

First Lady prepares home for 100,000

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A beaming Barbara Bush showed off the White House Christmas decorations Monday, from a towering tree garlanded with Nutcracker dolls and ballet slippers to a gingerbread house guarded by a miniature Millie.

"It's ravishing," exclaimed the first lady as she led a preview tour of the White House, brimming with garlands, bows, poinsettias, 47 trees, 54,000 lights and even a sprig of mistletoe above the Grand Staircase.

An estimated 100,000 visitors will troop through the mansion to view the finery over the holiday season.

President Bush complained Monday of having "a touch of the flu," but he was host of a congressional ball for 700 guests Monday night. The Bushes planned seven other Christmas parties over the next 10 days.

Mrs. Bush had seen most of the decorations as they went up over the weekend, with the help of 40 volunteers from the florist industry and White

House staff. Several grandchildren helped pelt the trees with artificial snow.

But she got her first glimpse of White House Executive Chef Hans Raffert's gingerbread house, dressed up as the witch's cottage from Hansel and Gretel. The wayward children are in the front yard, along with the witch, a snowman and, stretched out in front of her own doghouse, Millie.

"It's just beautiful, Hans. Absolutely spectacular," Mrs. Bush told the chef, who has created gingerbread houses each Christmas for the past 21 years. "Prettier than ever."

The Nutcracker ballet provided the theme this year, with the official 18-foot high Fraser fir tree in the Blue Room festooned with porcelain dolls and beaded ballet slippers.

Mrs. Bush credited the White House staff with the handiwork, including doll's costumes made from scratch. Giant toy soldiers are posted along the room's walls.

"Everybody in the White House had

a part—the carpenters, the electricians, everybody," she said, including a plumber who constructed a castle from plastic pipes.

An 18th century Italian wood and terra cotta nativity scene is prominently displayed in the East Room, as it has been every Christmas since 1967.

Mrs. Bush also gave reporters a glimpse of the Bush's personal Christmas tree, upstairs in their private quarters in the Yellow Oval Room. The tree, a 16-foot Fraser fir, overlooks the

Truman Balcony in the center of the mansion.

It is filled with the family's own decorations, including a crocheted snowman that she and her eldest son, George, made years ago. Mrs. Bush also spotted a wooden rabbit nestled in grass, the last survivor from a set of 10 that her mother gave her in 1945, the year they were married.

The first lady said there was only one thing that she or the president wanted this Christmas: "Peace."

Asked about Pentagon restrictions on Christmas celebrations for the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, Mrs. Bush said, "It's too bad. But you know, when in Rome, I guess you have to do what the Romans do." But she said nothing can stop them from celebrating the holiday in their hearts.

Pressed on what other gifts would be under the Bush tree, the first lady said, "I have way too much in life, as does George Bush." But she said, "I'm giving him something he needs."

Go HOME WITH A GLOW
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!
Malibu BEACH
featuring
Wolf Tanning Beds

10 Visits - \$28.00
UNLIMITED TANNING
THRU 12-31-90 • \$28.00
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Ask about our
1 year membership

967-RAYS
Timberlyne Shopping Center
Weaver Dairy Road

Only A
Phone Call Away!

Since 1980
Balloons & TUNES

**The Best Stocking
Stuffers in Town!**

Over 100 items under
\$3.00

967-3433
208 W. Main St., Carrboro
(corner of Main & Weaver, diagonal from Town Hall)

**Chicken Is
Brain Food!**

**EXAM-CRAM
HOURS**
11 AM - 1 AM
DEC. 10TH - 20TH

Call 942-GRIL
4 7 4 5
for menu & to place your order.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

An invitation
to share in **The Joy
of Books**

The Intimate Bookshop
is chock-full of exciting
books of fiction; beautiful
books of art, decorating
and antiques; useful books
on cooking, travel, sports,
home fix-up, business
and reference.

And at **The Intimate** you'll find the
largest collection of books for children -
delightful picturebooks, favorite stories
and a sparkling selection
for young adults.

Perfect gifts to entertain
and excite the people you
love; stop-in and experience
**The Joy of Reading,
of Browsing, and of
Giving Good Books!**

DAVID MACAULAY
**JAY
TRING
WORK**

JANE GOODALL
**THROUGH A
WIND**

In Chapel Hill
DOWNTOWN
929-0411
EASTGATE
929-0414

In Raleigh
SUTTON SQUARE
6325 Falls of the Neuse
878-4485

**The Intimate
Bookshop**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. OPEN EVENINGS TOO!

The Club

WEDNESDAY
25¢ Draft
75¢ Longnecks

Thurs. Euro Dance
10 pm-2 am
Fri.
10 pm-6 am
Sat.
10 pm-3 am
Sun. WXYC Local Series
10 pm-1 am

175 1/2 E. Franklin St.
Above Ye Olde Waffle Shop
968-1741

18 and over admitted with proper ID