

The original documents are located in Box 67, folder “White House - Senior Citizens Greetings (1)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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9/23/74
called to
request a
birthday

BIRTHDAY CARD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Florence Moehringer
c/o Van Allen Nursing Home
Little Falls, New York 13365

Sept. 28, 1893



*Senior
Citizens*

Monday 2/3/75

10:45 Called Margaret Bozak -- Greetings Section of 2852
Roland Elliott's office -- she will prepare a birthday
greeting from the President.

Called Thomas Fox's home to ask where (203) 966-8235
the party would be and what time for
Mrs. Clarence S. Dexter . A babysitter (Mrs. Aylward)
answered and gave me two numbers to reach
Mr. Fox in Grand Rapids -- neither of which answered. (616) 949-3938
or
949-3937

Mr. and Mrs. Dockery
361 Manhattan Rd., S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mr. and Mrs. Dexter

I then called the University Club and talked with (616) 456-8623
Mrs. Hansen; she said she'd be glad to see that
the message was delivered in time for the dinner
which will be held at 7:30 p.m.
at the University Club, #1 Vandenberg Center,
1025 Old Kent Bank Building, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49502

2:45 Called Florence Brown and dictated the attached message
and she will type it up and take it to Mrs. Hansen.



February 3, 1975

Message dictated by Margaret Bozak in Roland Elliott's office --
to be phoned to Florence Brown for delivery to the University
Club in Grand Rapids -- to Mrs. Hansen:

Dear Mrs. Dexter:

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn [~~from Phil Buchen~~] that
you are celebrating the grand occasion of your ninetieth birthday,
and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing
congratulations to you at this happy time. Surely this is a special
day for all of your friends and family. May the richest blessings
of health and happiness be yours today and throughout the years.

With our congratulations and warmest birthday wishes.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Mrs. Clarence S. Dexter

University Club

#1 Vandenberg Center

1025 Old Kent Bank Building

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502



*Senior
Citizens*

Monday 2/3/75

10:30 It is routine to send birthday cards from the President to "senior citizens" over 80.

However, in view of who it is and the shortness of time, I thought I'd better check how you want me to handle this one?

Memo?

Phone call from me?

Phone call from you?

Check with Mildred Leonard?



January 30, 1975

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

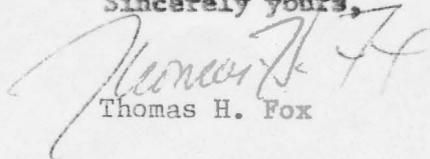
At the University Club at Grand Rapids, Michigan on Monday night, February 3 my wife's grandmother, Mrs. Clarence S. Dexter will be celebrating her 90th birthday.

As I am sure you are aware Mrs. Dexter has spent, I believe, her entire life in Grand Rapids and with pride I think it is safe to say she has truly been one of the outstanding citizens of that community.

I know she is especially proud of having you and your wife in the White House and I know it would mean a lot to her if you could in some way extend your greetings to her on this occasion.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,


Thomas H. Fox



cc: Mr. Phillip Buchen
Counsel to the President of
the United States

P.S. Mr. Buchen:

I have never done anything like this before in my life but I know my uncle-in-law, Joe Dockery, would have thought to do the same were he alive.

K

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

W.H.
Senior Citizens

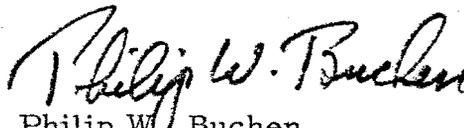
April 25, 1975

Dear Mrs. Morpew:

We have just received your letter requesting birthday cards for Mrs. Beth Shields and Mrs. D. Hal Morris.

My secretary has contacted the person in charge of sending cards to senior citizens and Mrs. Hal Morris should be receiving her card very shortly; Mrs. Shields will receive hers nearer her birthday.

Sincerely yours,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Charles E. Morpew
209 South Pleasant Street
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190



W 11
Senior Citizens

Thursday 4/24/75

5:40 I called Barbara Bocek in Roland Elliott's office and requested an 80th birthday remembrance to be sent to the following person whose birthday is April 25:

Mrs. D. Hal Morris
Ramsey Jones Court
LaGrange, Missouri 63448

Attached is a copy of a memo which I sent to Barbara requesting a birthday card for Mrs. Beth Shields, 4617 N. Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625, whose birthday is May 19.



WV Senior
Citizens

April 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Barbara Boccek

FROM: Eva Daughtrey

Mr. Buchen would appreciate it if you
could have a birthday card sent from
President Ford to:

Mrs. Beth Shields
4617 N. Damen Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

She will be 80 years old on May 19, 1975.

Thanks very much.



209 S. Pleasant Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
April 21, 1975

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Buchen:

It is my understanding that President Ford will send cards of congratulations on the occasion of an 80th birthday. If this is true, I would appreciate it very much if he would do this for my Mother on May 19, 1975, for her 80th birthday. Send it to:

Mrs. Beth Shields
4617 N. Damen Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60625

If time permits, I would also like him to send one to: Mrs. D. Hal Morris, Ramsey Jones Court, LaGrange, Missouri 63448, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, which is April 25, 1975.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Morphew
(Mrs. Charles E. Morphew)

JM/s



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Abbie White
will be very
happy that
she has received
a second letter
from the President
May 14 + 21.

(over)

Maybe we had better call this duplication to the attention of the persons responsible, so that it does not occur in other cases.

R.

5/26/75 called Margaret Brock; she is trying to find out why this — +
now it slipped through

W/H
Senior
Citizens

May 14, 1975

Dear Mrs. White:

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn that you will be celebrating the grand occasion of your one hundredth birthday, and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing congratulations to you at this happy time.

Surely this will be a special day for all your friends and family. May you always know the richest blessings of health and happiness.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Abbie C. White
c/o Miss Elizabeth White
2 Rectory Lane
Scarsdale, New York

cc: Phil W. Buchen



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Wife
sent to
Citizens*

April 19, 1975

Dear Fritz:

Thank you very much for your note about Mrs.
Abbie C. White.

I have promptly referred the information to the
office in the White House which prepares messages
for the President for occasions of this type.

I very much appreciate your best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Fred M. Deane
2520 Fletcher Drive
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506



Fred M. Deane
2520 Fletcher Drive
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Mrs. Abbie C. White, born and raised in Lapeer, Michigan, will quietly celebrate her 100th birthday at the home of her daughter, Miss Elizabeth White, at 2 Rectory Lane, Scarsdale, New York on May 27.

Mrs. White is the widow of Hugh White, Captain of the University of Michigan's first point-of-minute team in the fall of 1901, the first year of Fielding Yost's coaching career at the University, and led the team to victory in the first Rose Bowl Game against Stanford University. Mrs. White has two other daughters living in Grand Rapids, Michigan - Marian (Mrs. Paul "Jack" Steketeer and Martha (Mrs. Fred M. Deane).

Dear Phil as

I thought that you and Jerry might be interested in the above. Best to you both

Fred



Friday 8/22/75

Senior Citizen
Birthday
9/12/75

4:55 Called Margaret Bocek and asked
if she would send a birthday card for a gentleman
who will be 80 on September 12th to -----

2852

Mr. Joseph Penfa
138-17 59th Avenue
Flushing, Long Island, New York 11355

cc: Florence Early

*8/26
corrected to
one "n"*



Boyd,
Stuart

September 17, 1975

Dear Mr. Bucher,

My husband and I would like to thank you and your office for arranging such a wonderful birthday message for our father Stuart E. Boyd of Holland Michigan. A seventy fifth birthday is always a special day but, with a telegram of congratulations from the President it was doubled in enjoyment. Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Laura Boyd



September 12, 1975

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President
The Whitehouse
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Phil:

I received congratulations from President Ford on my seventy-fifth birthday. I understand that you arranged this and I thank you very much.

I want to congratulate you for being appointed to this high position that you occupy and to commend you for the good job you are doing; I hear good things from _____ all sides on your administration.

Let's hope we all come through '76 as winners.

Ruby joins me in sending very best wishes to you and Bunny.

Sincerely,



September 3, 1975

MAILGRAM

Mr. Stuart E. Boyd
1374 Waukasoo Drive
Holland, Michigan 49423

Betty and I would like to add our own birthday wishes to those of your family and friends as you celebrate the grand occasion of your seventy-fifth birthday.

We know this will be an especially enjoyable and memorable occasion for all, and you may be sure our thoughts will be with you. You have our heartiest congratulations and warm regards always.

GERALD R. FORD

CC: Phil Buchen

GRF:MAB:AVH:emp

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/2/75

Mr B.

said just
to have them

send a card

they are sending
a wire.

2:30, 9/2

Laura Boyd
(616) 375-0070

Mrs. Boyd's father-in-law, whom the President and Mr. Buchen both know, is having a 75th birthday on September 4. She has requested a Presidential letter of telegram for Mr. Boyd. His name and address is:

Mr. Stuart E. Boyd
1374 Waukazoo Drive
Holland, Michigan 49423



Grand Rapids man who is well known to the President -- Oct. 4

Mr. William Gaffield Logie ----- 80 plus -- born 1881
3600 Fulton St. East
Porter Hills, Grand Rapids 49506

Son is very well known close friend of Mr. Buchen's



W H Senior
Citizens

Tuesday 10/14/75

2:50 Volney Morin called to say there is a lady who will have her 100th birthday on October 17th, lives in a retirement home with 500 people. She is still doing volunteer braille workd for the blind -- translating from written work into braille.

I called Miss Bosek and she will have a letter sent:

Miss Winifred Cobb Eggleston
Royal Oaks Manor
1763 Royal Oaks Drive
Suite C-40
Duarte, California 91010



Friday 10/24/75

5:10 Bobbie Kilberg advises her grandmother will be 90 years old and they are going up for the big celebration this weekend.

I called Mrs. Bocek and they will send a night letter to her at Bobbie's mother's home:

Mrs. Celia Greene
2840 Sedgwick Avenue
Bronx, New York

c/o her daughter:
?? (gave it to Margaret)
102-35 64th Road
Apt. 4B
Forest Hills, New York 11375



Thursday 12/4/75

4:55 For Senior Citizens' Birthday Cards -----

Dr. Eritt C. Albritton
7505 Arden Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Born: December 14, 1890

Robert Karl Peterson
2022 Columbia Road, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Born: December 12, 1895

Even though he's not a senior citizen,
I requested a card be sent to Dr. Daughtrey on his birthday.



NH
Senior Citizens
Birthday

Friday 1/2/76

11:20 Bob Daverman called from Grand Rapids. Said he (616) 452-4946
had talked with you about a gentleman who would be
98 on January 6th. The request came from
Mrs. Margaret Hurford (the man's niece). A letter
from the President will be sent to:

Harry C. Wilcox (213) 242-5713
Glen-Park Retirement Hotel
Room 52
1250 South Boynton
Glendale, California 91205

I gave the information to Becky Bovelsky who
will prepare the letter.



Monday 3/1/76

10:45 I have requested a Presidential birthday card be sent to Dr. Harry Jellema (2238 Wilshire St., S. E., Grand Rapids) on his 83rd birthday on March 10.



MONDAY

3/1/76

called Edith who

will send a card to Dr. Jellema

Call and have a birthday card sent to

Dr. Harry Jellema
2238 Wilshire Street, S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

He will be 83 on March 10, 1976



Thursday 3/4/76

Senior Citizens
Birthday

10:05 We will have a birthday card sent from the President
to Mrs. Minnie Vangenh (106 S. 9th Street, Belleville,
Illinois 62221) who will be 80 on Sunday 3/7.

(Good friend of Timmie White)



[ca. April 1976]

Eva—

Here is the information
about the two 100-year-olds!

Will it be possible to have
copies of the two letters?

Hope you live to be a
healthy, happy century-old-Saint
as useful as you are NOW!

(AG)



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: EVA DAUGHTREY
FROM: MARK WEINBERG *M. W.*
SUBJECT: Presidential Letters

As per our telecon, I am enclosing xeroxes of the tissues from the three Presidential letters which Mr. Buchen asked us to send. Central Files should also be sending you a carbon of each letter, but in case they do not and in the interest of speed, I'm sending these.

It is the general policy of the Greetings Office to send birthday letters in advance of the birthday in order to assure timely arrival. It is easier to time a card to arrive on a certain day, but because the letters go through so many people (drafter, typist, Cabinet Secretary, signature, stripping), it is difficult to time them accurately. Please let me know whenever we can do anything for your office - we'd be only too happy to comply with any requests.

Enclosures (3)



4/16/76
100 years

April 12, 1976

Dear Mrs. Troupe:

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn that you will be celebrating the grand occasion of your one hundredth birthday, and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing congratulations to you at this happy time.

With our warm wishes always,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Emily Troupe
c/o Mrs. Dorothy Montague
3615 Edelman Terrace
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

cc: Eva Daughtrey - WH
Mark Weinberg - 19 EOB

GRF:PAT:MP:AVH:RLE:ki
P-A(2nd rev)
50



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

To: Mark Weinberg
White House Greetings Office

From: Eva Daughtrey *Eva*
Secretary to Philip Buchen

Mr. Buchen asked if a Presidential letter could be sent to Mrs. Emily Troup, who will be one hundred years old on April 16 (see clipping attached).

The letter should be sent to:

Mrs. Emily Troupe
c/o Mrs. Dorothy Montague
3615 Edelmar Terrace
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

We would appreciate receiving a copy of the letter that is sent.

Thanks so much.



Can you get a Birthday Greeting
from the President for
Mrs. Emily Troupe
who will be 100 years old on
April 16?

Sent to Mrs. Troupe
90 her daughter,
Mrs. Dorothy Montague
3615 Edelman Terrace
Silver Spring
Maryland 20906

Rossmoor

memo sent requesting
letter

HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

On April 16th of this year, a resident of Mutual Nine will celebrate her one-hundredth birthday. Mrs. Emily Troupe will be more than half as old as the United States of America. Born in England in 1876, during the reign of Queen Victoria, Mrs. Troupe was thirteen when her parents brought her to this country in 1889 (that was the year of our Johnstown Flood, but Mrs. Troupe denies responsibility).

Mrs. Troupe was raised in Philadelphia. After her marriage she lived in Washington, D.C. At present she lives with her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Montague at 3615 Edelmarr Terrace. She is in reasonably good health, and has many friends and hobbies that keep her interested and occupied. According to Mrs. Troupe, the first hundred years are the hardest, and from now on she intends to concentrate on having fun.



Mrs. Emily Troupe

*SPRINTS
M. P. 906
"Lawson"*



4/12/76
90 years

April 12, 1976

Dear Mrs. Ikena:

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn that you will be celebrating the grand occasion of your ninetieth birthday, and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing congratulations to you at this happy time.

With our warm wishes always,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Mary Ikena
Presbyterian Home of Maryland
Towson, Maryland 21284

cc: Evan Daughtrey - WH
Mark Weinberg - 19 EOB

GRF:PAT:MP:AVH:RLE:ki
P-A(2nd rev)
50



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

To: Mark Weinberg
From: Eva Daughtrey
Secretary to Philip Buchen

Another request for a Presidential
birthday letter.

Mrs. Mary Ikena
Presbyterian Home of Maryland
Towson, Maryland 21204

She will be 90 years old on
April 17, 1976.

Would appreciate a copy if you
send a letter.

Thanks.

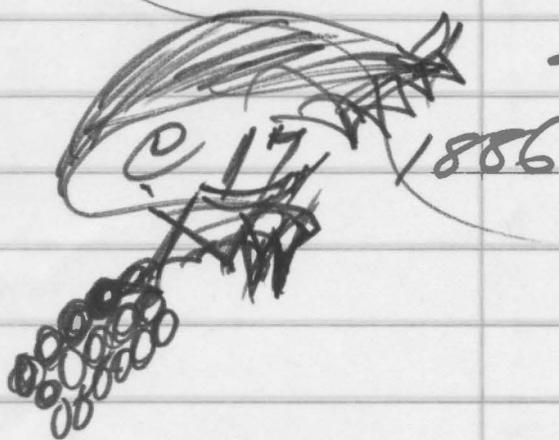


John Gray

90th

Mrs Mary Ikana
Crestyteran in
— Town Md.

2/204



4/27/76
90 years

April 12, 1976

Dear Mrs. Bigger:

Mrs. Ford and I were delighted to learn that you will be celebrating the grand occasion of your ninetieth birthday, and we want to be sure to be included among those expressing congratulations to you at this happy time.

With our warm wishes always,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Norma Blunt Bigger
2104 12th Avenue, West
Bradenton, Florida 33505

cc: Eva Daughtrey - Buchen's office
Mark Weinberg - 19EOB

GRF:PAT:MP:AVH:RLE:ki
P-A(2nd rev)
50



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

To: Mark Weinberg
White House Greetings

From: Eva Daughtrey *Eda*
Secretary to Philip Buchen

It would be greatly appreciated if a Presidential letter could be sent to Mrs. Norma Blunt Bigger on her ninetieth birthday on April 27. It can be sent to:

Mrs. Norma Blunt Bigger
2104 12th Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 33505

Attached is a copy of the information we received concerning her very interesting life.

It would be appreciated if I might have a copy of the letter when it is sent.

Thanks again.



Norma Blunt Bigger



Norma Blunt Bigger will be ~~eighty~~^{ninety} years old on April 27. Though handidapped by failing eyesight and less endurance than in former years, she has much food for thought these days as she recollects a past which has been packed with colorful adventure and the joys and heartbreaks which accompany a life of fruitful service to others.

She tells of her life as a spirited young girl who loved galloping her horse across the acres of her father's farm in Kansas and watching caravans of covered wagons pass by on their westward trek across the plains. Little did she know that her future lay even beyond that. After completing her training as a nurse at Kansas University Hospital in 1912, she traveled to Yokohama, Japan where she was met by a young surgeon Dr. John Bigger. After being married there, they went on to Korea where they served as medical missionaries under the Presbyterian Board of Missions, U.S.A. for forty years.

During the first years, they pioneered in the truest sense in Kang Kai up on the Manchurian border. It was an arduous trip through the mountains on horseback. Later they moved south to Penguang working in the hospital there. Everywhere the Korean people were eager, receptive, and appreciative. The Biggers were more than busy helping to care for the spiritual and physical needs of those around them and also raising and educating their four children.

The war years came and the Biggers were left with very few material possessions but a wealth of personal experiences long to be remembered. At the end of one furlough to this country, Norma's passport was suddenly cancelled. No women were allowed to leave. Dr. Bigger went on to Korea and she remained, expecting to join her husband shortly. However, after the events of Pearl Harbor Day, Dr. Bigger was arrested by the Japanese, interned for six months, and their home and contents confiscated. These were lonely months of uncertainty for Norma as she waited. Then came the joyful reunion when her husband was repatriated with the first group of prisoners returned on the Gripshelm after a voyage taking them almost around the world.

Three years later the Army of Occupation in Korea asked to borrow Dr. Bigger from the Mission Board to direct Health and Welfare under General Hodge because of his knowledge and experience with the Korean people. Again Norma returned to Korea as an army dependent living in Seoul. After finishing that term of service, the Mission Board asked them to go to Andong to train personnel and rehabilitate a hospital which they did. Again war raised its head and during many nights guerilla bands raced back and forth through their compound. There was the sudden évacuation of eighty missionaries rushing to get to Pusan and out of the country ahead of Commies from the north. Norma rode for two days in a truck carrying thirty missionary children and helped care for them. Once again all personal possessions were lost, but the Biggers had long before learned to travel "light". Norma carried her handbag and the doctor had a small medical kit. Just as they boarded the last ship leaving

Pusan, the missionaries filled a pillowcase with all their Korean paper money and handed it to one of the fellows left behind. They no longer had use for it.

After a few months with other evacuees in Japan, the Biggers returned to the States to retire in Bradenton, Florida in January 1951. After years of excitement, traveling the globe, and many separations from their children, they were content to retire and enjoy building a new home, visiting with their sons and daughters and entertaining grandchildren with true-life stories of their experiences. Dr. Bigger passed away February 12, 1959 and Norma continues to be very independent living in her little apartment and taking care of herself as much as possible.

Norma Blunt Bigger

Born: April 27, 1886, Greely, Kansas

Education: High School - Methodist Academy
Baldwin, Kansas

Nurse's Training

Kansas University Hospital

Married: John Dinsmore Bigger
Yokohama, Japan, September 15, 1912

Retired: Bradenton, Florida, January 1951

4 children, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren



Senior Citizen

*Mrs. Anna
Ackerman*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1976

Dear Anna:

I have been informed of Dorothy's telephone call to Mr. Buchen's office and I am certainly sorry to hear that you are having some difficulties health-wise. Hope and trust that you are making progress and will be your usual self soon.

I'm sorry I didn't have an opportunity to visit with you when I was in the Fifth District recently. Unfortunately the time was very short and a very heavy schedule had been planned for me. I hope you understood.

I was very pleased to receive Harry's picture and I hope you will express my appreciation to Dorothy and thank her also for her wonderful aid and assistance.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ford

Mrs. Anna Ackerman
Pilgrim Manor
2000 Leonard, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



Ackerman
Mrs. Anna

Friday 5/21/76

5:25 Gave Mildred Leonard the note; she will get a letter for the President's signature for Mrs. Anna Ackerman.



Thursday 5/20/76

4:20 Dorothy Swanson called totalk with Mr. Buchen.
He was unable to talk with her.

(616) 532-2210

She told me her mother, Mrs. Anna Ackerman, and her father, Harry, had campaigned for the President for years and years. Her father died five years ago this June.

Her mother has had a very bad stroke -- she is 90 years old -- and she feels very badly that she hasn't been noticed in this campaign. She would like some type of recognition from Mr. Ford. She said her mother would like to talk with me -- she wants to talk with someone at the White House to feel she isn't forgotten.

Mrs. Ackerman told me she has had a bad stroke which has affected her ears and her eyes. During "all this going on" she has listened to all she possibly could. She wanted the President to know that she hasn't forgotten. She said she and her husband started out thirty years ago and went from door to door and told everybody about the President. Said she has only heard from him once since he's been in Washington. She said she might not be around very long and she would like to hear from him.

I then talked with Dorothy Swanson again and she said Mrs. Anna Ackerman is in the Pilgrim Manor, 2000 Leonard N. E., Grand Rapids 49505. Indicated Jerry had taken her, her mother and her mother to dinner with Sen. Dirksen a long time ago. Jerry came to see her dad before he passed away.

Dorothy said she got 80 votes for the President the other day.

Said last November??? she did get a telegram from the President saying he would see her the next time he was in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Swanson said she sent her dad's picture to the President but they hadn't had a reply from that, but she understands.

