

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “12/6/74 - Receiving Christmas Tree” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Arrival of Blue Room Christmas Tree
Group National Christmas Tree Growers' Association 11:15
DATE/TIME Friday, December 6, 1974 10:30 a.m.
Contact Rex Scouten Phone x2650
Number of guests: Total 9 Women x Men x Children _____
Place South Portico arrival/ Diplomatic Recept.Rm. Refreshments
Principals involved MRS. FORD
Participation by Principal Photos (Receiving line) _____
Remarks required No
Background Mr. Edward Cole is the 1975 National Grand Champion Grower for 1974. He is from Mayville, Michigan. The tree is a concolor fir, 19½ feet tall and 12 feet at the base.

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list Rex Scouten & Bill Timmons
Invitations _____ Programs _____ Menus _____
Refreshments Yes (Hot cider punch/cookies) _____
Entertainment _____
Decorations/flowers Yes, normal for Diplomatic Reception Room
Music _____
Social Aides _____
Dress _____ Coat check _____
Other _____

Press: Reporters Yes
Photographers Yes
TV Crews Yes
White House Photographers Yes Color _____ Mono. _____
Other _____

Technical Support: Microphones _____ PA Other Rooms _____
Recording _____
Lights _____
Transportation _____
Parking South Drive
Housing _____
Other _____ (Risers, stage, platforms)

Project Co-ordinator Susan Porter Phone x2850

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

EVENT: Arrival of Blue Room Christmas Tree
(and one for the West Hall)

DATE: Friday, December 6, 1974

TIME: 11:15 a.m.

PLACE: South Portico arrival (Diplomatic Reception Room for refreshments)

GUESTS: -Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cole, National Grand Champion
Grower from Mayville, Michigan
-Linda Cole, daughter
-Mrs. Laurie Cole Batzer, daughter
-Mrs. Ouina Gardner, tree is from her yard
-Mr. and Mrs. Donald Chard, furnished vehicle for trip
-Senator Robert Griffin (R-Michigan)
-Congressman J. Robert Traxler (D-Michigan)

SEQUENCE:

11:15 a.m. When your guests and the press have assembled at the South Portico with the tree on its trailer, Susan Porter will give you a call that all is ready.

To greet your guests, admire the trees and pose for photographs, come through the Diplomatic Reception Room and out the south door where the group and trees will be.

11:25 a.m. When the photographs are finished, at your invitation, your guests will follow you into the Diplomatic Reception Room for refreshments.

11:35 a.m. Toward the end of refreshments, to mark the nearing conclusion, Susan Porter will give you "Betty Ford" pens to give your guests (photographs will be sent later).

After you bid your guests Merry Christmas and farewell and return to family quarters, they will be given a special tour of the White House arranged by Mike Farrell, and the trees will be headed for their destinations: the Blue Room and the West Hall.

BACKGROUND:

Mr. Edward Cole of Mayville, Michigan, has been selected by the National Christmas Tree Grower's Association as the National Grand Champion Grower for 1974. Mr. Cole is a former Sanilac County Agricultural Agent who now both operates a 100-acre tree farm and teaches 8th grade science in Mayville.

The tree itself is a concolor fir, 19 1/2 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter at the base. It was selected by Mr. Cole to be The tree and is cut from the front yard of Mrs. Ouina Gardner, Mr. Cole's neighbor in Mayville. A 14-foot spruce is also being delivered for the West Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Chard, who are friends of the Coles, are furnishing the vehicle and trailer to transport the tree from Michigan to the White House. Mr. Chard operates a 500-acre agriculture farm and maintains a dairy herd of 60 cattle.


susan porter
December 5, 1974

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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President's Tree

The White House Christmas tree was delivered from Michigan yesterday and afterward was nearly damaged. First Lady Betty Ford received the 19-foot fir and said she was "thrilled to have a Michigan



—Star-News Photographer Joseph Silverman

Mrs. Ford, Edward Cole and Mrs. Quina Gardner with one of the two White House Christmas trees after it arrived yesterday.

DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1974

The Family Christmas Tree



Mrs. Betty Ford accepts Christmas tree from Edward Cole and Mrs. Quinn Gardner, old friends from Mayville, Mich., yesterday outside the White House. Tree was cut from Mrs. Gardner's front yard for the use of the First Family during holidays.



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