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For immediate release
Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will be hosts Thanksgiving Day at a brunch for members of the President's high school football team and their wives. The brunch will be at 11 a.m. in the White House Blue Room. About 52 guests are expected.

The group is known as the 30-30 Club, so named because it took the city and state football championships for South High School in Grand Rapids in 1930, and because the team had 30 members.

It has met for breakfast on Thanksgiving Day every year since 1930, though this is the first meeting in Washington, D.C. (they generally meet in a restaurant in Grand Rapids). Plans were made to meet this year in Washington about a year ago.

Harold Bosscher of Rockford, Mich. is president of the Club; The President is vice president; and Art Brown of Grand Rapids is secretary-treasurer.

Traveling the farthest are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Preston of Johannesburg, South Africa. Also attending will be Clifford Gettings of Grand Rapids, who was coach of the team in 1930.

The menu: Honeydew melon garnished with strawberries
 Eggs Benedict
 Asparagus

Hot apple pie and vanilla ice cream

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For immediate release
Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host a brunch Monday, Dec. 2 for the volunteers who helped her answer get well messages following her surgery Sept. 28. It will be held in the State Dining Room of the White House at 11 a.m.

About 220 guests are expected. The majority are members of the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross and the GOP Club. Also included are wives of senators and congressmen and other friends who helped.

The brunch will be served in buffet style.

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For release on
Thursday, November 28, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the American Cancer Society's 1975 Crusade.

Following is the text of a letter which went today to Mr. W. Armin Willig, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society:

"It is a very great pleasure for me to accept your invitation to serve as honorary chairman of the 1975 American Cancer Society Crusade. I am tremendously honored and accept because of my firm belief that the conquest of cancer can be achieved only through a concerted and united effort by everyone.

It gives me particular pleasure to accept the honor on Thanksgiving Day, which this year holds special meaning for me. The love and support from my family, and the thousands of thoughtful messages and prayers from people across the country, will always make this holiday particularly meaningful.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to serve this cause. I am firmly committed to the cause of education, early detection and cancer control, and pledge that in my role as honorary chairman, I will do everything I can to promote these beliefs."

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For immediate release
Friday, November 29, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host an informal brunch on Monday, December 2, 1974 for the volunteers who helped with answering her get well messages following her surgery of September 28th. It will be held in the State Dining Room of the White House at 11 a.m.

About 220 ladies are expected. The majority are members of the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, and the GOP Club. Also included are wives of Senators and Congressmen and other friends who assisted.

The brunch will be served in buffet style from round tables. There will be no receiving line, and Mrs. Ford will mingle with her guests.

The menu includes:

Orange Juice and Champagne
Strawberry Ambrosia
Small Patty Shells Filled with Creamed Chicken
Small Tomatoes Filled with Scrambled Eggs
 Au Gratin
Long Loaf of Danish with Nuts
Long Loaf of Danish with Fruit
Miniature Crepes with Assorted Fillings:
 orange marmalade, fresh strawberry, sausage,
 and bacon
Coffee and Tea

All reporters who wish may cover the brunch and mingle with the guests. Photo coverage is limited to stills.

Press pick-up will be at 10:55 a.m. in the Press Lobby.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will attend a children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Washington Redskins and No Greater Love Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. The party is for children of servicemen missing or killed in action and will be held at the Dulles Airport Holiday Inn.

About 60 children, ages 4 - 16, will attend. They are children of MIA-KIAs from the Washington, D.C. area and from the Tidewater Virginia area. This is the third annual Christmas party for the children that has been sponsored by No Greater Love and the Redskins.

No Greater Love is an organization which sponsors programs for children of servicemen missing or killed in action, hospitalized veterans, GIs overseas and senior citizens without families.

Among those attending the party will be Redskins Larry Brown, Diron Talbert, Billy Kilmer, Roy Jefferson, Bill Brundige and Ron McDole, who will act as Santa Claus. Former Astronaut Bill Anders and Col. Fred Cherry, a former POW, will also attend.

Cartoonists Brant Parker (Wizard of Id) and Bill Rechin (Pluribus) will make sketches for the children.

Four-year-old Bryan Earnest, the youngest of the children, will present Mrs. Ford with a bouquet. He is the son of Mrs. Charles M. Earnest of Virginia Beach.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will accept the White House Christmas Tree as it arrives at the North Portico Friday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

The tree is a concolor fir, 19 1/2 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter at the base. It will be placed in the center of the Blue Room.

The tree was grown in Michigan and was selected a year ago by the National Christmas Tree Growers' Association. Making the presentation to Mrs. Ford will be Edward Cole of Mayville, Mich., who is the National Grand Champion Grower for 1974.

Accompanying Mr. Cole will be his wife and two daughters, Linda Cole and Mrs. Laurie Batzer. Mr. Cole is a former Sanilac County Agricultural Agent who now operates a 100-acre tree farm and teaches eighth grade science at Mayville.

The tree was cut from the front yard of Mrs. Ouina Gardner, also of Mayville, who donated it to Mr. Cole and the Christmas Tree Growers' Association.

A 14-foot blue spruce for President and Mrs. Ford is also being delivered. The tree will be placed in the West Hall of the Family Quarters of the White House.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

First Family Schedule for
week of Dec. 2, 1974

Monday, Dec. 2

11 a.m. State Dining Room. Mrs. Ford will host a brunch for about 220 volunteers who assisted her in answering get-well mail following her surgery.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

5 p.m. Dulles International Airport Holiday Inn. Mrs. Ford will attend a party for children of servicemen missing or killed in action. It is the third annual Christmas Party for these children sponsored by the Washington Redskins and No Greater Love, an organization which sponsors programs for children of MIA-KIAs.

Thursday, Dec. 5

8 p.m. The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black tie dinner for German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at the White House.

Friday, Dec. 6

10:30 a.m. Mrs. Ford will accept the White House Christmas Tree at the North Portico of the White House. Selected by the National Christmas Tree Growers a year ago, the tree comes from Mayville, Mich.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Academy Award winning performer Joel Grey to entertain at the State Dinner honoring Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This is the first time Grey has performed at the White House.

Singer-dancer-actor Grey won the Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor in 1972 for his performance in "Cabaret." Other honors stemming from that performance came from the National Association of Theatre Owners, which named him "Musical Star of the Year;" the National Society of Film Critics and the National Board of Review, which named him "Best Supporting Actor;" and the Foreign Press Corps' Golden Globe Award.

He has also been cited for his performances in the New York musical "George M!" and his dramatic portrayal of a clairvoyant in the movie "Man on a Swing." He also appears regularly on various television shows.

Grey was born in 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio. He started performing at age 10, debuting as "Pud" in "On Borrowed Time" at The Cleveland Playhouse. His family moved to Los Angeles, and he continued to perform on weekends during his high school years with his father, Comedian Mickey Katz. He was also featured by the late Eddie Cantor in the television series, the Colgate Comedy Hour.

He began a series of nightclub performances across the country at age 19, including a headline engagement at the Copacabana in New York. He joined the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York to study with Sanford Meisner and Wynn Handman and began television performances, winning national attention for his title role in the NBC Special "Jack and the Beanstalk." He also appeared in three films.

He appeared in numerous stage plays and musicals, and in 1967 was signed for the role of the master of ceremonies in "Cabaret." He won the Tony Award that year as Best Supporting Actor in a Broadway Musical. He starred in "George M!" in 1969, winning the Variety Critics Award as Best Actor and a second Tony nomination.

He has made guest star appearances on most major television shows, including "Ironside," "Night Gallery," "The Burt Bacharach Show," "The Carol Burnett Show," and others.

Grey and his wife reside in New York City and are the parents of two children. He is an art collector, interested primarily in contemporary American and African art.

Note: Grey has received a number of awards this year, including the Israel Cultural Award from the Israel Bonds Association and the "Entertainment Father of the Year" award from the National Fathers Day Committee. President Ford, then Vice President, received the "National Father of the Year" Award during the same ceremonies in New York in May of this year, and the two met at that time.



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Background on centerpieces to be used for the
dinner honoring German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt:

The silver centerpieces to be used at the dinner are part of the collection of Presentation Pieces in the Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution.

Silver presentation pieces come from the custom of giving a piece of silver to an individual in recognition of service or in appreciation of accomplishment. The Smithsonian Collection represents a panorama of deeds, events and persons that have been considered worthy of recognition throughout the country's history. It represents taste and craftsmanship in America at various periods from the mid-18th century to the 1920s, with one piece dating 1958.

The pieces are on loan to the White House for the dinner Dec. 5 honoring German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Twelve pieces will be used. Among them:

- Miniature replica of a ship under full sail presented to Adm. Robert E. Perry by the Royal Scottish Geographic Society in 1910. It is 24" high.
- The silver punchbowl presented to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles by Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia in 1958.
- The bowl from a punch set presented to Col. George Armistead by the citizens of Baltimore in recognition of his services in the defense of Fort McHenry against the British in 1814. It is a ball-shaped bowl, 12 1/2" in diameter, supported by four eagles mounted on a round base.
- A pair of large, ornate silver pitchers presented in 1838 by the Whig Young Men of New York City to their chairman, Robert Charles Wetmore.
- A teakettle and stand given to Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs in 1853 by the citizens of Washington for his work on the Washington Aqueduct.



For immediate release
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

PRESS COVERAGE FOR STATE DINNER

Honoring His Excellency Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor
of the Federal Republic of Germany -- Dec. 5, 1974

Pickup time

- 7:15 p.m. Press who are interested in viewing table decor should contact Mrs. Ford's press office x2164. Full press.
- 7:30 p.m. Observation of arrival of guests from inside Diplomatic Reception Room. Full press coverage. Black-tie required. Silent, hand-held reels.
- 8 p.m. Continue observation of guests arriving or coverage of arrival of Chancellor Schmidt of Germany at North Portico. Pickup at 7:50 p.m. for those not covering Diplomatic Reception Room arrivals. Full press coverage, Black-tie not required for North Portico arrival.
- 8:10 p.m. Photo session. The President and Mrs. Ford and Chancellor Schmidt at the foot of the Grand Stairs. Full coverage. Black-tie not required.
- 9:20 p.m. Toasts piped into Family Theater for reporters as usual.
- 9:30 p.m. Photo pool coverage of toasts in State Dining Room. Photographers in pool need to bring ladders. Black tie required.
- Pool:
Network pool crew
Ap
UPI
Washington Post
Washington Star-News
- 10 p.m. Full coverage of entertainment. Black tie required. Coverage
approx of first and last numbers and Presidential remarks.



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For immediate release
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President will host a stag dinner this evening in honor of The Right Honorable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, at 8 p.m.

About 29 guests are expected for the black-tie dinner, which will be preceded by a reception in the Red Room. The dinner will be served in the Blue Room at a 30' rectangular table.

The centerpieces on the table are six vermeil knights, borrowed from the White House collection on display in the Vermeil Room. Two of the knights are on horseback and measure about 13 1/2" in height. The other four statuettes are armored knights, standing on a pierced design pedestal. They measure about 11" in height. The vermeil pieces are English and European and are dated at the beginning of the 19th Century. They are part of a collection bequeathed to the White House in 1957 by the late Mrs. Margaret Thompson Biddle. Vermeil is gold-dipped silver.

Surrounding the vermeil knights will be an assortment of greens, including boxwood and needlepoint ivy. A rope of ivy will join the centerpieces together down the center of the table.

The dinner menu: Romaine soup and cheese straws; Roast prime ribs of beef, Onion and celery amandine and Broccoli timbale; Endive and watercress salad and Brie cheese; and Hazelnut mousse for dessert. Demitasse will also be served.

Wines to be used are Robert Mondavi Pinot Noir and Mirassou au Naturel.

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For immediate release
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black tie dinner honoring His Excellency Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Thursday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m.

The dinner will be held in the State Dining Room of the White House, and will be followed by entertainment by performer Joel Grey in the East Room. Guests will dance to the Marine Dance Combo in the Grand Foyer following Mr. Grey's performance.

Emphasis in the decorations in the State Dining Room will be on varying shades of bright pink, with a focus on sterling silver centerpieces. Table cloths will be in pink tones (deep pink, orange-pink and peach-pink) in taffeta and antique fabrics. Round tables will be used for all guests, including those at the head table.

Focal point of each table will be antique silver pieces on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. Part of the collection of Presentation Pieces in the Museum of History and Technology, the pieces are considered an historic document of deeds that have been thought worthy of special recognition throughout the country's history. (see other release).

Surrounding the silver centerpieces in a wreath-like effect will be gerber daisies and ming fern. The daisies are multi-colored in shades of pink to match the table cloths. Flanking each centerpiece will be four tall silver candlesticks, some of which belong to the White House and others which are on loan from the Smithsonian and the Blair House. Ficus trees will be used in the Dining Room and in the Grand Hall.

The menu: cold smoked salmon; supreme of duckling with glazed apples; wild rice; broccoli timbale; watercress and endive salad; bel paese cheese; vanilla ice cream with strawberries flambe for dessert; and demitasse.

Robert Mondavi Fume Blanc will be served with the fish course; Robert Mondavi Pinot Noir with the duckling; and Mirassou au Naturel with dessert.

For immediate release
Monday, Jan. 27, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Soprano Beverly Sills to entertain at the State Dinner Thursday, Jan. 30 for Prime Minister Wilson of Great Britain.

Miss Sills' home company is the New York City Opera, though she also appears with other US companies, including the San Francisco opera. She will make her Metropolitan Opera debut in Rossini's "The Siege of Corinth" on April 7.

Miss Sills is the only singer ever to have been featured in cover stories in both Time and Newsweek. She has appeared on opera stages throughout the world, including London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin and the Vienna State Opera.

Miss Sills' pianist is Charles Wadsworth, Artistic Director and founder of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York.

Detailed information on Miss Sills in attached release.

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BEVERLY SILLS

PROGRAM BIO - 1974

American-born and trained, Beverly Sills is a much sought star of the world's great opera stages, appearing not only with her home company, the New York City Opera and other leading U.S. companies, but at such distinguished houses abroad as London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin and the Vienna State Opera, among others. In June, 1972, she added to this list, La Fenice in Venice where she sang Violetta in a new production of "La Traviata" staged by Gian Carlo Menotti and conducted by Thomas Schippers.

Following her now legendary success in the coloratura role of Cleopatra in Handel's "Julius Caesar" with the New York City Opera in 1966, Miss Sills began to explore the bel canto repertoire in depth and has expanded her repertoire to more than fifty roles, including such coloratura vehicles as Lucia, Manon, and Norma on the one hand, and Marie in "The Daughter of the Regiment," Elvira in "I Puritani" and Pamira in "The Siege of Corinth" (her La Scala debut) on the other. Her appearances in the trio of Donizetti operas dealing with British queens, which the New York City Opera has revived for her, have significantly expanded the repertory of roles currently performed in this country. In these, her appearances as Elizabeth I of England in "Roberto Devereux," and in the title roles of "Maria Stuarda" (Mary, Queen of Scots) and "Anna Bolena" (Anne Boleyn), all made international music news. "Maria Stuarda" had never been staged in New York before; "Anna Bolena" and "Roberto Devereux" had not been staged there since 1850 and 1851 respectively. Like all her other recordings, these three have made protracted appearances on Billboard's Classical Best Seller List. A prolific recording artist, she is a winner of Europe's prestigious Edison Award.

In the summer of 1973 she added to her recorded repertoire the role of Elvira in "I Puritani" and the title role of "Norma" on full-length recordings of each. In November, 1973 she sang the role of Elvira with the New York City Opera during its Los Angeles season in a new production of the Bellini opera which the company had produced for her. This will be followed by the New York premiere in the spring of 1974.

Active as both recitalist and orchestral soloist in the United States, she made her Paris debut in an orchestral concert early in 1971, following her debut season at Covent Garden as Lucia. In the summer of that year she made her London orchestral debut as soloist with the London Symphony, and in December appeared for the first time in Israel in a series of performances with the Israel Philharmonic.

Miss Sills is the only singer ever to have been featured in cover-stories in both Time and Newsweek, and to have been additionally the subject of a New Yorker profile. She is a frequent guest on TV and as Honorary National Chairman of the March of Dimes' Mothers' March on Birth Defects, makes numerous appearances in its behalf.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black-tie dinner for Prime Minister and Mrs. Harold Wilson of Great Britain Thursday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. Soprano Beverly Sills of the New York City Opera will perform during after-dinner entertainment in the East Room.

The decor selected by Mrs. Ford for the State Dining Room stresses American folk art and is part of an overall emphasis Mrs. Ford hopes to give to American crafts during the President's term of office.

Focal point of each table will be an antique wooden decoy, placed on a natural swamp or marsh-like setting. Each centerpiece varies, centering around a different bird or birds. Each setting incorporates natural earth materials, such as moss, cattails, fresh mushrooms and other natural dried materials. Gravel and stone are also used.

The decoys are painted and date from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. 39 of the decoys will be used, including replicas of a variation of ducks and geese as well as shore birds done in natural colors.

The decoys are on loan to the White House from the Museum of American Folk Art in New York, whose entire decoy collection numbers 147. The collection was a gift to the museum from Alastair B. Martin, a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The table settings which surround the decoys were created by Jack Bangs, chief designer for The Gazebo of New York. Mr. Bangs donated his services to the White House and worked with Mrs. Ford both on the overall theme for the dinner and the design. (Prime Minister Wilson is an amateur ornithologist.)

Replacing the usual silver or vermeil candlesticks surrounding the centerpieces will be candleholders made from antique wooden spools used in the mills of New England from the turn of the century through 1945. The wood has a shine created from the lanolin of the yarn which was deposited on the wood. Some of the candleholders are trimmed in brass and others in pewter.

The Johnson china will be used on the taffeta and antique satin tablecloths in shades of bright pinks. The menu includes turtle soup with sherry; supreme of royal squab with wild rice and sauteed zucchini; hearts of palm salad and brie cheese; praline mousse; and demitasse. Robert Mondavi Pinot Noir will be served with the main course and Shramsberg Blanc de Blancs with dessert.

Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Dance Combo will follow Miss Sills' performance.

For immediate release
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Jazz Musician Billy Taylor to entertain Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the State Dinner honoring Prime Minister and Begum Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Dr. Taylor is known as a pianist, composer, lecturer and radio and television personality. He has composed more than 300 songs and written twelve books. He is considered a spokesman for jazz, lecturing at universities and high schools around the country.

Dr. Taylor is a recipient of Downbeat Magazine's award for Best Pianist in their Critic's Poll.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Newport Jazz Festival, the Harlem Cultural Council and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. He is also President of Jazzmobile, which provides free concerts to culturally deprived areas, and is a member of the National Council on the Arts.

Dr. Taylor has also served as an advisor to the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York and was Vice President of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

He has been musical conductor for the syndicated David Frost Television Show. He currently writes special material for Sesame Street and Electric Company and is musical director for NET's Black Journal.



The son of a dentist, Taylor was born in Greenville, N.C., and grew up in Washington, D.C. He began playing piano at age 7 and studied under Henry Grant, a local music teacher who also taught Duke Ellington. He received a bachelor of science from Virginia State College and will receive a doctorate in musicology from the University of Massachusetts this spring. He has two honorary doctorate degrees, one from Virginia State and another from Fairfield University.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black tie dinner honoring the Prime Minister and Begum Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. Jazz Musician Billy Taylor will entertain in the East Room following the dinner.

The decor selected by Mrs. Ford for the State Dining Room continues to stress American folk art, focusing on Indian basket weaving. The centerpiece on each table represents the handiwork of a different Indian tribe from a different part of the country. Among those represented: the Cherokee tribe of North Carolina; the Oneida (Iroquois) of New York; the Chitimacha of Louisiana; the Hopi of Arizona; the Makah of Washington; and the Penobscot of Maine.

The baskets are from 20 - 150 years old and are made of natural materials, such as straws, grasses, twigs, vines, roots, shells and feathers. They were originally made for utilitarian purposes and used as water jugs, for storage of grain and other materials, etc.

Each handmade Indian basket will be filled with arrangements consisting of either dried flowers, fresh wild flowers or a combination of vegetables, fruits and bread. One table's centerpiece will incorporate an arrangement of several of the smaller baskets. The President's table will be decorated with a large globular basket fashioned by Mission Indians in California. The basket incorporates eagles in the design.

The colors in the arrangements are based on earthen shades, with dried arrangements ranging from off-whites to beiges to browns, and wild flower designs incorporating yellows, golds, oranges and rusts. The dry arrangements will use grasses, seed pods, leaves, feathers and bleached ferns. The flower-filled baskets will incorporate freesia, mimosa, ranunculus and tiger lillies. Tomatoes, eggplants, mushrooms, lemons and fresh baked loaves of bread will be used in other arrangements.

The baskets are on loan to the White House by the Museum of the American Indian in New York, which houses the largest Indian collection in the world. Surrounding the basket centerpieces will be candlesticks made from antique wooden spools.

The table arrangements were created by Jack Bangs, chief designer for The Gazebo of New York, who donated his services to the White House. Also assisting with the dinner was Susan Hutchins of New York, who acted as museum liaison.

The Johnson china is being used on the bright pink taffeta and antique satin tablecloths. Grosgrain ribbon in a bright persimmon shade will be used to tie the white linen napkins.

The menu: consomme with brandy; supreme of pheasant veronique with wild rice; brussels sprouts amandine; endive and watercress salad; Port-Salut cheese; Grand Marnier souffle; and demitasse. Wines to be served are Freemark Abbey Cabernet Sauvignon with dinner and Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs with dessert.

Dancing in the Grand Foyer to the Marine Dance Combo will follow Dr. Taylor's performance.

For immediate release
Monday, March 24, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The annual White House Easter Egg Roll will be held on Monday, March 31 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the South Lawn of the White House.

Children who are eight years old and under are invited. They should be accompanied by an adult and may enter the White House grounds through the Southeast Gate (at the intersection of Alexander Hamilton Place and East Executive Avenue, across from the Treasury Building).

At Mrs. Ford's request, the White House, normally closed to visitors on Monday, will be open for tours. Those who wish to tour the State Rooms should enter through the East Gate on East Executive Avenue. Tours will be given from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bands and marching units of the Armed Services will perform throughout the day. In addition, there will be clowns, an egg rolling contest and other entertainment.

No reservations are required.

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For immediate release
Friday, April 4, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

At the request of Mrs. Ford, the grounds and gardens of the White House will be open to the public on Saturday, April 12th and Sunday, April 13th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

The Spring Garden Tour will include the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, the South Lawn, the Children's Garden, and the Rose Garden where the tulips and crabapple trees are expected to be at their peak. Visitors may tour the gardens and grounds at their leisure.

After touring the grounds visitors will also be able to view the State Floor Rooms of the White House which include the East Room, Green Room, Blue Room, Red Room, and State Dining Room.

Reservations are not required. Visitors should come to the East Gate of the White House, located on East Executive Avenue. Each guest will receive a brochure to serve as a guide to the White House grounds.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, April 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will meet with representatives of the Visiting Nurse Association of Washington, D.C. in celebration of the organization's 75th birthday Friday, April 11th at 3 p.m. on the White House grounds.

In a ceremony similar to one in 1927 in which Mrs. Coolidge participated (see photo), Mrs. Ford will cut the organization's birthday cake and accept a black nursing satchel like those carried by visiting nurses since 1900.

Nurses taking part in the ceremony will be in uniforms representing various periods from 1900 to the present. Mrs. Ford will be designated an Honorary Visiting Nurse during the ceremony.

Participating in the presentation of the Honorary Visiting Nurse certificate: Mrs. Julia Mills Jacobsen of Washington, D.C., president of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Association; Dorothy Nelson of Silver Spring, Md., Executive Director of the Visiting Nurse Association; and Mrs. Alma Genus of Washington, D.C., the staff member with the longest term of service (35 years).

Participating in the photo duplicating the 1927 cake-cutting: Pat Greer of Suitland, Md., in 1900 uniform; Norma Jean Hatot of Beltsville, Md., in uniform worn from 1910-1918; Carolyn Begin of Cheverly, Md., in early 1920's uniform; Vickie Bocchieri of Silver Spring, Md., in 1927 uniform; and Mercedes Baker of Rockville, Md., and Clara Hazel of Washington, D.C. in current uniforms.

Also present will be Mrs. Louise Thompson, who attended the ceremony in 1927 and was included in the group photograph with Mrs. Coolidge. Mrs. Thompson retired from the Visiting Nurses Association in 1970 after 42 years of service.

The Visiting Nurses Association of Washington, D.C. is a United Way Agency with a staff of 160 in the District and Maryland. The Association provides health care -- nursing and physical, speech and occupational therapy -- to patients in their homes. There are more than 578 Visiting Nurse groups throughout the US.

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Press contact for Visiting Nurse Association:
Phillip Gaffin 387-7333



For immediate release
Tuesday, April 8, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will meet with representatives of the Visiting Nurse Association of Washington, D.C. in celebration of the organization's 75th birthday Friday, April 11th at 3 p.m. on the White House grounds.

In a ceremony similar to one in 1927 in which Mrs. Coolidge participated (see photo), Mrs. Ford will cut the organization's birthday cake and accept a black nursing satchel like those carried by visiting nurses since 1900.

Nurses taking part in the ceremony will be in uniforms representing various periods from 1900 to the present. Mrs. Ford will be designated an Honorary Visiting Nurse during the ceremony.

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Press contact for Visiting Nurse Association:
Phillip Gaffin 387-7333



For immediate release
Thursday, April 17, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited pianist James Tocco to entertain at the White House April 19, following the black-tie dinner honoring the President and Mrs. Kenneth Kaunda of the Republic of Zambia.

The 30-year-old classical pianist made his debut in New York in November, 1972, and went on to win first prize in the International Piano Competition of the Americas in Rio De Janeiro and first prize in the piano competition of the Munich International Competition. In the 2 1/2 years since his debut, he has won ten major awards in competitions.

This season, Tocco performs five times with the Chicago Symphony and once with the Detroit Symphony. Also on his schedule are numerous recitals, including one at New York's Frick Collection and one at Tully Hall in New York.

Last season, Tocco undertook an extensive tour of North and South America, Europe and the Far East, playing in cities as diverse as Calcutta, New Delhi, Moscow, Mannheim, The Hague, Caracas and Washington, D.C. (at Wolf Trap Farm with the National Symphony).

Tocco was born in Detroit, one of 13 children of Sicilian immigrant parents with a great love of the opera. He began winning prizes as a young pianist in Detroit, one of which carried a scholarship for a summer of study at the Salzburg Mozarteum.

In Salzburg, Tocco studied with Magda Tagliaferro, who invited him to continue his study with her in Paris on a scholarship from the French government. He also studied with Claudio Arrau in New York. Tocco has recorded all the Chopin Preludes on an album released in 1973.

He will play Chopin and the music of American composers in his White House performance.

For immediate release
Friday, April 18, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a black tie dinner honoring the President and Mrs. Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia Saturday, April 19 at the White House.



Guests have been invited for 8 p.m. The dinner will include an exchange of toasts between President Ford and President Kaunda. Following dinner, guests have been invited to a performance in the East Room by classical pianist James Tocco. There will be dancing in the Grand Hall to the Marine Dance Combo following the Tocco performance.

Hoping to continue a focus on American arts, Mrs. Ford has chosen to center the decorations in the State Dining Room around the Cybis North American Indian Collection of porcelain. The Collection is on loan from Blair House, where it is part of a permanent exhibit. (The Cybis Studio, located in Trenton, N.J., is America's oldest existing porcelain arts studio.)

The decorations on each table will center around one or two of the sculptures. The purpose of the Collection is to capture the color, rhythm and spirit of the major North American Indian tribes in the United States. First released in 1969, the sculptures represent 35 years of research. The porcelains on loan to the White House are the original artists' proofs. They range in size from 12-14" in height and are done in vivid, true-to-life colors.

Weeping ficus trees will be used in the State Dining Room and in the Cross Hall. Upright yews will be used in the Cross Hall as well. Cabaret tables in the Grand Hall near the dance area will be decorated with hurricane lamps surrounded by a floral arrangement containing bright spring flowers in reds, oranges and yellows (tulips, carnations, lillies, sweet peas and gerber daisies).

The menu: Filet of Sole Veronique; Supreme of Capon with Rice Pilaaf and Asparagus Polonaise; Bibb Lettuce Salad and Brie Cheese; and Raspberry Sherbet Ring with Strawberries and Petits Fours; Demitasse. Wines include Freemark Abbey Johannisberg Riesling; Freemark Abbey Pinot Chardonnay; and Shramsberg Blanc de Blancs.

ncc

For immediate release
Tuesday, May 6, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford has asked that a table from various State dinners and luncheons remain on display following the function so that visitors to the White House have an opportunity to view them.

The first table goes on display in the State Dining Room today. White House Tour Officers will be briefed and be able to inform visitors about the particular function and the decorations that were used for it. The tables will remain on display for varying lengths of time and on occasion, when there are a number of functions within a short period of time, more than one table will be on display.

The first table is from the luncheon Mrs. Ford hosted for wives of members of the United States Senate yesterday. The luncheon had a Washington-Jefferson theme, reflected in the tablecloths, centerpieces, china, music and gifts.

Tablecloths, made from cotton sheets, are in the blue and white Liberty Hall fabric, adapted from a pattern on a set of china used by George Washington. A different set of china, representing Presidents from Washington through Lyndon Johnson, was used at each table.

At each place setting was a gift from Mrs. Ford, a pewter Jefferson cup with a fern planting in it. Each cup was engraved with the "Betty Ford" signature and the date "1975" beneath the signature. Centerpieces were assortments of spring slowers arranged in pewter reproductions of the Annapolis Subscription Plate Bowl, the earliest surviving piece of silver made in Maryland.

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For immediate release
Tuesday, May 6, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Edward Villella and Violette Verdy of the New York City Ballet to entertain Thursday, May 8, at the State Dinner honoring His Excellency The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Lee.

Villella and Miss Verdy will be performing a Pas de deux from the full-length Russian ballet: "Le Corsaire," composed by Drigo. This Bracura showpiece will be conducted by Robert Irving, conductor for the New York City Ballet. Music will be by the Chamber Orchestra of the U.S. Marine Band.

Villella and Miss Verdy danced at the Ladies of the Senate (Red Cross Unit) Luncheon Tuesday, April 22, 1975, which Mrs. Ford attended.

Villella, the New York City Ballet's 39-year-old principal artist, is recognized throughout the world not only for his skill as a dancer but as an athlete. He is known for his agility, strength, timing and grace.

The son of a Long Island trucker, Villella began dancing at the age of 9 and decided at that time he wanted to make a career of dancing. He earned a degree in Maritime Engineering at the New York State Maritime College. There he won a varsity letter in baseball and was also the school's welterweight boxing champion.

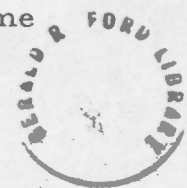
Villella joined the New York City Ballet in 1957 and became their principal artist in 1960, when he starred in a revival of Balanchine's "Prodigal Son." In 1962 he performed at the first anniversary of President Kennedy's Inauguration, performing with the Royal Danish Ballet.

He was named a member of the National Council of the Arts by President Johnson after the President and Mrs. Johnson saw him perform in New York.

Villella's roles with the New York City Ballet have included the lead in Jerome Robbins' "Watermill," "Brahams-Schoenberg Quartet," "Harlequinade," "A Midsummer Nights Dream," "Tarantella," "Giselle," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Swan Lake." He makes numerous television appearances and performs in concerts with symphony orchestras throughout the United States.

Villella performed at the White House in 1971 at a State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Indira Ghandi of India.

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Violette Verdy, who is French-born, is the principal ballerina with the New York City Ballet. She made her debut on stage in 1944, appearing with major French and European ballet companies. She has also done acting on stage, television and in films.

Miss Verdy appeared for the first time in the United States in 1953 with Roland Petit's "Ballets de Paris." As a guest ballerina with numerous international music festivals, symphony orchestras and companies, she has danced such full-length romantic ballets as: "Coppelia," "Nutcracker," "Giselle," "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," and "Romeo and Juliet."

She graduated from Skidmore College in New York in 1971 with a Doctor of Humane Letter Degree and from Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1972 majoring in French Government. She has taught ballet in New York regional schools and is active in the School of American Ballet Scholarship Program. She is also the author of a book, Giselle, which was published in 1970.

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For immediate release
Friday, Oct. 3, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford has selected Maria Downs of Washington, D.C. as White House Social Secretary effective Monday, October 6.

Mrs. Downs has been executive assistant in the White House Office of Bicentennial Liaison since February, 1975. In this capacity, she has served as liaison to the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and related organizations and has coordinated Presidential involvement in Bicentennial events.

Mrs. Downs, originally from Chicago, has been in Washington, D.C. since 1963. Prior to her work with the Bicentennial, she was Special Assistant to the Counsellor to the President Anne Armstrong. She served as senior staff aide to Mrs. Armstrong from January, 1973 to January, 1975, with responsibility for a staff of 25.

In that capacity, Mrs. Downs planned, coordinated, and oversaw all social functions as well as all meetings, conferences, and seminars. She also handled congressional liaison and press inquiries.

Prior to her job at the White House, Mrs. Downs had been special assistant to Mrs. Armstrong when she was co-chairman of the Republican National Committee. During the period from April, 1971 to January, 1973, she was responsible for women's activities at the RNC and organized and directed conferences with attendance as high as 4,000. Included in specific projects during this time was responsibility for a brunch for 1,000 women, numerous receptions and seminars, and the planning and coordination of all aspects of a 3,000 mile cross-country bus tour.

Jobs prior to April, 1971, included a year as Executive Secretary for the Women's National Press Club (now Washington Press Club), in which she assisted in all social functions, including the Editors Dinner and the Congressional Dinner; director of Women's programs at the Republican National Committee, where she arranged social events and conferences; and secretary-receptionist in the Presidential campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater.

Prior to coming to Washington in 1963, Mrs. Downs lived in Chicago and worked as a professional model registered with the Model's Bureau and the Patricia Steven's Agency.

She is 43 and is married to John Downs, who has a public relations firm, John E. Downs, Inc., in Washington. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony, both deceased, ran a small Greek-American restaurant in Chicago.

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For immediate release
Thursday, October 9, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Mrs. Ford's Press Secretary

Mrs. Ford has asked that the gardens and grounds of the White House be open to the public on Saturday, October 18, and Sunday, October 19, 1975, from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Visitors may enter the grounds through the East Gate of the White House, and any guest in line at the designated closing time of 5:00 p.m. will be able to take the tour. Reservations are not required.

The tour includes a walk through the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, the South Lawn, and the Children's Garden. It concludes with a visit to the Rose Garden. The State Floor rooms of the White House will also be open for visitors to enjoy at their leisure.

White House and National Park Service staff will be available to answer questions and each guest will receive a brochure which will serve as a guide. Bands of the Armed Services will provide music from the South Balcony both afternoons.

During the Bicentennial, Mrs. Ford plans to make the grounds more available to the increased numbers of visitors expected in Washington. The plans presently call for the gardens to be open one weekend each month beginning with April and concluding in October. Dates and times will be announced next year.

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For immediate release
Thursday, Nov. 13, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host the official presentation of the new publication The First Ladies Friday, Nov. 14 at 11 a. m. in the State Dining Room of the White House.

The 85-page book chronicles the lives and personalities of First Ladies from Martha Washington through Betty Ford. The volume has a high gloss color reproduction of the portrait of Martha Washington which hangs in the East Room of the White House. There is a forward by Mrs. Ford. Color portraits are also included.

The book is being published by The White House Historical Association. It was produced as a public service by the Special Publications Division of the National Geographic Society. The book's author is Margaret Brown Klapthor, Chairman, Department of National and Military History, National Museum of History and Technology, The Smithsonian Institution. Mrs. Klapthor has had charge of the First Ladies exhibits at the Smithsonian since 1943.

Proceeds from the book will be used to defray the book's printing costs and to buy historic items for the White House. Cost of the book is \$2 for the hardcover edition and \$1.25 for the paperback. It will be sold at the White House and at the headquarters of the White House Historical Association, 5026 New Executive Office Building, Wash, D. C. They may also be purchased at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington and at other national historic sites and monuments.

Participating in the ceremonies Friday morning will be David E. Finley, chairman of the board of directors of the White House Historical Association (WHHA). Mr. Finley will officially present the volume to Mrs. Ford. Greeting Mrs. Ford will be Mr. Finley, Mrs. Klapthor and Robert Breeden, editor of the Special Publications Staff at the National Geographic. About 50 guests have been invited, most of them involved with the new book at the WHHA or at National Geographic.

Sales of previous books published by the WHHA and National Geographic have raised more than \$975,000 to purchase historic furnishings, paintings and memorabilia now in the White House.

The previous publications are The White House: An Historic Guide, The Living White House and The Presidents of the United States of America.

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For Immediate Release
Friday, November 21, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will be special guest of honor Saturday, November 22, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at 8:30 PM for the performance of the Moscow State Symphony. She will drop-by a special reception in the Chinese Room immediately following the concert which is being hosted by Van Cliburn and the Van Cliburn Foundation.

Soviet pianist, Vladimir Viardo, winner of the 1973 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition will be performing with the Moscow State Symphony. Mr. Viardo is the first Soviet pianist to win the top prize in the Cliburn Piano competition since its inception in 1962. Vladimir Viardo will be making a major tour of the United States with the Symphony and he will also be representing the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Mrs. Ford will be joined by her guests in the Presidential Box. They include, Ambassador and Mrs. Dobrynin, Secretary and Mrs. Kissinger, Mr. Van Cliburn and his mother, Mrs. Rildia Bwee O'Bryan Cliburn.

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Press Pick-up in Kennedy Center Press Room at 7:50 PM

