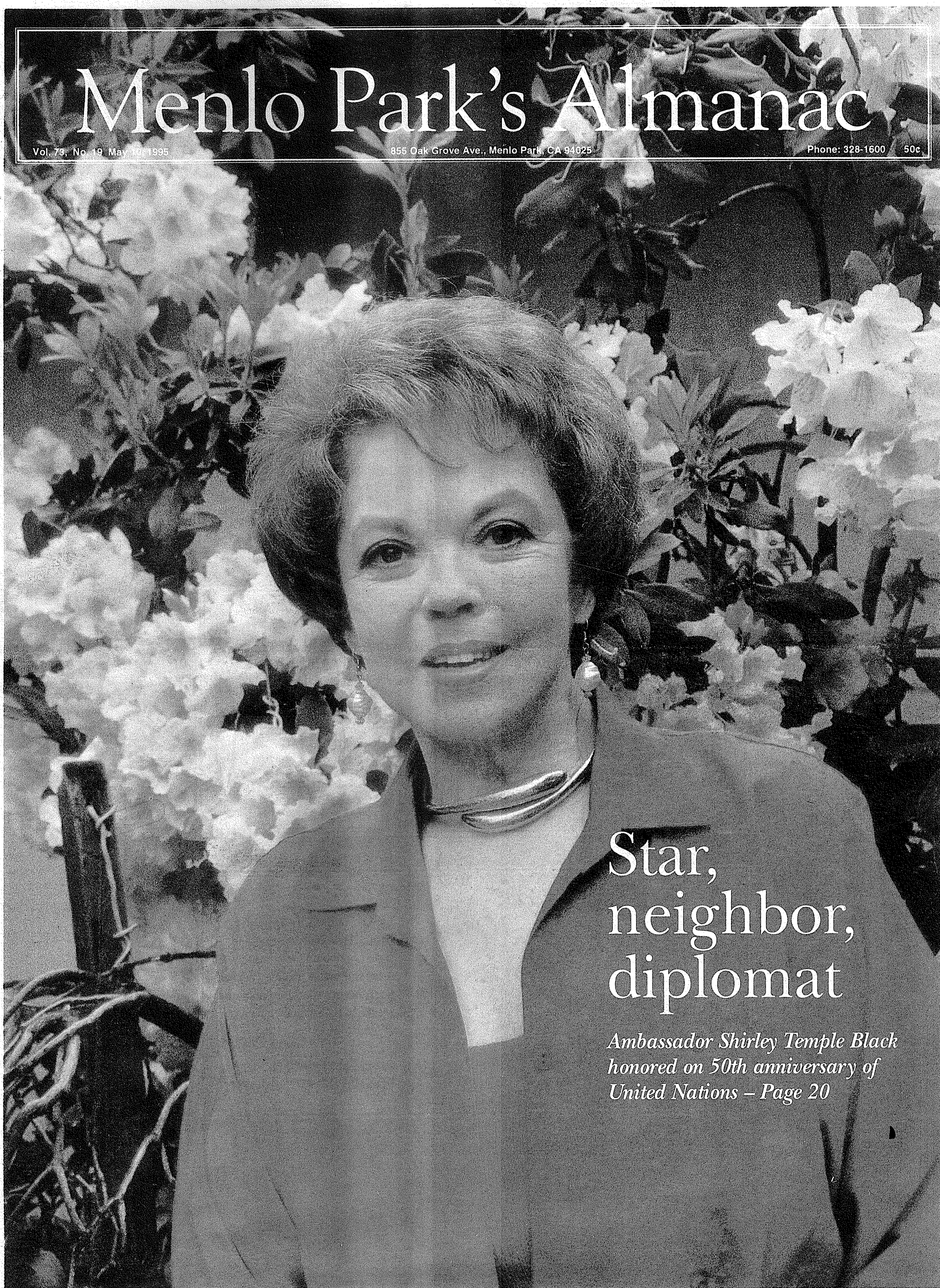


# Menlo Park's Almanac

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## Star, neighbor, diplomat

*Ambassador Shirley Temple Black  
honored on 50th anniversary of  
United Nations – Page 20*

Shirley  
Temple  
Black



PHOTO BY CAROL IVIE

*Shirley Temple Black used to tease the Czech Communists by using her initials, STB, on license plates, sweatshirts and this red sign that hung on her door when she was ambassador to the Czech and Slovak Republics. The letters "STB" were also the initials of the dread Czech secret police.*

# Star, neighbor, diplomat

*Commonwealth Club celebrates 50th anniversary  
of founding of the United Nations with special award  
to Ambassador Shirley Temple Black*

By MARION SOFTKY

**I**t may be hard to believe, but Shirley Temple Black has been a diplomat for quite a few more years than she was a movie star.

For 19 years – starting at age 3 – Shirley Temple danced, sang and dimpled her way into hearts around the world. She starred in more than 40 major films, and received her half-pint Oscar in 1935 at the age of 6 after making four films in one year.

It was 1969 that Shirley Temple

Black began her diplomatic career as a delegate to the 24th General Assembly of the United Nations. Since then, she has served in other U.N. posts, been ambassador to Ghana, been chief of protocol for the United States, and during the Reagan years, trained ambassadors and their spouses to represent their country.

Most recently, she was ambassador to Czechoslovakia during the "Velvet Revolution," as the country peacefully – mostly – ridded itself of Communism.

One of the world's extraordinary careers came into focus recently when the Woodside matron won a special award for her diplomatic achievements from the prestigious Commonwealth Club of California as part of its celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

"Shirley is an immense asset to the secretary of state," said former Secretary of State George Shultz to an audience of 600 in the Sheraton-Palace ballroom. "She is a real pro – a very nice smile and everything

– but let me tell you . . ."

Perhaps her highest diplomatic accolade came in 1988, when Mrs. Black was made an honorary Foreign Service officer – the only one – by that elite, professional, and snooty corps. "That was a tremendous acclamation," Mr. Shultz said.

"I'm as honored to be an honorary Foreign Service officer as I was to get my Oscar," Mrs. Black said later during an interview in her Woodside home. "These people work terribly hard, and it's not glamorous. It's very hard work,

usually quite uncomfortable, and usually quite dangerous."

## **Long, strong memory**

In person, Mrs. Black is tiny, charming, intelligent, and very professional. Not surprising, when you realize she has been living in the limelight and handling reporters and dignitaries since the Great Depression.

She highlights her remarks with stories from all phases of her life: like the time Joan Crawford gave her a puppy; the next morning the

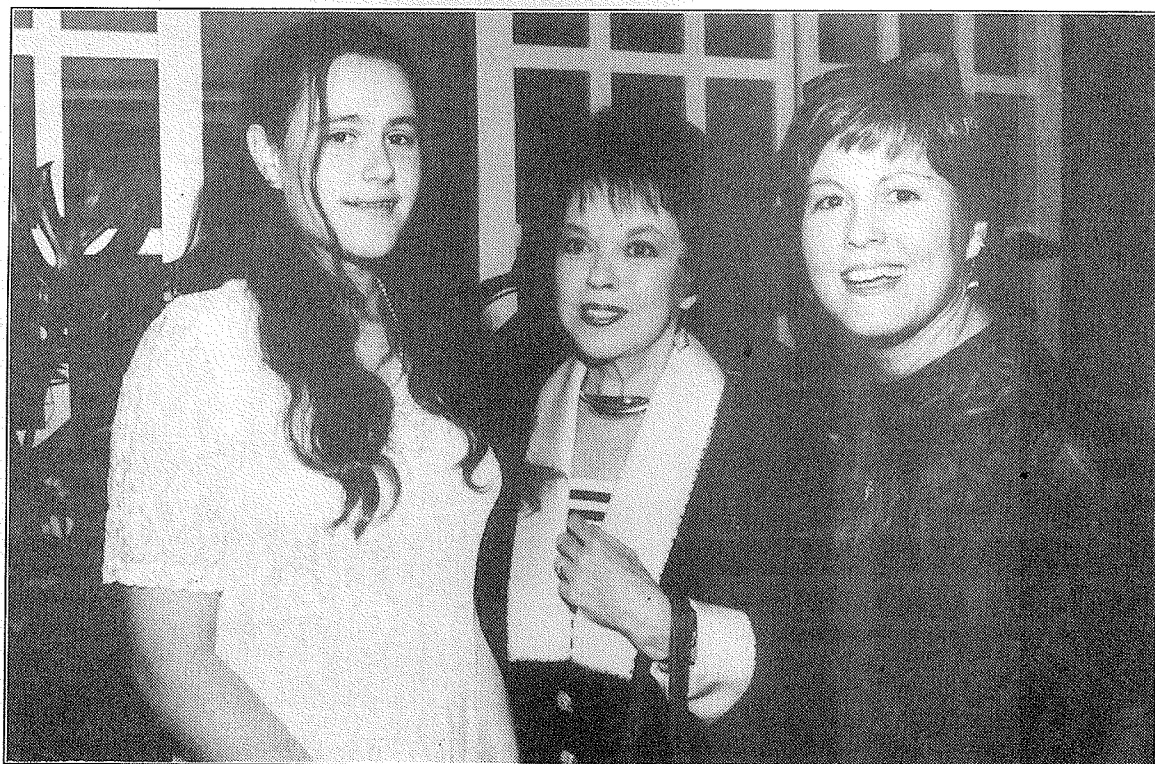


PHOTO COURTESY SHERATON PALACE HOTEL

Shirley Temple Black of Woodside, center, is shown with her daughter Susan Falaschi, right, and granddaughter Teresa Falaschi at the Commonwealth banquet in her honor.



PHOTO FROM "MOVIE STAR NEWS," COURTESY SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK

puppy was dead.

Many of the youthful stories appear in her autobiography, "Child Star," published in 1988. Now she's working — in longhand — on her second book, which will tell of her diplomatic career.

"My memory is very strong and long," she says, laughing. "Some people wish I would forget."

At the banquet, San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen brandished his blue Shirley Temple pitcher, one of millions of mementoes sold during her heyday as a child star. He still finds it useful for mixing martinis, he said. "Gin to the chin; vermouth to the tooth."

In his tribute to the international phenomenon that was Shirley Temple, Mr. Caen said, "She got us through the Depression — she and Franklin Roosevelt and the San Francisco Seals."

Mrs. Black is known for intelligence and hard work. Old family friend Bob Gros of Atherton says, "She earned her niche. She does her homework. She's intrinsically very bright; and she has uncommon common sense."

Mrs. Black, who has worked hard and professionally from age 3, concluded her remarks to the Commonwealth Club by quoting one of her lifetime maxims: "If you don't have much talent, you'd better start working early."

#### Open doors

How does Ambassador Black view little Shirley Temple?

Mrs. Black replies carefully, referring to the child superstar in the third person. "I call her 'her' because she was me when I was little," she says. "She's been a tremendous help in my later life. She opens doors all over the world

**Remember Shirley Temple?**  
Here she is in her 1934 film, "Baby Take a Bow."

for Shirley Temple Black."

Moving back to her own voice, she adds, "I'm very grateful for my past. I loved my work, and I love the work I've been doing for the last 25 years."

Inevitably, the child who dazzled the world grew up. First she became a teen-ager, later a very young bride in a short-lived marriage to John Agar. The lasting product of that marriage was a daughter, Susan Falaschi, who lives nearby with Mrs. Black's only granddaughter, Teresa.

In 1950, Shirley Temple married Charles Black, son of the chairman of PG&E, and gave up acting. They have two children, Charles Jr. and Lori, and are still married.

After working at Stanford Research Institute and Ampex, Mr. Black embarked on a long and varied career focused on the ocean. Mrs. Black remembers feeding baby abalone at the "fish farm" near Pigeon Point, where he raised oysters and abalone. She would attach two babies to opposite ends of a piece of seaweed and watch. "It was like a tug-of-war. They were so cute," she recalls.

Since that time, Mr. Black has engaged in catfish farming and fishery consulting around the world. More recently, as chairman of the Marquest Group, he has been involved in deep sea engineering and research, including work with Robert Ballard in the exploration of

## Ambassador Black says U.N. 'needed more than ever'

By MARION SOFTKY

President Bush called the United Nations the central instrument of peace. I call it a world conscience," said Ambassador Shirley Temple Black of Woodside. "We need it more than ever."

Mrs. Black, former Secretary of State George Shultz, and others assessed today's United Nations at a Commonwealth Club banquet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the convening of delegates from 50 nations in San Francisco to draft a charter for the newly established organization.

"If the U.N. didn't exist, we would have to invent it," Secretary Shultz said.

Mrs. Black, who received the Commonwealth Club's Distinguished Citizen's Award, reflected on the United Nations at age 50 — from its enormous successes to its fumbling efforts to keep the peace in an increasingly fractured and fractious world.

"Actually I'm awestruck by what the U.N. has accomplished," she said. "Smallpox banished; green revolution mounted; three Nobel Peace Prizes for work with refugees and children; a world bank; GATT; treaties about telecommunications, aviation, the oceans and the atom."

"All this is not simply a matter of human compassion; it's collective self-interest," she continued. "It's to nurture the worldwide potential of human energy and wisdom, now available, but largely untapped."

Mrs. Black acknowledged that the United Nations suffers from problems common at age 50 — corpulence, garrulity and arthritic joints — which can blunt its sense of purpose and lead to Alzheimer-like confusion.

Right now, peace-keeping is the real "sticky wicket," she noted, quoting some figures.

In its first 43 years, the United Nations mounted 13 peace-keeping missions, involving 10,000 troops. In the past seven years, there have been 23 missions, employing 80,000 troops and costing \$3.6 billion. Peace-keeping, originally conceived as only a piece in the U.N. mosaic, has now become a voracious cost, increasing sevenfold in seven years, and consuming one-third of the U.N. budget.

Mrs. Black said she believes the organization must go back to its role of seven years ago, when it dealt only with problems between states, not within states.

"I would not have gone into Somalia," she said. "I would have tried to help with the Red Cross and humanitarian aid."

She also urged that the Security Council establish strong guidelines on the use of its force. "No peace-keeping occurs without the U.N. Security Council approval of each mandate," she said. "Why do we endorse a mandate, then wrangle about validity or intent, rather than wrangle first? Where are political guidelines to help clarify the cloudy rhetoric of mandates?"

The United Nations could be tough, she suggested. It could mediate before an explosion between states, help clean up afterward, but avoid everything in between.

"Such a formula may condemn us to be haunted — haunted by spectacles of suffering, destruction and death," Mrs. Black concluded. "Perhaps solace may be found in our demonstrated helplessness to prevent all suffering, destruction and death in the world."

"Perhaps Cain and Abel are more powerful inheritances of mankind than we care to admit."

the sunken Titanic with robots.

At Mrs. Black's banquet, Singapore Ambassador Tommy Koh gave the ultimate tribute to Mr. Black. He said, "It takes a good and strong man to be successful in marriage for 45 years to Superwoman."

The Blacks settled in Atherton in 1954 and moved to Woodside in 1961. During the years her children were small, Mrs. Black plunged wholeheartedly into community activities. She was a Pink Lady at Stanford Hospital, a saleswoman at Allied Arts, and a receptionist for the Children's Convalescent Hospital — now the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital — at Stanford.

She served on seven boards of community organizations. She also was usher for productions of the Peninsula Children's Theater. "I never got to act," she says.

"It was a wonderful way to get to know people in the community and

to really make good friends," she adds.

What really got her back into the public arena?

It was a speech she made to 50,000 people with Kiwanis International in a Texas arena. "I told them, 'Just don't sit on the stands; get down on the field and join the game,'" she recalls. "I guess I talked myself into it."

#### From candidate to ambassador

Many people still remember Mrs. Black's entry into political life in 1967. The cartoonists had a field day as she joined the free-for-all campaign to replace the late Congressman J. Arthur Younger after he died in office.

Mrs. Black entered the field of 13 candidates late, did surprisingly well, but lost to fellow-Republican Pete McCloskey. "Many of the cartoons were very funny. I wish I

(Continued on next page)

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Ambassador Shirley Temple Black greets Czech President Vaclav Havel at Stanford last fall. Photo courtesy Stanford Law School.

## Star, neighbor, diplomat

(Continued from previous page)

had a collection of originals," she says, now at a comfortable distance from the sting of defeat.

In 1969 she began a long and productive relationship with the United Nations when President Nixon appointed her a delegate to the 24th General Assembly. Later she held other U.N. and international posts. She was deputy chairman of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

Again, her appointment to the United Nations was viewed with disbelief and hilarity by the press. "Fortunately, I didn't know that people didn't think I would do well," she recalls. "I just did my own thing and worked hard and lived in a hotel room. For three months of the General Assembly I would take books back to the hotel and study, study, study."

Nor did she know that her 13 assignments were far more than the average of four for other delegates. "So they were really loading me," she says.

Mrs. Black also told a story at the banquet about a romantic delegate from a usually unfriendly country who sidled up to her and sought a "personal arrangement."

She recounted: "Romeo's campaign to nowhere continued for a while. Until I had introduced a particularly controversial resolution, and the chair had called for a vote.

"Given his turn, Romeo shouted a YES, much to the shock of everyone, then smiled broadly in my direction.

"Overnight his politics were corrected. Reappearing with both eyes blackened and face swollen, he requested that his earlier YES vote be switched to NO."

### Impervious to danger?

Those few months were pretty

lonely for Mrs. Black, particularly since she had a death threat from "some nut who was going to shoot me." After he managed to slip a note under her door, she was guarded by two New York cops.

Asked whether that worried her, she replies as if death threats were no big deal. "I don't mind," she says. "For the whole time I was in Ghana, there was a death threat on me from the Japanese Red Army."

Of course, Shirley Temple the celebrity had been subject to threats and schemes all her life; danger and death threats were nothing new. She reflects, "It's always fairly dangerous any place in the world — including our country, tragically."

The discussion reminds her of her assignment during the Reagan years, when she gave ambassadorial seminars to train first-time ambassadors and their spouses for their new posts. The first two days of the one-week course were formal; the freshly minted ambassadors, whether political appointees or career Foreign Service officers who finally made it to the top, felt very proud of their new status.

"Then, on the third day, we would teach the ambassadors and their spouses what to do if they were taken hostage," Mrs. Black recalls. "After that day, they weren't sure they wanted to be ambassadors. And that was just the beginning."

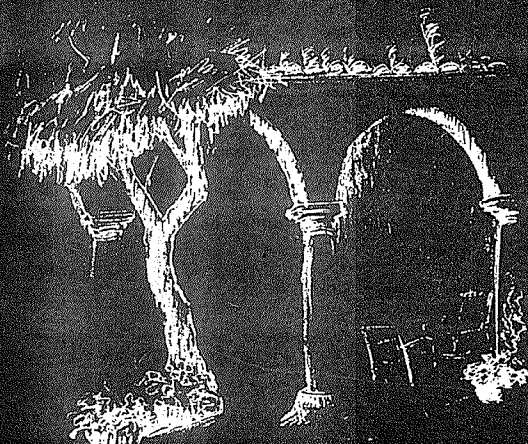
### Czechoslovakia

Mrs. Black was in Czechoslovakia — make that the Czech and Slovak Republics — during two watershed events of the last half-century.

In 1968, she was attending an international multiple sclerosis conference in Vienna when someone asked for volunteers to recruit Czechoslovakia to join the organization. Always quick in raising her hand, Mrs. Black soon found her-



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self in the hands of a government guide touring what seemed like mostly cemeteries in Prague – “kind of ominous, I thought,” she says.

That time was later known as the “Prague Spring” because President Alexander Dubcek was attempting to demonstrate “Communism with a human face.”

Two days later, Mrs. Black was preparing for her appointment with President Dubcek the next day when she was summoned to a “press conference,” which turned into a five-hour grilling that was more like an interrogation. Going to bed tired and hungry, her window facing a wall, she was awakened about midnight by terrible noises: exploding shells, yelling, honking, airplanes. “It was pandemonium,” she remembers.

The next morning her guide told her, “You will not see Mr. Dubcek today. He is all tied up.”

Literally. When the Russian tanks rolled in to reimpose military control, President Dubcek was tied up in a van for 12 to 15 hours while his captors discussed whether to shoot him. Later he was flown to Moscow.

Mrs. Black finally heard his story 21 years later in 1989, when she arrived in Prague as ambassador. “He was a wonderful, wonderful man; he really was a sensitive Communist,” she says.

Mrs. Black’s early fame still tracks her wherever she goes. When she first arrived in Prague as ambassador in 1989, President Gustav Husak sent for her to present her credentials much sooner than is customary. Among the reasons he gave was that he had seen all her movies “and he wanted to see how I’d turned out,” he says.

Before the 1989 revolution, Ambassador Black worked mostly in the area of human rights. Dissidents would casually, one at a time, sneak into the residence of the deputy chief of mission, where Mrs. Black would interview them. There she met soon-to-be President Vaclav Havel and others who later joined the government. “It was a danger to them. If they’d been caught, they’d have been thrown in jail,” she says.

During the revolution itself, Mrs. Black had her share of scares. According to columnist Jack Anderson, she was out jogging in yellow

Reeboks during one of the big demonstrations in Wenceslaus Square when troops were viciously cracking heads with truncheons and herding people into side streets.

“The revolution suddenly happened. Everything changed overnight,” she recalls. “Then my job changed overnight from human rights to economic assistance.”

Instead of needling the government about its treatment of dissidents, she found herself steering visiting businessmen to the right ministers in the new government. “When I started, there were six U.S. businesses in the country. When I left, there were well over 200 big companies.”

#### STB, the tease

A small red sign with white letters spelling “OKAMZIK, PROSIM, STB” hangs on a chain over a large copper urn in Mrs. Black’s Woodside hallway.

The innocent-looking sign means “Wait, please, STB.” It hung over the ambassador’s door in Prague – and it created the most tremendous stir.

The joke – a more sophisticated and serious version of the pranks Shirley Temple used to play as a little girl – was based on her initials. “STB” for Shirley Temple Black are the same initials as the dreaded Czech secret police: also STB.

So Mrs. Black took great pleasure in displaying her initials everywhere she could – on her official license plates, in block letters on T-shirts and sweats, and on the ambassador’s door. “It just drove them crazy,” she says.

The urge to tease goes way back to the high-energy little tomboy who loved to play tricks on people. She particularly remembers a day filming “Now and Forever” with Gary Cooper and Carole Lombard on location at Lake Arrowhead. A photographer had an old Graflex camera with a high stack above its ground-glass viewing screen – an invitation to be filled with sand.

Shirley grabbed two handfuls of sand and gleefully called to the photographer.

She still chuckles as she says, “It was the most horrified expression I’ve ever seen on a photographer’s face.”

Herb Caen recalled another example of her childish humor – with Eleanor Roosevelt as victim.

Shirley, age 10, was all dressed up from her white shoes and socks to her lace purse for a barbecue put on by Mrs. Roosevelt at her country place near Hyde Park. As Mrs. Roosevelt leaned forward to turn the lamb chops, her dress hiked up in back, and the temptation was too great for little Miss Temple. She pulled her trusty sling shot out of her purse (she was a dead shot, having been instructed by her bodyguard) and took aim. The shot flew true; Mrs. Roosevelt stood up like the Statue of Liberty – and never said a word. That night, Shirley’s mother spanked her.

Mr. Caen made another observation about Mrs. Black’s composure under all situations. “I’ve never seen her flapped,” he said.

Asked about that remark, Mrs. Black replies that she doesn’t get upset; instead she gets very calm. Then she says she wants to tell a funny story.

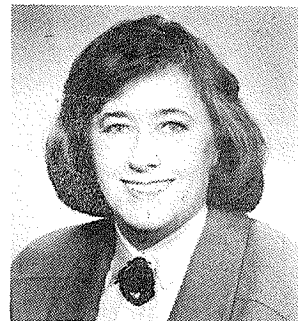
When her father was 90 and living in a house behind her Woodside home, he fell one day and broke his nose on a sofa arm. She found him bloody and in pain. “I immediately got very calm,” she says.

Then she called the Menlo Clinic, treated him with towel and ice cubes, and drove into Menlo Park with the lights on to signal emergency. “Then I took him to my beauty parlor,” she says, laughing. “That’s how calm I was.”

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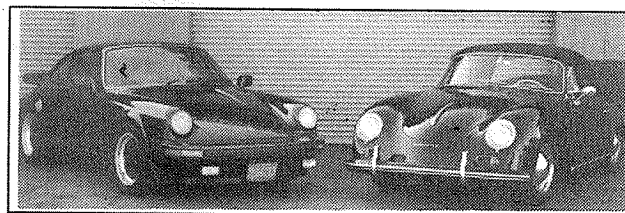


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