



RYAN D'AGOSTINO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

District 9 Republican Party chairwoman Jackie Miller of Sun City will greet President Bush Saturday during his visit to Pueblo El Mirage.

Sun City greeter prepares

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jackie Miller of Sun City has thought long and hard about what to say to President Bush when she greets him in El Mirage on Monday.

"Really, I'd just like to spend the whole day with him," said Miller, District 9 Republican Party chairwoman. "I haven't ever gotten that close to the president. I think I'll tell him about all the different people here that have supported him and how much people care."

Miller was informed by the state Republican Party she'll be able to greet President Bush at the Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort and Country Club, where he's speaking. Secretary of State Jan Brewer and Arizona Corporation Commissioner Marc Spitzer were invited by the White House to greet the president at Luke Air Force Base where Air Force One is landing Monday.

Also greeting the president at Luke are Sens. Jon Kyl and John

GREETER: Works with Sun City Republicans

From A1

McCain, as well as Arizona Congressional District 2 Rep. Trent Franks, said a White House spokesperson. Though the White House has not confirmed it, other state and local officials are expected to greet the president at Luke or at Pueblo El Mirage.

Those meeting the president at Luke will travel by motorcade to the age-restricted Pueblo El Mirage, near El Mirage and Cactus roads, where the president will speak on Medicare reform and prescription discount cards.

The audience will be invited state and local officials as well as seniors from the West Valley who were invited by the White House, a White House spokesperson said. There is no public access into the event.

Miller, who also serves on the Sun City Republican

board and is the voter registration chair for the District 9 Republican Party, said she's thrilled to be recognized for her hard work in supporting the party and President Bush. Meeting the president, she said, is a hefty reward.

"I'm very excited about it. It's an honor to be selected," Miller said. "I was surprised when they asked me to be a greeter. It's nice to be able to represent this community and my district. I want (the president) to realize that here in the West Valley, we have some amazing people working for him."

She said she may write the president a letter and include the names and photos of people from the Sun City Republican headquarters who worked on his campaign.

"I'm very impressed that he's coming out to the west end," she said, adding the Medicare topic will hit home

with West Valley residents. "There's a big contention of us (retirees) here ... It'll be perfect."

Brewer said the president's initiatives on Medicare reform is timely and appreciated.

"I think it's absolutely wonderful that he's coming out here to speak to the people and to address Medicare," she said. "When they hear it from him, they'll have a better understanding of it."

"I think people are more attentive when it's the president speaking to them ... It's a very ominous feeling to be there with him," she said.

Bush last visited Arizona in March, when he spoke in Tucson as part of a nationwide tour to promote his Social Security reform proposals. The president spoke about Medicare reform while visiting Phoenix in November 2003, hours after Congress adopted the most sweeping

changes to the health care insurance program since it was created.

The discount card was one of the most touted portions of the plan to add prescription drugs to Medicare coverage.

"We feel we are very special because he's visited our state on many occasions," Brewer said. "He has done well by Arizona."

Spitzer said he got two official calls from the White House Thursday confirming he would be greeting the president Monday at Luke.

"I'm very honored and humbled to be there," Spitzer said. "It's obviously very exciting and thrilling to meet the President of the United States."

Le Templar contributed to this article.

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboon@aztrib.com.

See GREETER, A5

Sun City volunteers merit face time



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS SUN

Rita and Ruben Carroll of Sun City will be honored by President Bush during his visit Monday for their volunteer work at the El Mirage Senior Center.

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS SUN

Rita Carroll of Sun City was shaking when she got the phone call informing her that she and her husband Ruben will receive an award from President Bush Monday.

The couple expects the shock and exhilaration won't let up, especially when they shake the president's hand.

"I don't know if I'll be able to talk," Carroll said. "It's such an honor that they chose us."

Bush is presenting Ruben and Rita Carroll with the President's Volunteer Service Award during his

visit to the West Valley. The Carrolls volunteer through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at the El Mirage Senior Center, where they've served since 2001.

Five or six days a week, the couple serves meals and assists with clean-up duties for the center's congregate meal program. They also help with transportation, packaging and distribution of food for the center's food distribution program which provides meals to qualified seniors in need. Rita, 77, also serves as the center's volunteer coordinator and assists with administrative duties.

"To thank them for making a

difference in the lives of others. President Bush has met with nearly 450 individuals around the country, like the Carrolls, since March 2002," a White House statement read.

A White House representative called the Carrolls Friday to let them know they were being given the award. The couple was instructed to greet the president at Luke Air Force Base, where Air Force One is landing Monday morning. At Luke, the president will shake hands with the couple and present them with pins of recognition, Rita said.

See VOLUNTEERS, A5

VOLUNTEERS: Nominated by El Mirage center

From A1

The Area Agency on Aging contacted the El Mirage Senior Center to ask for award nominees. Center director Lupe Valdez suggested the Carrolls.

Ruben, 80, said he feels like he's beaten one in a million odds by being able to meet the president face-to-face.

"This is once-in-a-lifetime thing,"

Ruben said. "I never expected it. What would I say to him? That it's an honor."

Though Democrats, the Carrolls said they have respect for President Bush and value his efforts.

"I'm for the country," Ruben said. "I enjoy what he's doing for all people like me and millions of others."

The Carrolls have been married for 61 years. They both retired in 1983 — Ruben from a 32-year career as a

superintendent of utilities for the city of Glendale and Rita from a 20-year house-keeping career with Thunderbird Samaritan Hospital, now Banner Thunderbird Medical Center, in Glendale.

The President's Volunteer Service Award was created at the President's direction by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. For information about the award, visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.



Long wait proved fruitless for some

Staff report

Like a water-logged earthen dam holding back two days of rain, the defined line of 5,000 well-wishers broke down and became a crowd in front of the white tent set up in front of Sun City's Sundial Recreation Center.

The president had arrived at 1:36 and at 1:40 people were seeing their chance of a lifetime slip away.

Nervous Secret Service agents yelled at the people who were pushing and shoving as they came up to the gate in a last attempt to get in.

"Step back," yelled agent K.C. Williams at the throng of people who had become frustrated of waiting in the heat.

Many were angry at the preference some people seemed to be getting.

"There were some people who were here for only 15 minutes and they got in," said Pushpa Deshmukh of Glendale, who had been waiting since 11:30 a.m. for her chance to see the president.

She was near the sundial at the corner of 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard before she decided to take matters into her own hands.

She was able to squeeze her way in.

Little kids were getting knocked in the head by elbows and knees as they were easily overlooked by adults eager to get past the bottle neck where the armed Secret Service agents set up metal detectors.

Agents had their hands full as they searched each person as they walked into the auditorium and breezeway.

Lawn chairs, umbrellas and signs started stacking up underneath the white tent. Spectators were allowed to take cameras and cellular phones inside.

The crowd was getting antsy and people who had stood in line for hours were now pushing more anxiously toward the entrance.

A lieutenant obviously in charge of the Secret Service detail searching those lucky enough to get to see or hear the Clinton yelled to a white-shirted officer at the front.

"Bill, what've you got?"

The officer looked at the counter in his hand and yelled, "760."

The lieutenant gestured with his hand moving across his throat, indicating that the agent should close the doors after 800 guests had passed

through.

The agent looked out at the thousands of people waiting in the hot sun, looked back at the officer in surprise, rolled his eyes toward the heavens and turned back to his arduous task.

At 1:55 p.m., agent Williams yelled out: "Fire marshal cut it off."

No more spectators were allowed in.

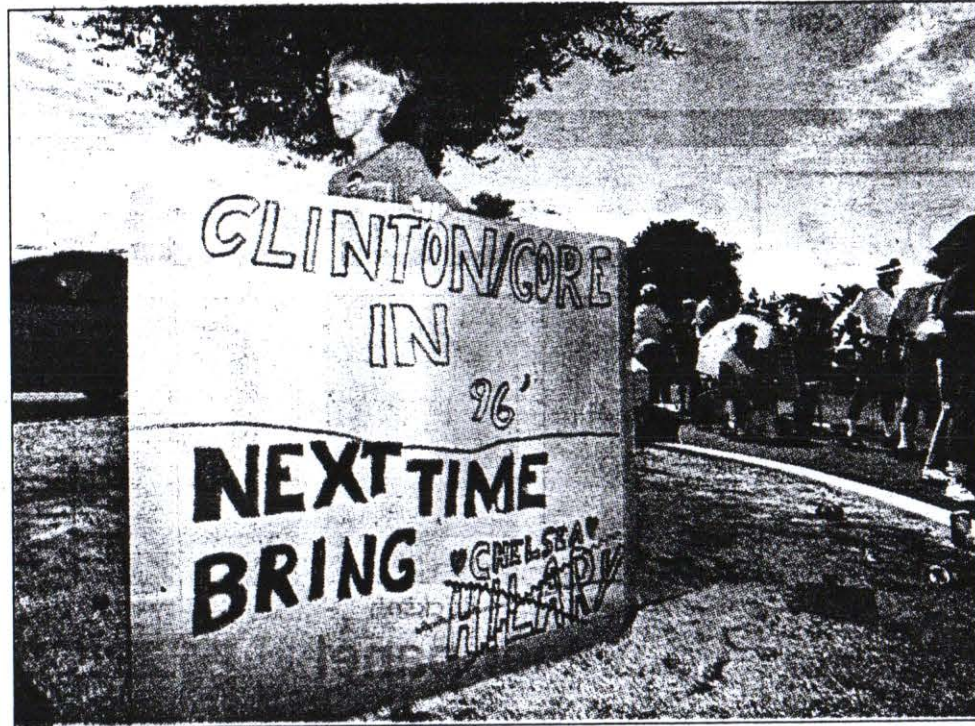
Ray Isner was within arms reach of the Secret Service officer when the fire marshal's announcement was made.

"He would do that, he's a Republican," Isner shouted.

The Tucson man who had traveled to Sun City and waited for about three hours in line without getting in to see President Clinton said he was just joking about the fire marshal's political affiliation.

"Hey, Kathy, take a picture of that metal detector, at least we'll get that," he told his wife with a laugh.

While admitting he was disappointed about not getting into Sundial Recreation Center to see and hear Clinton, he said just witnessing the entire atmosphere surrounding the presidential visit was worth the trip.



Matt Styer, 10, of Phoenix wanted to see the youngest of the first family on the president's stop.

Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

"Sure, it was disappointing, but what's more important is that he wins in November," Isner said.

"And just seeing Air Force One fly over was worth coming out. It gave me goosebumps."

All protests, political discussions and conversations came to brief halt Wednesday at about 12:55 p.m. when Air Force One flew over Sun City.

The presidential plane was on its final approach to Luke Air Force Base and was flying at about 1,000 feet as it dramatically flew past the Sundial Recreation Center parking lot. People cheered and waved at the plane as it flew by.

Seeing Air Force One wasn't

enough for one Sun City woman, who asked not to be identified. She had just gone through the metal detectors and thought she was home free.

"They checked me out, went through my purse and then they threw me out," she said.

She had been waiting there since 12:50 p.m.

"This was supposed to be for people living in Sun City," she said. "I tell you, after this, I'm not going to vote for Clinton."

Another man who just went through the metal detectors was a little more adamant about being thrown out, refusing to turn around.

"Step back sir," said Wil-

liams. "Step back, sir," Williams repeated a little more adamantly and a little more louder.

Finally, the agent got two inches away from the man's face and yelled, "You want to try me? Step back!"

The man complied.

Elizabeth Zamorano of Phoenix, who was next in line, had been waiting there since 11 a.m. "The long sweaty wait was worth it," she said. "It's not his (Clinton's) fault."

Mary Bailey, who was waiting behind Zamorano, said had she known there was going to be that many people, she would have been there around 7 a.m.

President calls on GOP 'legend'

Goldwater won young Clinton's heart

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

President Clinton gave Arizona two extra hours of his time Wednesday and used it to visit an old, albeit Republican friend — former Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater.

The president was scheduled to depart from Luke Air Force Base at 4 p.m. after visiting a largely partisan crowd in Sun City. But instead, he directed his 21-car motorcade to Barrow Neurological Institute in downtown Phoenix. The institute, on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, is where the 87-year-old Goldwater is recuperating from a minor stroke suffered Monday.

During his speech in Sundial Auditorium earlier Wednesday, Clinton wished Goldwater well in his recovery. He recounted for the crowd of some 2,500 people inside the auditorium the day 28 years ago when he first met Sen. Goldwater in Washington. Clinton was a 21-year-old college senior and working for an anti-Vietnam War Democratic Arkansas senator at the time.

Clinton's motorcade made the 10-mile journey to downtown Phoenix on a freeway that had been cleared of traffic.

Freeway entrance ramps, which had been blocked off by police, were blanketed with parked cars and waving motorists.

The motorcade left the freeway at Seventh Avenue and headed north to St. Joseph's, where the hospital's emergency exit had been roped off. Along Seventh, people gathered to wave at the motorcade as it passed by. A man sitting on his bike at one street corner made a profane gesture.

The president's limousine parked in front of the emergency entrance of the hospital near Seventh Avenue and Earll Drive. Aides and Secret Service agents escorted him in the door of the Mercy Health Care office. A group of sharpshooters, the same ones that were with the president when he arrived at Luke Air Force Base and accompanied him to Sundial Auditorium, stood atop the Mercy Health Care roof. The men used binoculars to survey the crowds and surrounding buildings.

Reporters and photographers were not allowed to accompany the president, who was inside the hospital for about 30 minutes.

Inside, aides said, Clinton

"He was kind to me in circumstances when it would have been easy to be otherwise. That made a big impression on me. I never got over it."

—PRESIDENT CLINTON
ON BARRY GOLDWATER

was having a "lively" conversation with Goldwater, the senator's wife, Susan, and his son, Mark. The president visited briefly with several other patients in the rehabilitation unit at Barrow, aides said.

A crowd that had gathered across the street began chanting "Four more years" as the president emerged, smiling and waving. He stopped a few steps away from his limousine door to talk with reporters about Goldwater.

"We mostly just reminisced. He looks terrific," Clinton said, laughing off a reporter's question about getting an endorsement from the man known as the founder of the conservative Republican movement.

Clinton said his conversation with Goldwater was personal and non-political.

"He won my heart when I met him and I was a senior in college. He was kind to me in circumstances when it would have been easy to be otherwise. That made a big impression on me. I never got over it."

Asked by a reporter why Goldwater is a legend, Clinton replied: "I think he is a legend because people believe he's real and that he represents something fundamentally good about America. He's a patriot. He always served his country, loved his country. And he didn't pull any punches with the American people. I think people know he's real in every way and they like the reality that they see, even the people who disagree with him.

"The other thing about him is that he treated his political adversaries with respect and kindness and unfailing civility and good humor. And I think people miss that, miss seeing leaders conduct themselves in the way he always did — even when he was in a fierce debate with people about a lot of things."

Clinton bridges age gap

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

Standing tall in a taupe suite and shiny, brown cowboy boots, President Clinton sauntered into Republican territory Wednesday and asked for another four years to work on solving America's problems.

Looking over a sea of faces in a darkened Sundial Auditorium in Sun City, Clinton said his administration has accomplished much in four years, but has more bridge-building to do to get America where it needs to be in the dawning of the 21st century.

The president did not offer the Sundial audience any potential cures for the Medicare budget drain, or for ensuring the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund.

He did trumpet his 1996 campaign theme, "Building a bridge to the 21st century," several times.

The speech was essentially a shorter version of the nomination acceptance speech he gave on the final night of the Democratic National Convention last month in Chicago. He recounted his administration's accomplishments, including shrinking the federal government by 250,000 jobs, and reiterated his goals for a second term. Among them: building communities by helping parents balance work and family obligations. Specifically, the president said he aims to expand the Family Leave Law to allow workers up to 24 hours of leave annually to take their parents to medical appointments, or attend a child's school play.

A key challenge facing the country in the next four years, Clinton told the Sundial crowd, is balancing the budget. Without it, Americans can expect interest rates to increase 2 percent. Higher rates will hurt consumers and business and, ultimately the entire economy, Clinton said.

Addressing the crowd of some 2,500 in a friendly, informal style, as if he were at a family gathering, Clinton said the budget must be balanced, but in a way that meets the

► See Clinton lists, A5

A.5

Clinton lists first-term accomplishments

■ From A1

country's obligations and responsibilities.

Among the obligations, he said, are investments in education and technological research. Arizona, especially has a "huge stake" in the high-technology industry, Clinton said, noting that the Internet is the product of a federally funded research project.

Investing in education and technology will make a huge difference in the future of our country.

Clinton cited the welfare reform

bill he recently signed as a budget-balancing measure that helps meet the country's responsibility to "end the isolation of people trapped on welfare generation after generation." Although he's not happy with all the components of the welfare-reform bill, Clinton said Americans should "take the new system and make it work." He challenged businesses to help remove 1 million people from the welfare rolls in the next four years. Clinton said one 1.8 million fewer people are on welfare today than when he took office in 1992.

Clinton defended his decision to veto a balanced-budget bill the Republican-controlled Congress fashioned earlier this year. He said the bill would have ended Medicaid's 30-year guarantee of health care for the poor, babies and the disabled. It also would have created a two-tiered Medicare system designed to strip older, less healthy seniors of the highest-quality health care. And, Clinton said, the GOP budget bill would raise taxes for 9 million of the nation's poorest people, lifted protections on \$15 million worth of pension funds and would have pro-

vided tax breaks for "people like me. And I didn't need it."

Making light of a large group of Republican demonstrators chanting and waving signs outside Sundial Auditorium, Clinton said, "As you can see from outside, they're a little sensitive about the fact that America didn't like their budget."

Clinton closed his Sundial speech with a call to end discrimination and the violence it begets.

"When we see the slightest evidence of that anywhere in our country, we have to say, no, no, no," Clinton said.

Thursday, Sept. 12, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

President wows Sundial crowd



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

A banner welcomes President Clinton to Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium, where he addressed about 2,500 people Wednesday.

PRESIDENT VISITS SUN CITY



Photo by MORRIS BERMAN/Special to the Independent

President Clinton brought his re-election campaign to the heart of Republican territory last week — to Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City. An overflow crowd turned out to hear the president talk on such subjects as crime, education and the economy. The speech was the

president's only public appearance during a four-hour Valley of the Sun campaign swing which also included a stop at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix to visit former Sen. Barry Goldwater. The trip is expected to be Mr. Clinton's only campaign appearance in Arizona.

President Clinton uses local appearance to woo party faithful, attract GOP votes

By TIFFANY M. ENGELMANN
Independent Newspapers

One of the state's most noted Republican strongholds was invaded last week by the nation's No. 1 Democrat, creating what was probably the largest gathering of Democrats to ever assemble in Sun City.

Thousands of residents from throughout the state waited in line last Wednesday to see President Bill Clinton at the Sundial Recreation Center. The visit, the only "official" stop in Arizona planned by the president during this year's presidential election, attracted the party faithful, curious onlookers and even a handful of protesters.

When the president walked on stage from behind the blue curtains, the audience welcomed him with chants of "Four more years," applause, whistles and vociferous support.

"There was a tremendous amount of warmth between him and the audience," says Jack Ormsbee, president of the Sun City West Democratic Club. "They greeted him very enthusiastically."

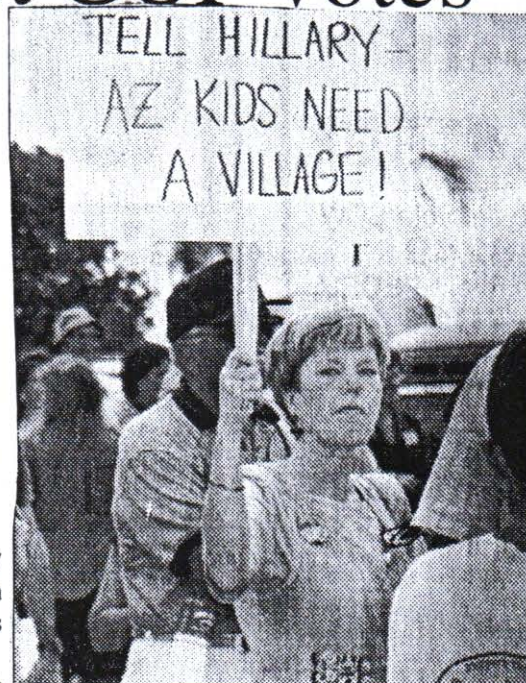
To the joy of the 2,200 people inside the auditorium, most of whom were members of statewide Democratic clubs — President Clinton quipped about his reasons for coming to the Republican-dominated Sun Cities and the state of Arizona.

"I just got my AARP card and I thought I would check it out," said the 50-year-old president, who spoke about everything from

Medicare and welfare to education and crime.

Mary Holt, secretary of the Sun City Democratic Club, was naturally impressed with the president's appearance and felt the visit was an unqualified success.

"I thought he couldn't have done a better job than he did. He told of all his accomplishments,



Thousands of Arizona residents waited in line for a chance to grab one of only 2,000 seats available inside the Sundial auditorium. Doors officially opened at noon but the line began forming as early as 3 a.m.

■ PRESIDENT

and then went on to his vision of the future.

"He didn't waste time putting other people down," she adds.

The president said his campaign will not focus on the mudslinging style of politics, rather a campaign about issues and ideas for the future.

"We've got to build it (the campaign) on ideas, not insults," he said.

Supporters of the presidential ticket for former Senator Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, however, made their presence known and were on hand outside the auditorium, putting up signs and other campaign paraphernalia.

Mike Bidwill, who spent the morning putting up Dole-Kemp signs around the area, says his mission in Sun City on Wednesday was simple.

"We are here to remind President Clinton that Arizona is a Republican state and so is Sun City," he says.

Despite the presence of Mr. Bidwill and other Dole-Kemp supporters, the excitement of those who waited in line to see the president and those who heard his speech was not diminished.

Sun City resident Peggy Michael says most people respect the president and were thrilled he came to Sun City.

"People respect the president no matter what," she says. "The

protesters just make such fools of themselves."

Ms. Michael was impressed the president relied on his accomplishments rather than focusing on his opponents.

"That really turned me on," says the Sun City resident, who did not get into the auditorium but heard the president's speech outside with the thousands of others who had to wait for the president to walk outside before catching that first glimpse.

During the last presidential election, Ms. Michael voted for

Independent candidate Ross Perot but this year she says she will vote for President Clinton.

"I'm going for Clinton," she says before reiterating the chant, "Four more years."

Chuck Chadbourn, resident and board member for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, praised the president's comments on education.

"I do like his emphasis on education," he said directly after the president's 40- to 45-minute speech.

Sun City resident Ann Nelson, waving a small American flag, stood in awe after the speech. Her

remarks epitomize the general feeling of most people after the president's address and his overall visit to the Sun Cities.

"It was wonderful, absolutely wonderful," she says.

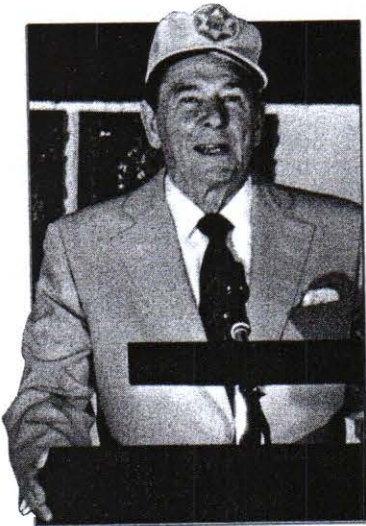
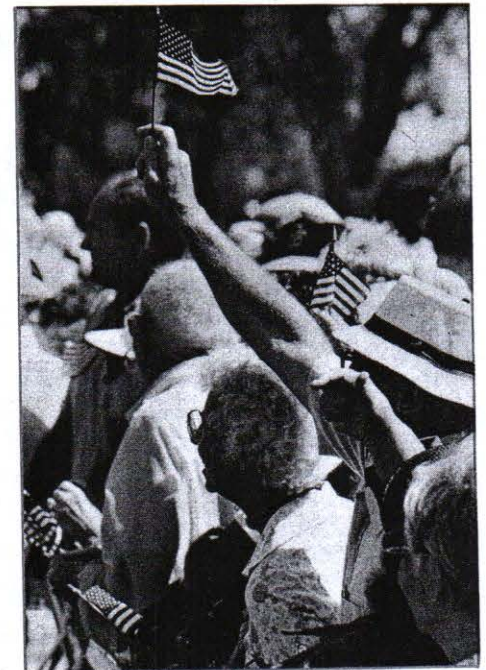
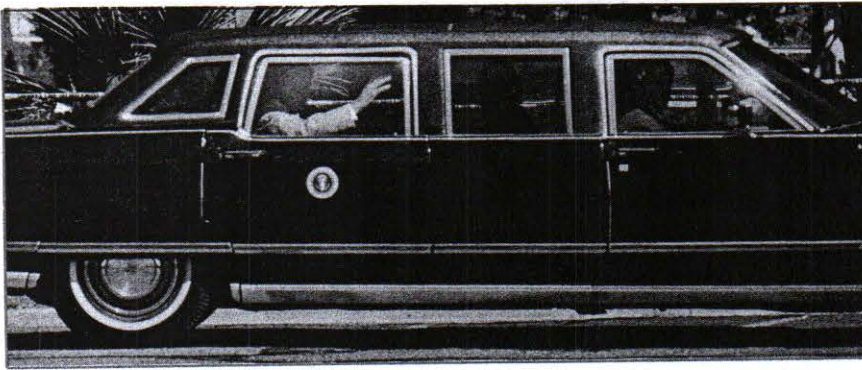
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