

the blessed absence of commentators
on events the public can see and hear.

Congratulations and thanks.

Sincerely,


January 21, 1993

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Dear Mr. Lamb,

My husband and I agree that
the greatest benefit of Cable television
is access to C-Span.

A special note this past week of
Inauguration activities was your
excellent tour of Monticello and the
reception for ordinary citizens at the
White House. We were there, though
thousands of miles away.

I am enclosing a clipping from our
S.F. Chronicle, in which John Carman
paraphrases a quotation from Shakespeare
concerning the joy of silence. Your
programs illustrate that thought in

ACOMA POT

The Acoma tribe members use natural forms such as trees, birds and flowers in combination with geometric patterns on their pottery for practical use and ceremonies. It is prized for its thinness and lightness.

Illustration by
DIANE MAHANEY



San Francisco Chronicle

DATEBOOK

Inaugural Pomp Made for Live TV

Cameras were like VIP guests for Clinton's big day, a class act surrounded by glitz and hype

With all the corporate parties and commercialized galas and exclusive TV events, I half expected Ronald McDonald to administer the oath of office to Bill Clinton yesterday.

I'd imagined the Energizer bunny darting back and forth at the bottom of the TV screen, pounding its battery bunny drum, as Clinton delivered his inaugural address and the Supreme Court justices, led by Ray Charles, held up Pepsi cans and chanted, "Uh-huh."

Some future presidential inauguration may come to that, but there is yet a surviving streak of dignity in the old Republic.

The actual transfer of power yesterday morning was a class act of tidy constitutional proportions, and a healthy respite from the celebrity ex-

JOHN CARMAN *Television*

fringes of the inauguration.

Nature itself pitched in. The swearing-in ceremony, occurring at noon sharp in Washington and coffee-klatch time in San Francisco, was televised under a crisp blue sky.

The breeze was strong enough to riffle Old Glory at the Capitol without budging Clinton's hair.

Of course, Hurricane Andrew probably couldn't have ruffled Clinton's hair. But never mind; it was a fine morning altogether.

CBS seemed best attuned to the mood, cutting the anchor booth chit-chat to a minimum while the sights and

steps. Silence, wrote Shakespeare, is the most perfect herald of joy.

C-SPAN also left most of the talking to others. At one point, as members of Congress filed into place for the inauguration, its microphone picked up one congressman whispering to another, "They're taking pictures, so smile."

With their inherent majesty, big Washington events are a TV director's dream. Cameras panned the statuary yesterday, caressed the fluted columns around the Capitol, caught children perched on their fathers' shoulders in the crowd, and homed in on Clinton's

poetry.

Clinton's 14-minute speech provided little fodder for network analysts. On CNN, Bill Moyers deemed it "serviceable" and inferred that he meant "unspectacular." Newspaper columnist Clarence Page said on PBS, "I didn't hear a memorable quote today."

Henry Graff, a Columbia University historian in the employ of ABC News, was more generous with his prediction that several bits from Clinton's speech would find their way into Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. The professor apparently has an easy ear for catch phrases. Minutes later, George and Barbara Bush took leave of Washington after a round of handshakes and pecks on the cheeks from Bill and Hillary

ck

CARMAN

TODAY

From Page D1

Clinton.

"Good man, wrong century," ABC's George Will sniffed as the Bushes swept over Washington in a getaway helicopter. Will always did regard Bush as an uninvited guest at the Reagan revolution.

Soon afterward, Bush bade farewell to his vice-president, Dan Quayle, at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington. NBC's John Chancellor wondered aloud about the brusqueness of it.

"It was just sort of a 'so long, pal,'" Chancellor said.

The inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue gave television its own transition between the solemnity of the swearing-in ritual and last night's party-hearty balls around Washington, which featured Gore's unique disco-Franken-stein act.

ABC hit pay-dirt when correspondent Bill Greenwood found Colorado's new senator, Ben Nighthorse-Campbell, on horseback and in full Native American regalia. Peter Jennings kept sending Greenwood back to ask the senator more questions about his eagle feather headdress. The ques-



Helen Huang will perform with the California Symphony

a date at Herbst Theatre here next Thursday to sing the songs of Edith Piaf, Marlene Dietrich, Kurt Weill, Stephen Sondheim and others. With an eight-member band and a cabaret and dance show she developed, titled "Illusions" after her new album on Decca, the 28-year-old European sensation is doing only one night here — a total of four dates in the United States, including Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.



Ute Lemper: four shows in the United States, one in San Francisco

CONCERTS

S.F. Symphony: Andre Previn conducts, with soprano Roberta Alexander, in Mozart's Symphony No. 38 ("Prague"), Mahler's Symphony No. 4. 2 p.m. Davies Hall.

OPERA

Berkeley Contemporary Opera: Bernstein's "Candide." 8 p.m. Julia Morgan Theater, Berkeley.

THEATER

"The Brides," by Harry Kondo-leon. 8 p.m. Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa Street.

"Boy in the Air," by Don Bajema. 8 p.m. Intersection, 446 Valencia.

Brava! for Women in the Arts' Taking Shape series: work of Erica Essner, Elli Greenbaum, Monique Martin and Sandra Rogers. 8 p.m. Brava Studio Theatre, 2180 Bryant.

DANCE

Bread & Butter Series: Fellow Travelers' Performance Group. 8:30 p.m. Footwork, 3221 22nd Street.

HEADLINERS

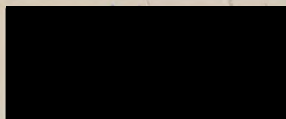


Keith Richards tops the bill tonight at Civic Auditorium

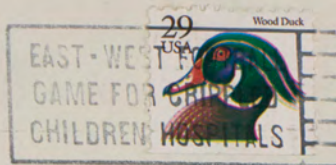
can Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell.

Joyce Garcia Band. 9 p.m. Hann-o's, 431 Natoma Street.

The Gap Band. 8 and 10 p.m. Kimball's East, Emeryville.



S.F. CA 94123



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