

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
AUDIOTAPED REMARKS FOR DISNEY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
THE WHITE HOUSE
NOVEMBER 1, 1994

Hello, this is Hillary Rodham Clinton and I want say hello to James Earl Jones and tell all of you how much I appreciate this opportunity to share some of my favorite Christmas memories with you.

Some of my most vivid images of Christmas are from when I was a small child. Every Christmas Eve, after my brothers and I had gone to bed, my parents would bring in a tree and decorate our whole house with ornaments. When we got up on Christmas morning there would be this wonderful, beautiful surprise.

After Chelsea was born, the President and I tried to pass on some of our favorite traditions to her. Almost every year, we attend church on Christmas Eve and morning, then go caroling, make ornaments, and bake lots of cookies. Usually our family and friends spend part of the holiday with us.

I think that's why trimming the tree, making the decorations, and singing carols are important traditions for me and my family. Through these annual rituals the whole holiday is transformed into a kaleidoscope of our lives together.

But Christmas is also much more than that. It's not just a time to reconnect with our families, but a time to reconnect with our communities. It's a time to share our love with others.

When we lived in Arkansas we often spent part of Christmas Day at a shelter or a home for the disadvantaged, serving meals or distributing gifts. For us, that was one of the most joyful parts of our holiday.

What's most important is not how we choose to celebrate Christmas, but making sure that the holiday spirit of love and hope finds its way into all of our hearts. I hope that during this Christmas season every American will experience the happiness and joy that sharing and giving can bring.

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Draft #1

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1994

DISNEY/ABC RADIO CHRISTMAS AUDIO TAPING

DATE: November 1, 1994
LOCATION: TBD
TIME: 10:25 AM EDT
FROM: Richard Strauss

I. PURPOSE:

To Provide a favorite personal Christmas story for the ABC/Disney radio special to air on over 400 radio stations on Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

II. BACKGROUND:

Disney and ABC Radio have combined efforts for a three hour radio special to air on more than 400 top ABC affiliated radio stations nationwide on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The show, hosted by James Earl Jones, will combine several two to four minute Christmas memories from celebrities such as Whitney Houston, Cliff Robertson, Nat King Cole, Danny DeVito, Steve Allen, and Ed McMahon with traditional Christmas music by Bing Crosby, the Chipmunks, and Nat King Cole and the popular Disney theme characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

For the actual taping, you should thank James Earl Jones for introducing you, and begin the taping by introducing yourself saying, "Hello this is Hillary Rodham Clinton and I would like to share this special Christmas memory with you..." You should conclude the taping by wishing everyone listening a happy holiday.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

1. Lisa Caputo, Richard Strauss, Rica Rodman.
2. White House photographer

IV. PRESS PLAN:

This audio taping will air on 400 radio stations on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

-- You will record the audio taping following the radio interviews.

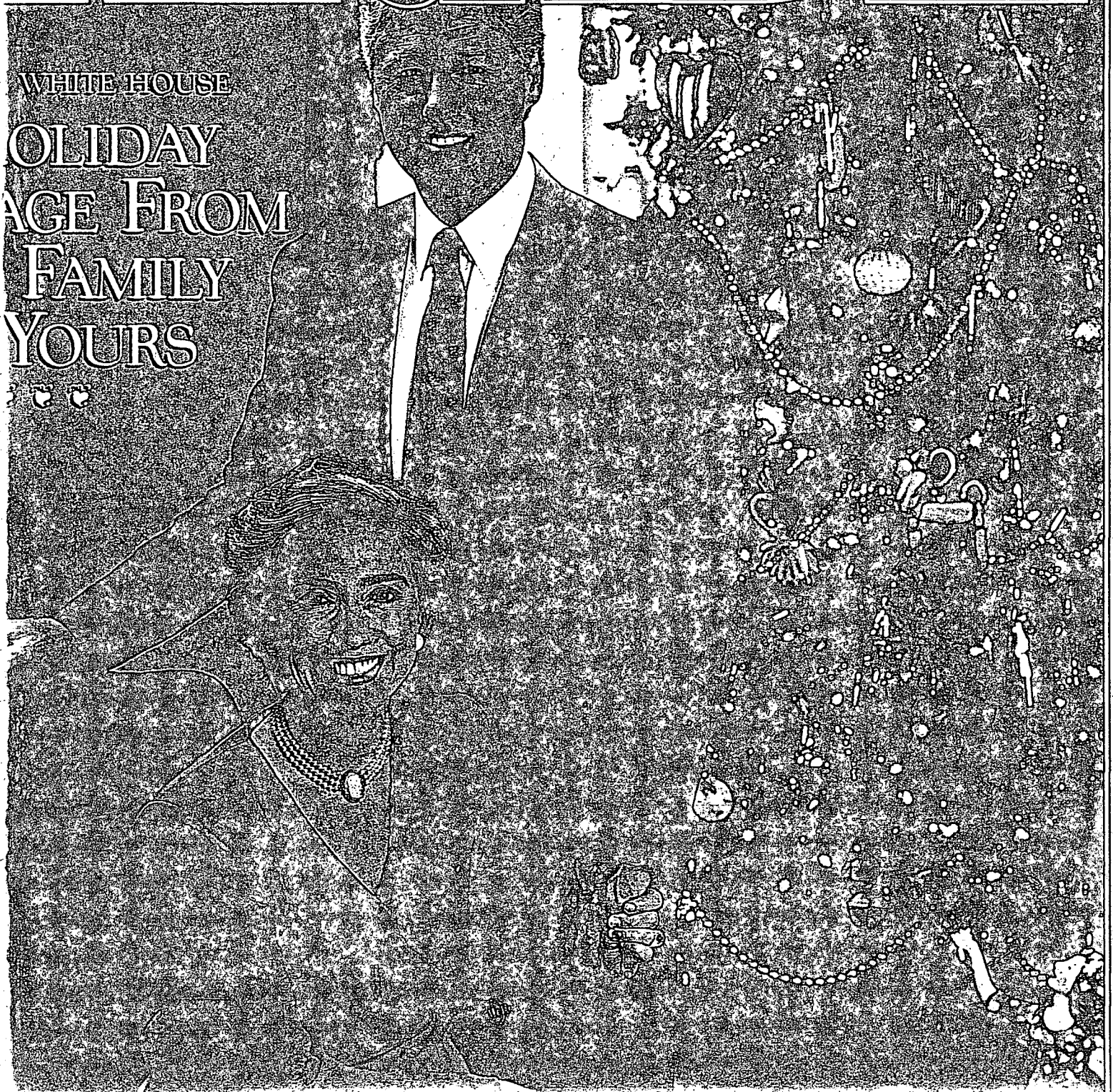
VI. REMARKS:

There will be no prepared remarks for this taped interview.

On 10/15/88, the President's
speech to Congress was
broadcast on the radio.

PARADE

WHITE HOUSE
HOLIDAY
PAGE FROM
FAMILY
YOURS



FROM THE CLINTONS *A Holiday Message* From *Our Family To Yours*



The President and First Lady at home in the White House.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY EDDIE ADAMS



CROSS OUR NATION this holiday season, our family and other families are gathering to celebrate and take stock of another year passed. It is a time to reconnect with relatives, a time to reflect on good deeds and failings, a time to reawaken ourselves to the spirit of giving.

Like most American families looking back on the year, our family will remember moments of joy and moments of grief. There were days when we revelled in the love we felt from relatives and friends; there were days when we ached with sadness over the passing of those dear to us.

No matter what highs and lows any year brings, the holiday season for us is always a time to celebrate family and faith. By coming together every December with our parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends, we reaffirm the common bonds that make us family.

Today, as our nation struggles with new challenges, family and faith are more important than ever. That's why, during this holiday season, our family asks all Americans to join us in reaffirming America's spiritual richness and sense of community.

We are a nation of many faiths and beliefs, united in a sense of common American purpose, and that is our greatest strength.

Each of our faiths teaches that nobody survives alone, that no one exists in a vacuum. That simple idea is at the core of the Judeo-Christian understanding of what it means to be a member of human society. We are not only our brothers' and sisters' keepers; we are also each other's helpers and healers.

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" Rabbi Hillel asked 2000 years ago. "If I am only for myself, who am I?"

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ur freedoms depend on mutual respect and tolerance. Yet too often those freedoms are imperiled by people filled with fear and disdain. So today we must work harder to understand our differences and celebrate our diversity. We must remember that our own freedom depends on the respect of others.

Whether we are Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or atheists, we all are part of a larger national family that respects individual dignity and freedom of conscience in matters of faith.

In America, more people believe in God, go to church or temple and make their faith the center of their lives than in any other modern nation. And that is because our Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and allows people to choose their faith according to their consciences.

Our freedoms depend on mutual respect and tolerance. Yet too often those freedoms are imperiled by people whose hearts and minds are filled with fear and disdain. So today we must work harder to understand our differences and celebrate our diversity. We must remember that our own freedom depends on the respect and tolerance of others.

As the Bible says in Luke 6:37, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

At this time of year, particularly, we must contemplate the lessons of our history, the meaning of our faith and the importance of our families. And we must think about our place in the larger community and the opportunities and responsibilities that go with living in a free society.

One way to show respect for each other is by passing on to our children a deep commitment to lead ethical lives. By striving to make our children productive, moral citizens who live up to their God-given potential, we all can make society better.

"No government can love a child, no policy can substitute for a family's care," the National Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote in a pastoral letter in November 1991. "The undeniable fact is that our children's future is shaped both by the values of their parents and the policies of our nation."

Every family, every parent, has to assume the responsibility for the most sacred trust they are given: the nurturing and care of the next generation. Our children must be given the opportunities of health care, education, safe streets, a sound economy and a clean environment. At the same time, parents must instill in their children a sense of community responsibility and collective purpose. And a spirit of caring.

None of these is a function of economic standing, ethnic origin, gender or race. Love and tolerance are not rooted in one's pocketbook, skin color or family tree. Rather, they are virtues that spring from the heart. And they depend on respect for individual dignity.

Across our country, young people are rediscovering the rewards of serving others, the joy of giving. Through national service, church work, charities and volunteer groups, they are finding that love, generosity and tolerance are mightier than greed and hatred.

They are discovering the wisdom of the prophet

Micah's words: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

That spirit of justice, compassion and humility is a first step toward preserving our rich social fabric and defending our sense of community.

During this holiday season, we can take another step. Let us urge Americans of every faith to join

together to promote the common good. Let us celebrate as members of a national family committed to freedom and tolerance. Let us renew our belief that diversity strengthens us and makes our nation flourish. And let us remember that faith is not only a source of pride and strength for each of us but also a source of humility, hope and compassion.

May God bless America and every one of you in the year ahead.

The All-American Tree

Handmade crafts shine radiantly

BY PHYLLIS GEORGE

THE YEAR 1993 IS MEMORABLE AS THE year America saluted the creative spirit of its craftspeople. From the mountains of Kentucky to the mesas of Arizona to the White House in the nation's capital, crafts continue to play an integral part in American culture. The United States Congress proclaimed 1993 as the "Year of American Craft," launching a year-long, nationwide celebration of the creative work of the hand. In America's finest art museums and at crafts fairs in every state, the spotlight has focused on the world of handmade crafts.

The grand finale of the "Year of American Craft" took place at the White House in early December, when President and Mrs. Clinton unveiled the White House Christmas tree, decorated with more than 1000 ornaments, each uniquely handmade by an American craftsman and donated to the White House for its permanent collection of Christmas decorations. Some 150,000 visitors are expected to visit the White House and see this all-American tree during the holiday season.

The Clintons—longtime admirers and supporters of the nation's artisans—have always had a deep appreciation for the American traditions preserved through handmade crafts.

These crafts have become America's newest art form. Americans are rediscovering the value and treasure of handcrafted items. It is estimated that more than 500,000 Americans currently make their living, either full- or part-time, in the crafts industry, generating more than \$3 billion in annual sales. There is a tremendous interest and craving for things made by American hands. The popularity of crafts as collector's items, heirlooms and even wedding gifts is soaring.

The hand skills passed down in this country from generation to generation not only have produced heirlooms we can own and treasure, but they also have played a valuable role in documenting this country's history and preserving its very colorful cultural traditions.

The variety and scope of American handcrafts-



Phyllis George with her own tree, decorated with handcrafted ornaments from her collection.

manship today is showcased in my new book, *Craft in America: Celebrating the Creative Work of the Hand*—the commemorative book for the "Year of American Craft." It is a photo-collage of American creativity, featuring the stories and the work of 90 of America's most fascinating craftspeople, from all 50 states.

From boat-builders in Maine to basket-makers in South Carolina to jewelry-makers in Arizona to potters in Georgia to folk artists in Kentucky to saddle-makers in Wyoming—this is our way of saluting their magnificent spirit and talent. They are America's richest resource and its best-kept secret.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN AUDIO TAPING FOR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

THE PRESIDENT: This is President Clinton. I want to begin by saying hello to James Earl Jones and saying I'm glad to have an opportunity to participate in this remembrance of Christmases.

When I was 22 years old, I was living in Europe; I had just been given a scholarship to go abroad to study. And I was facing the prospect of my first Christmas ever away from home, and especially away from my beloved mother who had played such a large role in my life. Unbeknownst to her, I arranged to come back home for Christmas, and I was able to surprise her. We had a wonderful Christmas that year -- my mother, my brother and I, along with our friends and family.

I think when you think you're going to miss Christmas with your family, and then all of a sudden you have it given back to you it becomes an even more precious gift. And you understand that, in a really profound way, the presents are not so important. They just symbolize the love and the ties that you have to the people who make your life worth living.

That feeling came home to me so strongly last Christmas, which was the last Christmas I ever shared with my mother. I was pretty sure that it would be our last Christmas together because she'd been sick for a long time, and so was she. But again, we had our whole family together. It was a wonderful, happy time. And because of all the Christmases and all the years and all the things we shared, again, just having each other was the greatest gift of all.

I hope that's something that everybody who listens to this program will take from it. Whatever we get from Christmas is not nearly as important as the love we give back.

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COMPARE!

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December 21, 1993



THE CLINTONS' WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

Joy ★ Christmas

550 MAGICAL IDEAS

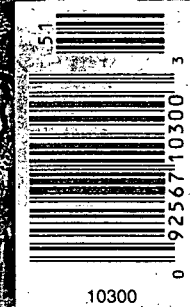
TRADITIONS ★ FEASTS ★ DECORATIONS ★ WREATHS

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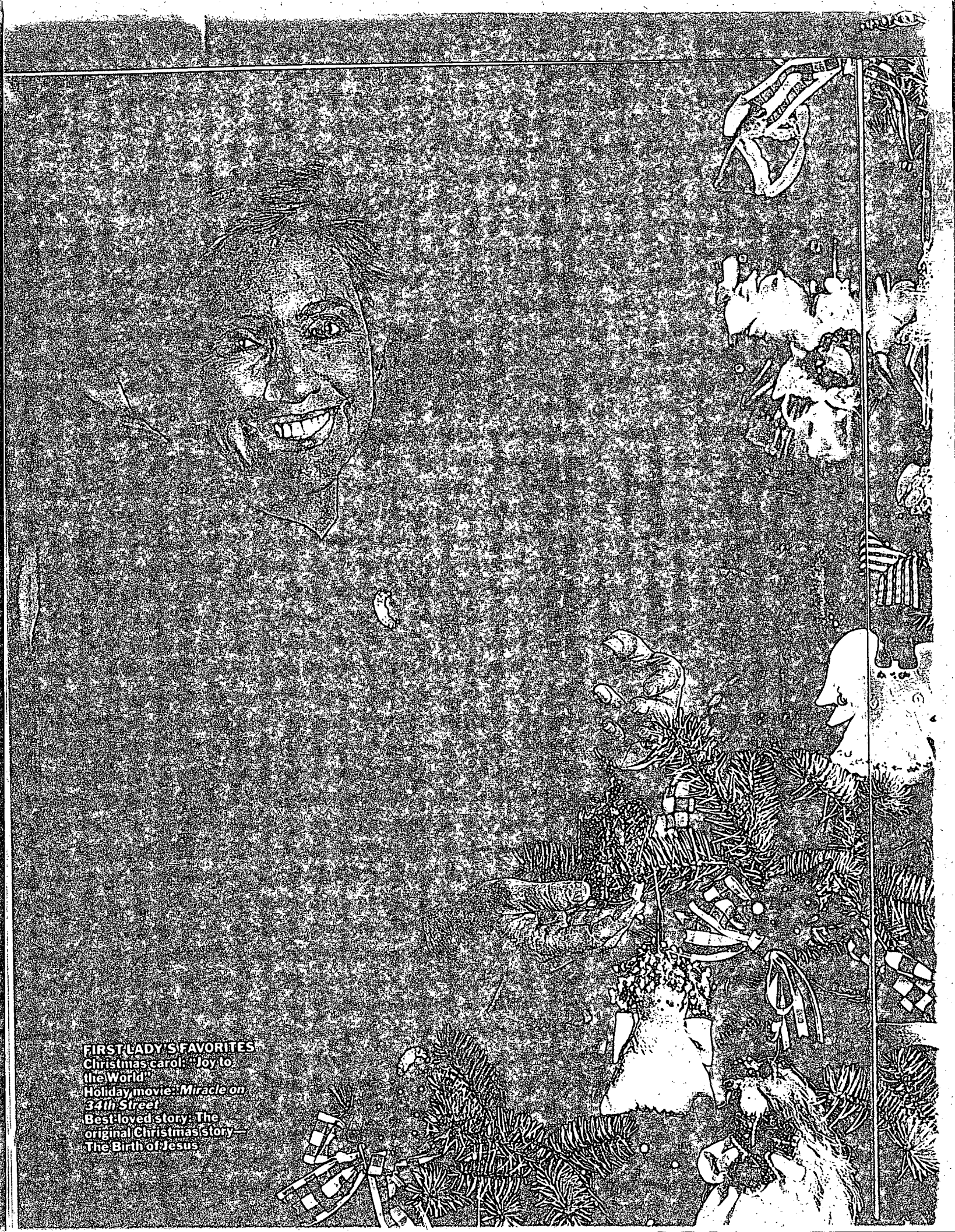
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Make Our Angels,
P.209



10300



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.

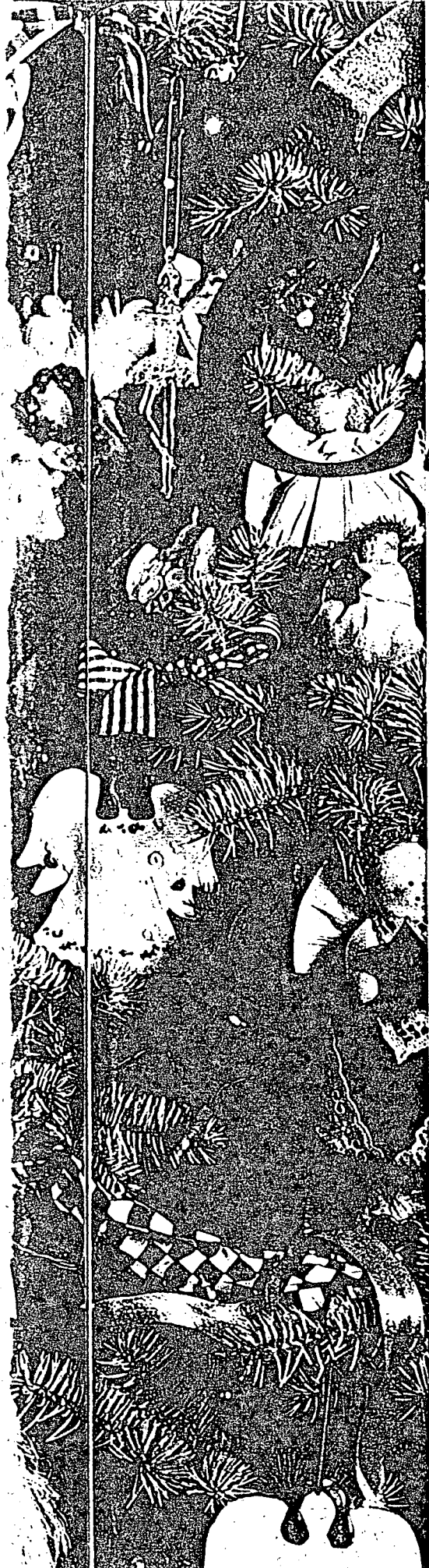
Chelsea's birth made Christmas "even better," she recalls, smiling. "It just exploded in joy for us." Like most new parents, the Clintons found themselves concerned with such things as "putting together toys at 2 A.M."

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 hand-made 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.

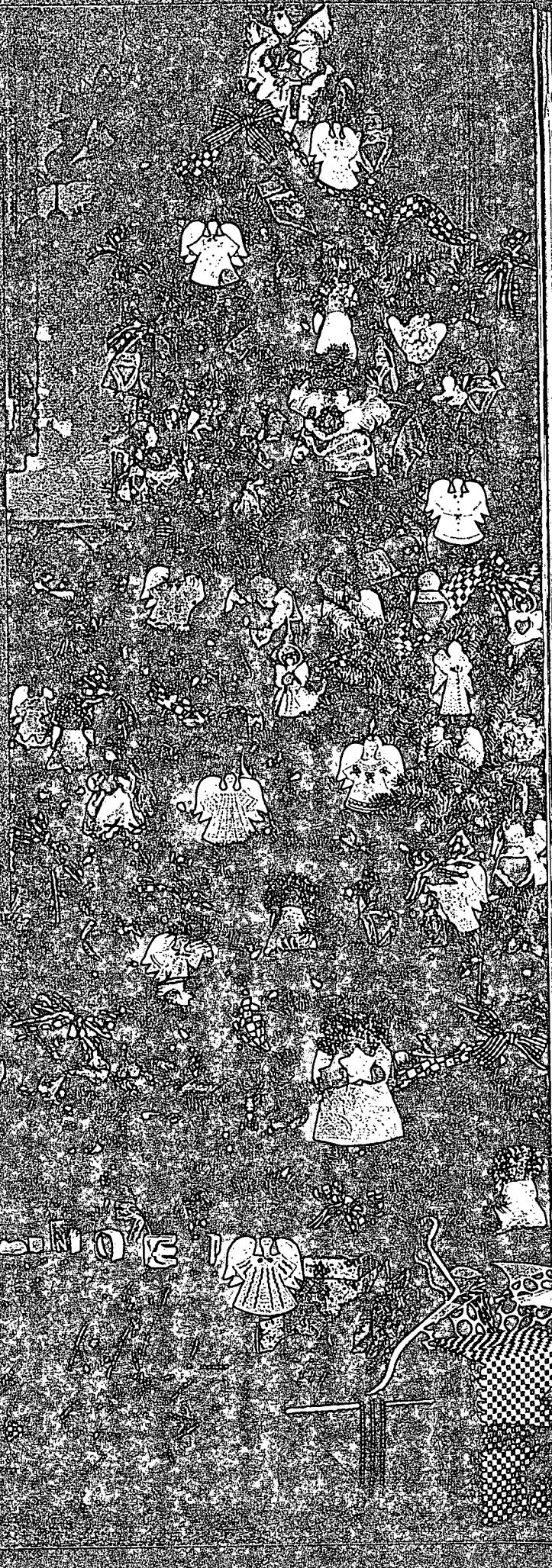
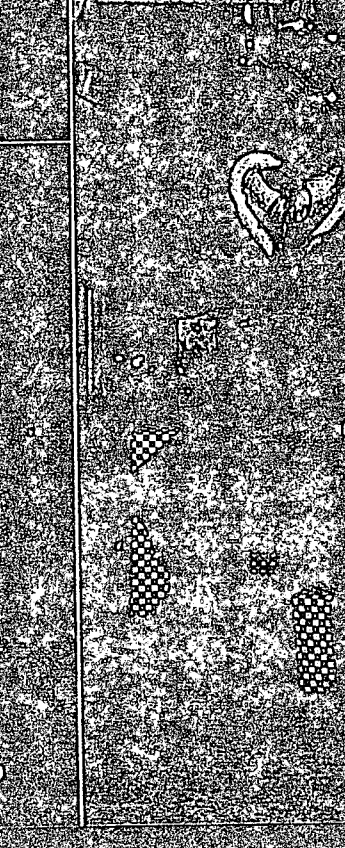
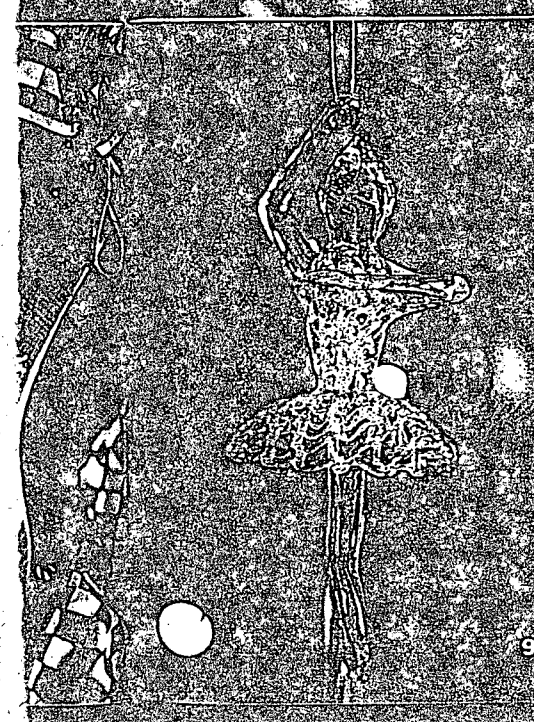


Photos by Paul Lange



the 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 angel (1), by Alan Richardson. Gingerbread angel (3), designed by Patti Paige. Right: Folk art angels, designed by Natalie Silitch; others from The Museum of American Folk Art, *Buyer's Guide*, page 166.





Mantei/SIPA Press

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."

