

# Cover Girl:

## *Margaret Chase Smith in the Media*



Senator Smith appears with the only Peruvian female Senator, Irene Silva de Santolalla on the cover of the February 1, 1962 issue of *Vanguardia* magazine.

## Now at the Margaret Chase Smith Gallery

The Margaret Chase Smith Gallery is located in the Dorothy Alford Visitors Center on the campus of Good Will-Hinckley Homes and Schools for Boys and Girls on Route 201 in Hinckley, Maine. Admission is free. The Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

To confirm hours or inquire about directions, please phone 207-238-4280.

An exhibit featuring the magazine, newsletter, and book covers on which Margaret Chase Smith appeared. It explores the ways in which she presented herself as one of the first woman politicians in the national spotlight.

# *Cover Girl: Margaret Chase Smith in the Media* Re-opens at Good Will-Hinckley

HINCKLEY, Maine – Those who missed seeing “**Cover Girl: Margaret Chase Smith in the Media,**” a major exhibit produced by the Margaret Chase Smith Library, now have a second chance to see the display. **This exhibit is on view at the Margaret Chase Smith Gallery on the Good Will-Hinckley campus.** The Margaret Chase Smith Gallery is located in the Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond Visitors Center on the campus of Good Will-Hinckley Homes for Boys and Girls on Route 201 in Hinckley, Maine. Admission is free. The Visitors Center is typically open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. To confirm the hours or inquire about directions, please phone (207) 238-4280 or visit [www.gwh.org](http://www.gwh.org).

The exhibit highlights the magazine, book, and newsletter covers on which Senator Margaret Chase Smith appeared, such as U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek, and Time Magazine. In 1960, Time Magazine featured Senator Smith and Lucia Cormier, a senatorial candidate from Rumford, Maine on the cover. It was the first time in history that two women vied for the same Senate seat.

As one of the first female politicians in the nation, Margaret Chase Smith journeyed into territory where few women had traveled before – the national media spotlight. Elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1940 and to the United States Senate in 1948, there were few female politicians for her to regard as role models. The exhibit explores how Margaret Chase Smith presented herself and how she came to be identified during her lifetime in public service. Combining a chronological, historical, and thematic approach, the cover photographs reveal not only the history of Senator Smith’s career, but also her personal style and how she handled being a woman in the national spotlight. The images also demonstrate the characteristics she portrayed throughout her lifetime: directness, self-reliance, independence, modesty, honesty, and conscientiousness.

A second theme woven throughout the exhibit is how the media viewed and reported on Senator Margaret Chase Smith throughout her lifetime. Entering politics at a time when society traditionally expected a woman’s proper place to be in the home, and more specifically, the kitchen, the press scrutinized her every move and placed her within the context of contemporary female stereotypes. Weighting her appearance, character, and domestic lifestyle more than her legislative accomplishments, the media made her gender the primary focus of any news account about her. Margaret Chase Smith carefully balanced the need to conform to traditional ladylike behavior with the desire to project an image of a serious politician. The wearing of her trademark rose was one way for her to still appear feminine when wearing a dress suit and working in a political world traditionally dominated by men. The exhibit explores how the media was ever demanding of how she would balance her career with the demands of being a woman.

## **The Margaret Chase Smith Gallery**

Born in Skowhegan in 1897, Margaret Chase Smith was the first woman to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate. In 1950 she denounced McCarthyism with her famous "Declaration of Conscience" speech. In 1964 Senator Smith became the first woman ever to have her name placed in nomination for the presidency by a major political party. She retired from Congress in 1973 after more than thirty years of public service and began making plans for the Margaret Chase Smith Library. She died at home on Memorial Day, May 29, 1995.

The Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan was built in 1982 as an addition to Senator Smith's home. The Library serves as a congressional archive, museum, educational facility, and public policy center devoted to preserving the legacy of Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Its mission is to promote research into twentieth-century political history, advance the ideals of public service, and explore issues of civic engagement.

Margaret Chase Smith's ties to Good Will-Hinckley were both historical and philosophical. Her father, George Emery Chase, was born in what eventually became the "Good Will Cottage," the first home for children at the site. The Reverend George W. Hinckley purchased the 125-acre farm from the Chase family in 1889. The Dorothy "Bibby" Alford Visitors Center opened in 1996 and is an enlarged replica of the original building located on the former Chase farmstead. The Margaret Chase Smith Gallery pays tribute to the Senator's involvement with and support of Good Will-Hinckley during her lifetime.