

Notes on People by Laurie Johnston

NYTimes AUG 8 1975 from the Howard Law School.

In Santa Fe, wearing his beard of several months, John D. Ehrlichman, the former aid to President Nixon, showed up at the local newspaper, The New Mexican, to deny reports in what he called "an Eastern scandal tabloid" or "news rag"—The National Tattler—that he had deserted his family in Seattle, "gone hippie," lived in a Santa Fe "ghetto" and had a woman "constant companion."

Free while he appeals his two convictions in the Watergate scandal, Mr. Ehrlichman has been living in Santa Fe since last spring.

"There is no truth to these inuendo attempts to link me romantically with Ms. Priscilla Hoback of Canyon Road," Mr. Ehrlichman told the newspaper. He said that their relationship was a "casual friendship."

Mrs. Hoback is a potter with a shop in the Canyon Road artists' and craftsmen's quarter.

Although he first lived on Canyon Road, Mr. Ehrlichman now lives in a neighborhood of 300-year-old adobe houses. Any reporter who called the neighborhood

"rundown," he said, either "didn't look or didn't understand." Santa Fe residents say that Mr. Ehrlichman plays a lot of tennis at a local college, lunches or dines with friends and "tries to keep a low profile."

In Seattle, Jeanne Ehrlichman, who has a staff job with the Seattle Symphony, said, "I'm not going to comment" when asked about reports of a formal separation or divorce. "I'm not going to talk at all," she said, and suggested that the question be put to her husband.