

The original documents are located in Box 50, folder “President - Personal Home - Vail” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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*President
summer
home
Unit*

September 4, 1974

Dear Mr. Lacy:

The President has asked me to thank you in his behalf for your letter regarding Silverheels Lodge.

As you may know, the President and Mrs. Ford own a condominium in Vail. Therefore, it would not seem appropriate to seek the use of other facilities for holidays in Colorado.

However, the President does appreciate very much your thoughtful and generous offer.

Most sincerely yours,

**Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President**

**Mr. Joe M. Lacy
President, JMC CO.
P.O. Drawer 17-G
T.A. Denver, Colorado 80217**



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. Rustand -

This is an offer of Silverheels Lodge
in Colorado as a "Winter White House"

Who could handle this for us?

MR

Mary R

Phil Bucher



JMC

MAIL ROOM
AUG 26 1974
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

August 19, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have homes in Colorado's magnificent ski country understand full well your love for this area, and your desire to spend as much time as the crushing duties of the Presidency will allow. We hope that the suggestion we make by this letter will help you enjoy more time in the Colorado ski areas than might not otherwise be possible.

Our company owns Silverheels Lodge, a 12-bedroom seminar facility built in 1970. (The enclosed folder presents a good picture of the Lodge and its appointments.) It is 64 miles from Denver near Lake Dillon and only 40 minutes by highway to Vail. The Lodge is 12-25 minutes away from Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and Loveland ski areas.

Its particular location in the Wildernest Subdivision, which itself is fully surrounded by National Forest, is such that adjoining open space provides a buffer between other Wildernest condominium projects and the Lodge, thus making the security precautions that are so necessary quite feasible.

The availability of major new telephone facilities in the Dillon area, as well as all underground utilities which are fully operational to serve this area, also contribute to its potential as a "Winter White House."

We would be pleased to make the Lodge available for your exclusive use at any time and for as long as you desire. To this end we would welcome visits by members of your staff and others you would like to look over this mountain retreat as our guests.

We hope they can schedule a visit soon so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the Lodge to be available for the use of your family, staff and guests as soon as the snow flies in November. We are anxious to be of service.

Respectfully yours,

Joe M. Lacy
Joe M. Lacy
President



Enclosure

President
Home -
Vail Colo.

September 17, 1974

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Your very kind letter of September 4th to the President was referred to me for answer.

Thank you very much for suggesting your home in Vail for the First Family. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the President to accept your generous offer. However, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Bud Palmer
Aven, Colorado 81620



Palmer

Avon, Colorado

81620

303-827-5777

17 Philip Buchen

September 4, 1974

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It was a great pleasure meeting you on Vail's ski slopes last winter, and my entire family—wife Daisy and four children—congratulate you on your ascendancy to the Presidency; we all wish you every success in these difficult times.

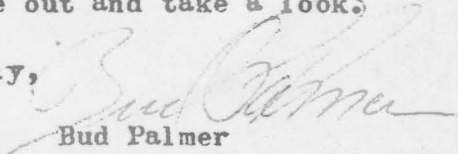
There has been much publicity and conjecture concerning your winter skiing plans, and rumors of security problems with your Vail apartment. At the family dinner last night, it was suggested that perhaps to alleviate the situation, while you and your family are in Vail, we swap our house for your apartment. I'm positive that by now, you have received many similar offers.

As we are located some seven miles west of Vail, you might enjoy the seclusion. Our house has three bedrooms and three baths; on the lower level, there is also a playroom and bath that can easily sleep three more...the hangout for my son and his pals. We also have a pool constructed for laps—36 feet by 10 feet, a sauna, and a steam room. Since my wife and I designed the house, we feel that its most unique.

Having worked for seven and a half years as former Mayor John Lindsay's protocol officer, I have some knowledge of security; I feel that Secret Service would be quite satisfied with the location and construction of the house.

Should you and Mrs. Ford be interested, have anyone of your choice come out and take a look.

Sincerely,


Bud Palmer



September 20, 1974

President
W. J. Ford
Mail

Dear Ms. Frank:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 3, 1974 to the President concerning a possible location for a Colorado White House. The President has asked me to respond to your kind offer.

At this time President Ford has no plans to create a Colorado White House. Your offer is very thoughtful, however, and should this project be considered, please be assured that it will be given appropriate attention.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Ms. Mary K. Frank
Abacus Ranch
Post Office Box 308
Snowmass, Colorado 81654



ABACUS RANCH

September 3, 1974

President Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing today to offer a possible location for your Colorado White House. I am not a landlord by profession, rather a rancher, and I have recently purchased a 510 acre ranch, which adjoins my 320 acre Thoroughbred breeding farm, Abacus Ranch, described in the enclosed magazine article. I intend to enlarge my ranching operation with the new acreage.

In addition to hay fields, the new property includes a housing complex that I would be very happy to lease to you for your working and vacationing pleasure. The complex is not pretentious, but very comfortable, very private, and very secure. In fact, it is so unique, that I truly believe it is ideal for your needs in the next two and one-half to six and one-half years!

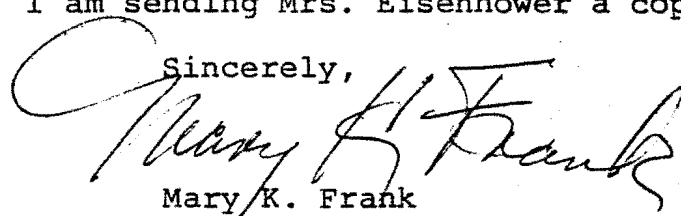
The ranch is situated between Aspen and Glenwood Springs within easy flying distance of your favorite resort, Vail. It lies up the Capital Creek Valley on a dead end road, 4 miles from the Village of Old Snowmass. The houses sit on a knoll above hay fields, with views of the magnificent Elk Mountain Range and Snowmass Wilderness Area. There is flat ground available for a heliport. The Grand Junction jetport is only 30 minutes away by air.

I have enclosed a brochure which describes the new ranch in detail; it was prepared when the property was for sale last year. I have just completed a 2,500 foot extension of my spring fed water supply onto it. The houses have just been completely refurbished; including plumbing, wiring, and painting, with the intention of renting. As this work has just been completed, it has not yet been advertised. But the complex is vacant and ready for immediate occupancy.

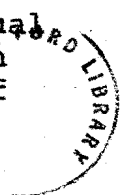
I would be happy to show you and Mrs. Ford, or your representative the property. I would consider it a great pleasure to share this beautiful valley with you and your family.

I give you Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower's name as a personal reference, as President Eisenhower was my father's Adjutant in Panama many years ago. I am sending Mrs. Eisenhower a copy of this letter.

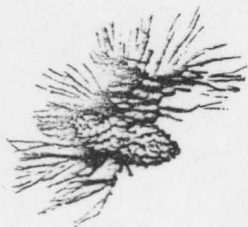
Sincerely,


Mary K. Frank

MKF:js
encls.



Pres. Vail



Mrs. Russell S. Strickland
Box 1376
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374

919 29553#3

September 23, 1974

Mr. Philip Suchen
Office of the Legal Counsel
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Phill:

From me to thee--the Class of 1939 LSA
sends congratulations and best wishes
for the exciting years ahead. I do hope
you have received notices of our 35th Reunion
(October 25 and 26) and the special word from
Bob Canning representing The Tribe.

I would rather imagine your schedule will
preclude your presence but I do hope you
might find it possible to write a little
note which I could read at the banquet.
And if such a letter might include a "Presidential
Postscript"--you just KNOW how thrilled we
would be.

Russ and I had hoped to see Gerry when he
was here but just could not seem to get to
him. We had thought we would wend our way
to the Speakers Table after the banquet but

*Answered by
phone*

9/30





Presidential protocol evidently calls for departure in advance of the guests. I had left a little note in his box at the Pinehurst Hotel to welcome him for I felt quite sure he would remember Russ from Republican affairs in Detroit and me--for having gotten me all those great Yale dates the summer of 1939 in New York!

We have been in Pinehurst four years now and love it. Early retirement was a goal achieved. We also have a condominium in Vail--and look right across the road into the Ford's front window. We expect to have a family reunion at Christmastime there, too, since our young people have all ventured west---Kent to IBM in San Francisco, John to the First National Bank in Chicago, and Sherry and Craig (married daughter) to Seattle. She, incidentally is a paralegal having taken the course from the Institute in Philadelphia following graduation and a Masters from Michigan. Her husband is with the NLRB. They are our pipeline to your profession and I must say, the paralegal field is a most fascinating career opportunity for a woman today.

But--enough of this chit chat for a busy man. Would love to hear from you before October 20 when I shall be leaving early for a visit with my mother in Detroit.

Sincerely,

Russ (Cornell) Strickland

President
Home
Vail

September 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Schorsch:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 5th to the President concerning the possibility of his purchasing a condominium apartment in the Hilton Inn at Vail. As you know, the President already owns a condominium at Vail. I do not believe he is looking for a new condominium to purchase. However, please be assured that if he does become interested in doing so, you will be contacted.

Most sincerely yours,

Phillip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. James Schorsch
Director of Sales
Hilton Inn
Post Office Drawer 1928
Vail, Colorado 81657





HILTON INN

P. O. Drawer 1928
Vail, Colorado 81657
(303) 476-2180

September 5, 1974

Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
Attention: Mr. Buchen
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The HILTON INN at VAIL is pleased to announce that we have recently offered for sale nineteen (19) condominium apartments, which are located on the sixth and seventh floors of our new building. Currently, none of these apartments have been purchased, affording a prospective buyer a variety of choices and views.

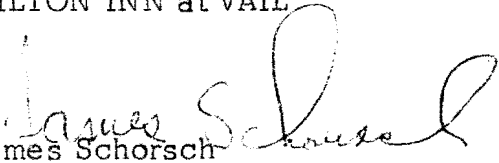
Our building is located in a green belt area between the Vail Village and Lionshead/Vail Village. There is no other building immediately adjacent to our facilities. We believe that we can offer superb privacy and security to the President's family and guests.

We are a full-service hotel with an enclosed swimming pool, complete health facilities and underground parking. Elevator service is available from the parking level to the condominium apartments. Room service is also available from our coffee shop menu or from the many selections offered in our gourmet dining room.

We would appreciate the opportunity of showing these unique apartments. Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

HILTON INN at VAIL


James Schorsch
Director of Sales

JS/sn

President
Horne
Unit

September 30, 1974

Dear Mrs. Mundt:

Thank you for your letter of September twenty-fourth, concerning a possible site for the summer White House.

I do appreciate the time you have taken to set forth in detail the attractions of Burt Lake. Unfortunately, it is premature at this time for the President to consider purchasing any property for such a use.

Please be assured that your brochure will be kept on record if the President should become interested.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Eleanor Mundt
Mundt Realty
2303 Mundt Road
Brutus, Michigan 49716



MUNDT REALTY

Appraisals - Real Estate

Telephone 529-6208



"OFFICE ON BURT LAKE"

BRUTUS RT. 1, MICHIGAN 49716

September 24, 1974

Phil Buchen, Esq.
The White House
Washington, D. C.

RE: POSSIBLE SITE FOR SUMMER WHITE HOUSE. REFERRED TO YOU BY SENATOR GRIFFIN.

Dear Mr Buchen;

Senator Griffin's office has advised that we should send to you the enclosed information on a property that is available and very suitable, for consideration as a possible site for a Summer White House. If you would like to check with Senator Griffin's office, this referral came about through a telephone call from Mrs Marie Alm of Petoskey, Mich. to the Senators office, informing him the former Reynolds Estate on Burt Lake is now For Sale, and would make an excellent Summer White House. The Senator told Mrs Alm to have us send full particulars on the property to you. The present owner recently moved to Florida and our Mundt Realty is the exclusive agent for the property.

There is approximately 25 acres in the property, with 1124 feet of lake front on Burt Lake. The property is beautifully wooded, is so deep that none of the buildings are visible from the County Road, and 7 acres across the road are also included in the sale. The President could have full and complete privacy. I am enclosing a plat, with the property that is for sale outlined in red, and with location of the buildings drawn in.

The property is excellently located, it is the very tip of exclusive Indian Point (also known as Colonial Point) 6 miles East of Brutus and U.S. Highway 31, just 10 miles from Emmet County jet airport at Pellston, 14 miles from the major ski resorts of Nubs Nob and Boyne Highlands, 20 miles from Petoskey with its well known summer shops and the famous Burns Clinic and Hospital facility. There are 3 excellent golf courses within 20 miles, (the course at Boyne Highlands is outstanding.) I am enclosing a map, locating the Estate on the Point in Burt Lake, and marking for you the airport, Boyne Highlands, etc.

The main residence is a beautiful year round home, with approximately 5500 sq ft of living area, and has 7 bedrooms, 5½ baths and 3 fireplaces. A large guest house "The Oaks" is a complete home with 5 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Both houses are furnished. The grounds are beautifully landscaped and there is a tennis court and a large marina. The enclosed folder has photos of the main residence and detailed information on room sizes of both houses. Also information on the other buildings that are on the premises.

The full price is \$400,000. This includes all the personal property such as sno-mobiles, boats, trail bikes, 4-wheel drive Scout, etc. The property has an insured title.

If you, or some other representative of the President, would like to fly up and examine the property, we would be glad to meet you at the airport at Pellston.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely

Pres.
(home) Vail

October 4, 1974

Dear Mrs. Faulkner:

Thank you for your recent letter inquiring into the possibility of leasing the President's condominium at Vail, Colorado.

Unfortunately, the President's condominium is not available for rent to the public and, therefore, I am unable to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. T. O. Faulkner
1624 Baltimore Terrace
Manhattan, Kansas 66502



Dear President Ford-

86-15
I realize how presumptuous it is of me to write you, but we do have a problem in our home - one much smaller than any of yours - but a large one to us -

Our 20 year old daughter has elected to stay in Vail and work this first college semester and my husband and I along with our 18 year old son and 13 year old son would like to spend Christmas with her and ski.

Condominiums are impossible to find and where they are available, command a prohibitive price. Would yours, by some strange chance, be available to lease? What a peculiar

request if a president I know. My family all are rolling with laughter at my audacity, but it doesn't hurt to at least ask.

Please forgive my nerve for I know you have many important issues confronting you, but we do so badly want to be together -

Sincerely,
Doris J. Faulkner
1624 Baltimore, Dan-
tonnattan, Kansas



October 8, 1974

Pres
Home
summer - (initials)

Dear Mr. Colburn:

Thank you for your letter of August fifteenth, concerning a possible site for a Presidential home.

I do appreciate the time you have taken to set forth in detail the attractions of this location in Wayland. Unfortunately, it is premature at this time for the President to consider purchasing any property for such a use.

Please be assured that your letter will be kept on record if the President should become interested.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. John M. Colburn
Square Real Estate, Inc.
4270 Plainfield Avenue, N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

PWB:em



Handwritten: OK signature in 1974 no interest at present time.



SQUARE REAL ESTATE, Inc

4270 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, N.E. GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49505
(ACROSS FROM NORTH KENT MALL)

Founded 1940

August 15, 1974

Real Estate
Counselors
Commercial
Industrial
Developers

Handwritten: Phil Buckner

President Gerald Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear President Ford:

I would like to inform you of an excellent property that we have for sale. This property is ideally located for a Presidential home. It is secluded in the small community of Wayland on 40 acres of land at the end of a dead end street.

The building has over 7,000 square feet of space (built as a single family home). It has five bedrooms, an apartment which has one bedroom, and a study that could be used as a bedroom. The home has two living rooms (plus one in the apartment), a full formal dining room, a massive kitchen on the main floor, and two kitchens on the first floor. The home has a total of six and a half baths.

There are many other features which make this home adaptable as an escape from the pressure of your high position. Some of these are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18' x 36' heated swimming pool | Pantry |
| Sauna - indoors | Indoor charcoal grill |
| 2 1/2 stall garage | Complete air makeup |
| Thermopane windows | Breakfast nook |
| Dishwasher | Tornado shelter |
| Disposal | Large closets |
| Ice Maker | Intercom and Hi-Fi system |
| Two Fireplaces | |

The well constructed home is built of brick and cedar with a porch on three sides. The large living room overlooks 40 acres of land with a view that extends over 12 miles. A 100 foot long sun porch makes this view easy to enjoy.

I have a complete floor plan of this property which I would be glad to show you. If you are interested please call or write.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature: John M. Colburn

John M. Colburn

cc: Walter Russell, Wm. Kessler



P.S. I'm enclosing a aerial view of the property.

Bass, Richard
, Rita

Wednesday 12/5/74

3:10 The White House operator (Betty) called to ask if we have a telephone number for Dick Bass in Texas whose residence the President will stay in -- in Vail. She said the Press Office had a call earlier from him and had failed to get his phone number to call him back.

I checked Mildred Leonard and Dotty Cavanaugh; they didn't know the name.

Checked Kardex and they list

Mrs. Rita Bass (214) 522-9177
6905 Vassar Drive
Dallas, Texas 75205 (Indicate she is the Alternate Delegate to the Republican National Committee.
Husband is Richard D. Bass. Called Angie Raisch and she indicates they are divorced.
It is our understanding that Richard Bass' house is being rented by the Fords.

Called Dorothy Downton to ask if she would have the phone number. She apparently called James Brown in Tremonton, Utah, and got the following numbers for Richard Bass:

Home	(214) 368-0728
Office	(214) 741-3005
Resort hideaway in Utah	(801) 742-2100
Home in Vail	(303) 476-5921

Gave the numbers to Betty in the telephone office and she was going to get them to the Press Office.

