

## BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON

When Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson became the Nation's 32nd First Lady, she said that her role must "emerge in deeds not words."

The deeds became promptly evident. Within the first six months of 1964, she had traveled 35,000 miles, all in the United States, to underline her husband's program and salute the work of local communities in improving their living conditions and their educational and cultural opportunities.

In her travels and at a series of White House luncheons for women active in the life of their country, Mrs. Johnson has called attention to the widening role of women as thinking citizens.

Mrs. Johnson this year has:

Visited Appalachia regions of Pennsylvania and Kentucky to "meet the people behind the statistics" of unemployment;

Toured the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center at Huntsville, Alabama, where she urged the South to "hitch its wagon to the future;"

Inspected the Government's health and housing programs in Atlanta, Georgia and Cleveland, Ohio;

Delivered addresses at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas;

And, participated in ceremonies for building programs of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

These are among the activities she added to her duties as hostess at the Nation's No. 1 residence, where heads of state come calling in rapid succession in this jet age.

Her training for public life began with her marriage to Lyndon Baines Johnson on November 17, 1934. He then was secretary to Texas Congressman Richard Kleberg. A year as the wife of a Congressman's secretary indoctrinated her into the ways of Washington life and then followed a year and a half when Lyndon Johnson was Director of the National Youth Administration in Texas.

Then came 26 years in the public eye as the wife of a Congressman, Senator and the Vice President. She entered the White House with the record of having been a partner in the political life of her husband longer than any First Lady in history.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Karnack, Texas, on December 22, 1912, the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Taylor, a small town merchant-landowner, and Minnie Pattillo Taylor. The pages of history may list her, as official records do, as Claudia Alta Taylor but the First Lady is known universally as "Lady Bird".

When she was five, her mother died and her Aunt Effie Pattillo came to care for her and her two older brothers. There were few playmates for her and as soon as she learned to read she found enjoyment in her mother's library, filled with classics which she read and reread.

She attended elementary school at Fern, Texas, and was graduated from Marshall High School, Texas, at the age of 15. She was so shy at the time that she prayed she wouldn't get the highest grades and have to make the valedictory address. She came in third with an average of 94, excelled only by 94 1/2 and 95.

After two years at St. Mary's Episcopal School for Girls in Dallas, where she was graduated with an "A" average, she began her studies at the University of Texas. There she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1933, a Bachelor of Journalism in 1934.

A few weeks later, in the office of a friend in Austin, Texas, she met Lyndon Johnson and two months later they were married in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio.

Mrs. Johnson's principal business interests have been in the field of radio and television broadcasting. From her mother, she received a small inheritance which she invested in a radio station in Austin, KTBC, in 1942. During the next twenty years, the radio station grew from nine to 100 employees. It obtained a network affiliation and it expanded to include television. When Mr. Johnson became President in November 1963, Mrs. Johnson resigned as Chairman of the Board of the station and placed it in a trustee ship.

She has been cited for her contribution to the public interest through the media of the airwaves by Theta Sigma Phi, the honorary journalism sorority, and the American Women in Radio and Television.

Awards have come to her from many groups. The national Association of Colored Women's Clubs gave her its 1963 silver loving cup for being a "Goodwill Ambassador of the World." The Hartford, Connecticut chapter of B'nai B'rith saluted her with its Humanitarian Award. Other honors included the Humanitarian Citation of the Volunteers of America, who expressed appreciation at their 1963 National Convention for her efforts in behalf of those who "suffer from economic and social disadvantages in the Nation's distressed areas..."

Gentle in manner and friendly, Mrs. Johnson has a strong sense of purpose. She says that "in this space age, passive citizenship is a luxury no one can afford." She views her role as the First Lady as "A daily working job."

In her travels, she seeks constantly to bring the President's beliefs and goals closer to people and to promote one of his objectives -- a greater role for women -- by speaking to and encouraging women's groups. In an article citing ten ways women can lend a hand in shaping world understanding, she urged:

"Be a diplomat for democracy; let's recapture our pioneer spirit; don't hesitate to set the facts straight about your country; don't belittle other countries; learn more about foreign lands; make a friend of another nationality; be an understanding visitor; be a good neighbor; be hospitable to foreign visitors; take an interest in women overseas."

Mrs. Johnson tries to carry these recommendations out in her own life. As a wife of the Vice President, she spent three mornings a week studying Spanish to be able to communicate with visitors from Spanish-speaking nations in their own language.

The First Lady has always recognized her husband's leadership abilities and often says of him: "He's a good man in a crisis." She sees him also as "an exciting man to live with, an exhausting man to keep up with; a man who has worn well in the years we've been together, and most important, a man from whom I've learned that to put all the brains and heart and skill you have into the job of trying to make your government work a little better can be a wonderful life for a man and his wife."

Through all her years as a partner in politics with her husband, Mrs. Johnson has found time to be a mother, friend and companion to their two daughters, Lynda Bird, 20, who attends George Washington University and Luci Baines, 17, who goes to the National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington. She has taught them not to feel important because of their father's position, but to have respect for his job. Her creed for them has been: "It's the job that's important, not me and you."

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