

CLINTON COOKIES



As America's sweet tooth gets warmed up for the holidays, Santa Fe Community College culinary arts students are lending a hand to make sure President Clinton has his pick of gingerbread cookies. On Monday, culinary arts department chairman Bill Weiland coached students in baking some 150 cookies. The 12 best will go to decorate the four Christmas trees at the grand foyer in the White House. **At left:** Weiland, left, debates the merits of cookies with culinary arts student Iv Wehe. **Above:** A student puts the finishing touches on a bell-shaped cookie. **Below:** A selection of Monday's best work awaits shipping to Washington, D.C., later this week. College culinary arts students from around the country were asked to participate in making decorations for White House trees this year.

SILVIA FLORES/JOURNAL

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION





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Please Show this
to Hillary.

Bill Weiland

P.S. Tell her I'm the
Chef who grew up with
her in Park Ridge.

WKE-

This is the article we
Spoke about -- want us to
do anything? Dilling
x67136

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The Buffalo News

December 24, 1995, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS, Pg. 11F

LENGTH: 732 words

HEADLINE: MORE NEEDY A CHALLENGE AT CHRISTMAS

BYLINE: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON; Creators Syndicate, Inc.

BODY:

It's hard to believe Christmas is here again, with a new year right around the corner. I love the holiday traditions I grew up with and am always swamped by nostalgia every time I hear a familiar carol or unpack an ornament.

In my home, we waited until close to Christmas Eve to put up our tree and usually didn't finish decorating until late that night. We made ornaments out of papier mache, tin foil, pipe cleaners and anything else we could imagine. My mother would praise our creations, and my father would ask which side was up.

Over the years, I played most of the parts in our church nativity pageant. And one night, I even suffered the indignity of having my halo fall off as I fainted in an overheated sanctuary.

When Bill and I married, we melded our traditions, and then after Chelsea was born, we created new ones for her. We put up our tree a little earlier and make special Christmas cookies together. It seems like every year we watch Chelsea perform in "The Nutcracker" and church pageants. We still talk about the bitterly cold night the pipes froze in our church. The fire department arrived right before one little angel's hair caught fire from the candle she was holding, causing her father to vault over his seat to smother the flames with his hands.

Bill and I are happy to be over midnight hunts on Christmas Eve for toy batteries we'd forgotten. But we still wait too long to buy and wrap our presents, and as we get older, we spend more time searching for the stocking stuffers we cleverly hid away in July.

We've always been blessed at Christmas, but we know that's not the case for many children whose families have fallen on hard times. Instead of feeling excited about Santa coming, they are worried he will never find them.

These children can only hope that somebody -- anybody -- will remember them during the holidays.

This year, there is a soaring demand for clothing, shelter, food and toys, according to nearly every major charitable organization in the United States. Here in Washington, one church even had to turn away hungry families over Thanksgiving after running out of food.

The Buffalo News, December 24, 1995

Those seeking help are not just the poor and homeless. Increasingly, they are working families beset by medical catastrophes, lay-offs and economic factors beyond their control.

"There are simply more needy people," says Robert A. Watson, the national commander of the Salvation Army. "We're frantically trying to make the available resources go as far as possible."

Americans are responding to needs here and around the world.

Mary Damron of Ikes Fork, W.Va., began collecting toys, medical supplies and candy and putting them in shoe boxes after watching pictures of the war in Bosnia on television one night. After two weeks, she and members of her community had filled 1,200 boxes, which were delivered to children in Bosnia last Christmas. This year, she collected over 6,000 boxes. When Mary came to the White House to tell us about her work, she gave me a shoe box to fill.

In St. Louis, Catholic Charities has started a Secret Santa program with kids in shelters, day care and community centers writing letters to Santa Claus asking for specific gifts for Christmas. "I live in a shelter, so I know my mom cannot give me what I am asking you for," an 8-year-old boy wrote. "I want a remote control car. Thank you." One little girl asked for a Barbie doll to share with her twin. A girl named Adrienne wrote, "I love you, Santa Claus, and say a prayer for my family."

The letters are sent to members of the community who agree to buy a gift along with something practical, like mittens, a hat or a scarf.

When we lived in Arkansas, we bought presents for families who had written letters as part of a similar Secret Santa program. On Christmas Eve, we drove to their houses and delivered the gifts of food, clothes and toys in person.

We saw the desperation of mothers who were recently widowed or whose husbands had deserted them. We found couples struggling to provide for their children on minimum-wage jobs.

Celebrating Christmas can create wonderful traditions for our own children as well as for boys and girls who might otherwise be left out. But if the season is to have any lasting meaning after the wrapping paper is picked up and the tree is taken down, its spirit should live in our hearts throughout the year.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 1995

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

December 10, 1995 Sunday All

SECTION: Lifestyle & Food Pg. 5 Talking It Over

LENGTH: 853 words

HEADLINE: Presidential Christmas: Many help the White House glow
Planning starts in spring to line up decorations, events, meals, pastries

BYLINE: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

BODY:

The White House Christmas tree arrived recently from Ashe County, N.C. It's an 181/2-foot Fraser fir that was delivered to the South Lawn on a horse-drawn cart. Now, it's standing in the Blue Room, decorated with ornaments from all over the country.

The presentation of the tree marked the beginning of the holiday season at the White House, but planning for Christmas actually got under way months before.

In 1993, our first year in the White House, Head Usher Gary Walters told me we had to start planning in May. Being the type who's relieved if my own tree is up and decorated by Christmas Eve, I was shocked to hear this. But, with his help and the creative leadership of our social secretary, Ann Stock, we began meeting about mistletoe and holly just after Washington's cherry blossoms had started to fade.

Ann and her staff help me figure out the kinds of events we will have, draw up guest lists, prepare and send invitations and plan the entertainment. Chef Walter Scheib begins dreaming up menus for the dozens of receptions, buffets and dinners held here during the few weeks before Christmas.

And pastry chef Roland Messnier starts drawing blueprints for his annual gingerbread masterpiece. This year, he is baking an 80-pound house made of gingerbread, chocolate, marzipan and sugar. It will be wired with a working chandelier and adorned with scenes of children dreaming of sugarplums and Santa landing on the roof. (Knowing Roland, it will probably have a few other surprises, too.)

One of the first things we do when we start planning is choose a theme for the year's celebrations. In 1993, we used angels, and last year, the theme came from one of my family's favorite carols, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

This year, we are choosing another of our personal favorites. Bill, Chelsea and I have made a Christmas Eve tradition of reading the poem by Clement C. Moore, "A Visit From St. Nicholas." We thought it would be fun to borrow the poem's first line "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house . . ." as the official theme.

Once we settle on a theme, we rely on the creativity of thousands of Americans from across the country, including quilters, needlepointers, embroiderers, architects, crafts people and students, to help make it come to life. They make wreaths, ornaments, bows, stockings and tree skirts all the ingredients of a White House Christmas. Some even come and play music for visitors during the holiday season.

We also depend on an army of volunteers who spend several weeks opening boxes of ornaments that are then sorted by color, photographed and cataloged in a computer.

This year, as always, there are some wonderful creations. Architects and architecture students from all 50 states designed 500 ornaments that ranged from miniature models of the White House to a Florida beach house complete with palm trees decorated for Christmas to a spiral staircase with children climbing upstairs to bed.

We received stocking ornaments from members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderer's Guild of America, who didn't shy away from adding local touches, like a Texas flag motif and cowboy boots warming by a fireplace.

Elementary school students from across the country also sent in decorations, many of which offered reminders of childhood Christmases spent making colorful paper chains and other homemade ornaments.

None of the holiday celebrations would be possible without the volunteers who come from as far away as California to help tie burgundy and gold bows, make wreaths, string lights and garlands and hang ornaments for the 30 trees scattered throughout the White House complex. (We have our own tree in the private quarters on the second floor and, thanks to some cat-loving volunteers, a special Socks tree on the third floor.)

Under the direction of White House florist Nancy Clark, 80 volunteer florists and decorators broke open boxes of greenery about 1,200 feet worth and molded them into 5-foot-tall wreaths for each of the White House's 147 windows. They spent four days in a warehouse outside Washington getting the wreaths and garlands ready for hanging. Teams of volunteers then transferred the wreaths and ornaments to the White House and started decorating.

The house is transformed into a Christmas wonderland and opened to the public for the first reception of the season a tribute to the artists and entertainers selected as the year's recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors. Two nights later, the president and I host the annual Congressional Ball for all the members and their spouses. There will be events every day, and in all, we are expecting about 150,000 people over the next few weeks some for candlelight tours, others for parties, still more for special Christmas celebrations.

It is one of the prettiest and most festive times of the year to come to the White House. I hope you will have a chance to visit, if not this year, then some other holiday season. But, whether you do or not, I hope your own holiday is filled with peace and happiness.

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

December 8, 1995, Friday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TODAY; Pg. 13C

LENGTH: 493 words

HEADLINE: Clintons' tree features area kids' ornaments

BYLINE: Marian Burros, New York Times News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON - In this company town, where the business is politics, partisanship has even struck the White House Christmas tree.

An ornament provided by an architecture student for the 181/2-foot Fraser fir from North Carolina makes no bones about its creator's sympathies: Hung by the chimney with care are stockings marked "Bill" and "Newt," the former filled with candy and presents, the latter with lumps of coal.

While the House speaker may not be thrilled with the decoration, made by Rene Spineto, one of 10 winners in a competition at Oklahoma State University, White House social secretary Ann Stock says the ornament stays. "You can't control the creative process," she says. The tree and its decorations went on display Monday in the Blue Room.

The tree's 608 architectural ornaments are based on the poem by Clement Clarke Moore that begins " 'Twas the night before Christmas." Members of the American Institute of Architects and students at schools of architecture were asked to submit their interpretations.

Elementary schools from across the nation also submitted ornaments. Twenty fifth-graders from Flower Mound Elementary School traveled to Washington earlier this week, invited by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, says Peggy Martin, assistant principal. At the White House, the students found some of their ornaments:

Styrofoam snowmen, metal stars, a Popsicle-stick house bedecked with snow.

"We wanted to do something nice and not expect anything in return," says art teacher Jody Rentfro.

The Flower Mound students got a special rate from American Airlines for their day trip - the first visit to Washington for many of them. They toured the White House and visited the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the

National Aquarium.

They missed Mrs. Clinton by a few minutes, but "I enjoyed looking at all the decorations," says Kristen Youngblood, 10. "I hadn't been to Washington, and I thought it was a real neat experience."

Other area schools that contributed ornaments included the Lamplighter School and the Parish Day School in Dallas, and Brentfield Elementary and Moss Haven Elementary in the Richardson school district, says Julie Green, a White House spokeswoman.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to come see their ornaments," Ms. Green says. The White House received more than 3,500 ornaments from 144 elementary schools and from architects, artists and needlepoint makers.

Donna Austin, 41, an architect from Arlington, depicted a mouse fast asleep on a little nest made of shavings he had gnawed from a beam that holds up the house.

Ms. Austin, who has a master's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington, designed and built the ornament with the help of her husband and mother-in-law. They all went for a White House tour and found their ornament. "That was a big treat," Ms. Austin says.

Staff writer Thomas Huang contributed to this report.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

December 8, 1995, Friday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TODAY; Pg. 1C

LENGTH: 685 words

HEADLINE: White House stay hasn't changed traditions of Clintons' Christmas

BYLINE: Nancy Lloyd, Family Circle Magazine

BODY:

"We really love Christmas," says Hillary Rodham Clinton. The highlight of the family's holiday is singing carols and acting out the parts. "Everybody has props for their various roles, like antlers for reindeer and a big red nose for Rudolph."

This season Mrs. Clinton says the first family plans to hold onto these and other holiday traditions they've cherished through the years. "I had wonderful Christmases as a child," she recalls.

The first lady's earliest memories start with the magical transformation her parents would create each Christmas Eve.

After she and her two brothers went to bed, Hugh and Dorothy Rodham would bring in a tree and decorate the whole house with ornaments and other mementos from past years.

Christmas morning was "just this big surprise," she says.

Today, she blends her childhood traditions with the president's.

They typically attend church Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, go caroling and bake tons of goodies.

This year, as in the past, they have invited Dorothy Rodham, as well as others of their extended family and friends.

Chelsea's birth in 1980 made Christmas "even better," Mrs. Clinton says with a smile. "It just exploded in joy for us." Like most new parents, the Clintons found themselves concerned with such things as "putting together toys at 2 a.m."

While the Clintons traditionally open most of their gifts on Christmas Day, the three often exchange ornaments before the holiday. Giving such tree-trimmers to Chelsea is "a way of helping her start her own traditions," her mother says.

Making crafts and ornaments, however, is a team effort. "Over the years, Chelsea and I have done little clay figurines for creche scenes and a lot of decorating using natural objects like holly and seed pods."

Mrs. Clinton's favorite ornaments are angels. Since she loves and appreciates American crafts, each season she has filled the White House with American handmade ornaments.

"In my gifts to Bill over the years, I've tried to get him something really memorable," Mrs. Clinton says.

One year, she surprised him by commissioning a portrait of Chelsea. It remains one of their most treasured possessions.

"Bill always gives me something I have liked during the year," Mrs. Clinton says. Last year he gave her an opal ring, and he gave Chelsea a birthstone ring as well.

When Chelsea was 4, "she took those little plastic beads you buy in craft stores and made me jewelry," Mrs. Clinton recalls proudly.

"She did it all by herself. I just loved that."

While the president and his wife shared many of the same traditions growing up, their Christmas foods were different.

"Bill's was sort of a Southern dinner." Thus, Mrs. Clinton added his two favorite dishes - corn-bread stuffing and sweet--potato casserole - to her own menu.

Will the family count fat grams this holiday? Mrs. Clinton laughs, "Not at Christmas! I want a traditional dinner that everybody groans about when it's over."

As is usual in their home, dinner will be preceded by grace. "We take turns saying it," she says, "sometimes changing it, depending on what's going on."

Sharing with people less fortunate has been an integral part of the Clintons' holidays.

When they lived in Little Rock, Ark., "On Christmas Day we'd often go to a shelter or home for battered women and children and take gifts. Sometimes we'd fill in for the staff. And we'd always involve Chelsea. In many ways that was the best part of our Christmases," Mrs. Clinton says.

Since moving to Washington, the Clintons have continued this charitable tradition, despite the greater loss of freedom that the presidency entails. These days, however, they make their visits to shelters more often around Thanksgiving than at Christmas.

Still, Mrs. Clinton considers it a Christmas tradition. "What's important about Christmas is the love you have and how you share that," she says.

Her Christmas wish? It's a simple one: "I wish that the spirit of love and hope that is the Christmas story will find a place in every person's heart."

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, December 8, 1995

Distributed by New York Times Special Features

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): (1. - 2. Associated Press) 1. Hillary Rodham Clinton shows off the White House tree. "We really love Christmas," she says. 2. Hillary Rodham Clinton shows an artist's edible rendering of her childhood home.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

December 7, 1995 Thursday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: FYI; Pg. F1; STARGAZING

LENGTH: 522 words

HEADLINE: Stargazing

BODY:

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, especially at the White House:

President and Hillary Rodham Clinton are "real-tree people, not fake-tree people" the first lady says.

Just like the rest of the nation, they "dash around on Christmas Eve screaming that we don't have batteries for the toys."

A gingerbread model of the first lady's childhood home weighs 70 pounds and is so authentic it has beams in the crawl space and icing ivy crawling up the exterior. White House Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier jokes that "we have somebody standing here with a ruler" ready to whack the errant fingers of hungry visitors.

Willy's almost free

United Parcel Service is taking on a whale of a job - flying Keiko from Mexico City to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. For free. "We pride ourselves on being able to handle any delivery," UPS District Manager Mike Piedra boasts.

The 21-foot-long, 7,000-pound star of the "Free Willy" movies will travel in a fiberglass, steel and plywood box inside a C-130 Hercules transport plane, accompanied by veterinarians on an 8 1/2-hour flight in early January. His handlers hope his new, larger home will help his health problems - skin lesions, low body weight and a suppressed immune system.

They're Doomed

Doom, the Society for Secular Armageddonism, has awarded General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian dictator who ordered the assassination of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other dissidents, its 1995 Global Village Idiot Award, for making "a unique contribution to the world's rush toward total annihilation." His contenders: Accused Israeli assassin Yigal Amir, the bombers of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the Unabomber and Japanese cult leader Shoko Asahara.

Baubles are back

OK, you can relax now. Agents have recovered diamond jewelry stolen from the Duchess of York. A teen-age baggage handler at Kennedy International Airport has been arrested.

The \$ 380,000 necklace and bracelet, a wedding gift from Queen Elizabeth, went missing Monday. The FBI and airline security agents found the 12-diamond flower-cluster necklace at the home of the baggage handler, Gilbert Terrero, 19, and the bracelet in a locker at the airport.

Splitsville

Actor Jason Hervey, 23, who played the obnoxious big brother on "The Wonder Years," has filed for divorce from socialite Kelley Patricia O'Neill, 28, after 18 months of alleged bliss.

Love them eggs

Singer K.T. Oslin has a new approach to cholesterol now that she's recovering from heart surgery 12 weeks ago: If you can't eat it, wear it.

At a Grand Ole Opry concert, Oslin showed the crowd a keepsake from her hospital stay - a robe covered with a bacon-and-eggs pattern. "There I am shuffling along the heart floor in my cholesterol dress," she told the howling crowd.

Today's birthdays

Actress Ellen Burstyn is 63. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 46.

Actor C. Thomas Howell is 29.

- By Dru Sefton,

based on wire reports

GRAPHIC: Photos (4, color and b/w)
, Clinton; Keiko; Duchess of York; Oslin

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Newsday

December 7, 1995, Thursday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: PART II; Pg. B04

LENGTH: 1071 words

HEADLINE: ...And All Through the White House / 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue gets dressed up for the holidays. And Clement C. Moore would be proud.

BYLINE: By Denise Flaim. STAFF WRITER

BODY:

AT THE White House, decking the halls is woman's work.

Or, at least, showing them off is. On Monday, as the president readied himself for a day on the golf course after returning from last week's overseas trip, Hillary Clinton held court in the circular Blue Room, the official White House tree towering behind her.

A self-described "Christmas fanatic," the first lady wore a gold-buttoned green knit suit and joltingly holiday-themed accessories: a pair of shimmering earrings in the shape of red ribbons with dangling green balls by the Washington-based jewelry designer Ann Hand, and an equally glittery Christmas-tree pin from the Little Rock, Ark., shop of her friend Connie Fails.

"My staff is always nervous every year about what I'm going to show up with, whether I'm going to have antler ears," she joked even as her black-suede pumps signaled the holiday spirit by flashing their gold-colored metal studs.

By contrast, the White House's holiday trappings, which the first lady was showing off with Jackie Kennedyesque demureness, are relatively subdued, though certainly grander in scale. As it has in the past, the White House reached out to national associations, schools and guilds at the end of the summer, asking for contributions of ornaments to help execute the first lady-designated theme, which this year is taken from Clement C. Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

The 18 1/2-foot North Carolina fir that dominates the Blue Room is decorated with 600 house-themed ornaments from architects and architectural students throughout the nation - all to illustrate the "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house" opener.

The classic poem's mention of stockings resulted in 204 needlepointed and embroidered samples by professional crafters hung not on the chimney, but on the tree itself - though presumably with care.

Even in the tradition-weighted Blue Room, quirk was given great leeway: Some of the ornaments took the poem to new levels, including one papier-mache turkey emblazoned with the words "Out on the lawn there arose such a platter." And under the tree, the voluminous skirt of quilted panels representing each of the

50 states, assembled for the Clintons' first White House Christmas, didn't edit out political and environmental statements: Montana's state outline was filled with bears sporting rifle cross-hairs on their shoulders and endless stumps instead of forests.

To search out other verses of Moore's poem, visitors to the White House - 150,000 are expected in the weeks before Christmas - need to explore the other state rooms on its first floor. There they'll find the air redolent of evergreen, as ribbon-draped garlands hang from every doorway. In the Grand Foyer, four 17-foot-trees are hung not only with visions of sugar plums, but also with 2,000 ornaments of everything from marzipan to salt dough from the nation's culinary schools.

And in the State Dining Room, the 2 1/2-foot-high gingerbread house created by the staff pastry chef offers children "all snug in their beds" - and presumably one of them is a grade-school Hillary Clinton. This year, the house is, in the first lady's words, a "pretty close" replica of her childhood home in Park Ridge, Ill.

But despite all the handmade ornaments (including two trees' worth of contributions from the Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools, which are commissioned and displayed every year, this time in the Diplomatic Reception Room) and irreplaceable treasures (like the 18th-Century wood-carved Italian creche in the East Room), there are indications that this won't be a picture-perfect Christmas at the White House.

Almost half of the questions reporters directed to the first lady amid the glow of the Blue Room tree's 5,000 lights were about Bosnia. (Her Christmas wish, said Mrs. Clinton, was "for the peace process that has begun in so many parts of the world to continue and take deeper root and bear fruit.")

And perhaps as a nod to the bitter battle over budget cuts and government waste that dominate the president's domestic agenda, ornaments from the past two Christmases have been recycled and pointedly displayed on trees in the East Garden Room and East Foyer.

Though the Christmas decorations were hung by White House staff and more than 50 volunteers over four days last week while Mrs. Clinton accompanied her husband to Europe, she admits that her own life is not quite as well-ordered: Her holiday shopping is far from done, and the Clintons' tree in their private quarters - "We are real-tree people," the first lady said assuringly - is nowhere in sight.

"We look for a time when we can actually begin to decorate it together, so it usually doesn't go up until the 20th or 21st, after Chelsea is out of school and after the president has kind of cleared his decks," she explained. "We like to take everything out of the attic and just spread it everywhere."

And somewhere in the jumble might be the missing flashing-bulb necklace that this first lady - whose demure posings at this annual publicity event suggested Jackie Kennedy but whose personality seems to lean more toward Bette Midler - has worn around the White House for the last two Yuletides.

"If I find it, though," she said, "you'll see it before the end of the

season."

SOCKS PLAYS THE CARD

Over the past two holiday seasons at the White House, the image of the first feline has been immortalized in gingerbread and carved in wood as a tree ornament. But this year, the Clinton cat will be sharing the limelight on the front of the 1995 White House Christmas card - with a dog, no less. The card, which is a reproduction of Thomas McKnight's specially commissioned painting "White House Blue Room," features Socks along with Shadow - the McKnight family dog - lolling under the Christmas tree. Painted in a vaguely primitive style that the first lady called "mystical," the image contains at least one other example of the artist's creative license: A painting on the wall is actually the view from McKnight's Litchfield, Conn., home - a vista that includes an inn where George Washington spent the night.

White House Christmas cards are even collectible. Last year's card, which bears McKnight's painting of the White House's Red Room, was recently advertised for sale by a collector on the Internet for \$ 15. This year's card was mailed to more than 300,000 families. - Denise Flaim

GRAPHIC: Newsday Photo by Bruce Gilbert- 1) Throughout the White House are decorations made by schoolchildren. This delicate, handmade ornament hangs on a tree in the Diplomatic Reception Room. 2) The Clintons have spread good tidings of holiday cheer throughout the White House; this Christmas scene was placed with care above the fireplace in the Red Room. 3) Christmas trees in the East Wing are loaded with ornaments contributed by well-wishers; it took the staff and 50 volunteers four days to decorate all the White House settings. 4) The White House pastry chefs created this 2 1/2-foot-high gingerbread home as a treat for Hillary Clinton - it's a replica of the first lady's childhood home. Newsday Color Photos by Bruce Gilbert- 5) Hillary Clinton, a self-described 'Christmas fanatic,' with the tree in the Blue Room; 6) at left below, the White House card showing the room, including Socks and friend under the tree. 7) Newsday Color Cover Photo by Bruce Gilbert- The White House Christmas Tree

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THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

December 6, 1995 Wednesday, METRO

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A18

LENGTH: 605 words

HEADLINE: TOO DITZY FOR ME: HILLARY CLINTON ENTERING 4TH YEAR AS FIRST LADY

BYLINE: By Myriam Marquez of The Sentinel Staff

BODY:

The first lady of the greatest democracy on Earth is dressed in Christmas-tree green, sporting a big, '60s "flip" hairdo a la Annette Funicello and praising sensible, flat shoes.

Some time between the failed Clinton health-care plan and the Republicans' 1994 victory in Congress, Hillary Rodham Clinton seems to have decided that she wants to grow up to be the Democrats' version of a younger Barbara Bush. Certainly, the two women seem to have found common ground in their bad fashion sense.

For a tour of the White House, Clinton wore red earrings shaped like bows with little green balls dangling. A Christmas-tree pin adorned her green suit.

It's times like these that even the most dogmatic Democrats yearn for Nancy Reagan's Adolfo suits.

Forget about the spunky candidate's wife whose husband proclaimed during the 1992 campaign, "When you vote for me, you get two."

That was before public-opinion polls suggested that two might be too many. So now Hillary seems to prefer to act as if having half a brain is too much.

She will try to remain cheerful this holiday season, Mrs. Clinton told reporters Monday during a tour of the White House's Christmas decor, which included 32 Christmas trees and a 70-pound gingerbread house depicting her childhood home in Park Ridge, Ill.

She will try to keep her energy up in the midst of all those White House visitors - more than 150,000 are expected to view the decorations this month.

But most of all, she will take a deep breath.

Dreamy, as Annette would have said.

Oh, Moon-Doggie, as another popular '60s icon, Gidget, would have sighed.

For real. Asked Monday about the grueling holiday schedule, the Yale-educated lawyer who made a killing in the futures market more than a decade ago,

Orlando Sentinel Tribune, December 6, 1995

disclosed, "Flat shoes are a big help. But it's tiring, so you have to take a deep breath."

Oh, and did you know that the Clintons are "real-tree people?"

I don't mean to pick on Mrs. Clinton. I've always been a fan of her smarts and gumption. Today, though, I feel betrayed.

Why, I stuck up for Hillary when others were criticizing her for doing precisely what first ladies have done throughout history: advise their husbands. She just happened to do it in a very public way, as head of President Clinton's health-care task force.

OK, many Americans didn't appreciate the first lady's efforts. Some even called her nasty names.

After nursing her wounded ego, though, she came back punching. By this summer's end, she was telling off the Chinese government for violating human rights, particularly the rights of women. By fall, she was telling off Congress for trying to dismantle programs for the elderly and children.

But now the Christmas season has her sporting that silly flip and talking about flat shoes as if she were in an infomercial.

I would expect any president's wife to host White House parties and entertain heads of state and their spouses. I would expect her to give White House tours.

But I never, ever expected Hillary to act so ditzy entering her fourth year as first lady. It's as if she discovered in the White House attic a 1950s book on what makes for the hostess with the mostest, and on her way down she bumped her head and transformed into the Stepford First Lady.

Baking cookies and hosting teas never were Hillary's natural strengths. So what?

Heck, she proved that she could bake cookies - and nutritionally correct, low-fat cookies, at that - when a woman's magazine ran a contest between her and Barbara in 1992.

What more does Hillary Rodham Clinton have to prove? That a keen mind is a terrible thing for a first lady to waste?

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 7, 1995

328TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Denver Publishing Company
Denver Rocky Mountain News

December 5, 1995, Tuesday

SECTION: NEWS/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL; Ed. F; Pg. 62A

LENGTH: 147 words

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton kicks off yule season at White House

BYLINE: Erica Shaffer; Cox News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Christmas arrived at the White House in grand style Monday, thanks to 6,000 volunteers who turned their visions of the night before Christmas into decorative delights.

After three days of hanging, draping and lighting, volunteers transformed the mansion into a house glowing with holiday cheer.

The White House Christmas ornaments are representations of this year's theme, A Visit From St. Nicholas by Clement C. Moore.

President Clinton's wife, Hillary, wore her holiday cheer as she proudly presented the White House tree in the Blue Room. The self-described "Christmas fanatic" wore a green suit with gold buttons, earrings in the shape of red bows with hanging green bulbs and a tree-shaped brooch.

GRAPHIC: Photo

Hillary Rodham Clinton shows off the Christmas tree and other decorations in the White House Blue Room on Monday. By Doug Mills / Associated Press.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: December 7, 1995

330TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

December 5, 1995, Tuesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 33; National Desk

LENGTH: 261 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY FINDS VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS ON RETURN HOME

BYLINE: By from Times Wire Services

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the White House holiday season Monday by peering into an artist's edible rendition of her childhood home on Wisner Street in Park Ridge, Ill.

Clad in a kelly-green suit and colorful Christmas jewelry, Mrs. Clinton said her girlhood home's northern exposure was perfect for her and brother Hugh to play in the snow.

"If we built a snowman here, the snowman would be there until the bitter end of winter," she said.

The 70-pound home is made of gingerbread and icing. The bedroom has a bed, wooden trunk, dresser and a colorful wall mural of sugarplum fairies.

The First Lady also spoke about the deployment of U.S. troops to Bosnia just before the holidays.

She said she hoped Americans "will think not only to pray for them and follow them and support them, but will also think about the families back home."

Mrs. Clinton said she and President Clinton were exhausted from their European trip. They arrived home Sunday night to a White House sparkling with 32 elegant Christmas trees laced with ribbons of dusty rose and gold. Rich cranberry-colored dropcloths of velvet lay on parquet floors.

The centerpiece of the Yuletide finery in the Blue Room at the president's house is an 18 1/2-foot fir tree trimmed with needlepoint ornaments.

Decorations on the floors open to the public include trees hung with gingerbread, marzipan, cookie dough and chocolate ornaments. Students from all over the country designed the 3,500 ornaments.

More than 150,000 visitors are expected to tour the White House in the next few weeks.

GRAPHIC: Photo, HOME, SWEET HOME: Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the White House

Los Angeles Times, December 5, 1995

holiday season with a gingerbread version of her childhood home. Reuters
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 6, 1995

331ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

December 5, 1995, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 10; Column 3; National Desk

LENGTH: 299 words

HEADLINE: First Lady: Some Tea And Policy

BYLINE: By MARIAN BURROS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 4

BODY:

The more traditional First Lady role that Hillary Rodham Clinton assumed last year after the defeat of her health care bill was reflected today in the kinds of questions she was asked -- and not asked -- at the unveiling of the White House Christmas decorations.

But tradition only goes so far: while only one question was asked about politics, Mrs. Clinton made plain her intention to take an active part in the President's re-election campaign and said that uppermost in her mind was Bosnia and the United States' peace-keeping mission there.

Just back from a five-day European trip with the President, Mrs. Clinton revealed plans to ask Americans to lend moral support to the families of United States troops bound for the Balkans.

"When we get the logistical support, I will have more to say about what we can do in a direct way," she said. "There will be specific things the President will be asking us and others to do to support the troops."

Asked about her part in the coming Presidential campaign, Mrs. Clinton said: "I will be very involved and active. All of us who care about the quality of life for ourselves and our children will be involved in it."

Standing in the East Room in front of the 18 1/2-foot Christmas tree, which was decorated with handmade needlepoint stockings and hundreds of ornaments designed by members of the American Institute of Architects and students at architectural schools, Mrs. Clinton was dressed in a bright green knit suit. But her best-known Christmas jewelry, a necklace of blinking bulbs, was nowhere to be seen, and she hinted that a staff member might have hidden it.

"The staff always worries about what I'm going to turn up in -- antlers, flashing bulbs," she said. "I can't find the necklace, but if I do, you'll see it."

GRAPHIC: Photos: Hillary Clinton unveiled the White House Christmas decorations

The New York Times, December 5, 1995

yesterday, pointing out a scene in the official White House Christmas card. Mrs. Clinton also discussed politics and Bosnia. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times); A 75-foot fir from the Plumas National Forest in California was maneuvered into position yesterday at the Capitol. Schoolchildren made 3,000 ornaments for the tree, which will be lighted next week. (David Scull/The New York Times)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 5, 1995

337TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

December 5, 1995, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LIFE; Pg. 1D

LENGTH: 264 words

HEADLINE: First lady's wish for Christmas

BYLINE: Katy Kelly

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

At the White House Monday, Hillary Rodham Clinton was decked in glittery earrings, a Christmas tree pin and far-from-sensible pumps studded with gold charms.

But her holiday wish is serious.

As troops head off to Bosnia, the first lady hopes Americans will not only "pray for them and follow them and support them, but will also think about the families back home," she said during a press tour of White House Christmas decorations. "A lot of the responsibility falls on the people left behind."

She urges Americans to boost troop morale by writing letters, "particularly to single soldiers" who might otherwise not receive mail. A special postal address will be announced soon.

"I will also be asking people to support the families of our troops," including writing letters to them, she said.

During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt visited many soldiers, and it was her custom to visit or write their families when she returned.

Clinton admits to being the type who on Christmases past breathed "a sigh of relief if I got the tree up by Christmas Eve." She arrived home from Germany after visiting with military wives to find the White House decorated by volunteers and staffers.

The " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" theme involves 32 trees, 2,000 cookie ornaments, 204 needlepoint and embroidered stockings, and 600 ornaments made and donated by architects and students. Clinton was sorry she wasn't on hand to assist. "I'm usually able to sneak down and help a little and kibbitz a lot."

About 150,000 people are expected to tour the White House wonderland.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, color, Matt Mendelsohn, USA TODAY

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 08, 1995

339TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Buffalo News
The Buffalo News

December 3, 1995, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS, Pg. 11F

LENGTH: 766 words

HEADLINE: EVEN SOCKS GETS A TREE FOR CHRISTMAS

BYLINE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

BODY:

The White House Christmas tree arrived from Ashe County, N.C., last week. It's an 18 1/2-foot Fraser fir that was delivered to the South Lawn on a horse-drawn cart. Now, it's standing in the Blue Room, decorated with ornaments from all over the country.

The presentation of the tree marks the beginning of the holiday season at the White House, but planning for Christmas actually gets underway months before.

In 1993, our first year in the White House, the head usher, Gary Walters, told me we had to start planning in May. Being the type who's relieved if my own tree is up and decorated by Christmas Eve, I was shocked to hear this. But, with his help and the creative leadership of our social secretary, Ann Stock, we began meeting about mistletoe and holly just after Washington's cherry blossoms had started to fade.

Ann and her staff help me figure out the kinds of events we will have, draw up guest lists, prepare and send invitations and plan the entertainment. Chef Walter Scheib begins dreaming up menus for the dozens of receptions, buffets and dinners held here during the few weeks before Christmas.

And pastry chef Roland Messnier starts drawing blueprints for his annual gingerbread masterpiece. This year, he is baking an 80-pound house made of gingerbread, chocolate, marzipan and sugar. It will be wired with a working chandelier and adorned with scenes of children dreaming of sugarplums and Santa landing on the roof. (Knowing Roland, it will probably have a few other surprises, too.)

One of the first things we do when we start planning is choose a theme for the year's celebrations. In 1993, we used angels, and last year, the theme came from one of my family's favorite carols, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This year, we are choosing another of our personal favorites. Bill, Chelsea and I have made a Christmas Eve tradition of reading the poem by Clement C. Moore, "A Visit From St. Nicholas." We thought it would be fun to borrow the poem's first line, "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house . . ." as the official theme.

Once we settle on a theme, we rely on the creativity of thousands of Americans from across the country, including quilters, needlepointers,

The Buffalo News, December 3, 1995

embroiderers, architects, crafts people and students, to help make it come to life. They make wreaths, ornaments, bows, stockings and tree skirts -- all the ingredients of a White House Christmas. Some even come and play music for visitors during the holiday season.

We also depend on an army of volunteers who spend several weeks opening boxes of ornaments that are sorted by color, photographed and catalogued in a computer.

This year, as always, there are some wonderful creations. Architects and students from all 50 states designed 500 ornaments that ranged from miniature models of the White House to a Florida beach house complete with palm trees and children getting into bed.

We received stocking ornaments from members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderer's Guild of America, who didn't shy away from adding local touches, like a Texas flag motif and cowboy boots warming by a fireplace. Elementary school students from across the country also sent in decorations, many of which offered reminders of childhood Christmases spent making colorful paper chains and other homemade ornaments.

None of the holiday celebrations would be possible without the volunteers who come from as far away as California to help tie burgundy and gold bows, make wreaths, string lights and garlands and hang ornaments for the 30 trees scattered throughout the White House complex. (We have our own tree in the private quarters on the second floor and, thanks to some cat-loving volunteers, a special Socks tree on the third floor.)

The house is transformed into a Christmas wonderland and opened to the public for the first reception of the season -- a tribute to the artists and entertainers selected as the year's recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors. Two nights later, the president and I host the annual Congressional Ball for all the members and their spouses. There will be events every day, and in all, we are expecting about 150,000 people over the next few weeks -- some for candlelight tours, others for parties, still more for special Christmas celebrations.

It is one of the prettiest and most festive times of the year to come to the White House. I hope you will have a chance to visit, if not this year, then some other holiday season. But, whether you do or not, I hope your own holiday is filled with peace and happiness.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 5, 1995

345TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Star Tribune Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

December 3, 1995, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 4B

LENGTH: 785 words

HEADLINE: People

BODY:

White House decorations modeled on poem

When President and Hillary Rodham Clinton return to the White House this afternoon from their trip to Europe, the halls will be decked and the stockings will have been hung with care - to say nothing of the pine garlands or the thousands of ornaments for 32 Christmas trees that adorn the official residence in a theme drawn from the poem American children have enjoyed since the 1820s: "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Hillary Clinton's social secretary Ann Stock said the poem is "very personal with the Clintons. The president has read Clement Moore's 'The Night Before Christmas' to Chelsea every year since she was a baby."

Sinatra sale a smash

When the Chairman of the Board has a garage sale - he does it up big! More than 200 items from Frank Sinatra's former California home brought in more than \$ 2 million Friday at Christie's auction house in New York.

The possessions came from Sinatra's home in Rancho Mirage, Calif., which was sold in May for nearly \$ 5 million. He also has homes in Beverly Hills and Malibu, Calif.

'Dr. Quinn' has twins

Actress Jane Seymour, 44, has given birth to twin boys. The babies, born Thursday at about five pounds each, were named John Stacy Keach and Kristopher Steven Keach. They are the first children in Seymour's marriage to director-actor James Keach. Seymour, who stars on TV's "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman," has a son and daughter from a previous marriage. Keach has a son by a previous marriage.

Packwood plans new life

Former Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., who resigned in September in the face of ethics charges of sexual and official misconduct, plans to start a political consulting business on Capitol Hill. He promises clients "advice based on a quarter century of experience in how this place operates," he said.

He also hasn't ruled out a future in politics. "When people say, 'How can you make a recovery?', I cite Marion Barry, who went from mayor [of Washington, D.C.] to prison to mayor again," he told the Statesman Journal of Salem, Ore., on Thursday.

Opera pioneers

Baritone Robert McFerrin, who in 1955 became the first black male singer to perform with New York's Metropolitan Opera, joined several other black opera pioneers who attended the National Opera Association's 41 convention, which concluded Saturday in Cambridge, Mass.

Times were changing during the 1950s, McFerrin recalled, but not much. "They were going to sing 'Aida' in Atlanta, and at that time white people couldn't sing with black people," he said. "I wanted to, but I knew I couldn't do it. It was written down. Anywhere down South, any town down South, you couldn't do that."

McFerrin, father of jazz singer Bobby McFerrin, ended up performing in Minneapolis on the night the Met took "Aida" to Atlanta.

Grant likes single life

They've been together eight years, but Hugh Grant says he has no plans to marry Liz Hurley. Or anyone else. "It's not that I'm scared of growing up. It's more that I don't want to lose my freedom," the 34-year-old actor told the British magazine "Hello!"

"Being married with one or two children in a pretty house in London is not living to me."

So what is? "To fly to Paris, stay at the Ritz, dine at little bistros, go to fashion shows in Milan - that's what I call enjoying myself."

Grant's relationship with Hurley has apparently survived his arrest with a hooker in Los Angeles in July. "Hello!" said the couple is house-hunting in Ireland right now and are partners in a film production company.

Estate claims filed

About \$ 2.3 million in claims have been filed in San Rafael, Calif., against Jerry Garcia's estate, including one from a high school sweetheart who says he

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN), December 3, 1995

proposed to her in 1992. Barbara Meier of Taos, N.M., claims the former Grateful Dead guitarist agreed to pay her \$ 3,000 per month for three years after he broke off their engagement.

She also claimed she loaned Garcia money for expenses when he was getting started in the early 1960s and even bought him his first 12-string guitar.

Associated Press

Lost in Space revisited

Cast members of the 1960s television series "Lost in Space" pose for a portrait with the show's robot Saturday at a reunion in Boston. The actors, who greeted fans and signed autographs, gathered for the 30th anniversary of the premiere of the show. From left in the back row are: Bob Mays, Bill Mumy, Mark Goddard and Jonathan Harris. In front, from left, are: June Lockhart, Marta Kristen and Angela Cartwright. Guy Williams, who played Prof. John Robinson, died in 1989.

GRAPHIC: Photograph

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 6, 1995

348TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

December 03, 1995, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. E02; THE MAGAZINE TRAVELER

LENGTH: 1449 words

HEADLINE: Flash Bulletin: Christmas Is Coming

BYLINE: William F. Powers, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

This time of year, magazines tend to concoct some pretty dubious 'tis-the-season articles. The reason is obvious: The editors need a way to run the word "Christmas" or "holiday" on the cover, so that their publications will emanate the air of timeliness that has been the supreme goal of all mags since time began.

Stunning new reports on the possibility that angels really do exist are a staple of this genre, for instance. The November-December issue of National Geographic Traveler comes up with another topic that feels like old hat before you've read a word. Yes, America, it's Christmas at the White House again.

Now if you think about it, with a little research this subject could yield an interesting piece. What president gave the best Christmas parties? What was the worst White House Christmas ever? Has there ever been a president who didn't celebrate Christmas at all? (One doesn't think of, say, Thomas Jefferson as the most avid of Christians.) Would any of the living former presidents, or their aides or families, have any juicy stories about holiday times, good and bad, at old 16th and Penn? There's the one about George Bush attending a Christmastime Gulf War meeting wearing socks that read "Merry" on one ankle and "Christmas" on the other, but that's already appeared in a few popular books, most recently Colin Powell's.

Maybe someone has done the gripping White House Christmas story I am imagining. National Geographic Traveler doesn't even come close, though it touts this lame piece on the cover. The piece offers scant history, informing us merely that Benjamin Harrison bought the first White House Christmas tree in 1889, while Calvin Coolidge was the first president to light a national tree outside the mansion. The modern details come from White House Christmases past, as in 1993 and 1994. Last year, we learn, the first lady's Christmas "theme" was "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and there were carolers from Long Island in the East Room.

Swell, but what about this year? Didn't the magazine bother to call the White House to request an interview with Hillary, or at least to squeeze some of the Clintons' 1995 holiday plans out of some lowly aide? If it did and the White House wouldn't help the magazine, then the piece should have told us that, because it would be a little story all its own.

The Washington Post, December 03, 1995

Perhaps National Geographic has had this piece stuffed away in a drawer since last year, and didn't even try to update it. If you're out to be timely, folks, please really be timely.

But enough of merely mediocre Christmas journalism. Let's move on to the truly weird. That would take us straight to the December issue of Chile Pepper magazine, a bimonthly that operates under the motto "Spicy World Cuisine" and runs a lot of travel writing. The cover of this issue features a photograph of a saxophone spilling over, horn-of-plenty style, with red and green chile peppers. What's so holidayish about this, you might ask? The answer is in the headline: "JAZZ UP YOUR HOLIDAYS!!" and beneath it in somewhat smaller typeface: "SIZZLING JAMS."

Get it? Don't despair -- on first inspection, I didn't either. See, the saxophone represents "jazz," and the red and green peppers are supposed to evoke Christmas. And I suppose the whole image is meant to suggest the notion of a "jam," as in a musical session.

Turn inside, however, and you'll learn that the word jam is another little pun, a teaser for a story about jams, jellies and marmalades made from chile peppers. A contrived holiday story idea, true, but at least the article doesn't struggle to keep the Christmas connection going. It offers some history of spicy jams, along with quite a few recipes ("Jumpin' Jalapeno Marmalade," "Sugarless Sizzling Hot Pepper Jelly," etc.), and limits the seasonal references to a photo of the jams in question wrapped for Christmas giving along with the requisite pine cones and holly.

Meanwhile, the principal cover story, the one about "jazzing" up the holiday, is all about using lively spices and ingredients to avoid Christmas blandness. Kellye Hunter opens the piece with a witty discussion of the "perennial fruitcake" as the embodiment of bad Christmas cuisine. Then a handful of prominent chefs, beginning with Mark Miller of Washington's Red Sage, offer exotic holiday recipes. Some of them appear pretty promising, too.

The rest of this magazine is as curious as its Christmas cover shot. It's all about a life built around chile peppers, which means not only that one's recipes are hot, but that when one is choosing a book, buying clothing or planning travel abroad, chile peppers figure in enormously. "Spicy Siberia: Hot Foods in a Cold Climate" is the title of one of the travel articles in this issue, by a woman named Sharon Hudgins who spent 14 months living in Asian Russia. Hudgins and her husband were teaching at universities in the region, but here we learn little about their professional or personal lives in that part of the world. Instead, there are many, many paragraphs of information about chile peppers of the colder Russian latitudes. "I was surprised to discover," Hudgins writes, "that the Asian Russians make salsa from sweet and hot red peppers, tomatoes, garlic, salt, and sometimes other ingredients such as carrots, onions, oil, and coriander seeds. I've bought some mean salsas -- hot, garlicky, and definitely not for the faint-hearted -- from the granny-ladies selling them in the markets of Vladivostok and Irkutsk."

But please tell me, what is the point of this fairly lengthy article? Is it merely seeking to be a tale well told about Americans encountering strangely familiar dishes in an exotic foreign land? Is the text just an excuse for running the half-dozen or so Russian recipes that follow (for "Fiddlehead Ferns With Pork and Paprika," among other specialties)? Surely the point is not to

convince us to that it's worth traveling all the way to Siberia to try a new sort of hot cuisine?

Similar questions arise in another travel article that runs in this issue under the section heading "Fiery Fare," and is titled "Pirates, Peppers and Peter Island." The destination in this case is the British Virgin Islands, and the focus, sure enough, is the little vegetable that animates the whole magazine. Nancy Gerlach informs us that "there are two hot chiles used in the British Virgin Islands: Scotch bonnets and bird peppers," and goes on to describe in great detail how they are used. Again, the utility of this piece is hard to imagine, since it's doubtful anyone would venture all the way to Tortola to taste "Seared Peppered Ahi Tuna With Christophine Ratatouille Laced With a Curry Essence, Served With Plaintain Chips." Or would they?

My theory is that the idea behind Chile Pepper, as with so many smaller magazines, is to make people with a very particular obsession feel a little less alone in the world.

A one-year subscription to Chile Pepper costs \$ 18.95. Write to P.O. Box 769, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-8234.

Berlin's New Architecture

New Year's prediction: One foreign city that will be making travel-relevant news next year is Berlin. The rebuilding of the city under a chief architect with a very strict vision of what he wants and doesn't want is apparently the talk of the architecture profession. Hans Stimmann, in charge of building in new Berlin, favors low buildings made of stone and brick, the sort of thing he associates with a traditional European town, and disdains great glassy expressions of architectural ego.

Some architectural egos are not pleased. The November-December issue of Utne Reader brings a nice summary of some of the coverage of this issue over the past several years, noting that anti-Stimmann architects and critics view his aesthetic as "fussy bourgeois nostalgia, an attempt to re-create a Berlin that never was and stifle architectural brio at the exact moment when Berlin needs to come into its own, physically as well as economically, as a great world city."

If this whets your interest in the matter of Berlin, it's worth going back to the November issue of Art in America (which may still be on some newsstands), for a much more extensive and informative piece on the same subject by a Berlin writer named Brigitte Werneburg. Obviously no great fan of Stimmann, Werneburg writes: "What architectural historian Anthony Vidler has called 'the long war against the feminization of architecture' appears to have found new recruits in Berlin, who are eager to lead a hard-edged, closed, manly architecture to victory over styles of building they regard as suspiciously female -- open, multifarious, expressive."

GRAPHIC: Photo, The Washington Post

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 03, 1995

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Make Our Angels
P.209



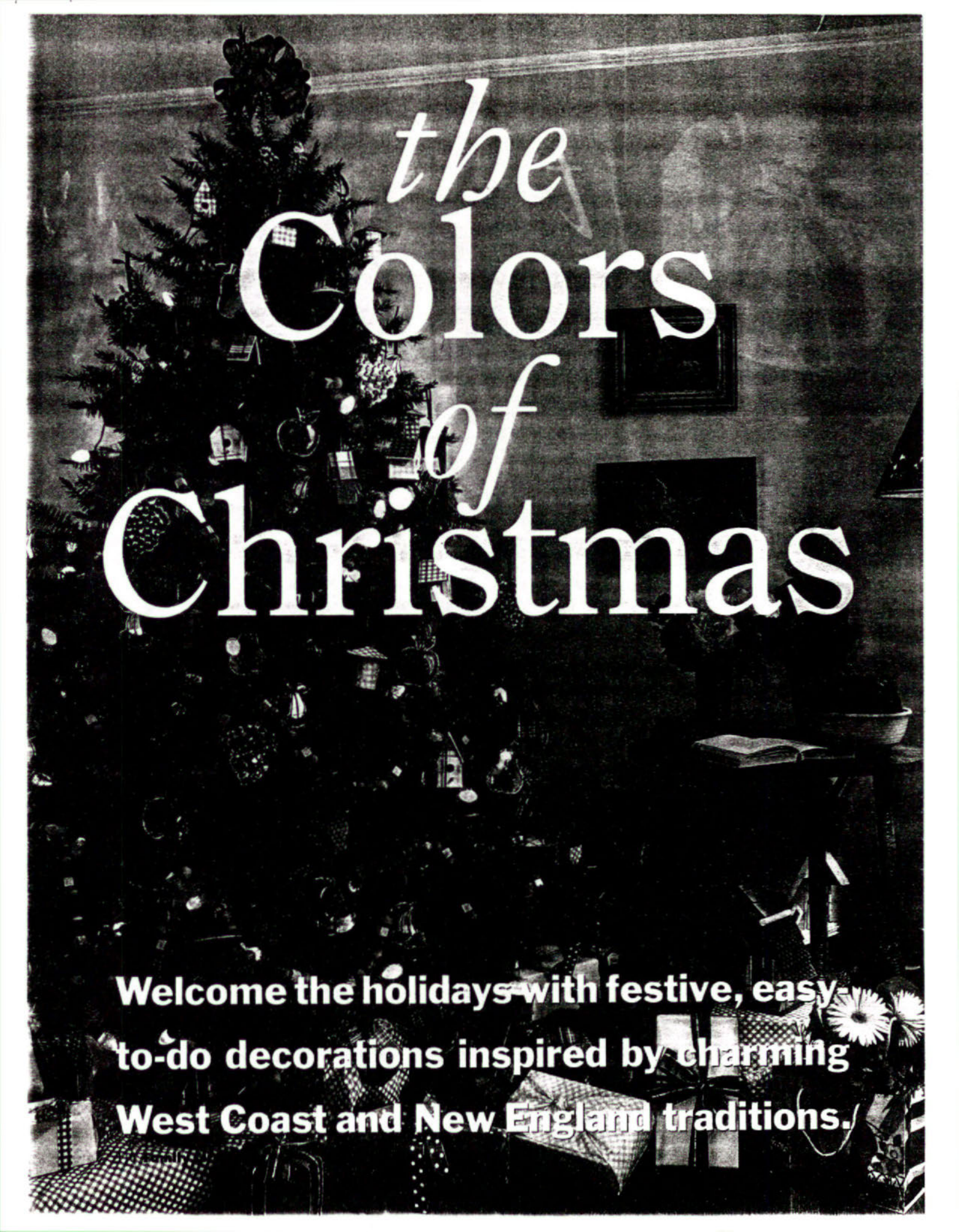
FAMILY CIRCLE/DECEMBER 1993: A WHOLE NEW LOOK IN LIVING WOMEN'S MAGAZINE



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When do you really *feel* that Christmas is here? When you open your first card? When you make up your holiday shopping list? When you bake the first batch of cookies? For me, Christmas enters my heart and soul when I open the chest with the ornaments and go back to some of my happiest memories. There's baby's first "Noel," an ornament crafted to celebrate the birth of my daughter, who's now 11. There's my mom's hand-blown glass bell, which she gave me when I moved to a new house years ago. There's the angel, who clearly needs a hair transplant ever since my cat decided it liked to eat straw. Ornaments do more than decorate the tree . . . they contain memories of the cherished time we spend with our families. As always, this special issue is filled with new ideas to add to *your* collection of joyful traditions. And this year, we have a sneak preview of the new First Family's White House Christmas. Like the rest of us, Hillary Clinton treasures the holiday season and has a warm place in her heart for ornamental angels. If you are similarly inspired, make some of ours (*on page 114*) for your tree, and then tuck the charming crèche figures (*above and on page 196*) under it. Happy Holidays!

Jackie Leo



the Colors *of* Christmas

Welcome the holidays with festive, easy-to-do decorations inspired by charming West Coast and New England traditions.



7



8



9

*t*he tree really is a kaleidoscope of our lives together," says Mrs. Clinton. "One of the best things is reminiscing about each ornament. . . . Among the First Family's most treasured tree trimmers (4-9) are: 5, a hanging photo of baby Chelsea, Mom and Dad, made by a friend; and 9, a spun-glass ballerina, given by her mother to Chelsea, who loves ballet. Other favorites: a glass angel, a rustic straw angel, an Old World Santa and a cherub stocking. Also shown (1-3) adorning the White House tree are exclusive FC how-to ornaments: 1, an angel with feather wings (*how-to's*, page 209); 2, heart ornaments crafted from the official White House pattern (*how-to's*, page 179); 3, FC's frosted gingerbread angel (*recipe*, page 177).

Photos by Paul Lange, except angels (1) by Alan Richardson. Gingerbread angel (3), designed by Patti Paige. Right: Folk art angels, designed by Natalie Sitch, others from The Museum of American Folk Art. Buyer's Guide, page 166.





FIRST LADY'S FAVORITES
Christmas carol: "Joy to
the World"
Holiday movie: *Miracle on
34th Street*
Best-loved story: The
original Christmas story—
The Birth of Jesus

By Nancy Lloyd



A White House Christmas

The First Family Share Their Special Traditions

We really love Christmas," says Hillary Rodham Clinton, who claims the highlight of the family's day is singing carols and acting out the parts: "Everybody has props for their various roles, like antlers for reindeer and a big red nose for Rudolph." This season Mrs. Clinton says the First Family plan to hold on to these and other holiday traditions they've cherished through the years. "I had wonderful Christmases as a child," she recalls. Her earliest memories start with the magical transformation her parents would create each Christmas Eve. After she and her two brothers went to bed, Hugh and Dorothy Rodham would bring in a tree and decorate the whole house with ornaments and other mementos from past years. Christmas morning was "just this big surprise," she says. This holiday will be especially poignant since it's her first without her father, who passed away earlier in the year.

Today she blends her childhood traditions with the President's. They typically attend church Christmas Eve and morning, go caroling and bake tons of goodies.

Nancy Lloyd is a syndicated journalist based in Arlington, Virginia.

(See her oatmeal cookie recipe, page 178.) This year, as in years past, they have invited both their mothers, extended family and friends.

Chelsea's birth made Christmas "even better," she recalls, smiling. "It just exploded in joy for us." Like most new parents, the Clintons found themselves concerned with such things as "putting together toys at 2 A.M."

While the three of them traditionally open most of their gifts on Christmas Day, they often exchange ornaments before the holiday. Giving such tree trimmers to Chelsea is "a way of helping her start her own traditions," says her mother. Making crafts and ornaments, however, is a team effort. "Over the years, Chelsea and I have done little clay figurines for crèche scenes and a lot of decorating using natural objects like holly and seed pods," says Mrs. Clinton, whose favorite ornaments are angels (see the *First Lady with angel-theme tree*, left). Since she loves and appreciates American crafts, she has decided to fill the White House this season with American handmade ornaments. (Congress and the President officially declared 1993 "The Year of the Craft.")

Creating Special Memories

"In my gifts to Bill over the years, I've tried to get him something really memorable," says Mrs. Clinton. One year, she surprised him by commissioning a portrait of Chelsea. It remains one of their most treasured possessions.

"Bill always gives me something I have liked during the year," she says. Last year he gave her an opal ring. He gave Chelsea a birthstone ring, as well.



When Chelsea was 4, "she took those little plastic beads you buy in craft stores and made me jewelry," Mrs. Clinton recalls proudly. "She did it all by herself. I just loved that."

A Hearty Holiday Menu

While President and Mrs. Clinton shared many of the same traditions growing up, their Christmas foods were different. "Bill's was sort of a Southern dinner," says Mrs. Clinton, who added his two favorite dishes—corn-bread stuffing and sweet potato casserole—to her own menu.

Will the family count fat grams this holiday? Mrs. Clinton laughs. "Not at Christmas! I want a traditional dinner that everybody groans about when it's over." As is usual in their home, dinner will be preceded by grace. "We take turns saying it," Mrs. Clinton says, "sometimes changing it, depending on what's going on."

The Gift of Love

Sharing with people less fortunate has been an integral part of the Clintons' holidays. "On Christmas Day [in Little Rock] we'd often go to a shelter or home for battered women and children and take gifts. Sometimes we'd fill in for the staff. And we'd always involve Chelsea. In many ways that was the best part of our Christmases," Mrs. Clinton says.

Regrettably, the family may not be able to do that this year. With their move to Washington has come what the First Lady calls "the loss of free movement." Still, she cherishes the spirit of their charitable work. "What's important about Christmas is the love you have and how you share that," she says.

Her Christmas wish? It's a simple one: "I wish that the spirit of love and hope that is the Christmas story will find a place in every person's heart." ■

