

**The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “11/13/75 - Presentation of White House Books” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Regarding the questions on LIVING WHITE HOUSE photo revisions:

1. State Dinner in Honor of His Excellency The President of the Republic of Zambia and Mrs. Kaunda - April 19, 1975.

Part 2 and 3 ??

4. Diplomatic Children's Party- December 11, 1974. The children were either raising their hands to answer a question for Amazing Randi (magician) or Santa Claus.

7. Bender (Mrs. Heinz Bender)

# 2. obviously opening gift. we don't know what gift is - probably from one of guests -- looks like a scarf. guest list attached. Gift from President a ~~purple~~ white mink capelet she had already worn. Buffet 6:30 before show. Yes.

3,



Photo caption  
OK'd to Sen Burns

Once a professional dancer, with Martha Graham and a teacher of dance to underprivileged youngsters, Betty Ford continues her support of dance and the other arts. She staunchly advocates women's rights as well.

Does Mrs. Ford want to say that she did the cooking during the years when Mr. Ford was in Congress.

Mary S. D...  
63 21 4 1941  
Sen Burns



# The Ladies of the W.H.

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

In sending this draft for the foreword to the First Ladies book for Mrs. Ford's consideration, we would certainly want it understood that we would be more than delighted if she wished to add personal comment on what it is like to her to assume this role. If she wishes to let the references in her biography cover this point, of course we would be satisfied. Naturally we would not undertake to draft such a passage, but the present structure would offer a place for it between lines 7 and 8, as a new second paragraph.

Since the draft was typed, I have learned from Mrs. Klaphor that she has supervised the First Ladies Collection since she joined the Smithsonian staff in 1943.

I would be more than reluctant to solicit such a reference on our behalf; but if Mrs. Ford wished to make special mention of the work of the White House Historical Association and the National Geographic Society for the four books mentioned, it might appear in the concluding paragraph as the text is presently constructed.

Please convey to Mrs. Ford our best thanks for her kindness in giving text and caption of her biography such prompt and helpful attention. The women of this department appreciate her good words on women's rights! And please accept our best thanks for your own good offices.

If it is convenient for you to send alterations or confirmation by telephone, please call me collect at (202) 296-7500 (extension 848). (As Don has probably mentioned, this book goes to press before Living White House, so we look forward eagerly to hearing from you.)

*With best wishes,  
Mary Ann Harrell (managing  
editor)*

MEMORANDUM from SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS



# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

DONALD J. CRUMP  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

February 27, 1975

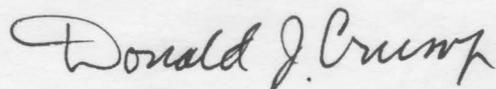
Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
Room 208 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

We are wrapping up last minute details on the revision of the White House Guidebook, but there is one problem I would like to mention. Mrs. Ford's letter for the guidebook is single-spaced and, as a result, will look somewhat out of balance on the page. Would it be possible to have the letter retyped double-spaced so as to make Mrs. Ford's signature appear lower on the page.

I am attaching a Xerox copy of the old letter.

Best regards,



Donald J. Crump

DJC:jhb



3/12  
taken care  
of pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

It is a special pleasure for our family to welcome you to the White House, which is owned and cherished by all Americans. It has been the living symbol of America and the home of First Families since 1800.

May the unique history and treasures of our heritage here be the source of an enjoyable visit which you can rekindle through the memento of this book.

With our warm wishes,

Betty Ford



D. Crump

National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
Room 208 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

BY MESSENGER

WHITE HOUSE MAIL  
RECEPTION & SECURITY  
FEB 27 1975  
Processed by

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

DONALD J. CRUMP  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

May 16, 1975

Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
Room 208 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Sheila:

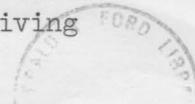
It was a shock treatment for me yesterday to hear on the radio that there was a big arrival ceremony being held at mid-morning for the Shah of Iran and a state dinner planned that night. This probably was the last opportunity we had to shoot some of the pictures needed for THE LIVING WHITE HOUSE. It made me take time out from my other chores to do a status check on the project. That was another shocker. We are supposed to have all pictures in hand May 21. We have managed to shoot only two or three of the 22 pictures outlined in my letter of February 18.

We got Victor Boswell into the ceremony yesterday, but he was roped in with the other press and managed only to shoot some closeups and tight shots--not the interesting overall scene from the balcony we needed for page 118. So, the effort probably was for nothing. I asked the White House photo office to shoot it for us, but they were short of men and could not guarantee that they would get any color coverage for us.

I am visiting the White House photo office this morning to look for material we can use in the new edition, but the staff is not too encouraging because they shoot very few color pictures these days.

Our regular workload here at the Geographic is so heavy this summer that it probably would be the first of the year before the staff could get back to THE LIVING WHITE HOUSE if we miss this press opportunity. Since the supply of LIVING WHITE HOUSE books will be exhausted in July, this would mean that the Bicentennial tourists would not have a chance to buy the book this summer. That would be a shame.

I have three other "extracurricular" projects--FIRST LADIES, WE, THE PEOPLE, and EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW--working now, in addition to THE LIVING WHITE HOUSE. I can probably "buy" an extra ten days, giving us until May 31 to get all pictures.



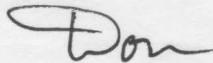
(continued on page 2)

Page 2 - Mrs. Weidenfeld

I would guess that the only way we can now make our date is for you to assign one of your staff members to work almost full time with us for the next three weeks helping to arrange pictures and accompanying our crew to things they need to cover. We will do everything we can to get the book out, but quite frankly, we cannot do it without some super help from you folks.

I'll call you later today to let you know what kind of luck I had going through David Kennerly's file.

Regards,



Donald J. Crump

DJC:jhb  
cc Mr. Tolson



PHATT  
HOTEL  
Pierre  
Km. 431  
E-8-8000

Rex Scouter - re check: # people working there  
Betty Monkman  
Rusty Young

June 3, 1975

Linda Smith:

Travel Office  
how far has  
he traveled  
& when  
P. 139

Interviews needed to update the Living White House:  
Nancy Ruwe re social scene <sup>protocol for state visit - go over section</sup> end of 1st chap. - <sup>kind of things Mrs. F. interested</sup> in - P. 28, 29 overall social season  
Chief Usher Scouter, general staff, etc.  
Betty Monkman on changing decor, and Elmer Young on <sup>kind of flowers Mrs. F. prefers</sup> outdoors.  
Mrs. Ford and Susan to add details at appropriate

places in the book, from sections on state entertaining to home and family, and her special projects as First Lady

(Note to Sheila: Please tell Mrs. Ford and Susan that they will see all copy and photographs for their approval before publication. Also Mrs. Ford may want to show the President the last chapter that deals in an overall way with Chief Executives since John Adams. This part will be, necessarily, brief and more or less generalized, so I am not asking for an interview with Mr. Ford. Of course I would be happy to include whatever he may wish here.)

*Sonnelle Aikman*  
LDA

MEMORANDUM from MRS. AIKMAN

*Nat Asog file*

June 6, 1975

TO: Susan Porter

FROM: Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld

The release date for "The Living White House" is planned for August 11. As you know, the First Lady usually has a reception for those people who were involved in putting the book together. I think it would be a good idea for Mrs. Ford to do something to thank them for their involvement. Perhaps we can do this in conjunction with the FirstLLady's book, which is the first book of its kind.

I would like to talk to you about it when you come back.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Linda :

Call Don Crump  
& ask him what  
else he needs &  
how we can be  
more helpful. You'll  
be in charge of  
completing project  
with him. Go over  
specifics with me be-  
→

for proceeding, however

She. 6

Furl Picture →

replacement

Deadline - beginning of next week

June 25, 1975

Linda:

Here's the memo with requested information.

Please let me know as soon as you can where we go from here. We do have a deadline.

Thanks.

*Jon*  
LDA

*Dance*  
*Shyte*

\*end of Sept.



MEMORANDUM from MRS. AIKMAN

# 296-7500 - then add for  
whomever you

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

wants to  
speak

National Geographic -

Writer - Lonelle Aikman

Photographer - Don Crump

- he has Patti Frakes

working on photos -

she wants to meet

w/ SKW Mon. w/

dummy copy of

book w/ just pics

Appt. 3 o'clock  
w/ Sheila

No pics left to take

2 Interviews remaining -  
Mrs Ford & Susan

- make Sheila set up  
time - as soon as possible -  
then tell Lon Aikman

# MEMORANDUM

from

Mrs. Aikman

June 24, 1975

SHEILA WEIDENFELD:

Re: The Living White House and its current update, as requested

To summarize briefly the history of this book, here's what happened.

In the mid-1960's, Mrs. Johnson asked National Geographic to produce, in cooperation with the White House Historical Association, an illustrated book to cover the lives of the First Families in the Executive Mansion since 1800, when John and Abigail Adams moved into the still unfinished structure.

At the time, the Geographic had already produced, for Mrs. Kennedy, a guidebook presenting text and illustrations to enable those who tour the building-- as well as other readers--to see what the home of the U.S. President is like.

Mrs. Johnson made her request for an accompanying book, she said, because she felt the human touch was needed to let readers know more about the families who had occupied the building as the country grew up.

This was done, of course, and in the intervening decade, millions of both books have been sold, the proceeds going to the Historical Association for the purchase of valuable paintings and suitable furnishings for the White House. The Geographic made its editorial and pictorial contributions to the projects as a public service.

Now, as to coverage of the present update:

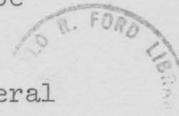
Since publication, the First Ladies have themselves wished to provide interviews and information for each new edition of The Living White House in order to give guidance in presenting their own part in the historical sequence of the book. The material has not only been useful in the writing, but indeed necessary for accuracy both in facts and in the general tone of the coverage of each new family of White House occupants.

I am naturally relying for background data on the many hundreds of clips which the Geographic's clipping service has made available to me on the events and activities of the Ford family. But rather than simply rehashing published information, I am sure Mrs. Ford would prefer the opportunity of expressing her own personality and interests at first hand.

Above all, I wish to point out that she and Susan, as well as the President, if he so desires, will be shown picture dummy and text for approval. So far I have already made a number of short text changes at various places that must include the Fords as the latest family. This I have been able to do from obvious factual information in the clips. For larger inserts, the material should come from the interviews with Mrs. Ford and Susan. None of this would take a great deal of time, since I have already marked the spots to be covered and the kind of information that could fill them.

The following list of pages indicates where the material is needed and in general something of its character:

Page 66 on, in the Hospitality chapter: Mrs. Ford's ideas on White House entertaining... What she prefers in types of stage presentations...Her favorites...Did she see the musical 1776 during the Nixon time? Any anecdotes on earlier experiences at White House affairs?



# MEMORANDUM

from

Mrs. Aikman

-2-

Last part of pg. 69. I plan to include here Susan's Senior Prom. Any anecdotes on this occasion? (I was there, and of course there are news stories, but she might like to tell something of her part as hostess or in preparations. This would make a good transition to the next chapter on family life here throughout history.

Page 79: A brief mention of Mrs. Ford's preference in dress style, to follow the paragraphs dealing with interest a few years ago on hem heights and the paragraph on Mme. Pompidou's "midi" skirts. Her feelings on this score will be especially interesting to women because of her career as a model and dancer, and the fact that she is a very attractive woman.

Page 94: Following a quotation from Margaret Truman's book about her feeling concerning the protective eyes of Secret Service agents, how does Susan regard the agents?

Pg. 96 through 107 and end of Family chapter: I have space for about 100 more lines on whatever Mrs. Ford and Susan would like to include. Questions might cover such subjects as new colors and type of decor on the second and third floors...Favorite and new paintings (Is the painting of the John Adamses' little granddaughter who lived with them in the White House still around?)...Family use of different rooms(Tricia Nixon on her popular TV tour discussed this)...(I have almost nothing about the Ford sons, merely their introduction by name on pg. 18-19. Would Mrs. Ford like to add a bit about their stays with the family, on visits or between college semesters?)...Susan at the White House. Any anecdotes about her first days there...About Shan, the cat...About her particular interests...her subjects at her new school...her future career, perhaps in photography...her column in the magazine Seventeen...

Pg. 116 in chapter "House for the Ages," following early history and deterioration, to Truman reconstruction: Questions concerning Solarium and modern convenience of family dining room on second floor. Does whole family use Solarium or mostly Susan for entertaining her friends, for study, preparing her column for Magazine 17...Or as dark room for developing photographs?...Does the President still fix his own breakfast in the 2nd-floor kitchen as widely published in the beginning?

Pg. 127 in chapter on "The President's Park." Mrs. Ford's preferences in flowers for general table decorations and house decor. Her imaginative use of historic china and centerpieces for tables--Indian baskets, old bottles from the West, folk art, etc. Her interest in making lawn available for Easter-egg roll...Christmas tree and decorations inside and out.

Pg. 129: Her use of Rose Garden and lawns for outdoor parties. (I was present at her reception for the Visiting Nurses and was impressed by her kindness in getting photographs made for all to have).

Last Chapter on Presidential responsibilities and their wives' part. Mostly history. Add re Mrs. Ford something about her travels as "ambassador of goodwill," following mention of Mrs. Nixon's trip to Peru after the earthquake. Any anecdotes re Mrs. Ford's experience on her trips abroad? Mrs. Ford's special concerns, such as equal rights amendment, International Women's Year, etc.

This sounds like quite a lot, but the information can be much condensed and Mrs. Ford and Susan can, of course, give as much time as they feel may be necessary to

**MEMORANDUM**

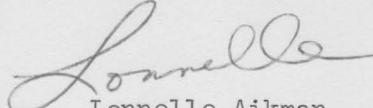
*from*

**Mrs. Aikman**

-3-

cover their part in a book that, by its nature, offers a continuing story of the American people's White House.

Thank you, Sheila, for passing this along, and arranging matters for the best publication possible.

  
Lonnelle Aikman

Susan Burns 813

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION

Does not like name of book like "First Ladies of the White House"

Elizabeth Bloomer Ford

1918-

date correct?

In 25 years of political life, Betty Bloomer Ford did not expect to become First Lady. As wife of Representative Gerald R. Ford, she looked forward to his retirement and more time together. In late 1973 his selection as Vice President was a surprise to her. She was just becoming accustomed to their new roles when he became President upon Mr. Nixon's resignation in August 1974.

Born Elizabeth Anne Bloomer in Chicago, she grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from high school there. She studied modern dance at Bennington College in Vermont, decided to make it a career, and became a member of Martha Graham's noted concert group in New York City, supporting herself as a fashion model for the John Robert Powers firm.

Close ties with her family and her home town took her back to Grand Rapids, where she became fashion coordinator for a department store. She also organized her own dance group, and taught dance to handicapped children.

Her first marriage, at age 24, ended in divorce on the grounds of incompatibility five years later. Soon afterward she met Jerry Ford, football hero, graduate of the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, and candidate for Congress. They were married during the 1948 campaign; he won his election; and the Fords have lived in the Washington area ever since.

age correct? right?

? OK? grounds correct? met soon afterward & began dating soon afterward? was he a candidate when they began dating? was involved in many volunteer work.

Their four children — Michael Gerald, John Gardner, Steven Meigs, and Susan Elizabeth — were born in the next <sup>years</sup> years, and Betty Ford found herself having to shoulder much of the responsibility of bringing up the family because of her husband's involvement in politics. She supervised the home, did the cooking, took part in the activities of "House wives" for Congressional and Republican clubs, and campaigned for her husband as well. (incl. both house & sen)

middle name correct? (OK)

Betty Ford has faced her new life as First Lady with dignity and serenity. She accepted it as a challenge, and in her own words, "I like challenges very much." Her experience in the business of fashion and as a professional dancer is apparent in the style of her wardrobe and the grace with which she walks. She has the self-confidence to express herself with humor and forthrightness whether she speaks to friends, to the press, or to a multitude.

correct?

Forced to undergo radical surgery for breast cancer on September 28, 1974, she reassured many troubled women by discussing her ordeal openly. She explained that "maybe if I as First Lady could talk about it candidly and without embarrassment, many other people would be able to as well." As soon as possible, she resumed her duties as hostess and public-spirited citizen. She has not hesitated to state her views on controversial issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, which she strongly supports.

OK?

She has described her role as "much more of a 24-hour job than anyone would guess," and says of her predecessors: "now that I realize what they've had to put up with, I have new respect and admiration for every one of them."

work involved

Suggestion: as First Lady, the former dancer  
devotes as much time as possible to poor and  
physically or mentally handicapped people.  
from Sue Byrnes

Betty Ford in her early twenties taught modern dance to underprivileged  
youngsters of Grand Rapids, Michigan. <sup>more in her time</sup> As First Lady, the former dancer  
still devotes time to poor and physically or mentally handicapped ~~children~~ <sup>people</sup> OK?

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036  
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

July 17, 1975

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

Dear Mrs. Ford,

As you may know, the Special Publications Division of the National Geographic Society, in conjunction with the White House Historical Association, is preparing a book about the First Ladies. As researcher on this project, I would greatly appreciate your help in assuring the accuracy of our biography of you.

I have enclosed the text and picture caption, and have marked my questions in the margins. Please read all the material over carefully, and feel free to make any additional corrections or suggestions.

Please give me a call when your comments are ready and I will send a messenger to pick them up. As we go to press soon, I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

I am also sending you two copies of the dummy of the book, one for your own use and one to circulate as you see fit. I have taped the first proof of the text and picture captions in, with the exception of Harriet Lane, who is running a little late. I will send the copy on her as soon as it is ready.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

*Susan Burns*

Susan Burns  
Researcher

enclosures



TELEPHONE  
(202) 296-7500  
TELEX 892398

CABLE ADDRESS  
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

DONALD J. CRUMP  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

July 23, 1975

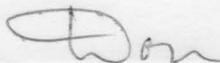
Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
Room 208 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Sheila:

The most important matter facing us now on the FIRST LADIES book is the foreword. In the past, the First Ladies have asked us to draft something for them when we needed forewords in the various books. I suggest you let us put something together on this and submit it to you for changes, additions, etc.

Since you and the First Lady will be leaving soon, we should get this working right away. Perhaps we could send you a copy in a White House pouch while you are traveling. We go to press on August 21, so this page is long overdue and I don't think we can hold until you return on August 5. You could telephone back any corrections or changes the First Lady might like us to make.

Best regards,



Donald J. Crump

DJC:jhb



# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036  
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

July 24, 1975

TO: SHEILA WEIDENFELD

FROM: CLETE PRIDE

RE: Foreword for the Living White House

Attached, for Mrs. Ford's approval, are three copies of the proposed foreword for LIVING WHITE HOUSE.

I understand that Mrs. Ford will look at the foreword this afternoon. Please relay her comments and suggestions on to me at your earliest convenience--the final deadline is closing in. I can be reached at 296-7500, Ext. 254.

Work on the book itself is progressing rapidly now. We'll be submitting it for approval within the next few days.

Thanks for arranging the interview with Mrs. Ford. The material we got from it was really good.

CP



1 IN THIS BOOK, the President and I are happy to share with you some  
2 intimate glimpses of life in the White House since John and Abigail  
3 Adams became its first residents in 1800.

4 Since then the President's House has been added to and renovated,  
5 torn out and painstakingly reconstructed. But in a sense it will  
6 never be finished, for each President and his family leave on it the  
7 imprint of their individual taste and style.

8 In our turn, we hope the character of life in the White House to-  
9 day reflects our own personal beliefs about America--pride in its  
10 past accomplishments and confidence in its people and its future.

11 For the many hundreds of official guests who come here every year  
12 from the United States and abroad, we try to recreate the relaxed  
13 hospitality of a welcoming home. With <sup>great</sup> pride we share with them  
14 American foods and wines, the work of American craftsmen, the arts  
15 of American entertainers, and the pleasure of using historic china,  
16 glass, and silver from the White House collections.

17 At the same time, the White House has become a real home to us,  
18 as it was to other Presidents and their families. Its beautiful  
19 lawns and gardens have provided a place for children to grow and  
20 entertain their friends, a place for pets to romp and bands to play,  
21 a place not only for gaiety and laughter but one of peace and tran-  
22 quility for a President to make decisions that affect the world.

23 Yet the mansion is only the temporary home of its residents. It  
24 really belongs to all the American people--to the visitors who tour  
25 the house and the grounds, to our official guests and our friends,



1 and to the readers of this book. We hope you will feel the same  
2 sense of history that has touched us as we live here.

3 For producing The Living White House, I wish to express my appre-  
4 ciation to the National Geographic's President, Melvin M. Payne; to  
5 Editor-in-Chief Melville Bell Grosvenor; to Editor Gilbert <sup>M.</sup>Grosvenor;  
6 to Robert L. Breeden, Chief of Special Publications and his staff;  
7 and to the book's author, Lonnelle Aikman.

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*Given to Lon Aikman*

Wendy copy 29 lines  
Lon copy 27 "

Date 7/23/75

Author--Wendy Cortesi

Edited--Lon Aikman

Plus credit to NGS  
5 lines--all much

shorter than Mrs. N's

1 IN THIS BOOK, the President and I are happy to share with you some  
2 intimate glimpses of life in the White House since John and Abigail  
3 Adams became its first residents in 1800.

4 Since then the President's House has been added to and renovated,  
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18 as it was to other Presidents and their families. Its beautiful  
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22 quility for <sup>the</sup> President to make decisions that affect the world.

23 Yet the mansion is only the temporary home of its residents. It  
24 really belongs to all the American people--to the visitors who tour  
25 the house and the grounds, to our official guests and our friends,

*Its historic rooms have helped our children learn more about their country.*

★  
★  
★



☆ 1 and to <sup>you</sup> the readers of this book. We hope you will feel the same  
2 sense of history that has touched us as we live here.

3 For producing The Living White House, I wish to express my appre-  
4 ciation to the National Geographic's President, Melvin M. Payne; to  
5 Editor-in-Chief Melville Bell Grosvenor; to Editor Gilbert <sup>M.</sup>Grosvenor;  
6 to Robert L. Breeden, Chief of Special Publications and his staff;  
7 and to the book's author, Lonelle Aikman.

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July 28, 1975

TO: Mrs. Ford

FROM: Sheila

Attached is a copy of the proposed forward for The Living White House, the White House guide book done by National Geographic.

The National Geographic deadline is now and I would like your approval or any comments and suggestions you may have.

I've also attached a copy of the text and picture caption on you for the First Lady's Book. Are you happy with it?

Thanks.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1975

Dear Bob:

I am sending back herewith one preliminary proof of the new First Lady book. Attached is a sheet giving three suggested changes.

The most important change is to add into the text regarding Patricia Nixon the fact that she did more for the permanent collection of the White House than any other First Lady in history. Mrs. Kennedy quite properly gets credit for starting the national collection but most of the public is not aware that even more was done in the Nixon Administration than ever before in White House history to build a top quality collection of American furniture for the permanent collection. Many significant paintings were added including seven missing First Lady portraits. There was also an unparalleled replacement of draperies and upholsteries in all the principal rooms. Every effort was made to have the designs, draperies and upholsteries, as well as the furnishings, reflect the best of the golden era of the White House the first quarter of the 19th century.

We feel that when one looks back on the current era from a safer vantage place in history, one of the great accomplishments of the Nixon Administration will have been the authentic refurbishing of the White House to a standard never achieved before.

*Thank you again  
for all your help!*  
*Patty Straker x354*

JOAN STRAKER REINACH



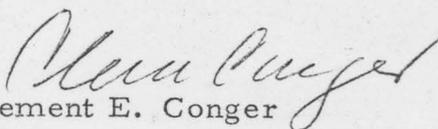
My comment on the portrait of Angelica VanBuren is one of sadness to see it in such a tiny form. Many other White House hostesses come out in much larger form although they didn't have as fine a portrait.

It is significant to note for historical purposes that Julia Gardiner Tyler's portrait was the first First Lady portrait to come to the permanent White House Collection.

You are already aware of the importance of changing the title of the book.

I wish to congratulate all concerned on the new First Ladies book! It is absolutely fascinating and much, much better than I ever dreamed it could be.

Very sincerely,

  
Clement E. Conger  
The Curator

Mr. Robert Breeden  
National Geographic Society  
Washington, D. C.

Early in her White House tenure, Mrs. Nixon with the Curator and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House embarked on a major restoration program of the White House due to disrepair caused by unceasing wear and tear. Probably more great pieces of American furniture were acquired for the permanent collection than ever before in White House history. Authentic upholsteries and draperies were designed and installed in all major rooms.

<sup>4</sup>Portrait of Angelica Singleton Van Buren should be larger and note it is perhaps the most beautiful First Lady portrait in the White House.

Julia Gardiner Tyler first First Lady portrait to come to the White House Collection.



QUESTIONS ON LIVING WHITE HOUSE photo revisions

1. Do you have a date for the dinner including the Zambian head of state and his wife. Do you have any information on how they entertained for the other guests with Zambian folk music? We were told that this was the first time that a guest head of state entertained: do you think this is true?
2. Mrs. Ford's birthday party: can you tell what is going on in this picture? What gifts is Mrs. Ford opening? Do you have a guest list? Was this a buffet supper or some other form of party? What time of day was it held? Are these close friends of the Ford family?
3. Front cover of book: is this the Marine Band marching and playing? Does anyone have any information on what part of the welcoming ceremony for the Shah of Iran we are seeing here? Where are they marching to and what are they playing?
4. Party for the diplomatic children: Would you know why the children are raising their hands in this picture?
5. President Scheel visit: where are the President, Kissinger, & Scheel walking in this picture, where are they headed and why the tour?
6. How many calls does the White House switchboard handle in a day, approximately? *5,000* *18,000 - 19,000/day*
7. What is the married name of the White House housekeeper? *Mrs. Henry Bender*
8. Mrs. Ford with March of Dimes child: we were told that the little girl was blind, is this true? Who's the other woman in the picture? What gifts are being exchanged here? Why is the girl carrying the doll--a gift from Mrs. Ford? Is the girl the Poster Child for the March of Dimes 1975?
9. Does Liberty the dog come often into the President's Oval Office?
10. What newspaper is Susan Ford working for? What is her title there and duties? How long will she remain on that job? What are her plans following that?

*Poppe Capital Journal*

*summer intern*

*in photographic department*

*essentially that of staff photographer - six weeks*

*enter Mount Vernon ~~jun~~ college*



*Mary Burns*

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

August 8, 1975

Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
The White House

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

Would you please look these first two chapters over and return them to me as soon as possible with your comments and corrections. If there is anything drastic, please call me on 296-7500, extension 354.

I am enclosing three extra copies for you to circulate to anyone you think ought to check them. I've put a set for Rex Scouten in a separate envelope; but if you think Mr. Conger or others ought to see them, please send them along.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Patty Frakes*

Mrs. Patty Frakes  
Researcher

PF:jhb



TELEPHONE  
(202) 296-7500  
TELEX 892398

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NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

*WJH*  
National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036  
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

ROBERT L. BREEDEN  
DIRECTOR

8/13

Dear Fran,

This is it! Please call me  
with the final OK as soon  
as possible -

Thanks so much for all of  
your help -

Sue Burns

296-7500 X813



THE FORD ADMINISTRATION  
1974

## Elizabeth Bloomer Ford 1918-

In 25 years of political life, Betty Bloomer Ford did not expect to become First Lady. As wife of Representative Gerald R. Ford, she looked forward to his retirement and more time together. In late 1973 his selection as Vice President was a surprise to her. She was just becoming accustomed to their new roles when he became President upon Mr. Nixon's resignation in August 1974.

Born Elizabeth Anne Bloomer in Chicago, she grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from high school there. She studied modern dance at Bennington College in Vermont, decided to make it a career, and became a member of Martha Graham's noted concert group in New York City, supporting herself as a fashion model for the John Robert Powers firm.

Close ties with her family and her home town took her back to Grand Rapids, where she became fashion coordinator for a department store. She also organized her own dance group, and taught dance to handicapped children.

Her first marriage, at age 24, ended in divorce on the grounds of incompatibility five years later. Not long afterward she began dating Jerry Ford, football hero, graduate of the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, and soon a candidate for Congress. They were married during the 1948 campaign; he won his election; and the Fords have lived in the Washington area ever since.

Their four children—Michael Gerald, John Gardner, Steven Meigs, and Susan Elizabeth—were born in the next ten years, and Betty Ford found herself having to shoulder much of the responsibility of bringing up the family because of her husband's involvement in politics. She supervised the home, did the cooking, undertook volunteer work, took part in the activities of "House wives" and "Senate wives" for Congressional and Republican clubs, and campaigned for her husband as well.

Betty Ford has faced her new life as First Lady with dignity and serenity. She accepted it as a challenge, and in her own words, "I like challenges very much." Her experience in the business of fashion and as a professional dancer is apparent in the style of her wardrobe and the grace with which she walks. She has the self-confidence to express herself with humor and forthrightness whether she speaks to friends, to the press, or to a multitude.

Forced to undergo radical surgery for breast cancer on September 28, 1974, she reassured many troubled women by discussing her ordeal openly. She explained that "maybe if I as First Lady could talk about it candidly and without embarrassment, many other people would be able to as well." As soon as possible, she resumed her duties as hostess and public-spirited citizen. She has not hesitated to state her views on controversial issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, which she strongly supports.

She has described her role as "much more of a 24-hour job than anyone would guess," and says of her predecessors: "now that I realize what they've had to put up with, I have new respect and admiration for every one of them."

*Once a professional dancer with Martha Graham and a teacher of dance to underprivileged youngsters, Betty Ford continues her support of dance and encourages the other arts. She staunchly advocates women's rights as well.*

## FOREWORD

IN THIS BOOK, the President and I are happy to share with you some intimate glimpses of life in the White House since John and Abigail Adams became its first residents in 1800.

Since then the President's House has been added to and renovated, torn out and painstakingly reconstructed. But in a sense it will never be finished, for each President and his family leave on it the imprint of their individual taste and style.

In our turn, we hope the character of life in the White House today reflects our own personal beliefs about America—pride in its past accomplishments and confidence in its people and its future.

For the many hundreds of official guests who come here every year from the United States and abroad, we try to re-create the relaxed hospitality of a welcoming home. With great pride we share with them American foods and wines, the work of American craftsmen, the arts of American entertainers, and the pleasure of using historical china, glass, and silver from the White House collections.

At the same time, the White House has become a real home to us, as it was to other Presidents and their families. Its stately rooms have helped our children learn more about their country. Its beautiful lawns and gardens have provided a place for them to entertain their friends, and a place for our pets to romp and bands to play. The White House is a place not only of gaiety and laughter but also one of peace and tranquility for the President to make decisions that affect us all.

Yet the mansion is only the temporary home of its residents. It really belongs to all the American people—to the visitors who tour the house and the grounds, to our official guests and our friends, and to you the reader of this book. We hope you will feel the same sense of history that has touched us as we live here.

For producing *The Living White House* as a public service, I wish to express my appreciation to the National Geographic's President, Melvin M. Payne; to Editor-in-Chief Melville Bell Grosvenor; to Editor Gilbert M. Grosvenor; to Robert L. Breeden, Chief of Special Publications and his staff; and to the book's author, Lonelle Aikman.

Betty Ford



*Sheila Weidenfeld*

FOREWORD BY MRS. GERALD R. FORD

TEXT BY LONNELLE AIKMAN  
*National Geographic Senior Editorial Staff*

*Published by the*  
WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
*With the Cooperation of the*  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
*and its Special Publications Division*

*Washington, D. C.*

August 19, 1975

FRAN:

This is the way we have sent this page down for release. We had already known about the inaccuracy but not in time to correct it on the page we sent over to you. Thank you for calling it to our attention, however. I hope you will approve of the changes.

We will be in touch with you soon about page 89.

*Jane Buxton*

Memo from MR. CRUMP

distinguished visitors in general, as well as to meet with foreign guests of honor before a formal lunch or state dinner.

Another convenience undreamed of by the early Presidential families who had to put up with the mansion's office-crowded quarters is the third-floor addition of seven bedrooms, with adjoining sitting rooms, that were made available for family and guest use by the Truman reconstruction of 1948-52.

SUSAN FORD chose one of these bedroom suites for herself, only changing the color scheme from the blue it had been when occupied by Julie and David Eisenhower to a theme of yellow walls that make a bright background for hangings and other furnishings carried out in a print design of green, blue, and yellow.

One reason for moving up to the less formal third floor, Susan explained, was to be near her brothers during their in-and-out visits. None of the Ford sons really lives at the White House, though all three enjoy being with their close-knit family whenever possible.

Michael, who is studying for the ministry, lives near Boston with his wife Gayle; they stay at the mansion when they come to Washington for such family affairs as the 1974 pre-Christmas celebration and Susan's graduation in June.

Except for special occasions, young Steven has been away from home most of the time since completing high school in 1974. An ardent follower of the history and life-style of the American West, he worked as a ranch hand in Montana, and practiced rodeo techniques in California, before joining up, in the summer of 1975, with a group conducting a Bicentennial trail ride from Missoula, Montana, to re-create and experience something of the rough conditions that existed in the days of early American exploration and settlement.

Jack Ford also likes the West. He majored in forestry at Utah State University and worked as a summer ranger at Yellowstone National Park. So far, however, Jack is the only son to take an active part in politics. He has sat in on the major political meetings at the White House, and otherwise boned up to help his father's campaign for the Presidency in 1976.

Like her brothers, blonde, blue-eyed Susan is a sports and outdoors buff. She, too, has made skiing and other trips to the West in the past year, but as the President's daughter in residence, she was on hand to fill in as his official hostess while her mother was recovering from surgery for the breast cancer discovered soon after the Fords came to the Executive Mansion.

On Mrs. Ford's return to the daily chores and obligations, social and otherwise, that make up a First Lady's calendar of activities, Susan

a ranch hand in Montana and rode the trail and practiced rodeo techniques in California before joining Dr. John Craighead, Professor of Zoology and Forestry at the University of Montana, in studying the life and habitat of grizzly bears in Montana's remote Scapegoat Wilderness Area.



The Fords--(from left) Steven, John, Susan, President and Mrs. Ford, and Michael, with his wife Gayle--gather on the White House lawn.

The First Family's golden retriever, Liberty, sprawls at their feet.

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SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

ROBERT L. BREEDEN  
DIRECTOR

August 20, 1975

Dear Fran,

Enclosed are the credits pages for the First Ladies book. I would greatly appreciate it if you could check Mrs. Weidenfeld's name and title, and get back to me as soon as possible with corrections or "ok". Thanks so much --

*Sue Burns*

*296-7500*

*X813*

- Two Books -*
- 1) LWH 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1962 --*
  - 2) Learn Nancy Reine - former 5<sup>th</sup>  
point that out*



Ms. Ford.

**THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

A nonprofit organization, chartered on November 3, 1961, to enhance understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Executive Mansion. Income from the sale of this book will be used to publish other materials about the White House, as well as for the acquisition of historic furnishings and other objects for the Executive Mansion.

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**THE LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE**

by *Margaret Brown Klaphor, Chairman,*  
Department of National and Military History,  
Smithsonian Institution

Produced as a public service by the  
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**GRAPHIC OFFICE**

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Washington, D. C.

First Edition

Library of Congress Catalog Number 74-15419

**COVER:** *Portrait of Martha Washington, painted by E. F. Andrews in 1878, hangs in the East Room of the White House with the Gilbert Stuart portrait of her husband.*

**OVERLEAF:** *George and Martha Washington appear at right in an unknown artist's "Reception at Mount Vernon." Its style suggests a fictionalized illustration for a 19th-century popular magazine. Previously unpublished, the painting hangs in the headquarters of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D. C., on loan from the Rhode Island Society.*

Visitors' view of the Executive Mansion in winter—a steel engraving—illustrated a noteworthy venture in biography: *Laura C. Holloway's Ladies of the White House*, first published in 1870, extremely popular, apparently the first book on First Ladies.

names title correct?



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artist unknown  
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- 6 "Lincoln's Last Reception"  
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Anton Hohenstein  
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- 15 Dolley Payne Todd Madison  
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William Henry Harrison Home; Francis Vigo  
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Courtesy, President Benjamin Harrison Memorial Home  
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- 26 Letitia Christian Tyler  
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Reproduced by permission of  
John Tyler Griffin, great-great-grandson  
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- 29 Julia Gardiner Tyler  
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*Courtesy, Carnegie Library, Rome, Georgia*  
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- 85 Elizabeth Bloomer Ford  
*White House photo/David Hume Kennerly*

Photographic portraits of Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Ford are included because official paintings have not been commissioned.

Composition for *The Ladies of the White House* by National Geographic's Phototypographic Division, Carl M. Shrader, Chief; Lawrence F. Ludwig, Assistant Chief. Printed and bound by Judd & Detweiler, Inc., Washington, D. C. Color separations by Colorgraphics, Inc., Beltsville, Md.

This new book - the fourth published by the White House Historical Association - appears as a counterpart to its popular forerunner, The Presidents of the United States of America. It introduces not only the wives of our Chief Executives but also women who presided at the White House for Presidents who came to the Executive Mansion as widowers, others whose wives suffered from poor health, and bachelor President James Buchanan. And of course it includes Martha Washington, who never lived here but has inspired all her successors.

Today the title of First Lady suggests a President's wife with public duties of her own, and some readers may be surprised to learn that the title itself is comparatively new. It began appearing in print in the 1880's. A correspondent used it in reporting President Cleveland's marriage to Miss Frances Folsom; and an advertisement of the day claimed that this First Lady owed her lovely complexion to the advertiser's preparation of arsenic! A comedy hit of 1911, The First Lady of the Land, gave it more currency - the heroine, naturally enough, was Dolley Madison.

This bit of history reflects something I take a particular interest in: the changing status of women in American life. In the early decades, a President's wife - like other wives - did not play a public role. We know the keen intelligence of Abigail Adams from her private letters; and when letters are lost to us, as so many were, we know little about women who must have led fascinating lives - Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Monroe, Mrs. Jackson.

Sarah Polk in her old age commented on the changes she had seen since the 1840's. She had once refused to join her husband on a Presidential trip, because "it was not thought suitable" for ladies to meet officials and working



men at public ceremonies; she would have been a burden rather than a help. She called it "beautiful to see" how women were supporting themselves in the 1880's and gaining respect by it. She remembered "a woman of culture and high character" who was "barred ... from social equality" simply because she was a schoolteacher - a woman who had been touchingly grateful for an invitation to visit the Polks at the White House with her pupils.

State occasions have their own importance, but that episode suggests how much White House hospitality can mean to citizens in private life. Presidents have always recognized its importance, and the ladies who served as their hostesses have an honored place in our national story.

Margaret Brown Klapthor, who has had charge of the popular First Ladies exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution since 1943, is highly qualified to write these biographies. In the past she has been a consultant for the Association's other books The White House: An Historic Guide and The Living White House. All of these books have been produced as a public service by the National Geographic Society, and I wish to thank its officers and staff members for this generous contribution. Now they cooperate with the noted author in bringing before us women whose lives illuminate two centuries of independence.



FIRST LADIES  
Manuscript  
10/12/32 Palatino Roman

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Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PICAS

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1 men at public ceremonies; she would have been a burden rather than a help.  
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3 1880's and gaining respect by it. She remembered "a woman of culture and high  
4 character" who was "barred ... from social equality" simple because she was a  
5 schoolteacher - a woman who had been touchingly grateful for an invitation to  
6 visit the Polks at the White House with her pupils and her husband.

7 State occasions have their own importance, but that episode suggests how  
8 much White House hospitality can mean to citizens in private life. Presidents  
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FIRST LADIES  
Manuscript  
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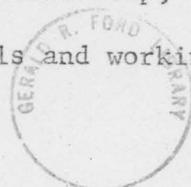
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This new book - the fourth published by the White House Historical Association - appears as a counterpart to its popular forerunner, The Presidents of the United States of America. It introduces not only the wives of our Chief Executives but also women who presided at the White House for Presidents who came to the Executive Mansion as widowers, others whose wives suffered from poor health, and bachelor President James Buchanan. And of course it includes Martha Washington, who never lived here but has inspired all her successors.

Today the title of First Lady suggests a President's wife with public duties of her own, and some readers may be surprised to learn that the title itself is comparatively new. It began appearing in print in the 1880's. A correspondent used it in reporting President Cleveland's marriage to Miss Frances Folsom; and an advertisement of the day claimed that this First Lady owed her lovely complexion to the advertiser's preparation of arsenic! A comedy hit of 1911, The First Lady of the Land, gave it more currency - the heroine, naturally enough, was Dolley Madison.

This bit of history reflects something I take a particular interest in: the changing status of women in American life. In the early decades, a President's wife - like other wives - did not play a public role. We know the keen intelligence of Abigail Adams from her private letters; and when letters are lost to us, as so many were, we know little about women who must have led fascinating lives - Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Monroe, Mrs. Jackson.

Sarah Polk in her old age commented on the changes she had seen since the 1840's. She had once refused to join her husband on a Presidential trip, because "it was not thought suitable" for ladies to meet officials and working



men at public ceremonies; she would have been a burden rather than a help. She called it "beautiful to see" how women were supporting themselves in the 1880's and gaining respect by it. She remembered "a woman of culture and high character" who was "barred ... from social equality" simply because she was a schoolteacher - a woman who had been touchingly grateful for an invitation to visit the Polks at the White House with her pupils.

State occasions have their own importance, but that episode suggests how much White House hospitality can mean to citizens in private life. Presidents have always recognized its importance, and the ladies who served as their hostesses have an honored place in our national story.

Margaret Brown Klapthor, who has had charge of the popular First Ladies exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution since 1943, is highly qualified to write these biographies. In the past she has been a consultant for the Association's other books The White House: An Historic Guide and The Living White House. All of these books have been produced as a public service by the National Geographic Society, and I wish to thank its officers and staff members for this generous contribution. Now they cooperate with the noted author in bringing before us women whose lives illuminate two centuries of independence.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1975

Fran:

Mr. Conger and I have read the corrected text for THE LIVING WHITE HOUSE.

The only comments noted were

page 19-the hours the White House is open to tours should remain in the text.

page 66-Mr. Conger noted that the caption says the Fords entertain at round tables but he said he understood that the dinner for Emperor Hirohito will be at a banquet table.

*Betty*  
Betty Monkman

*Powers Model*



by a high iron fence from swirling traffic and hurrying pedestrians, it still may look to a traveling Briton "like an English clubhouse," as novelist Charles Dickens described it after a visit with President John Tyler in 1841.

Such an appearance befits the headquarters of the Chief Executive of a Republic that came into being in defiance of the power and pomp of kings.

The first four Presidents who lived in the house—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe—earned their credentials for the Nation's highest post by serving the cause of American independence and helping to hammer out the Constitution.

George Washington, though "Father of His Country" and "first in the hearts of his countrymen," was the only President who never slept in the White House. <sup>OK</sup> For he ended his service as Chief Executive and died before the Federal Government was moved from Philadelphia to the village Capital named in his honor.

Even so, Washington left the indelible mark of his own dignity and good taste on this 18th-century building with its magnificent view. He selected the site overlooking the Potomac and gave his necessary and prestigious approval to the simple, harmonious design for the mansion submitted by Irish architect James Hoban in a democratically open competition.

*On a visit to the Federal City, George Washington inspects the unfinished President's House with architect James Hoban. Washington died before the Government moved from Philadelphia in 1800. Below, houses top a hill in Georgetown (at left) and line the Potomac River waterfront of Washington in a romantic engraving published in 1801.*

FROM THE BEGINNING the "President's House"—the name Washington preferred—was destined to be a stage for events that marked the progress of the Nation from fewer than a score of states stretched along the Atlantic seaboard to a pre-eminent world power reaching far into the Pacific Ocean.

In this house President Jefferson devised a plan, soon after his inauguration, to purchase the French-owned port of New Orleans and thus keep the vital Mississippi River outlet open to American trade with the world.

The move had far-reaching consequences which Jefferson was quick to take advantage of after Napoleon suddenly offered to sell—at a bargain price of \$15,000,000—not only the port but the entire wilderness empire reaching from the Mississippi far into the West.

Now known as the Louisiana Purchase, the treaty was negotiated in Paris with Napoleon's representatives by Jefferson's special envoy, James Monroe, and the American minister, Robert R. Livingston.

Its quick ratification by Congress—despite Jefferson's own doubts concerning the constitutionality of the acquisition—virtually doubled the territory of the struggling young Republic at a cost of less than three cents an acre. It also underscored the practical need and value of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that Jefferson fortuitously had already launched to explore the region.

To the President's House in 1829 came tough, flamboyant Andrew Jackson. "Old Hickory" was the first man to reach the top executive



Suddenly comes a roll of drums in the familiar ruffles-and-flourishes salute to the President. The Chief Executive and his wife, with the guests of honor and entourage, descend the grand stairs from the family floor, preceded by the color guard bearing the United States and President's flags.

The band swings into the triumphant march, "Hail to the Chief," and aides snap to attention. The President's party moves along the red-carpeted corridor to the door of the East Room, passes between the colors set in standards on either side, and forms a receiving line.

After the host and hostess have greeted their guests and presented them to the honored visitors, the President offers his arm to the ranking woman guest and leads the way to the State Dining Room, followed by the First Lady on the arm of the ranking gentleman. Another historic occasion will go down in the long annals of the White House.

Nor does the public have to wait for history books to learn details of these events. The next day, newspapers will carry stories about the menus, guests, and entertainment, thanks to information provided White House reporters.

One modern facility, an electronic system installed during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, pipes the traditional after-dinner toasts by the two heads of state into another room where representatives of the media assemble. Attentive to every word, emphasis, and inflection, reporters can thus detect subtle meanings and select quotations revealing current attitudes and policies that shape the course of international diplomacy.

In his first year since moving up from the Vice Presidency to the highest office, President Gerald R. Ford was host to a dozen state dinners for the top leaders of nations as far apart as Zambia and ~~Germany~~<sup>Iran</sup>, Britain and ~~Singapore~~<sup>Singapore</sup>. Usually the toasts highlighted issues of current mutual concern and stressed hopes for cooperation in a perilous and perpetually changing world.

Singapore

**I**N STILL ANOTHER and more intimate aspect, the White House has come to occupy a unique place in American life. As the home of Presidents and their families for some <sup>175</sup>~~170~~ years, it has represented, by democratic extension, the homes and families of every generation.

Since the early Federal period of John and Abigail Adams, this "First Home" has mirrored America's changing domestic fashions and attitudes, household decor, furnishings, and equipment, in ways that social conventions and traditions would not permit in the great residences of state throughout Europe.

More than that, the personal and family life in the White House has given to this center of national power and influence a warm, human note of common experience and understanding.

President and Mrs. John Adams, for instance, were far from happy in November 1800 when the time came to move into the damp and incomplete Executive Mansion being readied in the raw little Capital.

Thomas Jefferson, a scholar and a gentleman, confounded Federalists who predicted that his belief in equality would bring disorder and destruction. Instead, he maintained an atmosphere of personal moderation and a social style of fine living and intellectual interests that belied the crude surroundings of the wilderness Capital.

To relax from the heavy responsibilities of leadership in a young Republic starting out in a world of hostile monarchies, the long-widowed President turned to hobbies he had enjoyed at his Monticello home. He played his fiddle, experimented with familiar and rare plants, and taught his pet mockingbird to peck food from his lips and to hop up the stairs after him.

The White House reflected the quiet happiness of James and Dolley Madison and the generous hospitality presided over by the genial Dolley before they were burned out of the mansion in the War of 1812.

Washington Irving, after attending one of Mrs. Madison's popular Wednesday-evening receptions, described her as "a fine, portly, buxom dame" and "poor Jemmy . . . a withered little apple-John." Others pointed out the couple's mutual devotion and admiration. Dolley once wrote that the sensitive, studious President was her "darling little husband." He said a conversation with her always brought a bright story and a good laugh, as refreshing as a long walk in the park.

**A**MONG MORE RECENT PRESIDENTS, Woodrow Wilson often appeared to outsiders as a perfect example of the austere, erudite professor. Yet within his close and affectionate family before the death of his wife Ellen, he was a jaunty, fun-loving man, given to group singing, clever impersonations, and witty limericks.

When he married again, after a period of deep despondency, Wilson found with his second wife Edith a renewal of happiness he had never expected to know again. Without her "love and care . . . I don't believe he could live," Mrs. Wilson's social secretary, Edith Benham, wrote in the dark days after the strain of his stubborn but futile League of Nations campaign had left him a paralyzed, broken man.

In their 1953-1961 stay at the White House, the Dwight D. Eisenhowers established the most permanent home they had known during the far-ranging career of the popular general with the broad smile.

"I have seen my grandchildren growing up in these historic rooms," Mrs. Eisenhower wrote when she left, "here my son and daughter-in-law have shared our family evenings."

Today, the down-to-earth, Midwestern Fords carry on as much of their normal life style as can be managed at their suddenly elevated station as First Family. It is perhaps significant that when the President's wife was first interviewed by the press, she said she wanted to be known as plain "Betty Bloomer Ford," and that her 17-year-old daughter Susan moved into the White House wearing blue jeans.

With four children, the Fords make up the largest family here since that of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. And, like the Roosevelts, the

*President Jackson salutes—and strengthens—the Federal Union, threatened by talk of secession. At a Washington banquet on April 30, 1830, supporters of a plan to nullify a tariff opposed by South Carolina gave 24 toasts full of states' rights ideas. Jackson's simple reply rallied public opinion to his position: "Our Federal Union—It must be preserved."*

as children,

DRAWING BY PAUL CALLE, 1967

Ford offspring are grown or nearly so. The oldest son, Michael Gerald, is married and living with his wife Gayle away from home. The middle son, John Gardner, has just graduated from Utah State College, and Steven Meigs will attend the same school next year.

Until 1902, when Theodore Roosevelt built the West Wing separating his office from his home, all families shared the Executive Mansion with the public, free to seek interviews with the President or just to shake his hand. As late as 1932, Herbert Hoover and his wife Lou invited all comers to the traditional New Year's Day reception. By then, the annual open house and handshaking had become such an ordeal that the Hoovers decided to be out of town the following year. The custom was never revived.

The President's House, as the people's property, has remained open in selected areas under regulations permitting as much inspection as possible without encroaching on the family's privacy or interfering with state functions. From Tuesday through Saturday, ~~10 a.m. to noon,~~ men, women, and children—including babies in arms—line up outside the fence enclosing the 18-acre estate of the White House. ~~The pilgrims~~ now number some one and a half million a year, with the prospect of many thousands more during the Bicentennial celebration.

Surging through the east gate, they walk along the ground-floor

*leave the times of bars in  
visitors*

be shaped by events, and to leave on the American character and language the imprint of their philosophy and words. Jefferson wrote: "... our liberty can never be safe but in the hands of the people themselves." Lincoln said, "With malice toward none..." and showed compassion that might have helped heal the wounds of fratricidal war. "Speak softly and carry a big stick," was a favorite motto of "Teddy" Roosevelt, who launched the building of the Panama Canal, won a formidable reputation for "trust-busting," and sent 16 battleships of the United States Navy on parade around the world.

And a long list of memorable phrases emerged during the White House years of the other Roosevelt, the only President elected to four terms. From the lexicons of the Great Depression and World War II, perhaps the best remembered are the "New Deal," "economic royalists," "arsenal of democracy," and "the Four Freedoms."

CONSIDERED AS A GROUP, the 37 men who have taken on their country's toughest assignment reflect the geographic and cultural diversity that is the hallmark and strength of the Nation. Virginia, "Mother of Presidents," claims eight as native sons. Ohio has contributed seven; New York four; Massachusetts three; and North Carolina, Texas, and Vermont, two apiece. California, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina have each produced one President.

Together, the lives of these varied leaders support the democratic proposition that every native American, whatever his origins, has a chance to reach the top. Lincoln was born in a log cabin, as were several other Chief Executives. The exact number is uncertain because of confused birth records, but the claim of humble origins, authentic or not, had potent political appeal in frontier days.

The rollicking campaign of William Henry Harrison rolled to success in 1840 on a bandwagon bearing twin symbols of a log cabin and a barrel of hard cider, despite the fact that Harrison was not born in a log cabin and had no special taste for cider.

As to education, Lincoln was self-taught, and Jackson's lack of academic learning was sometimes cited to embarrass him, while the Adamses—both father and son—were Harvard graduates, further experienced in diplomatic and social circles of Europe.

Young Andrew Johnson, who learned to read and write with his wife's help, started out as a tailor. Franklin Roosevelt came from a rich and patrician family of New York. John F. Kennedy, descendant of Irish immigrants, inherited drive and fortune from an enterprising father whose acumen brought his family millions, and Richard Nixon grew up in a modest Quaker family of Whittier, California. Gerald Ford was christened Leslie Lynch King in his birthplace of Omaha, Nebraska. His parents were divorced when he was two, and he was taken by his mother to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Later adopted by a devoted stepfather who gave the boy his name, Ford Junior was reared

as a son of a small businessman hard hit by the depression of the thirties.

~~President Nixon faces an array of clicking cameras as he welcomes students on the White House lawn. The early-day amateur photographer above, with one of the first box cameras, took pictures of the egg-rolling on the grounds in 1889.~~

Eleven Presidents were former generals—from George Washington to Dwight Eisenhower. Warren Harding had been a newspaper publisher, Herbert Hoover an engineer. Several were teachers or college professors. At least twenty practiced law early in their careers. Many on the way up served as state officials, Members of Congress, and Cabinet officers. Eight Vice Presidents rose to the Presidency on the death of the Chief Executive; four of these—Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Harry S Truman, and Lyndon B. Johnson—went on to win another term on their own. On August 9, 1974, Gerald Ford became the first President in history to succeed to the office on the resignation of his predecessor—Richard Nixon.

After William Howard Taft left office in 1913, he was appointed Chief Justice of the United States—the only man to achieve both high posts. Of the two, Taft preferred heading the Supreme Court.

"I don't remember that I was ever President," the Chief Justice once remarked happily.

Other men who shared the executive burdens and prestige expressed far different feelings. "I enjoy being President," Theodore Roosevelt wrote to his son Kermit, "and I like to do the work and have my hand

John Quincy Adams remembered his years at the White House as "the four most miserable" of his life. Truman called the mansion "a great white prison."

"What is there in this place," cried James Garfield, who was hounded

on the lever."

by office seekers, and who would finally be murdered by one, "that a man should ever want to get in it."

Yet there has never been a shortage of candidates for the job which Jefferson described as "a splendid misery," and Jackson found to be "dignified slavery." Coolidge dryly commented, when warned of the dangerous condition of the roof soon after he moved into the White House, that he presumed there were plenty of others who would be willing to risk living under it.

It is extraordinary, in view of the power and glory of the Presidency and the frantic and feverish character of many election campaigns, that there has never been an interruption in the regular, lawful exchange of masters at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The nearest approach to such disruption occurred in 1877 after Rutherford B. Hayes lost the popular vote to his rival, Samuel J. Tilden, and neither candidate won the necessary majority in the Electoral College. With the situation deadlocked between the opposing parties, an Electoral Commission chosen by Congress decided in favor of Hayes. But Tilden's followers still challenged the decision.

Because of the dispute and because March 4, then the legal Inauguration Day, fell on Sunday, Hayes took the oath of office in a secret White House ceremony on March 3 while attending a dinner given by outgoing President Ulysses S. Grant.

Few of the dinner guests were aware of the event when President Grant quietly led the other principals into the Red Room, where Hayes was sworn in by Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite. The formal inauguration took place peacefully at the Capitol the following Monday.

**Y**ET, HOWEVER PLACID the transfer of leadership, each new President has inherited heavier and more complex duties and responsibilities as the Nation grew from some five million people in 1800 to more than two hundred and ten million in 1975.

Behind the stately pillars of the executive residence, as in the inconspicuous East and West Wings where most official business is conducted, many staffs help their Chief meet his obligations, great and small. Their tasks include gathering information and receiving callers, handling mail and documents, carrying on domestic routine, and preparing for a constant round of social and other activities.

Even the museum-like state rooms are frequently in use for various executive and social functions as soon as the tourists have left the mansion for the day.

The President, for example, may call a conference with top-level economists in the East Room, to be followed by lunch in the State Dining Room, or, if the group is small, in the less formal dining room next door. Or perhaps the First Lady may use the State Dining Room, where she has had round tables set up to serve a hundred

*In the State Dining Room, Julie Nixon Eisenhower escorts visiting schoolchildren past a mantel inscribed with a prayer written by John Adams on his second night in the White House.*



or so Senators' wives at her annual luncheon in their honor.

At larger affairs, such as a Christmas ball, or at one of the regular receptions for the Capital's foreign diplomats or the joint Houses of Congress, hundreds of guests mingle along the broad red-carpeted Great Hall and through all five of the colorful state rooms. Pausing to greet their also-mingling host and hostess, to chat with friends and make new acquaintances, they move toward the State Dining Room, where cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and buffet fare are served.

Whatever the occasion, White House visitors find inscribed on the mantel of the State Dining Room an enduring expression of benediction and hope going back to the early days of the Republic.

The words were taken from a letter written by John Adams on his second night in the building. Franklin Roosevelt had them cut into the mantel face that all who passed might see:

^  
50  
"I Pray Heaven to Bestow  
The Best of Blessings on  
THIS HOUSE  
and on All that shall hereafter  
Inhabit it. May none but Honest  
and Wise Men ever rule under This Roof."

## 2

# WHERE HOSPITALITY MAKES HISTORY

THE SCHEDULED PIANO RECITAL that followed a state dinner for President Kenneth Kaunda of the African Republic of Zambia was presented in the elegant setting of the East Room where such affairs are traditionally held. The surprise came afterward when President Ford, as host, introduced the next act.

Onto the temporary stage walked the visiting President, together with Mrs. Kaunda and his entire entourage. First the group chanted a rallying song that calls the Zambian people to work and to freedom. Then President Kaunda, standing with one foot propped on a gilt chair, played the guitar as his wife sang a Zambian love song.

It was the first time in White House annals that a head of state had entertained his fellow guests, and the participants seemed to enjoy the performance as much as did the applauding audience of some 150 notables seated in a semi-circle around the stage.

The incident also shows how even social events make history in this house — and sometimes reflect it.

In honor of George Washington's birthday in 1970, the then President and Mrs. Nixon presented for after-dinner entertainment the lively Broadway musical *1776*, by Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards.

Based on the 1776 session of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, the play recalled the struggle that raged before the divided

*Standing at the South Portico door of the White House, President and Mrs. Ford await their guests, King Hussein and Queen Alia of Jordan. The occasion: the Fords' first State Dinner as President, given on August 17, 1974, just one week after the host became the Chief Executive.*

delegates passed the Declaration of Independence. Funny, tender, and serious by turns, it brought to life the Founding Fathers as actors spoke and sang immortal words to lilting tunes.

Again Thomas Jefferson wrote into the Declaration the “unalienable” right of all men to the pursuit of happiness. Wily Benjamin Franklin wooed doubtful delegates with wit and wisdom, and stubborn, honest John Adams never stopped pushing for the “Independence” that would make him the first occupant of the White House

24 years later.

**F**EW SETTINGS would be more appropriate than the Executive Mansion for such a production. But then this is a house where many activities have a built-in element of symbolism.

Whatever their personal style—from stiffly formal to gaily casual—no President and his wife can ever forget that they act as the Nation’s official host and hostess. Recognizing this, John and Abigail Adams demanded that their guests show the same deference to the new Republic that subjects accorded rulers of monarchies abroad. During their short stay in the village Capital, the Adamses practiced the formal court etiquette adopted for a similar reason by President and Mrs. Washington in New York and Philadelphia.

In the upstairs oval room, hung with crimson draperies, Mrs. Adams remained regally seated as she greeted the town’s leading citizens and foreign diplomats who attended the President’s weekly levees, or receptions. At her side, dressed in black velvet coat and knee breeches, silver buckles and lace, John Adams bowed solemnly to each guest, who then took his or her place in chairs set around the wall.

Such formality went out the window when Thomas Jefferson became President. He emphasized, instead, ideals of equality and democracy. In his words, he “buried . . . levees, birthdays, royal parades” of the earlier administrations and substituted two major White House receptions, open to everyone, on New Year’s Day and the Fourth of July.

Jefferson entertained Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon’s youngest brother and the future King of Westphalia, after that impetuous young man married the Baltimore belle, Betsy Patterson. He once invited his butcher to dinner. The man brought his son, explaining that the boy could use the place left by a guest who was ill, and the President made both feel welcome among the distinguished company.

His dislike for ceremony, however, only highlighted Jefferson’s good manners and excellent taste. He served the finest wines and hired a French chef to prepare the most exotic foods. Around his small, informal table, he assembled charming women and the wittiest, most knowledgeable men to be found in the city or arriving from abroad to visit the strange young Capital.

*Celebrating their newfound political power, common folk unleash a fury of admiration for President Andrew Jackson during his inaugural reception in the East Room. “Old Hickory” escaped the mob and spent the night at a hotel.*

*Under an old-fashioned Christmas tree, Susan Ford helps Santa Claus hand out presents at a party for children of the White House household staff. Handmade patchwork bows and balls, wooden toys, and baskets filled with nuts and gumdrops decorated the 19-foot fir tree in the Blue Room.*

WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPH

visitor of 1942, known only as Mr. Brown, turned out to be Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov on a mission to speed up the opening of an Allied second front in Europe.

World War II also gave a regal dimension to the Roosevelts' hospitality with the appearance of royal refugees fleeing Nazi occupation in Europe. Some, like the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, became temporary houseguests. Others, like the Kings of Greece and Yugoslavia, were briefly feted.

Many Washingtonians still remember the White House visit of Great Britain's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth just before war erupted in 1939. Down the hall from the family rooms on the second floor, the King occupied the Lincoln suite, his Queen the Rose suite.

Thus each administration has left its social imprint here since John and Abigail Adams first welcomed leaders of official Washington to their formal "levees."

By the time of President Harry S Truman and his wife Bess, the annual "season" had expanded to include half a dozen state dinners and as many Congressional and other large receptions. So many guests attended some affairs that they stood almost shoulder to shoulder.

At a reception in 1948, the chandelier in the Blue Room tinkled a warning that the structure was in critically shaky condition. Then for four years, while the White House underwent reconstruction, the Trumans lived across the street in the government's guest residence, Blair House. Britain's young Princess Elizabeth and her husband, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, spent several days there with the Trumans in 1951. The following year, the Presidential family moved back into the restored mansion just in time to welcome Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and her consort, Prince Bernhard, as houseguests.

**B**UT CAPITAL LIFE was changing in the postwar era. State visitors came so frequently from newly independent nations and as a result of foreign-policy conferences and fast modern transport that soon the White House could no longer accommodate them.

Since the latter part of the Eisenhower administration, most official guests have stayed at Blair House while attending state dinners and other planned functions. In fact, only once during Eisenhower's second term did such guests sleep in the mansion. Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, and Prince Philip occupied the Rose and Lincoln suites, as had her mother and father nearly 20 years before.

Under the lively direction of John F. and Jacqueline Kennedy, official entertaining changed still more in the early 1960's. President Kennedy banished receiving lines whenever possible and mingled informally with guests in the connecting state rooms. Shorter, simpler dinners allowed guests more time to dance and to watch the performances of famous musicians, ballet dancers, opera singers, and actors.

Then came the crack of rifle shots in Dallas—and a black interlude of international mourning for the bright, lost promise of a murdered

President. When social life at the White House picked up again, the new Chief Executive brought with him a quarter-century of Capital friendships and service, first as Representative and Senator from Texas, then as Vice President. It was not surprising that an atmosphere of Texas Americana pervaded the private and official parties of Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife Claudia, better known by her <sup>as</sup> sprightly childhood ~~nickname~~, Lady Bird.

Informal cordiality also warmed two of the most publicized social events ever held in Washington—the weddings of the Johnson daughters, Luci and Lynda. The news coverage alone demonstrated the public's avid interest in every detail of a First Family's life.

Scores of reporters, photographers, and television crews recorded Luci's August 1966 church wedding to Patrick J. Nugent, of Illinois, and the reception at the flower-bedecked mansion. Sixteen months later, when Lynda married Capt. Charles S. Robb of the U. S. Marine Corps, both ceremony and reception took place in the White House. There, telephones, typewriters, and closed-circuit television were provided for the use of some 500 attending news men and women.

Fierce and gentle, in turn, the spotlight forever beamed on. Executive entertaining moved on from the Johnsons to the Nixons, another family with two daughters, Julie and Tricia. But the resemblance ended there, for President and Mrs. Nixon, like those who had gone before, created their own social pattern.

One innovation, a series of performances called "Evenings at the White House," opened in the East Room early in 1970. The programs included comedy acts, scenes from Shakespeare <sup>drama</sup> plays, <sup>concerts</sup> shows by rock <sup>music</sup> musicians and by country and popular singers—and the lively pre-Bicentennial musical 1776.

Unique during the Nixon period was another kind of gathering—a succession of Sunday-morning services to <sup>attended by</sup> which several hundred associates and friends of the family were invited. Presented in the East Room and presided over by leaders of various faiths, these services were followed by a social hour and refreshments offered in the State Dining Room.

But nothing attracts more popular attention than a wedding in the Executive Mansion.

The Nixons' younger daughter, Julie, missed much of the fanfare that accompanies such affairs by marrying David Eisenhower, grandson of the former President, in New York City nearly a month before the President-elect was inaugurated on January 20, 1969.

Her sister Tricia, however, not only decided on the White House as the place for her wedding to law student Edward Finch Cox of New York City, but also arranged for it to be performed in the Rose Garden. Thus, on June 12, 1971, she became the first President's daughter in history to be married on the mansion's lawn.

It almost didn't happen. Until the last minute, gray skies and an intermittent drizzle threatened to force the ceremony indoors, where

President Gerald Ford honors the Shah and Empress of Iran at a state dinner held in the East Room in May 1975. The Fords prefer to entertain as informally as possible. Guests are seated at round tables. Decorations focus on American art and folkcrafts, both old and new.

standby preparations had been made in the stately white and gold East Room. But Miss Nixon gambled on the weather and won.

As some 400 guests were seated, the scene was as charming as an old-fashioned valentine of real flowers. Roses, lilies, and petunias bordered surrounding edges of the Rose Garden, its center an altar framed by a wrought-iron pavilion laced with white blossoms.

There, after the traditional wedding procession from the South Portico, the President gave the bride away, and a brief ecumenical ceremony followed. Then blonde, diminutive Tricia—lovely in lacy Juliet cap, cascading veil, and white organdy gown—walked back to the mansion with her tall, smiling bridegroom.

It would be pleasant to end a chapter on White House hospitality with Tricia's wedding, with smiles of the receiving line in the Blue Room, dancing in the East Room, and the newlyweds driving away from the North Portico in full wedding regalia. But as events unfolded over the next three years, the Nixon administration ended in political scandals, the President's resignation, and a new President and his family in the Executive Mansion. Beginning August 9, 1974, the Fords would make their own social and other kinds of history.

Tricia's wedding marked the social high point of the Nixon years.

MRS. FORD, thrust into the limelight <sup>on short notice,</sup> overnight on the Nixons' ~~hasty departure,~~ told a full-scale press conference soon afterward that she planned to be an active First Lady.

Certainly her charm and exuberance bring valuable assets to her role as White House hostess, one of the important duties of a President's wife. Guest lists at state or other formal dinners have become surprisingly varied, with invitations going to leaders in the arts and sciences, as well as in government, business and politics.

Lively entertainment programs are often followed by dancing in the main entrance Hall, where Betty Ford, who once studied modern dance with the famous Martha Graham company of New York, whirls, graceful and smiling, with the President and other partners.

Nor are the First Lady's duties as hostess merely social. In modern times, Presidents' wives have sponsored various national projects, and given them added prestige and attention by meeting with their leaders at White House functions.

In April 1975, for instance, Mrs. Ford stood beside her husband at a reception held for his newly appointed commission on International Women's Year, a United Nations undertaking for which she has expressed frequent and warm approval.

In speaking to several hundred guests in the East Room, President Ford credited his wife with having boosted his own support, not only for I.W.Y., but also for passage of the pending Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

"You can do much," he said to the assembled members of the commission, "to move the nation along toward making justice and equality a reality for American women."

On the arm of her father (far left), Tricia Nixon enters the Rose Garden on June 12, 1971, for the first outdoor wedding in White House history. After the ecumenical ceremony, performed in a pavilion of white wrought iron (above), Mr. and Mrs. Edward Finch Cox return to the mansion.

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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September 3, 1975

*Mack Pussery  
see file*

Mrs. Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford  
Room 208 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

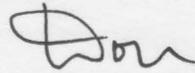
Dear Sheila:

I am enclosing two ozalids--the very last look we get of THE LIVING WHITE HOUSE before it goes to press. Now and then you will find a page where we have pencilled in a correction on the ozalid. When you see these, you will know that the correction is already in motion and that the typesetter will make a new negative for that page and will ship it to the printer.

Since you received proof on the book in bits and pieces, I thought perhaps you would like to see the final version. You will note that they are not by chapters but in 16-page units. Unfortunately, you will not get them in exact sequence because we are reading them in the order that they will print. If you see anything that is a problem, I must hear from you no later than 5:00 today on forms C (pages 33-48) and D (pages 49-64). I must hear from you by noon tomorrow on forms E (65-80) and H (113-128).

I will send other ozalids to you as they arrive from the printer.

Best regards,



Donald J. Crump

DJC:jhb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 13, 1975

MRS. FORD:

Event: Tea and Presentation of White House Books

Date/Time: Friday, November 14, 1975 11:00 a.m.

Place: State Dining Room

Number of  
Attendees: 50 guests

Principals: Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Directors  
of the White House Historical Association  
Mr. Robert L. Breeden, Editor of the Special Publications  
Staff of the National Geographic Society  
Mrs. Margaret Brown Klapthor, Chairman of the Department  
of National and Military History of the Smithsonian Museum  
of History and Technology, and author of The First Ladies

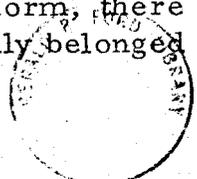
Schedule of  
Events:

11:00 a.m. Your guests will arrive through the Southwest Gate and will enter the White House through the Diplomatic Reception Room. They will be escorted via elevator and stairs to the State Dining Room.

11:10 a.m. Maria Downs will escort you via elevator to the State Floor where you will greet Mr. Finley, Mr. Breeden, and Mrs. Klapthor.

You will proceed to the small platform in the State Dining Room which will be located in front of the Lincoln Portrait and will be equipped with a stand-up microphone.

NOTE: Befitting the occasion, there will be portraits of various First Ladies on either side of you. On a table behind the platform, there will be other items which personally belonged to various First Ladies.



- 2 -      Tea and Presentation of White House  
Books

NOTE: White House visitors on tour in the State Dining Room at that time will be able to view the presentation ceremony. As you stand on the platform, the visitors will be to your left and the invited guests will be to your right.

You will make brief welcoming remarks. At the conclusion of your remarks, Mr. Finley will present you with a specially-bound version of The First Ladies, on behalf of the White House Historical Association and the National Geographic Society, after which you will express your appreciation.

NOTE: You and Mr. Finley will be the only persons on the platform.

Refreshments consisting of coffee, tea, juice, and pastries will be served in the First Floor Family Dining Room. You may wish to join your guests for refreshments and mingle informally.

11:30 a.m.      You will bid farewell to your guests and return to the Family Quarters.

NOTES:

Military Social Aides will be present.

There will be open press coverage.

A White House photographer will be present.

Good morning. This is a special day for many of us. For those of you who have been involved in the preparation of the new book, The First Ladies, it's the culmination of two years of research, decisions, and a lot of hard work in putting together such a professional and well-done volume. And for me, it's particularly special. I feel strongly that for historical purposes the book needed to be done.

But also, having been familiar with the earlier publication, The Presidents of the United States of America, I'm very happy to be able to be present the day equal opportunity came to our guide books!

I have many acknowledgments I would like to make this morning. First, to the White House Historical Association for its idea and its follow-through. I also want to recognize the National Geographic Society for its total support on this and past projects. For those of you who are not aware, the National Geographic lends its people, its time, its resources, and its exceptional talent to projects like this as a public service. This book, and the three which have preceded it, are of exceptional quality in every aspect. Around the White House, we use them continually as a prime reference source. And hundreds of



visitors every day take them to their homes across the country to learn more about their country and its history. It is largely because of the National Geographic's support that we are able to offer them at such a nominal price so that people everywhere can afford to buy them. And it's largely because of their support and cooperation with the White House Historical Association that we have been able to appreciate \$975,000 from sales of the books for historic items at the White House.

We are very grateful.

Also, I want to thank the staff of the Special Publications Department of National Geographic for all its work. And a special work to the book's author, Margaret Brown Klaphor. Your professionalism, thoroughness and ability to make the history of our First Ladies sparkle will make this book live for years to come.

On a personal note, I want to say that the new book was especially meaningful to me because it provides a clearer picture of a very human side of life in the White House. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live here for that very brief period of history have our own particular styles and identities. These styles have been diverse, I'm sure, but I suspect we've had a good deal more in common than not. How we've reacted to our husband's job and pressures. . . the concerns we've had with raising our families



and keeping as normal a life as possible for them in this atmosphere . . . the public demands, and so on. *More publicity on children* Anyone who enjoys history . . . who has a curiosity about a President or First Lady . . . wants to know more about White House Life . . . or who identifies with any wife or mother will enjoy this book. I thank those of you here today for providing us with such a special insight to what has and will continue to be been a significant part of our country's history.

# # #



#### THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

A nonprofit organization, chartered on November 3, 1961, to enhance understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Executive Mansion. Income from the sale of this book will be used to publish other materials about the White House, as well as for the acquisition of historic furnishings and other objects for the Executive Mansion.

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by *Lonnelle Aikman*

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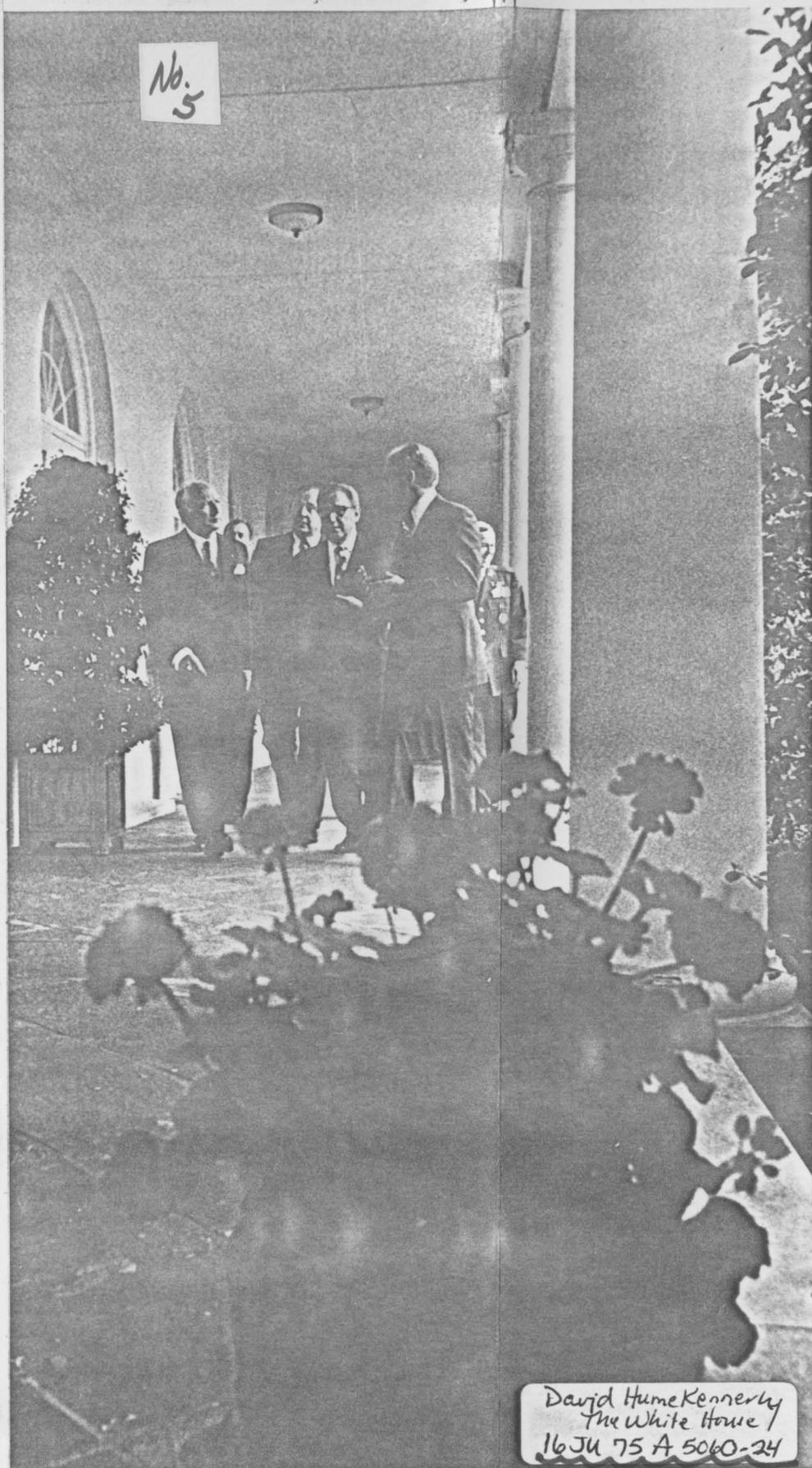
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COVER: Rimmed by tulips, fountains splash in the President's Park at the White House in Washington, D. C.  
ENDPAPER: Glowing gas jets turn the White House to gold as guests arrive for a January reception in 1886.  
OVERLEAF: Thousands of lights canopy a dance pavilion on the White House lawn. The party, on July 17, 1970, honored Prince Charles and Princess Anne of Britain.  
RIGHT: Photographs displayed in the East Room provide glimpses of recent events that have taken place there.

ENDPAPER, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; COVER, OVERLEAF, WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS



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# THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE





## A House of History . . .

Over the first two hundred years of America's development, most of our major cities grew from villages which were natural sea or river ports or at the crossroads of rail transportation.

Washington, D.C., is unique. It is a planned city, designed especially as the home of the Government of the United States. The land was donated to the U.S. Government by the States of Maryland and Virginia. George Washington, the first U.S. President, helped select the location of the capital city in 1791.

Working with a French architect, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Washington also chose the sites for the President's house, the U.S. Capitol and many of the important buildings of the new Government.

The design for the White House, which sits amid 16 acres of landscaped grounds in downtown Washington, was drawn up by James Hoban who won the assignment in an open competition.

Because the Government did not move to the Dis-

trict of Columbia until 1800—three years after Washington had completed his second term as President—he and his wife, Martha, never lived in this new city which was named after him. But every President and his family since have lived at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the address of the Nation's most famous home, the White House.

Actually, this 50-room house is more than a home for the President's family to live in. It also is where the President works.

This book will tell you something about the White House and the people who have lived there—and about the man who lives and works there now, Gerald R. Ford, and his family.

The history of the White House reflects the history of the Nation. But history is more than just important events and dates. It is the story of people. This story is about the White House and about people.

## The Residence Of Presidents

GEORGE WASHINGTON, who served as President from 1789 to 1797, did not live to see the President's House completed or the U.S. Government in the new Federal City. He died in 1799. But his support and encouragement during his two terms as President helped to establish the course of Government for years hence, setting precedents for future Presidents. Although the first President and his wife, Martha, had no children, they reared Mrs. Washington's two children by her first marriage.

In 1800, JOHN ADAMS, who served one term from 1797 to 1801, supervised the move of the Government and its 130 employees from Philadelphia to the new capital, then little more than a village. When his wife, Abigail, moved down from Philadelphia, she found the White House unfinished and uncomfortable, lacking many conveniences. Water had to be hand carried from Franklin Park five blocks away. Mrs. Adams used the East Room as a place to hang the family's wash. Despite problems, she wrote her daughter, one of five children, "It is a beautiful spot, capable of every improvement and the more I view it, the more I am delighted with it."

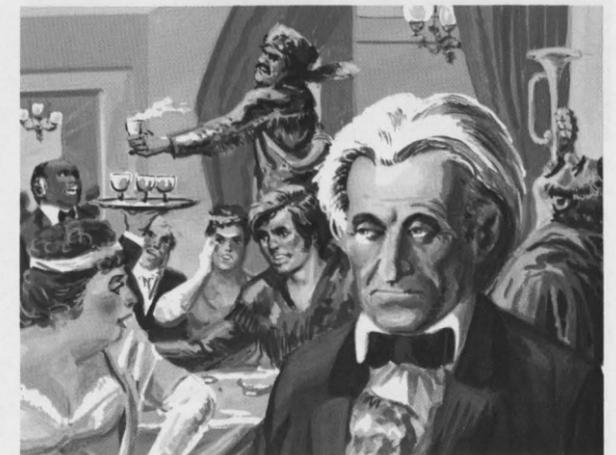
John Adams was defeated a few months later, in the Presidential election of 1800, by THOMAS JEFFERSON, who served from 1801 to 1809. Jefferson was elected by the House of Representatives after he and Aaron Burr received an equal number of electoral votes. This tie resulted in a change in the manner of selecting the President and Vice President. Author of the Declaration of Independence and former minister to France, Jefferson was a widower, but his two married daughters visited there often. The first baby born in the White House was one of his grandsons. His approval of the purchase of the Louisiana territory doubled the size of the Nation and opened up vast lands west of the Mississippi River. Jefferson retired after two terms.



Like the first three Presidents, JAMES MADISON, played an important role in the American Revolution and helped to write the U.S. Constitution. He served from 1809 to 1817. During the War of 1812, the Capitol and the White House were burned by the British. When she fled the White House, Madison's wife, Dolley, saved the famous portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart which now hangs in the East Room. After the burning, some wanted the new city to be abandoned, but the idea was rejected by Madison and rebuilding began. The couple had no children.

When JAMES MONROE and his wife, Elizabeth, moved in, the exterior walls gleamed with a fresh coat of paint to cover the scars of war. The Monroes furnished the home with some of their own furniture, purchased in France. One of the couple's two daughters was the first member of a Presidential family to marry in the White House. Although Monroe's two terms (1817 to 1825) were noted for political harmony at home, he did lay down a firm doctrine to the world that the Americas were no longer subject to European colonization. In the 1820 election, only one electoral vote was cast against him, the last time the Presidency was so easily achieved.

The 1824 Presidential election was decided by the House of Representatives when none of the four candidates had a majority. The House chose JOHN QUINCY ADAMS as the sixth President, the only son of a President ever elected to the same office. Like that of his father, his Presidency from 1825 to 1829 was controversial and unhappy. His efforts to create a network of national roads and canals was only partly successful. With his wife, Louisa, Adams initiated landscaping at the White House, planting trees and shrubs and improving the lawns and gardens. Also like his father, he was defeated in his attempt for a second term. The couple had four children.



ANDREW JACKSON, one of the losing candidates in the 1824 election, succeeded Adams and served from 1829 to 1837. His enthusiastic supporters crowded into the White House in a wild celebration of the inauguration of the 61-year-old military hero, the first President from the frontier. A widower whose wife, Rachael, had died shortly before he came to Washington, Jackson's niece served as his hostess. The Jacksons had no children. Allotted money by the Congress to improve the interior of the White House, he purchased silver, china and crystal. Jackson's view of the need for a strong Executive influenced future Presidents in their handling of the office and its duties.

Jackson's successor, MARTIN VAN BUREN, served only one term in office (1837-1841) and, during that time, the country suffered a serious depression. A widower whose wife, Hannah, died in 1819, Van Buren shared the home with his four sons. His decision to close the Mansion to uninvited guests offended many Americans, and his style of entertaining was limited by the country's economic problems. His major concern was to maintain the solvency of the Government in the middle of the economic crisis.

Van Buren was defeated for re-election by WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, another frontier military hero. An overly long inaugural address in damp weather brought on pneumonia, and Harrison died in 1841 after only one month as President. He was survived by his widow, Anna, and most of his ten children. His tenure in office is the shortest of any President.



Harrison was succeeded by JOHN TYLER, the first Vice President to become President. Although the death of his wife, Letitia, made his early White House years unhappy, his remarriage to Julia Gardiner, thirty years younger than he, brought the most enthusiastic First Lady since Dolley Madison to the White House. Tyler had eight children by his first wife and seven by his second. He retired in 1845 after completing Harrison's term. During his Presidency, the Republic of Texas was annexed to the United States.

JAMES K. POLK, who served from 1845 to 1849, is considered the last strong President before the Civil War. He and his wife, Sarah, had no children, and she served as his private secretary. Their social life in the White House was limited. During Polk's administration, more than one million square miles were added to the United States, including parts of New Mexico and the present State of California. Polk exhausted himself with hard work as President. He refused a second term and died three months after leaving office.

Elected in 1848, ZACHARY TAYLOR was the fourth military hero to serve in the White House, and the second President to die in office (in 1850). Taylor, a slave owner himself, was prepared to hold the Union together by force rather than compromise over the issues of whether new states should be admitted with or without slaves. He died in office 16 months after his inauguration, leaving a widow, Margaret, and three of his six children.

Taylor was succeeded by his Vice President, MILLARD FILLMORE, who favored a proposed compromise under which California was admitted to the Union as a free state in return for other considerations to the pro-slavery forces. But the dispute over slavery continued, overshadowing events of the entire decade. Fillmore was not re-nominated by his party for re-election in 1852. While in the White House, his wife, Abigail, started the first library and the couple installed the mid-1800's version of plumbing. They had two children.

During the term of FRANKLIN PIERCE (1853-1857), the Nation enjoyed temporary calm over the problem of whether new lands would be slave or free. Pierce and his wife, Jane, saw the last of their three sons killed in a railroad accident between his election and inauguration. Because of her grief and ill health, his wife did not serve as a White House hostess for a year and a half after the inauguration. During his administration, portions of Arizona and New Mexico were purchased from Mexico for \$10 million and added to the Union and residents of the new territories were permitted to decide the slavery issue for themselves.

JAMES BUCHANAN, a bachelor, had his niece, Harriet Lane, serve as White House hostess. Under her supervision, the White House social life revived. She undertook a housecleaning, and cleared the Blue Room of the furniture installed by the Monroes. A large conservatory was built on the west side of the Mansion. During Buchanan's Presidency from 1857 to 1861, the question of slavery came to a head and the Nation was rapidly dividing over the issue.

The election of ABRAHAM LINCOLN in 1860 was the fulfillment of a dream for his wife, Mary. But their years in the White House were marred by personal and national tragedy. Before Lincoln's inauguration, several Southern states seceded from the Union and formed a new government. Within weeks of his taking office, the Nation was involved in a Civil War. Union troops



were encamped on the lawn, and the White House was the center of the war effort. Despite the war, Mrs. Lincoln redecorated the official rooms. Her efforts to entertain were criticized because of the war. The death of one of their four sons in the White House grieved both the President and the First Lady. Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theatre in 1865, only five days after the victory of the Union Army. He was the first President killed in office.

ANDREW JOHNSON, the 17th President and the third Vice President to succeed to the Presidency, inherited the problems of a divided Nation. Johnson's attempts to follow Lincoln's policy of moderation toward the defeated South helped to trigger his impeachment by the House of Representatives. But he failed to be convicted in the Senate by one vote. His invalid wife, Eliza, could not preside over White House social activities, but the couple's daughter, Martha (one of five children), handled the limited social events and redid the war-weary mansion in simple, tasteful furnishings. Johnson was not re-nominated and retired in 1869 after one term.

The Civil War produced another military hero President, ULYSSES S. GRANT. Grant's two terms from 1869 to 1877 were marked by financial scandals and a harsh policy toward the defeated states. Julia Grant enjoyed her position as First Lady and described her life at the White House "like a bright and beautiful dream." The Grants redecorated the Mansion in the overdone style of the day with gilt, cut glass and heavy beams. They had four children.

The White House life of RUTHERFORD B. HAYES (1877-1881) and his wife, Lucy, was in sharp contrast

to the lavish entertaining of the Grants. Mrs. Hayes, the first First Lady to have attended college, followed her husband's wishes and banned all wines and liquors from the White House. That earned her the nickname "Lemonade Lucy." Perhaps because the couple had eight children, Mrs. Hayes began the tradition of the Easter Egg Roll on the south lawn of the White House after the Congress stopped the practice of holding it on the Capitol grounds. During the Hayes Administration, telephones were installed in the mansion. He was the first President elected with a majority of the electoral college votes, but fewer popular votes than his opponents. The tough policy of his predecessor toward the South was eased by Hayes who withdrew the last of the Union troops from the former Confederate states.



The White House meant tragedy to the next President, JAMES A. GARFIELD, and his family. Within months of his inauguration in 1881, his wife, Lucretia, nearly died of malaria. Although she eventually recovered, Garfield was shot in July by a disgruntled office seeker and died in September after a long and painful ordeal. The couple had five children who lived to adulthood.

Garfield's death brought CHESTER A. ARTHUR to the Presidency in 1881. Arthur refused to move into the White House until it was completely redecorated. Twenty-four wagonloads of furniture and clothing were auctioned off to make room for new overstuffed furniture and a decor well-laced with gold trim. But the redecoration did include new bathrooms and the first elevator. Although his wife, Ellen, had died in 1880 before he became President, Arthur's sister, Mary McElroy, served as his White House hostess and helped to raise his three children. Arthur championed civil service reform and helped reduce the national debt, but his party refused to nominate him for a full term, and he retired in 1885.

GROVER CLEVELAND was the only President elected to two non-consecutive terms, from 1885 to 1889 and 1893 to 1897. The first bachelor President to marry in office, his 22-year-old bride, Frances Folsom, proved to be a popular hostess and enjoyed being First Lady. The couple had five children. When her husband lost the election of 1888, she vowed to return to the White House and did.

BENJAMIN HARRISON served one term as President from 1889 to 1893. The grandson of President William Henry Harrison, he approved bills for internal improvements in the Nation, naval expansion and subsidies for steamship lines. He and his wife, Caroline, wanted to enlarge the White House, but the Congress would not approve the funds. The couple had two children. Mrs. Harrison began the collection of china from earlier administrations, the longest continuous historical project connected with the White House.

During GROVER CLEVELAND'S second term (1893-1897), he had to deal with an acute economic depression. Like his predecessor, he was unsuccessful in obtaining Congressional approval to expand the White House. The President's office on the second floor of the Mansion in the family's quarters made life cramped for most First Families.

One of the few Presidents to find this arrangement convenient, however, was WILLIAM MCKINLEY, who served from 1897 to 1901. His invalid wife, Ida, needed his close attention. The couple had two daughters who died in infancy. Despite his wife's health problems, the McKinleys enjoyed White House life. McKinley was President during the Spanish-American War which resulted in the United States gaining its first overseas possessions. His second administration was cut short when he was assassinated in 1901 by a deranged anarchist at a reception in Buffalo, New York.

McKinley's death brought Vice President THEODORE ROOSEVELT and his lively family to the White House. Roosevelt, his second wife, Edith, and the six Roosevelt children (one from a previous marriage) thoroughly enjoyed the Mansion. The children had animals on the lawn and played throughout the historic building. During his tenure, he changed the name Executive Mansion to "The White House" on official stationery, making the popular name official. Finally, under Roosevelt, the House was enlarged and the President's office was moved from the second floor to the newly constructed West Wing. This was the first major renovation of the Mansion since it was rebuilt after the War of 1812. A nature lover and conservationist, he championed the strenuous life. The first Vice President to be elected on his own (in 1904), Roosevelt regretted an early promise not to seek a second full term of his own.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, who served from 1909 to 1913, did not find the White House a particularly happy place—although his wife, Helen, had wanted her husband to be President. She suffered a stroke early in his administration and could not serve as White House hostess until later in his term. The couple had three children. Taft and Roosevelt split politically, and Roosevelt's bid for another term in 1912 as a third party candidate resulted in the defeat of Taft and the election of WOODROW WILSON. Taft was later appointed Chief Justice of the United States.

A former president of Princeton University, Wilson, his wife, Ellen, and their three daughters enjoyed a quiet family life in the Mansion. Two of the Wilson girls were married in the White House. Mrs. Wilson died there in 1914. The President remarried in 1915 and was reelected in 1916. But the entry of America into World War I again meant wartime life and limited social events at the White House. Wilson's efforts to bring the United States into the League of Nations after the war broke his health. During his last year in office, 1920, he was an invalid, cared for by his second wife, Edith.

Weary of war and international politics, the Nation elected WARREN G. HARDING, who promised a "Return to Normalcy." At first, Harding and his wife, Florence, enjoyed the White House and entertained lavishly, but scandals within his administration created problems for the President. He died suddenly from a blood clot during a visit to California in 1923. The couple had no children, although Mrs. Harding had a son by a previous marriage.

Succeeding Harding was his Vice President, CALVIN COOLIDGE, who took an active interest in the operation of the White House and was a strong advocate of frugality in government. He oversaw the menus and housekeeping plans. During his administration, the roof was replaced, and the third floor was enlarged. With an eye to history, his wife, Grace, asked for a



resolution from the Congress to allow donation of historic gifts to the Mansion. The resolution was passed, but few donations were made. The couple had two sons, one of whom died while Coolidge was in office.

Coolidge refused to run for a full second term, and his successor, HERBERT HOOVER, was swept into office, serving from 1929 to 1933. A severe economic depression struck in 1929, creating problems for the new administration and resulting in curtailed social life at the White House by the President and his wife, Lou. The couple had two sons. When the country failed to come out of the depression, Hoover was defeated for re-election by FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT in 1932. He was later appointed by President Truman to direct a commission to reorganize the Government.

A distant cousin of the first President Roosevelt, FDR, like "Teddy," brought a lively family to the White House and stayed longer than any other President in American history (from 1933 to 1945). The White House lifestyle under the Roosevelts was busy as he led the Nation through its worst depression and greatest war. The doors of the Mansion were open to a variety of visitors, and his wife, Eleanor, led a very active life of writing and social involvement. Roosevelt died in 1945, shortly after the inauguration for his fourth term and a few months before the end of World War II. The couple had six children.

The new President, HARRY S. TRUMAN, who served from 1945 to 1953, faced the problem of ending the war and making peace. Later, the cold war posed challenges to him unprecedented in history. But he faced up to them. Truman, his wife, Bess, and their only child, Margaret, preferred quiet evenings at home. They lived in the Mansion for three years, but the need for White House renovation was critical. For the second time since it was rebuilt after the War of 1812, the White House was renovated and only the exterior walls were left standing.

Elected in 1952, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER and his wife, Mamie, also found the White House a place for quiet evenings with their son, John, his wife, Barbara, and the four grandchildren as frequent visitors. Eisenhower, a World War II military hero, ended the Korean War, presided over a period of economic prosperity and proclaimed the Nation's desire for world peace. During his administration, the Nation enjoyed much the same tranquility that the family in the White House experienced. "Ike" was one of the Nation's most popular Presidents. The Eisenhowers reintroduced the Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn.

When he was inaugurated in 1961, JOHN F. KENNEDY, and his wife, Jacqueline, had two young children, Caroline and John, and life in the White House reflected their presence. Mrs. Kennedy initiated restoration of White House furnishings, and her successors

have carried the program forward. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963, is remembered for his handling of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He was the youngest man (44) elected President and the youngest to die in office.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON, who served from 1963 to 1969, was the eighth Vice President to assume the office upon the death of the President. During their years in the White House, Johnson, his wife, Lady Bird, and their two daughters, Lynda and Luci, enjoyed a full social life. Lynda carried on a White House tradition by marrying in the East Room. Elected to a full term of his own in 1964, Johnson did not seek re-election in 1968. His ambitious program of social legislation known as "The Great Society" was overshadowed by the Nation's increasing involvement in Vietnam.



RICHARD M. NIXON, Vice President under Eisenhower, was elected the 37th President in 1968 and won a sweeping re-election victory in 1972. He and his wife, Pat, had two daughters, Tricia and Julie. Tricia was married in the Rose Garden, the first outdoor White House wedding. After American troops were withdrawn from Vietnam, Nixon established relations with the People's Republic of China and improved relations with Russia. In 1974, plagued by the Watergate scandals, he became the first President to resign from office.

The current President is GERALD R. FORD, who succeeded Nixon. Ford and his wife, Betty, have four children (Michael, John, Steven and Susan). Their youngest child, Susan, is living with them in the White House. Their White House life is described later.

From the John Adams to the Gerald Fords, the 175 years of White House life is the fascinating account of 36 families who have lived in the middle of American history. The Mansion today reflects the lives of all those families, and the next pages show the public rooms in the White House, where many historic events take place.

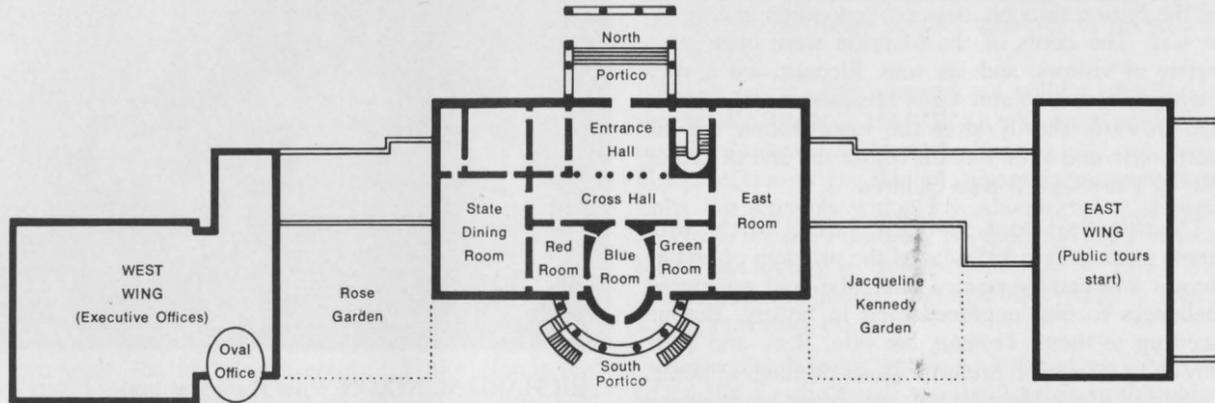
# The White House Today

The White House is both a private home for the President and his family and a public building visited by thousands of Americans every year.

All of the rooms shown on these two pages, except the Lincoln Bedroom, are open to the public and are the scene of the official entertaining by the President and the First Lady.

A staff of 85 is required to keep the Mansion and the 16 acres surrounding the White House ready for the many visitors.

*The North Portico of the White House faces on Pennsylvania Avenue. This entrance is used by important guests, like presidents of other nations, when they arrive for a State Dinner. The doors lead directly into the foyer or main entrance hall on the first floor.*



*The East Room is the reception room on State occasions. It is used for entertainment after State dinners and large meetings. The room also has been the scene of weddings and funerals. Two large portraits of President George Washington and his wife, Martha, decorate this room.*

*The main hallway connects the East Room and the State Dining Room. This view is looking toward the East Room.*

*The State Dining Room is used for State dinners in honor of visiting leaders of other countries.*



*Blue Room*



There are 50 rooms in the White House, which has four floors and two wings. The East Wing, where public tours begin, houses the First Lady's staff. The President's Oval Office and the offices of his staff members are located in the West Wing.

The ground floor and the first floor are open to the public. The second and third floors are the private quarters of the First Family.

Three of the most famous rooms in the White House are the Blue, Red and Green Rooms. The central window in the oval-shaped Blue Room looks out on the South Lawn toward the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States. The room is often used by the President to greet official guests.

The Red and Green living rooms connect with the Blue Room on each side and are also used for entertaining. The furniture in these three rooms is from the early 1800's, and many of the objects were used by former Presidents and their families. Portraits of former White House residents decorate the walls.

The Lincoln Bedroom is located on the second floor over the corner of the East Room next to the Green Room. President Abraham Lincoln used the room for Cabinet meetings. Today, the room has furniture used by President Lincoln. Special guests, including heads of state, have stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Although the second and third floors are reserved for the President's family, important guests are often entertained in the private rooms. Famous visitors sometimes stay overnight in the White House or sometimes at the Blair House, the official guest quarters across the street from the Mansion.

No other house in America is so full of history as the White House. Although only Presidents ever live at the White House, it truly belongs to all of the American people.



*Red Room*

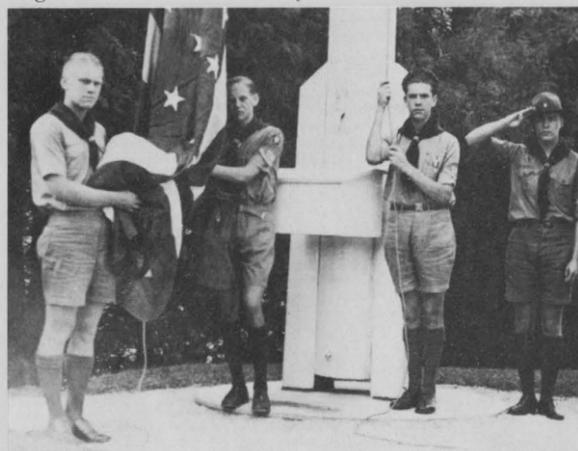
*Lincoln Bedroom*

# Highlights In the life of Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States

- July 14, 1913** Born in Omaha, Nebraska
- 1915** Moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 1927** Achieved rank of Eagle Scout as member of Troop 15, Grand Rapids
- 1931** Graduated from Grand Rapids South High School as honor roll student
- 1934** Named Most Valuable Player on University of Michigan football team
- 1935** Received Bachelor of Arts degree University of Michigan
- 1941** Graduated from Yale Law School
- April 13, 1942** Commissioned Ensign in U.S. Navy
- 1943-1944** Served aboard light aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey in Pacific
- October 15, 1948** Married Elizabeth Bloomer of Grand Rapids
- November 2, 1948** Elected to represent 5th District of Michigan in U.S. House of Representatives, first of 13 terms
- March 14, 1950** Son, Michael Gerald (Mike), born in Washington, D.C.
- March 16, 1952** Son, John Gardner (Jack), born in Washington, D.C.
- May 19, 1956** Son, Steven Meigs (Steve), born in Washington, D.C.
- July 6, 1957** Daughter, Susan Elizabeth (Susan), born in Washington, D.C.
- January 1963** Elected chairman of House Republican Conference
- 1963-1964** Served as Member of Warren Commission to probe the assassination of President John F. Kennedy
- January 4, 1965** Elected Republican Leader of U.S. House of Representatives
- December 6, 1973** Sworn in as 40th Vice President of the United States under provisions of the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- August 9, 1974** Sworn in as 38th President of the United States after resignation of Richard M. Nixon

*Michigan's Most Valuable Player in 1934*

*Eagle Scout Gerald Ford (left) in 1929*



*The President, Mrs. Ford and Chief Justice Warren Burger*

Just after noon on August 9, 1974, Gerald R. Ford became the 38th President of the United States to take the oath of office. His wife, Betty, held the family Bible while he was sworn in by Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the United States.

*"I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many.*

*"If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by any secret promises. I have not campaigned either for the Presidency or for the Vice Presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man, and only to one woman—my dear wife—as I begin this very difficult job."*



*The Ford Children on Inauguration Day*

The ceremonies to inaugurate a new President have taken place in many different locations from a small New England farmhouse to the White House itself to the steps of the U.S. Capitol to the cabin of an airplane. The duties of the President have changed greatly since George Washington became the first President in 1789, because the country itself has changed so markedly.

The specific responsibilities and requirements of the President are outlined in Article Two of the U.S. Constitution which reads in part:

*The President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices . . .*

The Constitution also specifies that a President must be at least 35 years old, a natural born American, and a resident of the United States for 14 years. The term of office is four years, and a President may be elected for only two terms.



*Presiding at a Cabinet Meeting*

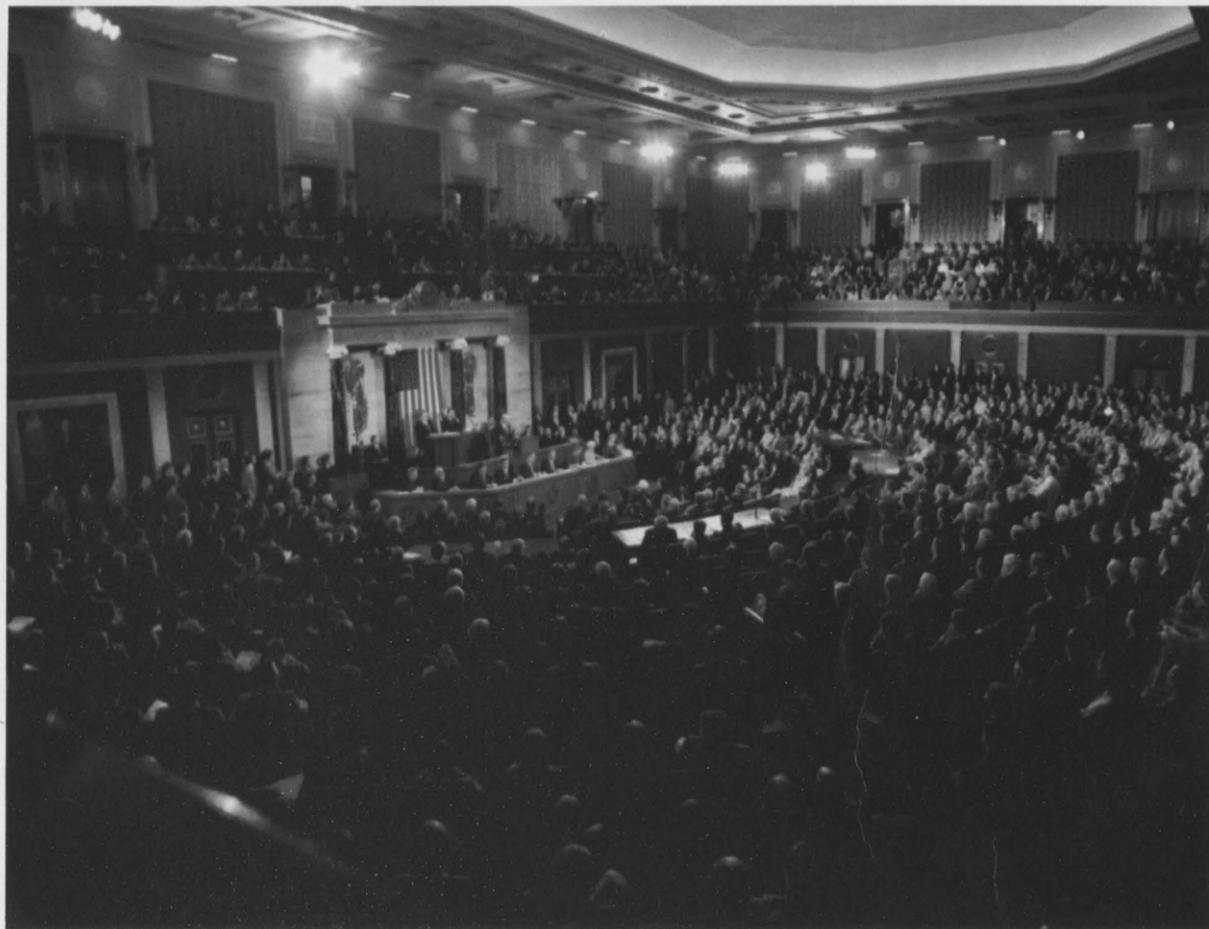
Under the Constitution, the President is in charge of the executive branch of Government. Today, there are some 2,727,000 people working in departments and agencies in the executive branch. The major departments are State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development and Transportation. The heads of these departments are members of the President's Cabinet, and they meet with him regularly to discuss the Nation's problems.

The Constitution also calls on the President to report to the U.S. Congress on the State of the Union. Often a President delivers the State of the Union message in person to a joint meeting of the House and Senate.

Conducting our relations with other countries is an important part of the President's job. The Constitution gives the President power to appoint ambassadors to foreign countries and to make treaties with other governments with the consent of the U.S. Senate. Overseeing our relations with other countries requires meetings with the heads of other governments both in Washington and abroad.

The President appoints all justices of the Supreme

*Addressing the Congress on the State of the Union*



Court and lower Federal courts with the approval of the Senate. He also is the Commander-in-Chief of the Nation's Armed Forces.

Many of the duties of the President are not listed specifically in the Constitution, but are part of his job of overseeing the executive branch of government. For example, the President recommends a budget for the Federal Government, but the money must be appropriated by the Congress from tax revenues.

To keep the American people informed, the President holds news conferences with reporters from radio, television, newspapers and magazines. Sometimes, he speaks directly to the public on radio and television.

In just one day, President Ford's activities may range from a breakfast meeting with Congressional leaders of both political Parties to a State Dinner for the President of another country. The hours of the President's day are long, usually beginning at 6 a.m. and sometimes running past midnight. In that day, he may meet with 100 or more different people, confer with key staff aides, check on the latest economic reports, catch up on military and diplomatic developments around the world and even spend time with family and friends.

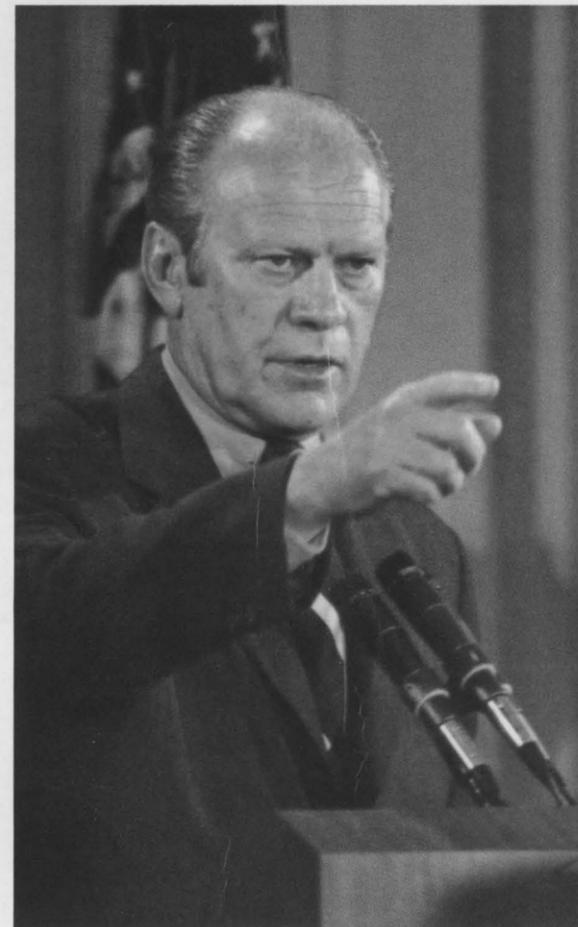


*Working in the Oval Office*



*Entertaining a Foreign Head of State*

*Responding to a News Conference question*



*Returning to the White House from a speaking trip*



# The President's Family



*The First Family on Inauguration Day: Jack, Steve, Mrs. Ford, The President, Susan, Daughter-in-Law Gayle and her husband, Mike*

The Fords and their four children are a lively, close-knit family, the largest Presidential family since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

All of the Fords enjoy sports. Skiing is a particular favorite. The President also plays golf and swims. The highlight of the year is an annual family skiing gathering in Vail, Colorado, at Christmas-time. In fact, the President and Mrs. Ford began their courtship on the ski slopes of Michigan.

The family also shares a love of animals, and "Liberty," who lives in the White House kennels, is the family's pet Golden Retriever. Daughter Susan's Siamese cat, "Shan," lives in the White House.

Susan, the youngest of the Fords, is the only one of the children living in the White House. She attends school in the Washington area. Like other White House daughters, she enjoys the parties and sometimes stands in for her mother as hostess at official events.

The oldest son, Mike, and his wife, Gayle, live in Massachusetts, where Mike is studying to become a minister. Jack is studying forestry at the University of Utah, and Steve is working on a ranch in Montana before continuing his education.

The Fords are members of the Episcopal Church. Their home church is in Alexandria, Virginia, where the family lived before moving to the White House.

Life at the White House with the Fords is as warm and open as their family homes have always been. Mrs. Ford's guest lists to parties and dinners include a variety of Americans, and the Ford children invite in their friends as well as special guests from sports and music and other areas of their interest.

As always, it is the White House that adjusts to its residents. And life there today reflects the lively and friendly family now living at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.



*Congressman Ford and his family at home in Grand Rapids in 1958. Mrs. Ford with Susan on her lap and sons Jack, Mike and Steve.*

*Susan, Mrs. Ford, The President and Liberty, the family's Golden Retriever*



*The President and Friends*



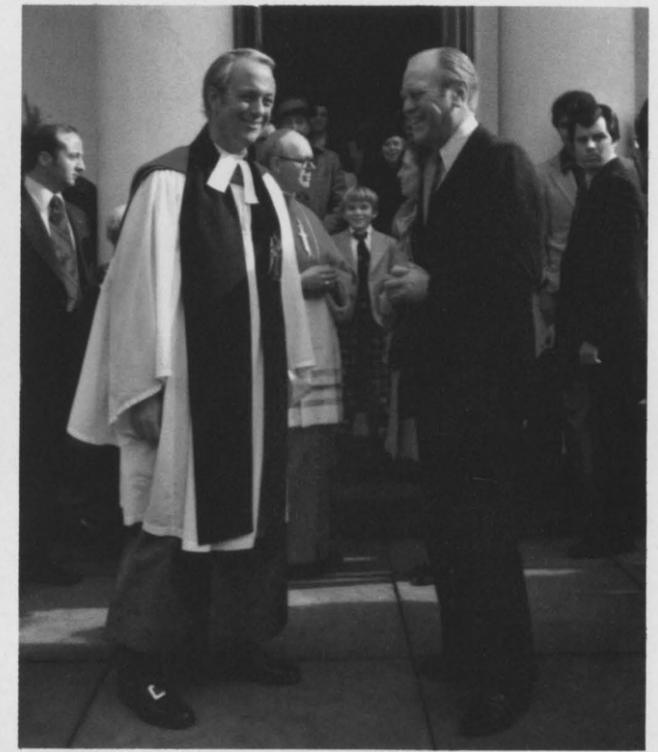
*Ford Family Breakfast in Vail, Colorado Gayle and Mike Ford on their Wedding Day*



*Jack*



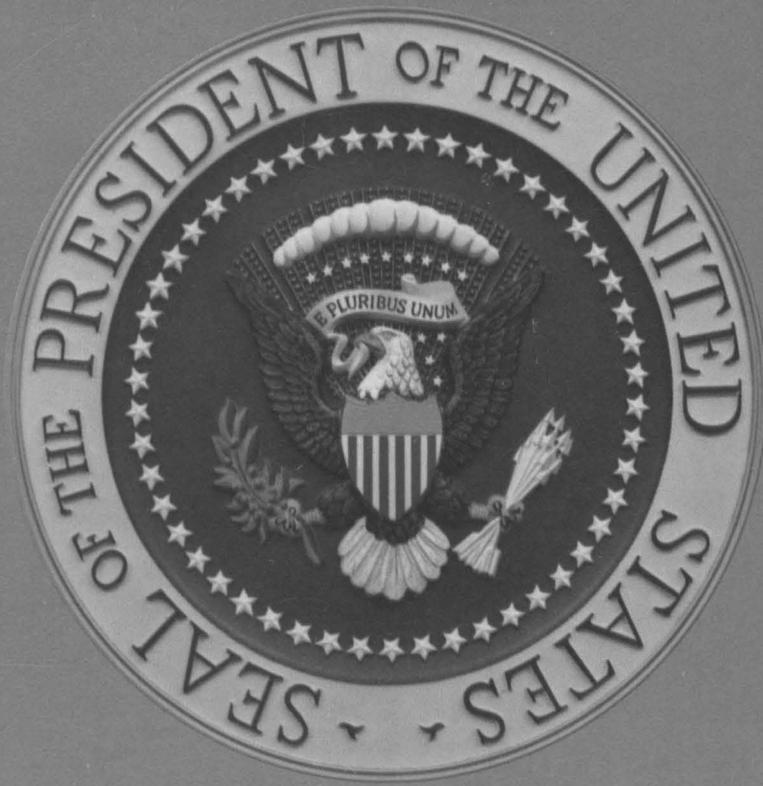
*Steve*



*President and Mrs. Ford leaving St. John's Episcopal Church*



*The First Lady at White House Children's Party*



HANDLERS

Think  
Christmas  
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and save!

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WIPING POSTED

# a 'Moscow' Party

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The Schnyders are leaving  
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The sale of the three White  
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First Ladies" is Margaret  
Brown Klaphor, historian  
with The Smithsonian In-  
stitution.

The Youth for Under-  
standing program of Ann Ar-  
bor, Mich., has created the  
\$300,000 Eleanor Lansing  
Dulles Student Loan Fund.



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit  
 Book Collection  
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Item:

3 bw photos and 3 color negs for use in  
The President's House

White House Photos - no # available.

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1/14/75 Presentation of WH Books

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