

V I P

Martha Mitchell: *Reluctant Author*

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By Maxine Cheshire

Book publishers are still trying to get Martha Mitchell to do her memoirs.

Winzola McLendon, the Washington freelancer who has said she will be writing the book if it ever gets written, had a call recently from Eleanor Rawson of the David McKay Co. In a joint offer with a paperback publisher, Mrs. Rawson had a check already written for an advance of \$1 million if Mrs. Mitchell would sign a contract.

Mrs. McLendon was not impressed with the sum. "We've already been offered more than that," she said, indicating that Mrs. Mitchell hadn't accepted the higher amount either.

Not So Rosy

When horticultural admirers of Lady Bird Johnson were looking for a rose to name in her honor, they originally selected the scarlet "Pharaoh," hybridized by the widow of the famous French rose grower, Frances Meilland.

Mrs. Johnson nipped the plan in the bud, saying: "I can't swallow the thorns of a French rose." An American strain was finally found to carry her name.

Now there is some sniffing among the nation's rose fanciers because the White House has permitted another of Mme. Meilland French hybrids to be named for First Lady Pat Nixon.