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Second-class status for Pat



The first lady does a little polite bazaar bargaining for copper pot

— UPI Photo

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JIDDA, Saudi Arabia — The guest who didn't come to dinner was Mrs. Richard Nixon.

She wasn't invited. In fact, during the 24-hour party in Saudi Arabia, she was treated as they treat women, which is second-class.

She followed behind the President and King Faisal in another limousine in the high-speed motorcade from the airport to the guest palace, had a cup of Arabic coffee with them in the salon and then was out of the main action.

Little information could be gathered about Mrs. Nixon's very secluded dinner given by Queen Irifa at her palace overlooking the azure-colored Red Sea — some broadcasts wrongfully called it a "harem." rem."

She did not see her husband receive from the king the highest honor of the realm, the Order of King Abdul Aziz al Saud. And she sat in a separate limousine on the trip back to the airport.

During yesterday morning's talks, she went to the local "souk," the center of Arab buying and selling, which is about the size of a tiny American shopping center.

She bought a copper coffee pot for about \$6 and discussed the peddler economy with a jewelry salesman, who spoke excellent English.

"How's biz?" she asked, testing the peddler's American slang.

"Pretty good," he replied quickly.

Alcohol is forbidden in the kingdom, but when the head waiter at the Kandra Palace Hotel was jokingly asked for a martini, he giggled and said "Not yet."