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COLLECTION NUMBER: 10261947-016-102004

NUMBER:

**02430**

OF 10,000 ISSUED

★ *First Edition* ★

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# The Life of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

★ *The 42nd First Lady* ★

## Hillary Rodham Clinton: Biography



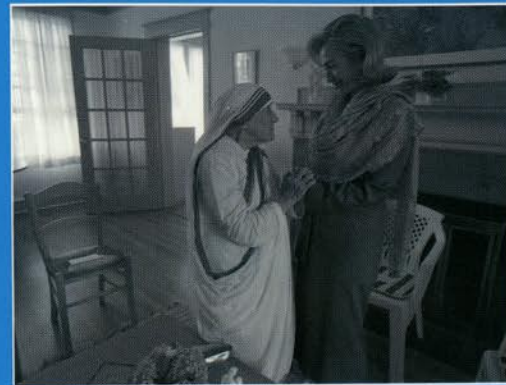
Hillary enters White House with husband Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton to attend a dinner honoring the nation's governors, Feb. 27, 1979\*



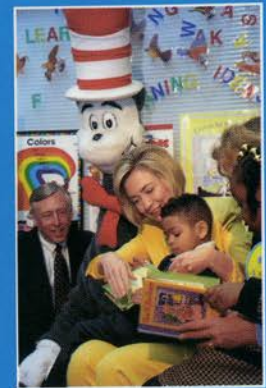
Hillary Clinton embraces her husband, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, after he secured enough delegates for the Democratic presidential nomination\*

***"There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country." Hillary Rodham***

The 42<sup>nd</sup> First Lady of the United States, Hillary Diane Rodham was born October 26, 1947 to Dorothy and Hugh Rodham in Chicago, Illinois. Her father was a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy during World War II who later owned a fabric store, and her mother was a full-time mom. Hillary grew up in a Republican household (her parents were stout Republicans) as the oldest of three with two younger brothers, Hugh and Tony in Park Ridge, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Hillary attended Illinois public schools, was active in student government, debate classes and was a member of the National Honor Society. She spent her time enjoying piano, sports, tutoring children, organizing food drives and being active in her church and Girl Scouts. As a teen, she worked summers as a lifeguard and became active in social causes, organizing a babysitting service for immigrants. In high school, Hillary got involved with politics, volunteering for Republican Barry Goodwater's 1964 presidential campaign and running as the first female to seek



First Lady meets with Mother Teresa at the opening of the Mother Teresa Home for Infant Children June 19, 1995, Washington\*\*



First Lady reads to children\*\*

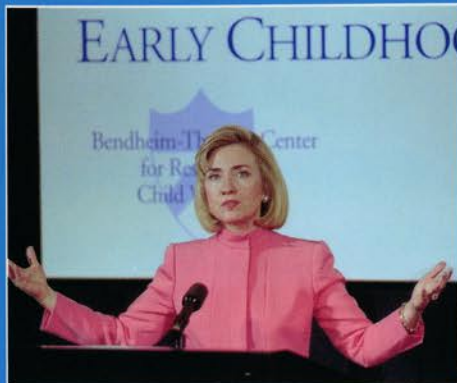
the President of Student Council at her high school. After graduating from Main South High School in the top 5% of her class, she enrolled in Wellesley, an all female college where her democratic political affiliation took fruition.

In college, Hillary became the head of the Young Republicans, but her inclination toward social activism drew her to the Democratic Party in 1968. Hillary again became active in student government and served as the student body president. Notably, Hillary became the first student speaker at a Wellesley commencement, speaking after Republican Senator Edward Brooke, for whom she refuted his points before giving her speech. This speech gained national attention when Life Magazine published her speech as part of a series entitled, "The Ten Ballsiest Broads in America Today." After graduating from Wesley College with honors in 1969, Hillary entered Yale Law School, where she became interested in family law and issues affecting children. She interned with the interracial Children's

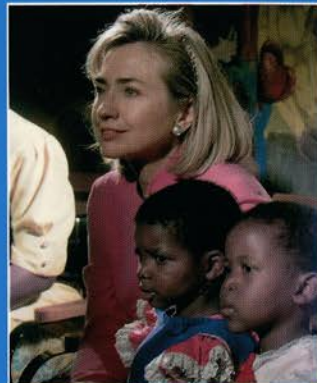
\*AP/Wide World Photos

\*\*Courtesy of the Clinton Presidential Library





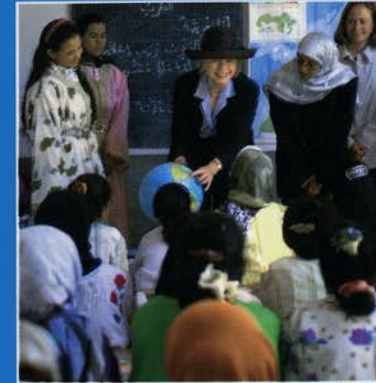
First Lady as the keynote speaker for the first annual Symposium on early childhood education, Princeton University, April 25, 1997\*



First Lady holds hand of an orphan child during a visit to the Orlando Children's Home in Soweto, South Africa, 1997\*



First Lady with KFOR Commander, Lt. Gen. Mike Jackson, left, of Great Britain as she joined President Clinton in Skopje, Macedonia where he spoke to U.S. Troops June 22, 1999\*



First Lady shows Washington, D.C.'s location to women taking part in a literacy program, Tasselmante Village, Morocco, March 29, 1999\*

## Clinton

Defense Fund that later led to a position as staff attorney for the organization upon graduating in 1973. At Yale, she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social action and met her future spouse, Bill Clinton.

A year after graduation, she was recruited by the Impeachment Inquiry staff of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to work on the Watergate impeachment proceedings of the Nixon administration. In 1975, she moved to Arkansas to teach at the law school of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and be with Bill Clinton, whom she married on October 11, 1975. In 1978, after working on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, President Carter appointed her to the board of the Legal Services Corporation, a government agency that provides low-income Americans with free access to civil legal aid. A year later, Bill became Governor of Arkansas, and she the First Lady of Arkansas while concurrently working as a full-time partner in the Rose Law firm. In 1980,

Chelsea Victoria was born and Hillary balanced family, law and public service. Serving as First Lady of Arkansas for 12 years, chaired the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee, co-founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and served on the boards of Arkansas Children's Hospital, Legal Services, and the Children's Defense Fund. In addition, she introduced an education program that became a model for other states—the Home Instruction Program for preschool children—the program that sent teachers to the homes of underprivileged families to show parents how to work with their children in school readiness and literacy. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas' Woman of the Year in 1983 and it's Mother of the Year in 1984.

Hillary's office as the 42<sup>nd</sup> First Lady began in 1993 when Bill Clinton took office as the President of the United States. Noted for her appointment to lead the





First Family during convocation ceremonies at Stanford University, Sept. 19, 1997\*



First Lady and the President on their way to Camp David, Oct. 3, 1998\*

president's task force on National Health Care Reform, she advocated improving health care quality, increasing immunizations for preschool children, and expanding health insurance coverage. In addition to healthcare reform, she also encouraged policies that aided parents in balancing career and family, increased economic security of working families, strengthened public education in America, increased opportunities to children and youth of all backgrounds, promoted the adoption of children living in foster care and has stressed the importance of building support for the arts and arts education. As America's ambassador, Mrs. Clinton has visited countries around the world to promote American values and interests, speaking out on human rights, democracy, and religious tolerance.

Hillary Rodham Clinton served as the nation's 42<sup>nd</sup> First Lady of the United States from January 20, 1993-January 19, 2001. She currently resides in New York and serves on the United States Senate.

## ***Hillary Rodham Clinton: While in Office***

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

- Promoted adoption with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997
- Hosted 1997 *White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About our Youngest Children*
- Worked for Head Start expansion
- Launched Prescription for Reading Partnership in 1997: pediatricians and other health professionals 'prescribe' reading to new parents
- Helped launch National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Hosted 1998 *White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence*
- Participated in White House Strategy Meetings on Children, Violence and Responsibility
- Instrumental to the development of the AmeriCorps National Service Program: Young people give a year of full-time service in exchange for scholarships or student loan forgiveness.

### **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- Public Charter School Supporter
- Advocate for early childhood education to ensure school readiness
- Education reform initiatives: Improve the quality of public education and teachers, increase academic standards and accountability, insure basic skill mastery.

### **HEALTH CARE**

- Chair of the President's Task Force on Health Care
- Advocated health care coverage for all Americans
- Worked to strengthen Medicaid and Medicare
- Worked to promote childhood immunizations



- Helped create and promote Children's Health Insurance Program: Provide health insurance for uninsured children

- Worked to address pediatric AIDS, childhood asthma, breast and colon cancer

### **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY AND EMPOWERMENT**

- Advocated access to microcredit to enable more American women to start small businesses
- Supported efforts to increase minimum wage, promoted equal pay laws and legal service funding for low-income families

- Worked to ensure bankruptcy does not impact child support collection

- Worked to preserve and strengthen features of Social Security for women

### **AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY: GLOBAL DIPLOMACY**

- Promoted civil society and religious tolerance
- Led efforts in the Western Hemisphere to eliminate measles, halt spread of tuberculosis, reduce maternal mortality and advance education reform
- "Vital Voices" initiative: empowered women to make progress in their economic, political and judicial systems through public-private partnerships
- Took the message of human rights, social development and empowerment of women around the globe; advocated equality of education for girls and boys, advocated health care to meet needs of women and children, advocated economic opportunity for women through small loans to start up businesses (microcredit), and advocated women's political activeness in their societies

### **ARTS**

- Honorary Chair of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities (PCAH)
- Advocated public support of national arts through the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Organized the 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Sculpture exhibits in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House

- Acquired the first painting by an African American—a landscape by Henry Ossawa Tanner—for the White House collection

- Active in Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures initiative

- Initiated a campaign to stress the importance and value of arts education as a necessary part of elementary and secondary school curriculum

### **Key Establishments**

- Adoption and Safe Families Act: Landmark legislation that reformed the nation's child welfare system by putting children's health and safety first
- Successfully advocated increased funding for programs serving young children
- Led task force on Health Care Reform
- Helped create AmeriCorps National Service Program

### **Hillary Rodham Clinton: Personal Trivia**

**First Lady No.:** 42 **Term:** 1993-2001 **Birthday:** October 26, 1947 **Birth**

**Name:** Hillary Diane Rodham **Hometown:** Park Ridge, Illinois **Parents:** Dorothy

and Hugh Rodham **Childhood and Youth Activities:** Tennis, swimming,

ballet, softball, volleyball, skating, organized food drives, served in student government,

Girl Scouts **Education:** M. A. from Wellesley College; J.D. from Yale Law School

**Career and Public Service:** Board of Editors of Yale Law Review and Social

Action; House Judiciary Committee; Staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund;

Faculty of the University of Arkansas Law School; Board of the Arkansas Children's

Hospital; Attorney with the Rose Law Firm; First Lady of Arkansas; 42 First Lady of the

United States of America; Senator of New York **Married:** October 11, 1975

**Husband:** Bill Clinton **Children:** Chelsea Victoria **Religion:** Methodist **Pets:**



Cat named Socks, Chocolate Lab named Buddy **Books Written:** *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us; An Invitation to the White House, Dear Socks, Dear Buddy; Kid's Letters to the First Pets; Living History* **Goals:** Promote opportunity and democracy **Policy Interests:** Addressing the needs of children and youth; strengthening public school system; improving health care; advancing women's economic security and empowerment; democracy advancement; supporting the arts

## Notable Facts

**First** female to run for the office of President of Student Council at Maine East High School **First** woman lawyer to join the Rose Law firm in 1976 **First** First Lady to testify before a federal grand jury<sup>1</sup> **First** First Lady to have own professional career **First** ever First Lady to win elected office in the United States **First** woman elected statewide in New York for the Senate

## Interesting Facts

- ❖ Considered becoming an astronaut before deciding on a law career
- ❖ Voted Most Likely to Succeed in high school
- ❖ National Honor Society Member and a National Merit Scholarship finalist
- ❖ Switched her political views from Republican to Democrat in the late 60's
- ❖ Wellesley College commencement speech was published in *Life Magazine*
- ❖ Kept maiden name when married and later took Bill's last name in 1982 for political reasons
- ❖ One of nation's top 100 lawyers in 1988 and 1991 by the *National Law Review*
- ❖ Arkansas Women of the Year in 1983
- ❖ Mother of the Year in 1984
- ❖ Served as First Lady of Arkansas for 12 years

<sup>1</sup> January 26, 1996 over Whitewater investigations

- ❖ Served as the honorary president of the Girl Scouts of America
- ❖ Sculpture is one of her favorite art forms
- ❖ First date with Clinton was in the sculpture garden at Yale University
- ❖ Her memoirs, *Living History* sold more than 1 million copies the first month
- ❖ As First Lady, wrote weekly newspaper column, "Talking It Over"
- ❖ Deeply involved in writing the President's budget

## Hillary Rodham Clinton: Timeline

**1947**

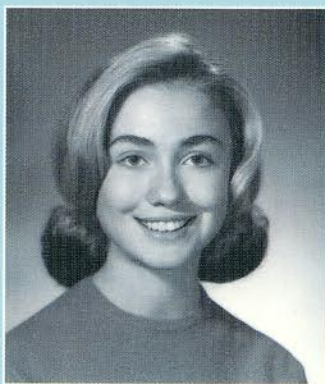
Born October 26 in Chicago, Illinois

**1965**

Graduated top 5% of class from Maine South High School

**1968**

Worked for Democrat Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign



Hillary Rodham's 1965 senior class portrait from Park Ridge Illinois East High School \*\*

**1965-1969**

Attended Wellesley College  
Served as Student Body President  
Head of the Young Republicans

**1964**

Helped out with Republican Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign

\*AP/Wide World Photos

\*\*Courtesy of the Clinton Presidential Library

**1969**

Graduated Wellesley College with a BA  
Entered Yale Law School  
Served on the Board of Editors of Yale Law Review & Social Action  
Interned with children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman  
Met Bill Clinton at Yale

ntial campaign

**1974**

Managed Bill's first run for political office (U.S. House of Rep)  
Served on the House Judiciary Committee for the Watergate Impeachment proceedings

**1976**

Attorney at Re  
Worked on Jir  
Founded Arka



Hillary and Bill as students at Yale University\*\*

**1973**

Graduated Yale Law school with a JD  
Staff Attorney for the Children's Defense Fund

**1972**

Helped Bill run McGovern's political campaign by working to register  
Hispanic voters in San Antonio, Texas

**1975**

Married Bill Clinton October 11 in Arkansas  
Taught at the University of Arkansas Law School



**1979-1981**

First Lady of Arkansas

Rose Law Firm  
Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign  
Arkansas Advocates for Children

**1982-1992**

Continued work as an Attorney and social activist  
Helped Bill win 4 reelection campaigns for Governor  
Served on the boards of Wal-Mart and TCBY  
Listed as one of the most influential lawyers in the



Hillary with husband Bill and their week-old baby Chelsea,  
March 5, 1980\*

**1978**

Appointed to the board of the Legal Services Corp by Pres. Carter  
Worked on Bill's successful campaign for Governor of Arkansas



Celebrating the Democratic  
runoff victory for governor of  
Arkansas, June 8, 1982\*

**1983-**

**1980**

Daughter Chelsea Victoria born  
Became partner at the Rose Law Firm

**1984** Named Arkansas Mother of the Year

**1993-2001** 42nd First Lady  
Wrote syndicated

country by the National Law Journal

**1983-1984** Chaired the Arkansas Education Standards Committee

**1993** 1983-1993 First Lady of Arkansas

**1983** Named Arkansas Woman of the Year



Hillary with husband Bill at the Youth Ball at the Post Office Pavilion, Jan. 20, 1993\*

**1988** Named one of the top 100 influential lawyers in the country by the National Law Journal



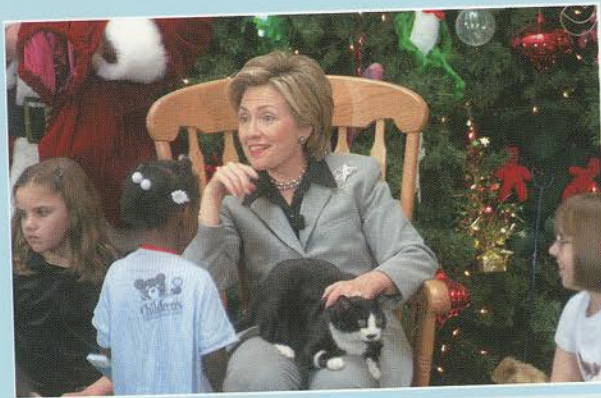
by of the United State of America  
led newspaper column, "Talking It Over"

**1999**

Began unannounced campaign for U.S. Senate

**2000-2006**

Senator of New York



First Lady with cat Socks talks with children at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, Dec. 15, 1999\*

**1996**

Wrote book, *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us*



Celebrating Senate victory, Nov. 7, 2000\*

**2000**

Candidacy for U.S. Senate made official February 6  
Elected to the United States Senate representing New York November 7

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