The original documents are located in Box 9, folder "4/3/76 - Gridiron Dinner" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Peggy Simpson, Associated Press
First Vice President

William J. Eaton, Chicago Daily News

Second Vice President Ellen Wadley, CBS News

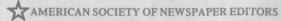
Third Vice President
Helene Melzer, Treasury Department

Secretary

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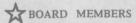


Warren H. Phillips of New York, president of ASNE, editor-director Wall Street Journal

George Chaplin, vice president of ASNE, editor and chief Honolulu Advertiser

Eugene Patterson, secretary of ASNE, editor/president the St. Petersburg Times, Fla.

John Hughes of Boston, treasurer of ASNE, editor Christian Science Monitor



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Janet Staihar, Associated Press



☆ MARK RUSSELL, comedian☆

Two Centuries of Rewrite

A Washington Press Club Production



Directed by: Teddy Handfield

Starring: Tom Flaherty, Vera Glaser, Ronald Cohen,
David Jewell, Nina Totenberg, Warren Weaver, Lucille Larkin,
William J. Eaton, Frances Spatz Leighton, David Murray,
Bonnie Angelo, Vada Ward, Ellen Marcus, Ann McFeatters,
Sara Fritz, Helen Thomas

Written by: Marlene Cimons, Anne Groer, Warren Weaver, David Murray, Sandy Rovner, William J. Eaton

Director's Assistant: Marguerite Sullivan

Props and Costumes: Pat Fanning Rehearsal Pianist: Walter Graham Technical Director: James Petosa

Dancing to Devron



Minute Man Mousse ala Martha
Cornwallis-fed Duckling
Liberty Bell Salad (with cracked dressing)
Dessert—A Yankee Doodle Dandy
Vin du Chateau LaFayette



"Fugue for Pundits"

To tune of "Fugue for Tinhorns" from Guys and Dolls

For Jerry Ford I'll fight,
I hear his head's all right,
Of course, it all depends if there's a wall in sight.
Can do, can do.
This poll says the guy can do.
If Reagan is up the flue,
Can do, can do.

I see a Carter win,
He's got that Chiclet grin,
And on the real big issues he's hard to pin.
Try Jim, Try Jim.
The South's really proud of him.
George Wallace was just a whim.
Try Jim, Try Jim.

I've got the choice this fall,
The man is Mo Udall
Among the lib-ral leaders he sure stands tall.
Can do, can do.
The left knows what's right for you.
As they proved in sev'nty-two.
Can do, can do.

Scoop Jackson rings the bell,
With friends of Is-ray-el
And with the union bosses he does damn well.
Try Scoop, Try Scoop.
His eyelids no longer droop
And he's not your Commie dupe,
Try Scoop, Try Scoop.

George Wallace is my pick
For rebel rhetoric
Because his finger-lickin' chicken-picken' just might click.
Right on, Right on
The Wallace phenomenon.
Is big with the Pentagon.
Right on, Right on.

Ron Reagan is no bum But lately he's so glum Singing: "California, here I come Can't do, can't do His primary votes were few Unless Ford gets Asian flu Can't do, can't do.

Though Hubert's acting coy, It's just a clever ploy To resurrect his old campaign of joy. Can't wait, can't wait. For Humphrey, the man of fate, It can't ever be too late. Can't wait, can't wait.

Look out for Kennedy,
He's saying no-sireee,
But, after-all, he's the last of the dynasty
Might run, might run
Should Shriver have all the fun?
Now brother-in-law is done,
Might run, might run

The numbers are first rate.

For every candidate

Of course, they could be losers whose polls look great

Can do, can do.

These polls say the guys can do.

Though some now have dropped from view

Can do, can do.

George Gallup!

Lou Harris

Pat Caddell!

We've got the word -

Like Hell!

"Nixon Song"

To tune of
"I Only Cry at Weddings"
from Sweet Charity

It's tough for a gentle soul like me Who's never been wedded to the truth To admit to the world and my family. That I get my kicks in a polling booth. Tomorrow when I vote for me I'll cry, And now it's time for me to tell you why

I've always loved elections, they are just like resurrections.

I walk into a polling place and face the name I love to face

I thrive on all the fixin' or my names not Richard Nixon

To purchase votes I found the way: they're always airlines who can pay.

My enemies were listed, for their sordid souls were twisted, But my feelings for them now are quite refined. I've always loved elections, perfection is elections, Just as long as they were mine.

I've always loved the White House, knew for me it was the right house It's all baloney that my Sony only played 'Hait to the chief.' My oval office wiring was perfect for conspiring I'd still be there, right on the job, if it weren't for Carl and Bob.

It's perfectly clear now,
That I'd like to reapper now,
It was all a big mistake that I resigned.
Just one more election; a landslide's my projection,
And the White House once more will be mine.

"First Woman"

Sum by Bonnie

I'm First Woman, hear me speak
No more quiet, no more meek
I've got more to do than smile and shake your hand
I've got E-R-A to pass
Tho my kids are smoking grass
While I lobby for abortion on demand.

Yes, I am brave — of the press I have no fear Jerry may be running, but it's me they're gonna hear. If you ask me, I will say anything I am free, I am quotable, I'm first woman.

I'm First Woman, not a mouse
Not a prisoner in this House
I wanna keep this job — I want to do much more
I'll get a woman on the court
And I will, with your support,
Put women where they've never been before.

Yes, I am brave. Of the press I have no fear I am Betty Ford — I'm the woman of the year. If I want to, I will do anything — I am free I'm unimpeachable I'm First Woman.

Marlene Cimon

"Kissinger song"

To tune of "I want to teach the world to live in perfect harmony."

I vant to teach the world to live In perfect harmony And if I tap a telephone It's in the family.

I'd like to see Arabs and Jews All standing hand in hand So if I make a secret deal I'm sure you'll understand.

Chorus

He's an unreal thing Making diplomats flip But we keep sending Henry on His world-wide ego trip

I never mind a leak or two
If they make me look wise
And if some Senators complain
I'll blame two other guys

Now Democrats are on by butt, Demanding that I leave So I may grab the nearest shuttle Back to Tel Aviv

"Yankee Doodle Closer" To tune of Yankee Doodle

Johnny Zenger led the fight, To keep the press unfettered Thanks to him we're free to write For editors unlettered.

First Amendment, talk it up, Our free press is dandy! Damn the Congress and the courts But keep a lawyer handy!

First amendment must prevail In ev'ry high court showdown Or the press will go to jail For tringing you the lowdown

(Women sing)
It's 'Wow' for NOW and E-R-A
On editor'l pages
But women's numbers still are low
And so are women's wages

(Men sing)
Carl and Bob are back at work
Our millionaire reporters
Rest of us must be content
With nickles, dimes and quarters.

Danny Schorr is on the spot Before a House committee. Does he talk or does he not? We're down to nitty gritty.

Publishers ring freedom's bell Their vigor's not surprising Free news suits them very well

"Carter Song" To tune of "Put on a Happy Face."

Why should I try to mimic Glum fellows in the race? I've got a different gimmick Put on a happy face

Flash it at ev'ry guy and doll you see Pure porcelain, You'll never need a foreign policy If you can grin.

Fudge the abortion issue, Fuzz up the busing case. What if my platform's tissue? I've got a happy face

If the party gives me second place I'll still wear my happy face



Monday, April 5, 1976

Gridiron Club: Stagi

By William Gildea

Rosalynn Carter says she was getting dressed for the Gridiron Dinner when she got the news. "Jimmy stuck his head in my room and said, 'You're not invited.' I thought it'd be great fun to go with Jimmy. I was all

press coverage and assures the President and others that their remarks are off the record. Those on the outside could console themselves with the thought that whatever Mr. Ford had to say—after reportedly laughing through a traditional and, some might

The Gridiro

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the good old Jerry Ford.

He is stumbling through the vineyards where the primary votes are scored.

He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible dull sword -

He just keeps plodding on.

A Gridiron dinner song, 1976.

Gridirons are for roasting things on.

Like politicians, Heh-heh.

Last night, for the 91st year in a row, the Gridiron Club of Washington, D.C., held its annual, private dinner-bash for its members resent or forme editorial employes

of daily newspapers and wire services with offices here, plus a few_ musicians - and their guests, ranging from the President, Supreme Court justices. Cabinet officers and foreign ambassadors to private citizens like Houston lawver John Connally, and including, quite importantly, the club members' publishers and other bosses, locally and from out of town.

It was, as it almost always has been, an impressive congregation of the nation's political and media powers, assembled purely for "the promotion of good fellowship," as it says in the club's constitution.

Translated, that means a lot of

at dinner . . . Cour

as "Rocky Raccoon, checked into his room/"Only to find nothing doing"). sometimes simply hare-brained (to the tune of "Once in Love With Amy": "Start the draft for Betty/ "We all go daft for Betty") musical skits in which the costumed newsmen, like members of a collegiate fraternity, lampoon their mighty guests.

SUCH RITES of silliness date back pretty far in American history. One example, and not necessarily the oldest, is the undergraduate Hasty Pudsome nes witty (the vice president, og Club at Harvard College. OrgaMORE THAN YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE NIGHT OF APRIL 3RD

. . You won't recognize the one-time allmale Gridiron Club Dinner this year. Earwigs. The dinosaurs are all going overboard to feminize the event. Some men are bringing two women just to make sure. Walter Ridder is bringing Jill Ruckleshaus and Mary Tyler Moore, Richard Dudman will drag Barbara Tuchman and Nora Ephron, and Carl Rowan will settle for just one - Margaret Bush Wilson, board chairman of the NAACP. You've heard by now, of course. that the Gridiron has taken in its second woman member, Frances Lewine of the AP. You may not have heard that Fran's very own wire service misspelled her. name into a man's, (Francis), the first time it sent out the happy news. Now

W. Will The Bar

here's the fun part: Fran was one of the original group of 18 newshens who started the Counter-Gridiron demonstrations and parties. Now that the Gridiron has smartened up, most of that committee has decided to stop razzing the Club. But the rest of the gang has gone on to plan Counter Gridiron III anyway, just because the party's always such a scream. Ear's out of breath.

NEWS ABOUT NANCY... Poor Nancy Dickerson got all tuckered out marshalling the press behind the velvet ropes that night at the Kennedy Center when everyone saluted Roger Stevens. So off she went for a little R and R at John Cardner's divine tennis camp in Scottsdale, Arizona. Right there on the courts, Earwigs, she broke her foot. But what hurts the most is that she was beating

Marion Javits at the time, and you know how hard to beat Marion is. Now Nancy's back home pecking away at the end of her new book, which may or may not be called "This is Nancy Dickerson, Reporting from Washington." Nance wouldn't give away a smidgen of what's inside. Ear can't wait.

MEANWHILE, DOWN AMONG THE BARRISTERS... You'll never guess who's on jury duty this week, darlings. Socialites Jeanne Viner Bell and Wynant Vanderpool, O.P. critic Richard Coe, and Ferdinand Kuhn, formerly of the O.P., plus a host of more private types. They haven't been given a thing to do yet, Ear hears, but they're having a high old time. Let's meet right here at the back fence tomorrow.

TEST YOUR REWRITE ACUMEN. UNSCRAMBLE THESE HEADLINES. FOUR WORDS, YOU'RE A COPY BOY; EIGHT, YOU'RE A CUB; TEN, CITY EDITOR STATUS; BOTH HEADS, ADVANCE TO RANK OF EDITOR. (IF YOU MUST UNWRAP SCROLL FOR ANSWERS, RETURN TO J SCHOOL.)

Aug. 5, 1964 S.U. LANESP ATTKCA ORNTH EMMANX ENTAVMI SSBAB; SDNETIPRE ODRSRE (LIIMDET' RETNOIALITA RAFTE OMNMUS'TCI TP OATSB NWEER AIDRS

Sept. 28, 1964 RRENWA MMISISHOOC NDSIF DLAWOS YGTLIU NAD SYAS ASSSINA NAD UBRY ACTED LONEA; UKESRE RETSEC VICESER, SSAK INGRVAMEP

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Doing That Old Soft Shoe

will be nimble, fleet-footed Betty Ford doing that old soft-shoe number. Yes, the once all-male Gridiron Dinner (now repentant) will feature the First Lady tonight soft-shoeing her way through the strains of "Once in Love with Amy," the words of which have been altered.

Partnered by Ernie Sult of the Com-merce Department, Mrs. Ford (who

has rehearsed twice with dance studio owner Vic Daumit, who choreograph-ed the dance) will do her shtick in a long champagne-colored chiffen shirt-

waist gown.

"She got it so quickly. She's a real perfectionist," said Daumit, who wants to make it perfectly clear he was not the source of this story (and he wasn't). After all, he says, most of the Gridiron-ites have been kept in the dark. Fiat Lux.

lungs as a result of infec-

This Is First Lady

First Lady Betty Ford has been granted a citizens band radio license, the Federal Communications Commis-sion disclosed yesterday.

Mr. Ford's press office said the license was obtained so Mrs. Ford, who was campaigning for the President in Madison, Wis, could talk to a convoy of friends in Grand Rapids, Wish

She doesn't have her own CB radio, the White House said, but under the rules she can use her license over the airwaves.

The President's wife thus is an official member of a current craze that has swept the nation the past two years with millions of

Americans buying their personal two way radios.

Mrs. Ford was granted a temporary license until a permanent one can be processed. Normally this takes about 70 days because of the avalanche of license applications now coming in.

In special cases the FCC issues temporary licenses and plans soon to issue temporary licenses for all who ask, when the system is set up.

Commission personnel were informed that Mrs. Ford's application was coming over Friday so they were alerted to watch for it. Her temporary call letters assigned are KUV9532 She will be given a different permanent call signal.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

Variable cloudiness today; clear

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

ATE CITY EDITION

U. S. Weather bureau Report (Page 45) forecasts.

Cloudy then fair today; fair and
cooler tonight. Fair tomorrow.

Temo. Range: 70-55; vesterday: 73-59.

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TEN CENTS

WARREN COMMISSION FINDS OSWALD GUILTY AND SAYS ASSASSIN AND RUBY ACTED ALONE; REBUKES SECRET SERVICE, ASKS REVAMPING

F.B.I. IS CRITICIZED

Security Steps Taken by Secret Service Held Inadequate



PANEL UNANIMOUS

Theory of Conspiracy by Left or Right Is Rejected