

Rebozo--the Story of His Strange Marriage

By Vera Glaser

Washington

Some of the mystery surrounding President Nixon's best friend, Bebe Rebozo, will be stripped away late this month when he testifies before the Senate Watergate committee.

Floridians who know him well point to a side of Rebozo's private life which may be the key to his character. He was married twice to the same person — and divorced twice. She was beautiful, blonde Clare Gunn (now deceased), believed to be the great love of his life.

Rebozo's lifelong drive for money and power is said to be rooted in his passion to reach Clare's level, several notches above his own on the social ladder.

While still in high school, handsome Bebe, the son of Cuban immigrants, persuaded Clare to marry him secretly. They were in their teens, but fibbed about their ages.

The marriage was annulled three years later. Clare married again, had two children, became a war widow and remarried Bebe in 1946, in the same Florida courthouse.

That, too, ended in divorce, and Clare married for the fourth time. But Bebe remained devoted to the end, visiting her in the hospital until she died in 1958.

Since then, Bebe has remained single, a loner at the beck and call of Nixon.

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If the dean of the Senate, Republican George Aiken decides to retire, some low Vermonters will miss Lola Aiken, the dean's band's secretary.

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Aiken is a tough, irascible character who is regarded as an expert in international relations, a "flower" and a "savior."