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LOCAL

Bracelet makes second trip to inauguration

BY CYNTHIA MAUDE

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Jane Whaley attended President George W. Bush's second inauguration Jan. 20, wearing the same bracelet her great-great-grandmother wore to Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration in 1865.

The bracelet that adorned Jane's wrist at the inaugural festivities was worn by Lacina Weitz, her great-great-grandmother from Ohio. It looks like a hand-done, spiral bangle bracelet of gold, Jane Whaley said. The bracelet was one of 10 bracelets Lacina wore to the 1865 inauguration. Her twin sister, Lavinia, also wore 10 such bracelets. They were 15 when they attended the event, she said.

The historic bracelet has been through some perilous moments. When Weitz's house

burned to the ground, not many possessions survived the blaze. But the bracelet was spared.

At the inauguration, the Whaleys sat in the section with senators and their families. "We were one tier away from where the president was sworn in," Jane Whaley said.

When other women at the inauguration learned of the bracelet's history, they wanted to touch it, she said.

The Whaleys were invited to the inaugural reception by U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, a family friend and patient of Dr. Whaley's. They sat across from the presidential viewing podium for the parade.

"We watched (Secretary of State) Condoleezza (Rice) come in. There was a great cheer. Condoleezza was the star," said Jane. They saw President Bush give the "Hook

'em horns" sign of the University of Texas, when the UT band played.

It turns out that in Denmark, it is a satanic sign. So the press corps has some explaining to do, she said.

Whaley and her husband, oncologist Dr. William Whaley, were invited to the gala occasion by Jamie Reynolds, of Reynolds Plantations.

The Whaleys have a home in Blue Ridge, where Dr. Whaley has a practice with Georgia Cancer Specialists.

"We had a great time participating in many of the pre-inauguration events and attending the inauguration itself. To know that my wife was wearing a piece of that history was incredible," said Dr. Whaley.

Jane Whaley said going to the inauguration was great fun.



News Observer photo/Cynthia Maude

Jane Whaley attended President George W. Bush's second inauguration Jan. 20, wearing the same bracelet her great-great-grandmother wore to Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration in 1865. She and her husband, Dr. William Whaley, who have a home in Blue Ridge, said they had a great time. Pictured at the inauguration are, from left, Dr. Bob Coles and Jacquie Coles of Reynolds Plantation, Jane Whaley and Dr. William Whaley.

"It was moving to know the bracelet was there when Lincoln was sworn in. I was really honored to wear it," she said.