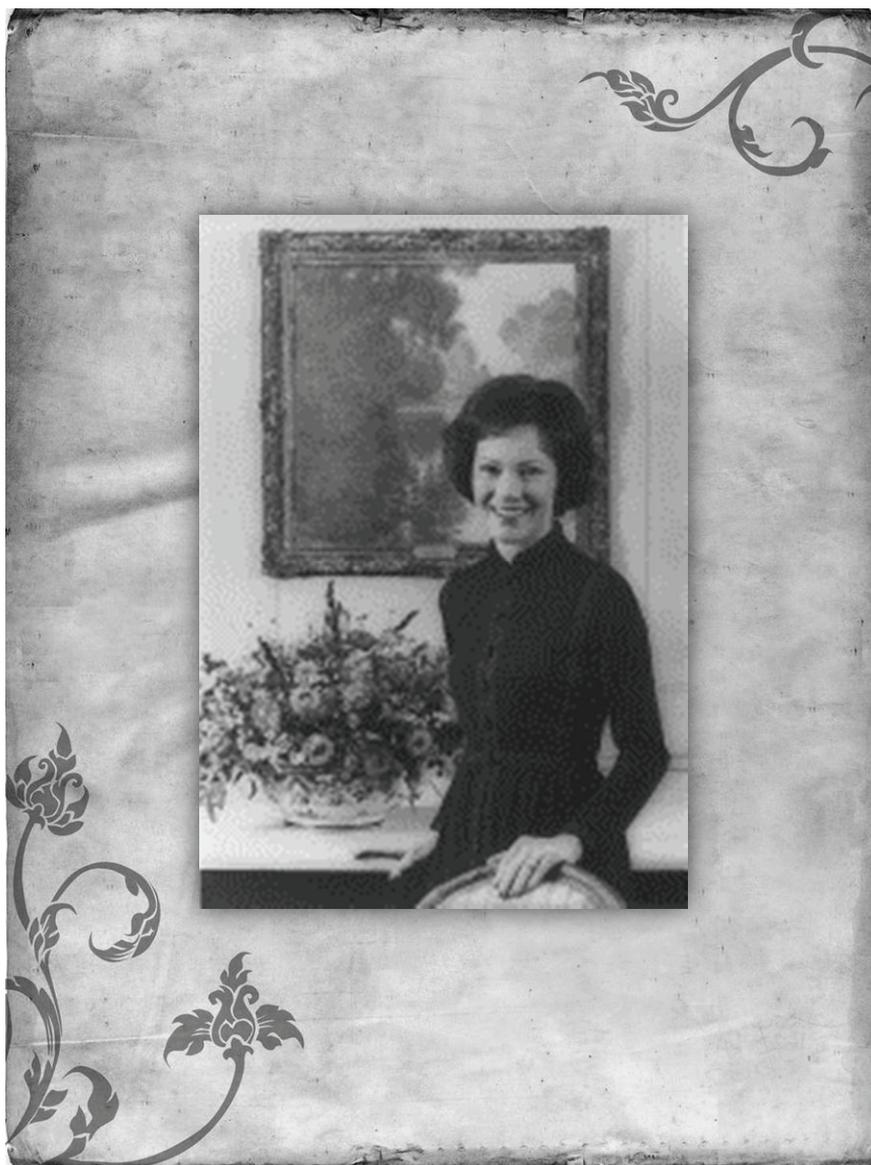


FACT OR FICTION?

Rosalynn Carter was often called a Shrinking Violet.



FICTION

Far from being a “Shrinking Violet,” Rosalynn Carter was nicknamed by the press, “The Steel Magnolia.” The “Steel” applied to her independence, her intelligence, and her determination to do what she thought was right. In other words, she was stubborn! The “Magnolia” refers to a beautiful southern flower. Rosalynn was a very pretty woman.

In 1946, Jimmy Carter married a woman who was used to making up her own mind about things. As a Navy wife Rosalynn ran a house alone since Jimmy was away much of the time. She could pick up and move on a minute’s notice as Jimmy was sent from one base to another. She liked the Navy life so well that she threw a fit when Jimmy decided to leave the Navy and run his deceased father’s peanut farm. It was probably one of the few times that she did not get her way. The Carters went back to the peanut farm.

Before long Rosalynn got so involved in the peanut business that she knew more about it than Jimmy did. He asked her advice more and more. They became more than husband and wife. They were partners! They were still partners when Jimmy was elected governor of Georgia. In 1976, Jimmy decided he would like to be president. Rosalynn thought this was a fine idea. She visited over 100 cities to tell people what a great president Jimmy would be. He was elected.

As First Lady Rosalynn amazed the people and the press by the role that she played. She attended Cabinet meetings and National Security briefings where she would take notes to later discuss with the president. She toured Latin America as a representative of the president and met with leaders of each country. She argued for better programs for the elderly, health care in rural areas, and women’s rights.

During the White House years some reporters said that the nation had two presidents, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Rosalynn, who had been thrifty all of her life, might have said that the nation was getting two for the price of one...a bargain in anyone’s book!

*Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter 1927-
wife of James Earl Carter
First Lady 1977-1981*