

Pat Nixon's Tough Day Campaigning

By Don West

Examiner News Staff

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Being First Lady is a tough job, Mrs. Pat Nixon's visit yesterday to NASA-Ames Research Center graphically demonstrated.

During her 100 minute stopover she had to:

- Take a bucking ride in an aircraft flight simulator shortly after stepping down from a 2000-mile air ride in Air Force Two.

- Apologize for the weather in Idaho Falls that had delayed her takeoff and kept the crowd at 2500 at Moffett Field waiting for 45 minutes.

- Maintain an intensely interested expression during detailed explanations of research projects at Ames that are seeking medical applications for space research technology.

She'll Report

Mrs. Nixon told the crowd she had come to see the projects so she could report "back to Washington" on their efforts.

"During the past three-and-a-half years, my husband and I have visited every state in the union and we have done that because we like the people and because we want to focus attention on projects that help mankind," she said.

During a tour of seven dis-

plays representing Ames Projects, Mrs. Nixon had her heart beat audibly magnified hundreds of times through a miniature blood flow measuring device that merely touched her wrist and slipped her right hand into a motorized space suit to see how it might be used someday for the handicapped.

Her ride in the flight simulator with research pilot Fred Drinkwater III was a dippy doodle of 12 minutes that she admitted made her somewhat "seasick," but she emerged from the pale yellow craft smiling.

Ames Center Director Dr. Hans Mark presented her with a picture of the Western White House at San Clemente taken from a high altitude observation craft.

Mark then waved his hand and the special aircraft that had taken the photo took off from the airfield in a dramatic climb that was nearly vertical.

Mrs. Nixon made a point to shake hands with many of the members of the Sunnyvale and San Leandro High Schools bands "that had to play and play" while the crowd had waited for her.