KAREN On Friday

Singer **Margaret Whiting** and her musical arranger, **Tex Arnold**, got a glimpse of "history on the hoof" when they stopped by the Air and Space Museum the other day. They walked up to Friendship 7, the space capsule in which **John Glenn** orbited the Earth almost a quarter of a century ago, just as the senator from Ohio was explaining the mission to his grandson.

Gian Carlo Menotti watched **Ana Martinez**, a flamenco dancer currently appearing in his opera "Goya," perform at the National Press Club Salute to Spain three days before the world premiere here of the opera. He went backstage at the Press Club and told her if he had known she could dance like that he would have written more dance into the opera. One member of The Washington Opera, standing nearby, breathed a sigh of relief that Mr. Menotti hadn't heard about that earlier, since the opera runs a full three hours already.

Joan Mondale, who has always personally delivered holiday gifts to her friends, hasn't altered her thoughtful ways. Last week, just before Jack Frost made his first visit to Washington, she hand-delivered "a Mondale tulip" to her pals with early Christmas greetings and instructions to plant before the freeze.

Screenwriter **Eric Roth** ("The Drowning Pool" and "The Onion Field") and director **Peter Yates** stopped at **Steve Martindale's** book party for actress **Rita Gam** ("Actress to Actress") the other evening. They will shoot their new film "Suspect," starring **Cher** as a public defender and **Dennis Quaid** as a lobbyist, in Washington in February. In the original script he's a milk lobbyist, but "we may change it to steel," Eric says. Steel sounds more manly than milk, we suppose, but the news of the de-



Joan Mondale

mise of Big Steel probably hasn't reached Hollywood yet.

James Schlesinger, the former secretary of defense, and **Nguyen Tien Hung**, now a professor at Howard University, were reunited at the book party for "The Palace File" at **Ina Ginsburg's** the other night. Mr. Hung, who was special assistant to President **Nguyen Van Thieu** during the Vietnam War, was once a Schlesinger student at the University of Virginia. The book, which he has written with **Jerry Schecter**, the former diplomatic correspondent for Time magazine, is a collection of 31 secret letters from Presidents Nixon and Ford to the president of South Vietnam. Trying

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to rally support for Saigon, the letters were brought to Washington before the fall, and now they're in a book. **Anna Chennault**, prominently mentioned in the book, showed up to help boost the book. So did Mr. Thieu.

Rep. Ed Zschau, the Republican congressman from Silicon Valley who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate, is one of those who says you "can" go home again. The congressman, who founded a company that became one of the largest manufacturers of disc storage systems, plans to go back into business in California.

Former Sen. **John Culver** of Iowa, now a Washington lawyer, was one of the finalists edged out in the competition for the newly created post of executive director of the Recording Industry Association of America in Washington. The glamour job went to **Jay Berman**, Warner Communications' public affairs V.P.

When Sen. **Pete Wilson**, the California Republican, heard about the Dec. 9 premiere of the film "Crimes of My Heart," which will be a benefit for Women In Film, he said he thought they were talking about "several new residents of the Senate Office Building."

Henry Giugin's likely appointment as the new Senate sergeant-at-arms has the rumor mill suggesting that a deal has been cut between Senate Democratic leader **Bob Byrd** and the senator from Hawaii, **Dan Inouye**, stomping out old rumors that the senator from Hawaii would challenge the senator from West Virginia for the leadership post. When Sen. Byrd steps down two years from now, he'll likely throw his support for leader to Sen. Inouye. Henry is Sen. Inouye's administrative assistant.

— **Karen Feld**