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It was our happy privilege to be one of three reporters designated by the White House staff to accompany the nation's First Lady, room by room, on her tour of the John Wright Stanly House here.

Eleanor D. Kennedy of the Greensboro Daily News and another feminine typewriter pounder, Lee Wilder of the Raleigh News and Observer, shared our good fortune. Unanimously we found Pat Nixon thoroughly charming.

To avoid congestion, photographers for the news media were paired, and each pair assigned to a specific room along the route. Flash bulbs flared instantly, as Mrs. Nixon entered each doorway.

We feel sure the two gal reporters, at the outset, sized up the First Lady's simple but smartly tailored dress, and silently speculated on what she paid for it. All women are like that.

Hardly an authority on good grooming, we did appreciate the fact that she wasn't, as we say down here in Dixie, all dolled up. Or to put it another way, she didn't look flossy. Even a man could see that.

The thing that got to the Mirror's editor right off the bat was her natural warmth and kindness. "If I may say it," we told her quite sincerely, "the cameras don't do justice to your lovely eyes."

Such a comment could have been misinterpreted. But bless her heart, the First Lady beamed and thanked us. After that, being in her presence was as comfortable as being with a favorite neighbor.

The supreme compliment one would like to pay Pat Nixon is hard to express in just the right words. Kipling described her rare kind when he wrote of those "who walk with kings, nor lose the common touch."

No one from either side of the railroad track stands the risk of feeling like a nobody around her. Every truly great person we've met in almost a half century of reporting has had this same quality, but not as abundantly as the First Lady.

As a father and grandfather who has never adjusted to the loneliness that comes when there are no longer young and happy voices in the house, Mrs. Nixon's enthusiasm for a doll bed touched us.

She was quick to spy it in an upstairs room. Bending over, she fondled the covers, and expressed delight upon finding a tiny mattress beneath them. She carefully restored the covers to their original neatness, took a wistful backward glance and moved on.

You can believe that Pat Nixon has a genuine love for children, and one of these days she'll be as foolish as any grandmother or grandfather you ever saw. This too is a common bond that the First Lady has with all of us.

After she left the John Wright Stanly House, she passed a group of little girls in green uniform near the side gate



**HAPPY OCCASION**—Liz Ragland, two year old daughter of Principal Tom Ragland at Albert H. Bangert Elementary School here, is as delighted as any tot could possibly be. And no wonder, she is posing for her picture with Miss North Carolina (Patsy Wood of Benson) during the school's observance of Heritage Week. Liz brought Raggedy

Andy along to meet the lovely queen, but appears to be stifling him to prevent him from speaking out of turn. Who knows, maybe Liz will wear a Miss North Carolina crown some day, like New Bern's Anita Johnson did a few years back.—Photo by Chick Natella.