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Mrs. Ellsberg

The FBI And the Heiress

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SHE WAS A rich girl from Scarsdale — an heiress with a trust fund — and she had a cum laude degree from Radcliffe, an apartment on Sutton Place, and a glamorous radio - television job in which she traveled all over the world interviewing famous people.

La Dolce Vita. And it probably couldn't have been much sweeter for Patricia Marx, the reed-slim, dark-haired woman who was one of nine children of Louis Marx, the millionaire toy manufacturer who is often called a "toycoon."

Today, as Mrs. Daniel Ellsberg, wife of the man who allegedly gave the Pentagon Papers to the press, life is a bit more complicated, a bit more hectic. Recently, for example, she learned that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had visited her dentist and asked to see some X-rays that had been made of her teeth. The dentist refused to cooperate.

"For a while, I'd always be saying 'shhhhh' when we were in the apartment because I thought it might be bugged," she said in a recent interview at Simon and Schuster, publishers of her husband's new book, "Papers on the War."

"But where could we go to talk? We couldn't go in the car, or to a restaurant. So we went out on the terrace."

At 34, Patricia Ellsberg is one of those retiring, whispery-voiced women who are usually described as "extremely feminine." Her face appeared untouched by make-up, and her shoulder-length hair was worn in a casual, wash - in - the - shower - and - let - it - dry style. Her turquoise cotton dress was simple and plainly styled; so was her gold wedding band.

Mrs. Ellsberg's green eyes sparkled when she wryly discussed her telephone answering service, which she said was disconnected one day by the company on the ground that the Ellsbergs received too many calls — but was mysteriously functioning again the next day.

She added that FBI agents have paid visits to friends she had telephoned long distance ("we know they go through the charges"), and

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also to people to whom she has written personal checks.

"Psychologically, it's not so bothersome," she said of the events of the last 14 months, "because we believe in what we're doing, and we're open about it."

At present, the Ellsbergs are living in the modern apartment she still maintains on Sutton Place, awaiting a Supreme Court decision — probably in October — as to whether the high court will review a wiretapping appeal that has snagged the prosecution of Ellsberg in what is known as the Pentagon Papers trial. He and Anthony J. Russo Jr. are accused of espionage, conspiracy and misuse of



PATRICIA ELLSBERG
'Always saying shhh'

government property for allegedly making public the top secret study of the Vietnam war.

Patricia Ellsberg poo-h-pooed the stories that she was the major reason her husband switched from being a hawk to a dove on the Vietnam war. However, she admitted that one of the reasons she turned down his first marriage proposal (in 1966) was because of their differences on the war.

"I was one of many influences on him," she said. "When I visited him in Vietnam in 1966, we had long discussions on the war. We didn't yell or scream, but it did get intense. Dan would usually win with all the facts he had (he was working for the state department at the time), but I would still know I was right, that the war was wrong, morally and politically."

They had met a year earlier, while Patricia was in Washington, D.C., to do some interviews for her radio show, "Patricia Marx Interviews" on WNYC, a job she held from 1960 to 1970, when she and Ellsberg, by then a dove, were married.

Friends say that Patricia had always had a fondness for writers, intellectuals and Harvard men. Her major romance before Ellsberg was John Simon, the controversial movie and theater critic, in a relationship that lasted, on and off, for seven years.

"Patricia was always interested in benevolent power," Simon said, "the power

to do good, perhaps on a global scale. I think she sensed this power in Ellsberg. I know that she somehow felt the arts weren't doing this."

"We talked about marriage many times," Simon continued. "But her family didn't like me. They were very conservative people. Now, compared to Ellsberg, they would probably adore me."

He may be right. Louis Marx presently refuses to see Ellsberg. But the man who is sometimes called "the hawk of the toy indus-

try" because he continues to manufacture war toys despite pacifist pressures, still welcomes visits from Patricia, one of his three daughters.

"I don't try to politicize my father — it's a losing battle," Patricia said. "It's like worrying about Santa Claus's politics."

Friends say that the Ellsbergs are an extremely close couple ("I've never seen two people their age bill and coo as much as they do," one of them remarked). In "Papers on the War,"

Ellsberg acknowledges his wife as "my partner, lover and closest friend," and that, she says, is her favorite part of the book.

Although her life since her marriage has revolved mainly around her husband, Mrs. Ellsberg is currently working on a book of her radio interviews for Horizon Press. She says her marriage is "very liberated," and that her husband helps her with the house-cleaning and is also adept at fixing Sunday brunches.

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