

Mrs. Mike Mansfield—A Busy Husband, Quiet Life

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from The Chicago Tribune.

By Louise Hutchinson (Chicago Tribune Press Service) WASHINGTON — "I don't do much but stand behind him," said Maureen Hayes Mansfield, wife of one of the most remarkable politicians in town — Sen. Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.), majority leader.

"I take care of him and the house and that doesn't take all day. I watch his health and try to see that he has a comfortable evening. I didn't even know whether you would care to come out and see me."

This isn't self-deprecation. It's just the way Maureen Mansfield talks in her quicksilver, smiling way. When most people think of the American-Italian in Washington, Kennedy comes first to their tongues. But Mike Mansfield was born in Greenwich Village, N.Y., of Irish immigrant parents, and Mrs. Mansfield's ancestral roots are in Ireland, too. "by way of Canada," she said.

In the wonderful, wacky world

of Washington, where things often are not what they seem, tourists might expect the Senate majority leader to live in a house that's a castle, with a social calendar like that of the debutante of the year. Hear Mrs. Mansfield on the subject:

"My husband lives in the Senate. We don't go out much socially any more. Mike is on the foreign relations committee, too, so we do go to some embassy dinners, and to the White House. (To turn down a White House invitation, one must be hospitalized, out of touch with the postal system, or socially inept, which no one in Washington is.)"

Attends Holiday Fetes

"I do some of the national holiday parties at the embassies for Mike. He rarely can do the 6 to 8 p.m. things — he's rarely through at the Senate."

"Yes, Secretary of State Dean Rusk called about 8 a.m. the other day to tell him about the war. But Mike usually leaves the house between 6:30 and 7 a.m. anyhow. He has breakfast

on the Hill, then has an hour alone in the office.

"Usually, he gets home a little before 7 p.m. Sometimes, if he's very tired, I just give him dinner on a tray. He always has to listen to the news. I say, 'Why are you listening to the news? You helped make it.' And he replies that things happen so fast, he has to."

"Generally we have dinner and then go to bed early, often at 9:30 p.m., and read. And Mike has one hobby: Music. We have a stereo upstairs and he often listens to that."

"I don't think people understand politicians. It's a hard job. Men like Dirksen (Illinois Republican, Senate minority leader, and a close friend of Mansfield's) and Mike and some of our other leaders really live a dedicated life."

She belongs to many organizations, Mrs. Mansfield said, but "I sort of skim the surface of life in Washington. I touch a lot of bases, but maybe each one only once a year."

Mrs. Louella Dirksen, wife of Sen. Dirksen, asked once to compare life in Pekin, Ill., the Dirksens' home town, with that in Washington, said the capital was "impersonal." Mrs. Mansfield said it could be lonely.

Louella Dirksen and Maureen Mansfield also have something else in common. Both were unsure, at the start of their husbands' political careers, that politics was a job to bank on. Both also discovered they were wed to determined political neophytes.

Dirksen Campaign

When Dirksen sought his first term in the House in 1930, and was beaten, he started the next day distributing his cards for the campaign two years hence, when he was elected.

Mansfield, beaten in 1940, when he was a political unknown in Montana, began a tour of the state the day after his defeat, thanking his supporters. Like Dirksen, he came up a winner in the next election.

Mrs. Dirksen insisted that her husband attend law school classes nights during his first term. The Mansfields rented a home here during his 10 years in the House.

In 1953, after being elected to his first six-year Senate term in 1952, they decided they could buy a home. Mrs. Mansfield found the home they now live in, the kind of house you would expect Mansfield to have. Not new, but red brick, sitting atop a small rise with abeleas and roses and a screened-in porch, the three-bedroom house proclaims its middle class status a block away.

"The real estate people kept insisting Mike to see the house before we bought," Mrs. Mansfield recalled. "O, I said he must come. We agreed to meet at the house. I waited and waited and couldn't get him on the phone. Finally, I signed the papers."

"That night I asked where he had been. 'Why, waiting for you at the house,' he said. He meant the House of Representatives, of course. It's like him. To Mike, there is only one House in town."

Mansfield may be the only United States senator ever "canonized" by another senator.

Sen. George Smathers (D., Fla.) proclaimed in 1962 from the Senate floor that Mansfield "won his sainthood here on earth for his magnificent patience. He has had the fortitude of the Christian martyrs."

Not always true, said Mrs. Mansfield, smiling. When she met her future husband in Butte, Mont., he was short-tempered, she recalled.

"Self-made man" is an American cliché. But consider Mansfield's story. Born in Greenwich Village, he was the son of a hotel porter. His mother died when he was very young. He was sent to Montana to live with a great-aunt. Sometimes, he ran away. When he was 14, concealing his true age, he enlisted in the navy and served two World War I years.

From China Without Diploma

Then he served a year's stretch in the army and two in the marines, stationed in China. He returned to Montana at 19, with, as his wife put it, no grammar school diploma, no family, no money.

Nights he worked as a mucker in the copper mines, shoveling dirt. Days, by special arrangement, he took courses at the Montana School of Mines. When Maureen Hayes, a Butte High School teacher, met him, he had graduated to sampler in the mines.

Some have credited her with Mansfield's incredible determined pursuit of education. She says he would have done it anyway. He got his master's degree at the University of Montana in 1934 after she cashed in an insurance policy to help him through. He taught Latin American studies and far eastern affairs there through 1942.

"I thought it was fun," she remembered. "We hadn't been married long and I wasn't worried. But I realize now it must have been awfully hard on Mike. He had always taken care of himself and here he was, in the middle of a depression and with a wife to care for, too."

Mrs. Mansfield went to Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa, for two years. She was graduated from St. Mary College, Notre Dame, Ind. She also got a masters at Montana University.

Mrs. Mansfield travels a bit now. She never did when Anne, 28, the Mansfield's only child, who now is a writer on political and economic subjects in London, was younger. Until Anne was 21, the Mansfields never traveled on the same plane.

A portrait of Anne hangs in the entrance hall. Seven photographs of her from the nursery through young adulthood march up the stairwell wall. And, in the living room, with its serene off-white carpeting, white couch, and off-white drapes and walls, a huge portrait of a mother and

Property Transfers

Jeanne Leeson deeded to Paul and Nancy Eve parts of lots 9 and 11, and lot 10 in block 427 of the Allen Addition. Stamps showed about \$18,500 was involved.

Loren and Janice Baker deeded to Lyle and Helen Clow lots 11-13 in block 81 of Cannon Addition. About \$10,000 was involved according to revenue stamps.

young daughter dominates the scene. It is Mrs. Mansfield and Anne painted many years ago. "Mike loves it," said Mrs. Mansfield simply. Mrs. Mansfield does a lot of reading. She also very much belongs to Montana.

"I suppose those in the military and the diplomatic service have the same experience," she mused. "Those first years here, with elections coming up every other year, I never wanted to be hurt in a defeat. But even now, I have never put down roots here. For Mike and me, Montana is home."

Mike Mansfield turns 65 next March. Does his wife wish, like men in private business, he could retire?

"No, because I think he still is needed, or someone like him," she said of her husband, sometimes called the humblest man in the Senate. "He is in excellent health. I don't worry as much about his expenditure of energy as I used to. I think he is more philosophic now. He has more knowledge. I think maybe he sees more clearly."

"He is so often tired when he comes home. I don't bring up

Engineers Hear Talk on Carroll

"The presence of Carroll College adds dignity and prestige to Helena. Its influence for the improvement of spiritual, cultural, and academic standards is felt by all who are within its sphere of impact," State Sen. Tom Judge told a meeting of the Montana Society of Professional Engineers.

Judge, speaking on the Carroll College campaign for a new physical education building, said, "the building cannot be built without your help. Your vital interest and financial support is the key that will unlock additional funds in the form of a federal grant."

Judge explained that the grant, available through the provisions of the Higher Facilities Act, could be received only after \$400,000 was raised as a "down payment."

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