



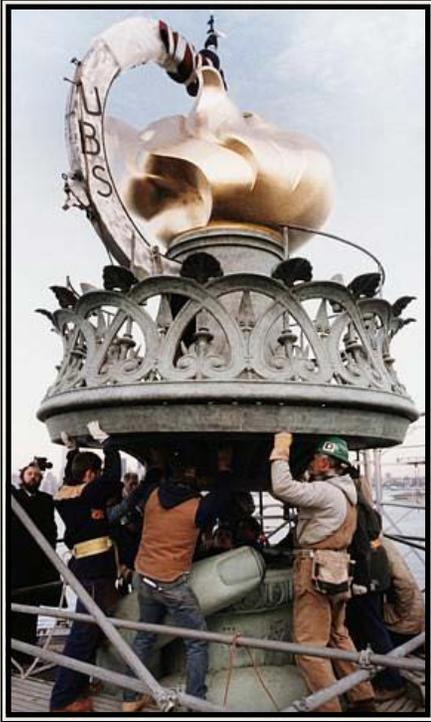
BY JAMES SIMON
Star Times Staff Writer

1984 Brings a Facelift for **LADY LIBERTY**

NEW JERSEY – The massive Statue of Liberty in New York harbor is showing her age. Time, salt, and weather have taken their toll on her. This American symbol will celebrate her 100th birthday in 1986, just two years from now. President Ronald Reagan wants her to be ready for the party!

The Statue of Liberty was a gift of friendship from the people of France. The statue had to be shipped in pieces across the Atlantic Ocean. It arrived safely in New York in 1885. Months later, workers started to assemble the parts of the statue on Bedloe Island. While they worked, they kept Liberty's face hidden.

The big unveiling of Lady Liberty was on October 28, 1886. About a million



people came for the event. Even in the wet weather, there were flags, parades, and music. When crowds finally got to see Liberty's face, they whistled and cheered. Overnight, a new symbol of freedom was born.

Immigrants from all parts of Europe have passed by the Statue of Liberty on their way to a new life in America. They will never forget the first time they saw this majestic symbol of freedom and friendship.

The statue has stood tall and proud all these years, but now there are holes in her copper skin. Her torch

shows heavy water damage. The big iron bars inside her are rusted and worn. She needs a big facelift! That is why there is a metal cage around her. The cage allows workers to make repairs safely.

The repair work must be finished by July 4, 1986. That night, there will be a huge fireworks display to celebrate the statue's 100th birthday. Truly, it will be a birthday party as big and as proud as Lady Liberty herself!



DID YOU KNOW?

It is hard to see, but Lady Liberty's right foot has a shackle around it. A shackle is like a thick handcuff. It is attached to a chain, but the chain is broken.