

Still Laughing

By Maxine Cheshire

Barbara Howar's money-making memoirs, "Laughing All The Way," could underwrite a swinging new social scene in Washington. Too broke previously to afford to do much entertaining, she is feeling affluent after 18 weeks on the best-selling list and is househunting for a place big enough for parties . . . John W. Dean III and his wife have dropped out of sight and even his lawyers didn't know where he was earlier this week. The couple's neighbors can see they aren't home because there has been a big, shocking pink package from the "World Beauty Club" propped up on the front doorstep by the mailman.

Lynda and Chuck Robb, who bought a four-acre parcel of land in McLean last year for an estimated \$50,000-an-acre, are preparing to build. Plans for a three-story house in the \$150,000 to \$200,000 price range have been completed by a Texas architectural firm . . . A unique book on interior design will be finished soon, but you won't be able to buy it in book stores. Mrs. Paul Mellon has hired a Washington artist to paint renderings of major rooms in all her houses for a privately-printed volume that will be given to close friends . . .

John Ehrlichman's financial problems would be eased if he could sell his now-vacant house in Great Falls, Va., but it is still on the market at \$139,500 . . . McCall's magazine is trying to buy the rights to the unpublished Charlotte Bronte short stories which Rep. James Symington found among his late mother's possessions.

Running currently in the "Positions Wanted" ads of Editor & Publisher is one from "a White House speechwriter" who "desires return to journalism." The applicant isn't one of President Nixon's better-known writers, sources say, but one of the younger staffers who turn out what the White House press corps call "RGR"—"Rose Garden Rubbish"—the remarks voiced during ceremonial occasions . . . Someone at the Postal Service had to have a sense of humor to come out in the Nixon administration with a stamp that reads "Progress In Electronics." Even people who aren't stamp collectors are hanging on to those envelopes as Watergate items.

Federal prisoners are not allowed to have visits from the press, but the Bureau of Prisons was outsmarted recently by reporter David Beckwith of Time magazine. Beckwith got in to see convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt by identifying himself as an "attorney." U.S. marshals assigned to investigate discovered that there was no action they could take against Beckwith because he really is a lawyer, licensed to practice in Texas.