

CAROLINE THOMPSON SIMMONS

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Early FS

- Became member of the FS Wives Group, 1936
- Husband was Chief of Protocol, 1950-1957
- Group afforded opportunity for wives to meet wife of Secretary of State
- Group viewed in the light of the time it was formed
- Group sponsored benefit at the Warner Theatre for scholarships
- “Everybody knew everybody” in the FS

Life in the FS

- Accompanied spouse abroad, was not employed at post
- During World War II, flew around northeast of Brazil visiting hospitals
- Sponsored local artists in Brazil
- In El Salvador, organized tea room to raise funds for school for the blind
- Something lost when Service grew so large during World War II
- “Had a mission” about FS
- Helped with spouse training in 1950’s
- Amusement at guide to protocol she helped write
- Life when spouse was Chief of Protocol

Pre-FS Life

- Grew up in Washington, helpful to Mrs. Dulles
- When young, CTS and friends were interested in “diplomatic life and the embassy scene”
- Laments change today
- Scholarship to study in Geneva
- Students she met became UN representatives
- College majors useful in FS

Being a Spouse in the FS

- Wives Group, in ‘50’s, worried about young wives “way out” in Falls Church, Virginia and Silver Spring, Maryland
- Attempts to bring senior and young women together not entirely successful
- Was never a junior wife
- Her mother was founder of the Woman’s National Democratic Club
- Cornelia Bassel
- Pre-AAFSW gatherings
- Close feeling in FS early years
- Improved allowances for education
- Children attended foreign schools or American schools abroad
- Helped establish American school and ecumenical church in El Salvador
- Old School