

Ever at Her Husband's Side

LAUREL (Md.) — (UPI) — There was blood on her yellow dress and tears streaked her cheeks. She knelt on the dirt gray asphalt of the parking lot, her long black hair cascading protectively on the shoulders of her fallen husband.

Yesterday afternoon Cornelia Wallace was where she has been since Jan. 4, 1971 — by the side of her husband, the governor and the presidential contender, with him on the campaign trail as often as possible.

Bystanders and police finally pulled the sobbing Mrs. Wallace away from her husband and she climbed in the emergency van as

George Wallace was rushed by road and helicopter to the operating table.

Old Friend

Cornelia Ellis Snively Wallace, 32, divorced her citrus heir husband a few months before she married the widower Wallace. She had known Wallace since childhood when she lived with her uncle, former Alabama Gov. James "Big Jim" Folsom.

The mother of two boys — six children all together, counting Wallace's four — is an accomplished guitarist and a friendly, folksy woman who sometimes dresses in mod clothing and boots.

The first summer after her marriage she drove the pace car in the Winston 500

auto race at Talladega, Ala., and has joined her husband on the hustings almost constantly in this political year.

At Holy Cross Hospital in the minutes and hours after the shooting, she waited in a nurse's station while surgeons worked on her husband. Friends and even one other presidential candidate, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, dropped by to comfort her.

Composed

The next time reporters saw her she was composed, surrounded by Wallace's four children.

"I just wanted to tell you myself," she said, "the governor is in very good condition. He has suffered a serious injury to his abdomen,

but it is cleaned up and he's out of surgery.

"The children and I are going in to speak to him. Before he went into surgery, he was conscious all the time and quite aware of everything that was happening to him.

"He was talking to me all the time from the accident to the hospital. I feel very optimistic about him. And you know his nature — he didn't get the title of the 'Fightin Little Judge' for nothing.

"I am very happy and I feel very good that he is alive, that he has a sound heart and a sound brain and all of his vital organs are solid. I couldn't thank God for any more than that."



Sobbing, Cornelia Wallace kneels at her husband's side moments after the shooting

—UPI Photo