as they are, not asking the questions 'Where are you from?' and 'Who are your people?' but instead asking, 'What is wrong and how can we help?'"

Monday, Hillary Clinton will visit a Palestinian children's charity in the Gaza Strip and speak to refugee women about empowerment before attending a session of the Palestinian National Council. There President Clinton will make a keynote address that is viewed as the heart of the Clintons' three-day visit to the Middle East.

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BC-MIDEAST-CLINTON-HILLARY (PICTURE)

Israeli kids send signs of peace to Hillary Clinton

By Jennifer Friedlin

JERUSALEM, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Dressed in teddy bear pajamas, an ailing Israeli child had a holiday season message of peace for Hillary Clinton on Sunday.

Eight-year-old Bat-el Biton told the U.S. First Lady in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital that American, Israeli and Palestinian leaders "should talk and make peace so that there will be no more wars."

Mrs Clinton, accompanying her husband on a three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian-controlled areas, toured the hospital as well as the Jewish-Arab joint village of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in central Israel.

"When we are in a hospital like this it really strips us down to our common humanity in a very obvious way," Clinton said.

"There is no difference in a family worried about a child with cancer, no matter where that child comes from, what beliefs those parents might have."

Some 40 clapping children greeted the First Lady in the hospital playroom, decorated with colourful drawings, gold and red streamers and symbols of the Jewish festival of Chanukkah, which began on Sunday evening.

Clinton sat and spoke with several of the children, who presented her and Netanyahu's wife Sara, with books of their drawings. Clinton held the children's hands as they spoke and then swayed along as they serenaded her with a holiday song.

The children, many of whom suffer from life-threatening illnesses, said they were honoured by Clinton's visit and hoped she would be able to contribute to Middle East peace.

"I want there to be peace between the two people (Israelis and Palestinians)," said 14-year-old Abdallah Muhamad Akrib of Hebron, a frequent flashpoint of violence.

But speaking to staff and reporters following the visit, Clinton said the hospital represented an example of ways in which Jews and Palestinians had built their own "bridge to peace."

"As you have taken care of the generations of people who walk through these doors you have been...building a bridge to peace, by treating individuals as they are, not asking the questions 'how do you worship, do you celebrate Chanukkah, or Christmas or Ramadan, where do you live, who are your people', but instead 'what is wrong and how can we help'," she said.

Earlier in the day, Clinton visited Neve Shalom, the only Jewish-Arab joint village in Israel. There, the first lady helped Jewish, Christian and Moslem kindergarten children celebrate their respective holidays.

After lighting Chanukkah candles, a Christmas tree and a Ramadan lantern, Clinton said: "Peace actually begins in our homes, in communities like this and in our hearts, and it has to be nurtured within and among human beings and then passed on to our children and that is precisely what you are doing here."

Meanwhile, daughter Chelsea was on her own round of religious holy sites in Jerusalem.

She visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre followed by Islam's al-Aqsa Mosque and Judaism's Western Wall, where she touched the historic stones, surrounded by Jewish women lost in prayer.

REUTERS

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AM-Mideast-Mrs Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0673,0740

Arab and Jewish children to show Mrs. Clinton co-existence works

Eds: ADDS three grafs with additional details on Mrs. Clinton's schedule

With AM-Israel-Netanyahu's Future, Bjt

By SARI BASHI= Associated Press Writer=

NEWE SHALOM, Israel (AP) While her husband tries to shore up a fragile Mideast peace, Hillary Rodham Clinton will watch Arab and Jewish children demonstrate with playful ease what grown-ups in this troubled land find so difficult to do how to get along.

Emphasizing programs that put children first, Mrs. Clinton has chosen to visit an Israeli-Palestinian kindergarten, an Israeli preschool enrichment program she helped bring to Arkansas and a rehabilitation center for handicapped Palestinian children.

"I want her to see that there's a possibility for Palestinians and Jews, with all their differences of opinion, to live together," said Ayshe Najar, a Palestinian kindergarten teacher at the Newe Shalom village Mrs. Clinton will tour during a three-day presidential trip to Israel and the Palestinian areas.

Nestled in a hill and surrounded by olive groves, Newe Shalom was founded 22 years ago by a Dominican monk who wanted to show that Arabs and Jews could live in the same community. However, the idea has not caught on and throughout Israel, Arabs and Jews still largely live in separate towns, villages and neighborhoods.

On Friday, scores of American and Israeli security officials combed the community of 36 families to make final arrangements for Mrs. Clinton's visit.

Resident Howard Shipper said Newe Shalom, Hebrew for "A New Peace," was not insulated from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Of course there's a lot of friction, just like in any small community," Shipper said, strolling along the flower-lined streets that give way to breathtaking views of the Jerusalem hills on one end and Tel Aviv on the other.

All residents speak Hebrew and Arabic and the mayor's job rotates between Arabs and Jews.

Mrs. Clinton will visit the kindergarten, painted in yellow and red, where nine preschoolers from Newe Shalom and 19 from surrounding towns are taught.

On Friday, two children wrestled on the nap couch, nearly tearing down the Arabic and Hebrew alphabet posters on a wall behind them. Three low tables with tiny chairs stood neatly in the center of the room.

One table held a Menorah, or eight-armed candelabra used during the Jewish Hanukkah holiday, a foot-high Christmas tree and a small Fanous lantern, a traditional gift for children during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Mrs. Clinton was to light all three during her visit, and the children have been sketching the objects to learn more about each other's religions.

Mrs. Clinton and Sarah Netanyahu, the wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, will also visit an "Etgar," Hebrew for "Challenge," an enrichment program that teaches poor Jewish and Arab parents how to teach their preschool children.

Etgar officials said Mrs. Clinton helped bring the program to Arkansas more than a decade ago as HIPPY, or Home Instruction Pre-School Program Youngsters, after hearing about it on a radio program.

Soha Arafat, wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, will take Mrs. Clinton to Palestine's Future, a rehabilitation center for physically and mentally handicapped children.

The center is housed in a two-story villa near the Arafats' guest house in Gaza City. This week, workers were erecting a stage in the front yard where the 65 children ages 5 to 12 at the center will display crafts they have prepared for Mrs. Clinton's visit.

Children and families is the theme running through Mrs. Clinton's separate schedule during President Clinton's three-day trip to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

In addition to the school programs, Mrs. Clinton will tour the Mother and

Child Care Pavilion at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem and meet with the families of four Israeli soldiers who have been missing in action since the 1980s.

Mrs. Clinton will accompany the president to Gaza on Monday, but go out on her own while he is meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Among her stops: a visit to a women's center at the Beach Refugee Camp designed to teach refugee women skills necessary for improving their economic standing and to a Palestinian center for disabled children.

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