

# Atiyehs spruce up house, plan 'lots of entertaining'

By ELLEN EMRY HELTZEL  
of The Oregonian staff

SALEM — Nearly three months after becoming Oregon's first lady, Dolores Atiyeh sits over coffee in the sunny dining nook of her new home and radiates enthusiasm about the pluses and minuses of her new job.

On the positive side, she points to the lily of the valley plant on the drainboard, a memento from dinner at the White House which is among the latest reminders of how life has changed for the Atiyehs since her husband, Vic, became Oregon's chief executive.

But the negatives are cataloged too. Boxes as yet unpacked, house repairs unfinished and a schedule which leaves little time to handle either — the problems surface like small flaws in fabric, somehow adding texture rather than diminishing the quality of how Mrs. Atiyeh perceives her responsibility.

"My life has always been part of Vic's," said the

55-year-old first lady. "He's never said 'do this' or 'don't do that,' so I haven't felt compelled to go along. It's just something I enjoy.

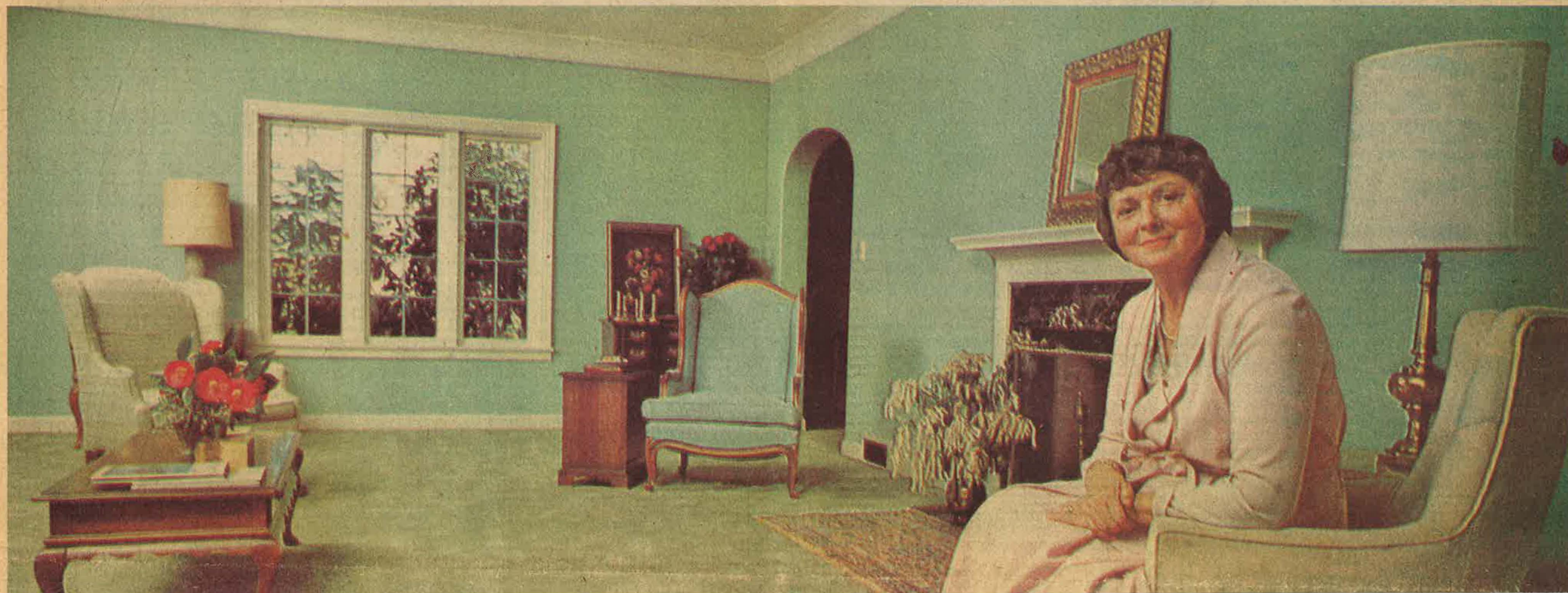
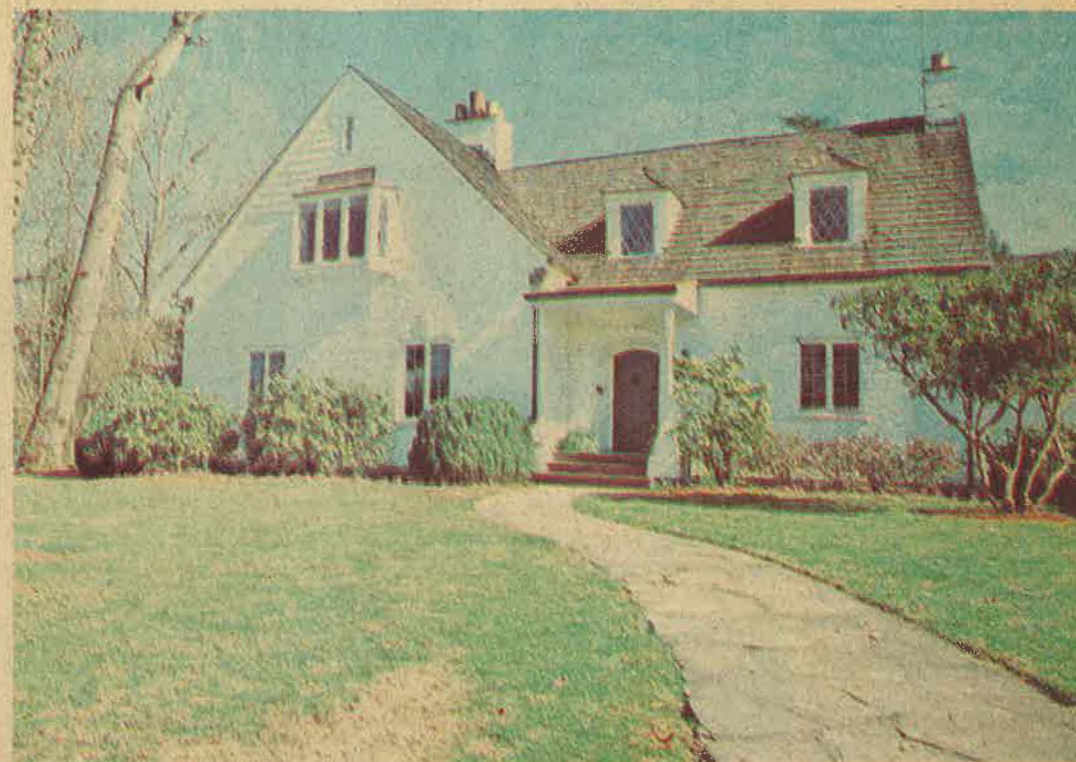
"If I can have a favorable influence on someone the state is trying to attract, I'll feel I'm doing a job," she said. "But whatever happens, this is an easy role for me. After spending 20 years with Vic in the Legislature and lobbying there myself, I think I know politics."

Sex education and a measure which mandated testing newborn for phenylketonuria (PKU) were among Mrs. Atiyeh's causes.

"A governor's wife doesn't sit on feather pillows. She doesn't have any time to sit," Mrs. Atiyeh said.

Atiyeh's first months in office have borne out his wife's analysis of what life is like for a first lady. Having taken up residence with her husband in state-owned

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**COOL BLUE** — First lady Dolores Atiyeh pauses in living room of new governor's home, which she has decorated with personal touches including Persian rug on the hearth, a gift-

framed mirror she and the governor found at a junk sale years ago and floral still life she painted herself. Exterior shot, above right, shows Norman architecture of state-owned home.



**READY FOR COMPANY** — Frequent callers are treated to home-baked goods made by Mrs. Atiyeh, a veteran hostess who intends to entertain frequently in her new quarters.

Staff photos by DALE SWANSON

**INSPIRATION** — Dining room sets traditional theme for entire house, says Mrs. Atiyeh. Since she can comfortably seat only eight or 10 there, sit-down dinners for larger groups require use of card tables in other rooms.





# Redecorating costs 'quite prudent' according to state official

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quarters north of the capitol mall, Mrs. Atiyeh has been presented a sizable challenge by the rundown two-story brick structure which was occupied by former Gov. Tom McCall and his wife, Audrey, during his eight years in the state's top office.

Since McCall's governorship, the house has served as office space for the Department of Environmental Quality, so that turning the spot into a liveable and gracious home again has consumed much time and money on the part of both the Atiyehs and the state's General Services Administration.

According to Mrs. Atiyeh, the 40-year-old residence, which the state purchased some years ago along with about 50 other homes with an eye to eventual mall expansion, won the Atiyehs' vote by a process of elimination. A review of Salem real estate prices left her discouraged about buying in the community while retaining the couple's longtime home, a colonial in Southwest Portland's Raleigh Hills neighborhood.

The governor and his wife decided to lease instead and settled on the Winter Street location, even though "you can't imagine how bad it looked," Mrs. Atiyeh recalled.

"State maintenance had kept the place clean enough, but it certainly didn't have the same effect as loving hands at home."

Apparently the state service's administration concurred. According to Marian Kopang, leased facilities manager for the GSA, she and Mrs. Atiyeh went over the 2,650-square-foot residence on an "item by item" basis, deciding what repairs were needed and whether the Atiyehs or the state should bear the cost of particular renovations.

The upshot was that the state agreed to repaper, repaint and recarpet almost every corner of the house, letting Mrs. Atiyeh specify choices within a price range deemed acceptable to both parties.

"We looked for quality in keeping with a governor's residence," said Don Morisky, administrator of the GSA's operations division, in explaining the budget allocations. "We didn't buy anything special, we replaced things. And whatever required any design work or specifications, Mrs. Atiyeh paid for that service."

Portland interior designer Mirza Dickel assisted Mrs. Atiyeh with her selections.

Although the bills are not all in, Morisky estimates the total cost to the state will surpass the \$20,000 mark. In reaching that figure, however, Morisky said that many improvements are long-term ones which won't amortize over the period the Atiyehs are living there.



Staff photos by DALE SWANSON.

**IN THE PINK** — Extra bedroom in governor's quarters has colorful quilted bedspreads Mrs. Atiyeh found on one of her antique store junkets. For small visitors, the large-sized Raggedy Ann waits in white wicker rocking chair.



**HANDICRAFTS** — Tole-painted bureau displaying Mrs. Atiyeh's workmanship is among furnishings for upstairs sitting room in the Atiyeh residence. Leaded windows are being shuttered for privacy and security reasons.

"We think we've been quite prudent," he said. "Having the governor live in a leased facility is probably a very economical package for the state of Oregon."

Oregon is one of only three states which does not have a governor's mansion, although proposals to build one have surfaced regularly in the Legislature but never made it to the drawing board. Having discussed the possibility with first ladies in other states, Mrs. Atiyeh describes an official residence as a "mixed blessing" which must be open to the public and is not adaptable to

individual tastes and lifestyles. Also, current building costs might discourage taxpayers from supporting construction of a house for the governor.

Still, a governor's mansion can be an impressive symbol. Washington state's governor's residence is a handsome red brick Georgian adjacent to the Capitol. Built in 1908 and renovated several years ago, the structure's replacement value is estimated at something over \$2 million.

For the living room of Oregon's new governor's home, the first lady chose a cool, blue-green paint, and for the din-

ing room, a coordinated wallpaper, with both rooms linked by an all-wool carpet the color of jade.

"The dining room was really my inspiration for the whole house," said Mrs. Atiyeh, who transported her own crystal chandelier from Portland to complement the room's traditional decor. Corner built-ins and French doors which lead to the back garden patio lend the atmosphere Mrs. Atiyeh likes best.

"I've told Vic that if I ever disappear, he'll find me in Williamsburg."

Other rooms of the house underscore Mrs. Atiyeh's statement. A first-floor den, the spacious master bedroom upstairs with its wide bay window, a cozy sitting room with a fireplace — all reflect the first lady's taste and are often filled with her own craft work, especially the tole painting which was once a favorite pastime.

The Atiyehs imported their own furnishings for the house. Several small Persian rugs, one in front of the living room fireplace and the others upstairs, are reminders of Atiyeh's connection with a family carpet concern in Portland, but otherwise the governor has sidestepped that connection. His firm entered no bid on carpet installation for the governor's residence, which was awarded to Rubinstein's of Eugene for a total cost of about \$5,000.

Both Mrs. Kopang and Mrs. Atiyeh, who selected all the wall-to-wall carpeting, agree that the price the state received from the Eugene firm was a bargain. It included the all-wool carpeting for the main floor and synthetics to replace worn carpet in the rest of the house, where it was decided that less traffic required less durability.

The long, narrow kitchen is painted a cheery yellow and equipped with two ovens, a minimum requirement for gubernatorial entertaining in the opinion of Mrs. Atiyeh, who is also considering the acquisition of a microwave oven at her own expense.

"It would be so handy for defrosting, if we had unexpected company."

"Both (former first ladies) Mrs. McCall and Mrs. (Mark) Hatfield had two freezers so they could make up food ahead for large parties," she added. "So far I only have one. I want to do a lot of cooking myself, even when I use a cateress, and I'm told having two freezers is the best way to manage."

Entertaining in the official capacity of governor bears little resemblance to that of private citizen and Mrs. Atiyeh is marshalling her forces with an awareness that there may be plenty of out-of-pocket costs incurred during her husband's term in office.

Wendell Fultz, assistant administrator of the accounting division for the

state Executive Department, said he has warned the Atiyehs to keep reliable records of how they spend the \$1,000 monthly living allowance appropriated by the Legislature as well as the personal resources allocated to official expenses. The allowance, a supplement to the governor's annual \$50,000 salary, is intended to cover rent for replacement housing, utilities in that dwelling, maintenance and official entertaining expenditures.

Fultz said he has little doubt the Atiyehs will exceed the sum, which has remained the same since the McCall administration in spite of inflation. The \$350 a month rent exacted by the state will come under customary review this summer and may be adjusted upward.

"The important thing is for the Atiyehs to document their expenditures," Fultz said. A misunderstanding between McCall and the Internal Revenue Service led the IRS to disallow some of his deductions and left McCall owing the government \$14,000 after his eight years in office.

Pat Straub, wife of former Gov. Bob Straub, said the allowance was sufficient to cover official expenditures during her husband's four-year term. However, the Straubs' decision to remain in their West Salem farmhouse rather than take temporary quarters closer to the Capitol gave them a sizable advantage in making ends meet, according to Fultz.

Mrs. Straub also noted that her personal style of entertaining, often utilizing home-grown produce from the farm and the assistance of country neighbors, helped cut costs. The Atiyehs' city dwelling with its traditional decor is hardly conducive to picnics on the lawn and Mrs. Atiyeh said she will undoubtedly require a caterer's services for large-scale gatherings.

Already she is plotting an April open house for members of the Legislature and their mates. With an anticipated guest list of about 200, the first lady is planning a buffet for which serving help and additional plates and silverware will be required.

One Portland caterer, asked to comment on the cost of such an affair, said a "typical" buffet for a group of that size now runs \$1,800 to \$2,000. "You can provide the food yourself to save money, but that doesn't really help since a caterer buys food wholesale," said Tom Jones of Yours Truly. "It's the caterer's time and resources that you're paying for."

The governor's budget request for the coming biennium, however, does not include an increase in his living allowance, and Mrs. Atiyeh hopes to stretch the household budget to accommodate as many official tasks as possible.

"I love to entertain and I love to cook. I plan to do lots of it."

## Dentists outline routines for care of children's teeth

By ARTHUR J. SNIDER  
Field News Service

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Moss "have no more room for cavities. Our teeth have so many cavities now."

So they are determined that their sons, aged 11 and 12, will have no cavities, despite apparently inherited tendencies.

Moss, chairman of children's dentistry at New York University, described how cavity-free mouths have been accomplished in their sons:

"Clean the teeth as soon as the first tooth comes in. Use a cloth with toothpaste on it. Around the age of 3, a dentist should start taking care of the child's teeth. Parents should make certain that the child uses a toothbrush at least once a day and should inspect the teeth to see that a good job has been done. Help them with the hard-to-get-at places."

Another step in the program is to try to restrict sugary foods as much as possible. If children must eat cookies,

make them available all at one time. Repeated exposure to even small amounts of sugar is more harmful than a single exposure to a large amount.

A mother's anxiety is the biggest factor affecting a child's first visit to the dentist, the Chicago Dental Society has been told.

"Her apprehension is transmitted to the child," said Dr. Marvin H. Berman, a Chicago specialist in child dentistry. "She will remember certain aspects of her own visit to the dentist and transmit these fears."

An example of anxiety, said Berman, is the mother who says "Don't worry" to a child entering the dentist's office. "She doesn't say that to the child when taking him in to fit a pair of shoes," he pointed out. "The child wonders what she means by 'don't worry.'"

Berman said many dentists may have problems controlling children in the office because of a permissive attitude at home.





**AT MUSEUM** — Clockwise from top left are Marion Thomas, Betty Blosser, Delores Atiyeh and Donna Campbell

at Women's Council annual meeting at Portland Art Museum.

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, Ore., Saturday, Sept. 14, 1985



East Oregonian / Gary West

## A hug for Oregon's first lady

Rodeo clown Jess Franks grabs Dolores Atiyeh, wife of Gov. Vic Atiyeh, in an impromptu hug during Friday's rodeo. Mrs. Atiyeh holds a bouquet of roses, presented during the performance, while the governor, left, smiles his approval. The Atiyehs rode in the Westward Ho! Parade Friday morning.

# Broken foot cancels first lady's Taiwan trip

**The Associated Press**

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's wife, Dolores, broke her foot in a fall Wednesday, so she will not accompany her husband on his trade trip to Taiwan, Atiyeh's office said.

The governor's press secretary, Denny Miles, said she suffered the injury when she fell in the parking lot of a Salem shopping center.

"She drove herself to the doctor, and he sent her to an orthopedist

who put a cast on," Miles said. "The doctor indicated she may be in a cast for six weeks."

She had planned to leave Friday with her husband for a weeklong trip to Taiwan, but has canceled those plans because of the injury, Miles said.

The next week, the governor is scheduled to travel to Syria for a conference, but she had not planned to accompany her husband on that portion of the trip, Miles said.