

MAR 15 1973

The Changing First Lady



Two early photos of Pat Nixon — as a 17-year-old high school student in 1929 and a 25-year-old job-hunting teacher in 1937

New York

PAT NIXON becomes 61 this week with a "new" fashion image that belies the passing years.

Those who see the First Lady often say that she is slimmer, more assured and chic in her clothes choices, that her hairdo is more flattering and that she's also wearing a more outgoing personality than the Pat who came to Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 1953, as wife of a vice president.

Helen Thomas, the UPI's White House correspondent, calls Mrs. Nixon "the best groomed First Lady I've seen."

Mrs. Nixon obviously is more relaxed now that all that campaigning in congressional, vice presidential and presidential campaign races is behind.

She keeps a size 8-10 figure, not from dieting but just from care in what she eats.

Leafing through picture files, you find a whole softer look. Back in the '50s, she wore her hair parted, curled, and the result was a bit harsh for her strong jaw line.

By 1963, she had softened it with waves and a



The changing image of Pat Nixon is apparent in these photos from 1953, 1956, 1960 and 1969 (by the last year she was switching to a softer, lighter hairdo)



Mrs. Nixon wearing her modified French twist coiffure at this year's inaugural ball

few wisps on the forehead. And by the time the January 20th inaugural of this year came, it was a downright, soft "do," pulled back almost into a French twist.

She also is more often seen hatless, although the millinery industry had hoped she'd put a hat on for the daytime inaugural ceremonies.

Having her own hairdresser at the White House now and to travel with her helps, of course. But Miss Thomas says she's sure that Mrs. Nixon, who's always basically cared for her own wardrobe, could do her own hair if necessary.

The color of Mrs. Nixon's hair has changed little, although Miss Thomas says it appears to her to be lighter blonde and with fewer reddish tones.

★ ★ ★

First Lady Pat Nixon yesterday received a sample of this year's Easter Seals from the National Easter Seal Child, Peter Ross Stinson of Sacramento.

The boy and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Stinson, were present at the White House ceremony, along with National Easter Seal Society President Thomas C. Teas.

A.P. & U.P.



Pat at 60: "The best-groomed First Lady"