



JESSAMYN WEST

'President Easy to Live With,' Says Pat

Nixons Talk About

NEW YORK — (AP) — President Nixon may seem "very serious, even forbidding to some," says his wife, Pat, but, "Dick is the easiest man in the world to live with."

Mrs. Nixon commented in a wide-ranging interview in the current issue of Good Housekeeping magazine, written by Jessamyn West, a cousin of the President.

"Someone said that being married to a Milhous-Nixon was enough of a job without having to be the President's wife, too," she said to Miss West.

"Well, someone was wrong. Dick is the easiest man in the world to live with. Outside, with the problems he has to face, he may seem very serious, even forbidding to some," she said.

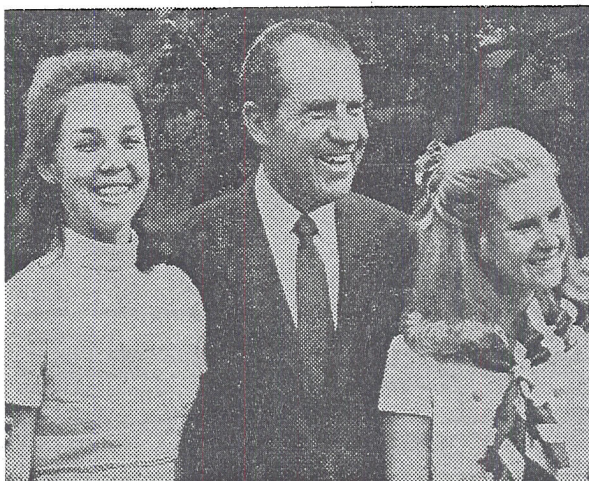
"But when he comes home to me and the girls, he comes whistling and joking. He adores the girls and they adore him."

'Person' in Action

Mrs. Nixon, shunning comparisons with other First Ladies, said she would like to be judged for what she can do as wife of the President.

"A person is what he does. That's what's important and interesting, not character analysis and personality assessment," she said.

Miss West said Nixon's own description of his wife is someone who enjoys solitude and "the free-



"APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING"

Julie, Richard and Tricia

dom to walk quietly along the edge of some deserted beach." **

"Pat is really a very shy person," said Nixon. "She steels herself for the public bit and, like other people when they're doing what doesn't come naturally, perhaps she puts up an extra-bold front." *

Another time, discussing his daughters Tricia

* See 31 Jan 72, this file
 ** 20 Apr 71, this file

Family Life



PAT NIXON

and Julie, Nixon said; "Who understands women? I'll tell you one thing I understand, though. Appearances are deceiving. Julie looks like the strong, outgoing one. Tricia looks fragile. The fact is, Julie is more easily hurt than Tricia."

Mrs. Nixon said she and the President raised their daughters "to make decisions themselves" and as a result "they perhaps ask us for advice more often . . ."

San Clemente

"For example, Tricia called one evening to say she was in the middle of an argument with someone and needed some facts from her father. Dick was swimming. The poor man got out of the pool and took the phone to answer her questions," said Mrs. Nixon.

"Tricia called back later to say, 'I won. Thanks a lot,'" she said. "This pleased Dick for two reasons: Tricia had remembered to say, 'Thank you'; she had wanted the facts and she had wanted to win. That's three reasons, I guess."

Mrs. Nixon said she and the President already have chosen "our retirement spot — San Clemente."

As for their marriage in 1940, she said Nixon had few clear political ambitions then.

"In the beginning, our ambition was to make both ends meet," she said. "Politics came later."