

The original documents are located in Box 35, folder “Christmas, 1974 - General” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Wash Post 12/74

1st Lady Urges Yule Gift Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — First Lady Betty Ford is emphasizing hand-made Christmas ornaments, less elaborate gifts and fewer tree lights as economy measures for this

mirrors, 50 carved wooden toys and 75 baskets filled with nuts and gumdrops.

Senior citizens from across the country, women from Appalachia, Cherokee Indians

any
Sako-
d no
odeo.

What is the right word?
And Peter Duchin the society pianist, will be giving two lessons to one determined soul.

White House Tours OKd

The White House will be open to the public on Thursday and Friday evenings this week at the

rinze
her
s!) in

A White Christmas for the Fords

Christmas for the Gerald Fords can be summed up in one word — ski. Every member of the first

anything else," said Betty Ford.

The First Lady, herself, intends to ski for the first

Betty Beale

"I got him several things but he has already wheedled them out of me," responded Nancy. "I got

As for all the entertaining this pair of country-loving Boston bluebloods will have to do, the gray

Christmas at the new winter White House





W
by Frances Spatz Leighton

In bygone years we have had Presidents who've managed to put their personal stamp on Christmas. Andrew Jackson staged bull fights in the East

White House continued



winter White House continued



*Patching
Up the
Christmas
Tree*

By Dorothy McCardle

An old fashioned Christmas at the White House this year has a decor that is as homey as apple pie.

Patching Up the Blue Room Christmas Tree

DECOR, From CI

Cooperative

Market

in

in the room;

according to

figures of 11 angel heralds,

Bethesda

Mrs. Ford

fashioned from aluminum



All the Fords look forward to Christmas in Vail, Colo., where they own a condominium ski house. As Mrs. Ford explains, "It's our only real family time together." Above, left to right: Steve, Susan, the President, Betty Ford and Jack open presents on Christmas Eve, 1973. (Mike is not pictured.) Below, Mr. Ford holds up his favorite gift—a sweater; left, he sets out for a day of skiing. Bottom, Susan Ford.



How the First Family Celebrates

BY JEAN LIBMAN BLOCK

For the Fords and their far-flung children, Christmas is a happy reunion on the ski slopes of Colorado. It's a tradition they don't intend to give up

For America's First Family the word Christmas is spelled S-K-I. Or it might also be spelled S-W-E-A-T-E-R. For the last dozen years Gerald



he is working as a cowhand before entering Duke University next year. All the converging Fords will be laden with gifts for the others and

DECEMBER 13, 1974

HOME

REAL ESTATE

CLASSIFIED



White House

Decorations

For Your Home

By Kathryn Elliott
Star-News Staff Writer



UPDATE

For immediate release
Friday, Dec. 6, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will accept the White House Christmas Tree as it arrives at the South Portico Friday, Dec. 6 at 11:15 a.m.

The tree is a concolor fir, 19 1/2 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter at the base. It will be placed in the center of the Blue Room.

The tree was grown in Michigan and was selected a year ago by the National Christmas Tree Growers' Association. Making the presentation to Mrs. Ford will be Edward Cole of Mayville, Mich., who is the National Grand Champion Grower for 1974.

Accompanying Mr. Cole for the ceremony:

- Mr. Cole's wife and two daughters, Linda Cole and Mrs. Laurie Batzer
- Mrs. Ouina Gardner (The tree was cut from her front yard in Mayville and donated to Mr. Cole and the Christmas Tree Growers' Association).
- Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Michigan)
- Rep. J. Robert Traxler (D-Michigan)
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald Chard of Mayville, Mich., who furnished the vehicle for the trip.

A 14-foot blue spruce for President and Mrs. Ford is also being delivered. The tree will be placed in the West Hall of the Family Quarters of the White House.

#

Friday, Dec. 13, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will host a Christmas Ball for members of Congress on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 9 p.m. It is black tie and will be held on the State Floor of the White House.

About 900 guests are expected. Included in the guest list are members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cabinet members, senior White House staff and congressional liaison aides at the White House.

Entertainment will be by New York pianist-orchestra leader Mike Carney, who will provide music for dancing in the East Room. A light buffet will be served in the State Dining Room and the Marine Dance Combo will provide music in the Grand Hall.

Table coverings will utilize the overall quilt-hand craft theme of the White House Christmas decor this year. Tables will be draped with red cloths topped with patchwork fabric which has been given to the White House by Papiers Peints, a fabric shop in New York. The material is a specially screened cloth in a red and green pattern called "Friendship Train and Clover."

Floral arrangements will be in 3-foot high gold genie baskets and will consist of red carnations and holly, oregon cedar and incense cedar. Arrangements on the cabaret tables in the dancing area will consist of hurricane lamps surrounded by mixed greens and holly.

There are three creche figures at the base of the Christmas tree in the Blue Room of the White House. The two angels are from Mexico and believed to be from the 18th century. They are on loan to the White House from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a gift of Mrs. Loretta Hines Howard of New York City in 1964. The figure of the infant is French and of the 13th Century. It is on loan from Mrs. Loretta Hines Howard.

#

For details on press coverage, please call 456-6269 or check schedule on President's press office bulletin board.

For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

New York pianist-orchestra leader Michael Carney will entertain at the President and Mrs. Ford's Christmas Ball for Members of Congress tonight.

This will be Mr. Carney's first appearance at the White House. He and his orchestra have played for various parties in the Washington, D.C. area in recent months, including the Meridian House Ball, the Corcoran Art Gallery dance and a dinner dance at the Embassy of Iran.

Carney, 37, grew up in Irvington, N.Y., and started playing professionally at the age of 14 by forming a 7-piece band. As an undergraduate at Northwestern University, he formed another group which played for fraternity and school parties. He met his current partners, Gerry Romig and Rick Lewis, while in college, and the three played on a part-time basis in the Philadelphia area while involved in business careers.

He entertains throughout the country from his base in New York. Engagements have included the Jewel Ball in La Jolla, Ca., the Coconuts Party in Palm Beach and the Passavant Cotillion in Chicago.

#

For immediate release
Thursday, Dec. 12, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford will mail their Christmas card Friday, Dec. 13 to about 40,000 Heads of State and foreign dignitaries, Members of Congress, some state and federal officials and personal friends of the family.

The card is a reproduction of an engraving published in 1831 entitled "The President's House, Washington." It is printed on white paper edged with a gold embossed line and trimmed with a 1/2" Christmas green border.

#

photograph of Christmas card available

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mirrors, 50 carved wooden toys and 75 baskets filled with nuts and gumdrops.

Senior citizens from across the country, women from



SIGN OUT, PLEASE

President Ford seems to be getting closer to removing some of the Nixon holdovers from his Cabinet. When he took office, Ford asked the Nixon men not to submit the letters of resignation that are customary at the start of a new Administration. Now, close friends of the President are privately spreading the word that the time has come for everyone except Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to make the gesture. No one knows how many resignations Ford plans to accept, but advisers interpret last week's election as a massive repudiation of the Nixon Presidency and conclude that new faces are called for.

AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS

Greece and Turkey are significantly closer to reaching an agreement over Cyprus than they have indicated. Greek Foreign Minister Dimitri Bitsios told Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the world food conference in Rome last week that the broad outlines of a settlement over the embattled island have been agreed upon. But Greek Premier Constantine Caramanlis wants no further action until after this weekend's Greek elections.



UPI

A NEW WINTER WHITE HOUSE

During their annual ski vacation at Vail, Colo., this year, President Ford and his family will not stay in their own condominium apartment but at the home of Dallas oilman Dick Bass. The Secret Service decided Ford's modest third-floor apartment was too difficult to guard; it also is too small for the President's staff. The Bass house is a large stone structure with half a dozen bedrooms. The owner will swap it for the Ford apartment during the President's visits, and Ford will pay rent.

UGANDA LIB

Princess Elizabeth Bagaya, the former fashion model who now is Uganda's Foreign Minister, has given a fresh clue as to why she took the job with the government of strongman Idi Amin. Her ultimate objective, the princess has told friends, is to get women into top posts

in Uganda's army—the only way, she says, to give them real influence in the country's army-dominated regime. The princess (right) also has managed to secure the appointment of a woman as Uganda's new ambassador to West Germany.



UPI

PROBING ROCKY

Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller faces stiff questions from a Senate committee—this week on still another controversial aspect of his actions as governor of New York—his 1970 commutation of a prison sentence for his onetime aide and political confidant, L. Judson Morhouse, now 60. Morhouse's two- to three-year sentence in a bribery case was commuted on the ground that he was suffering from cancer and Parkinson's disease and that a jail term would threaten his life. Congressional investigators say they have evidence that some corners were cut in obtaining medical justification for the commutation. Robert Douglass, a former counsel to Rockefeller, denies that any improprieties occurred and notes that medical certification was not required by law.

MILEAGE VS. EMISSIONS

Publicly, Ford Administration officials are saying that automakers will get no major environmental concessions in the drive to achieve a 40% improvement in gasoline mileage by 1980. Actually, Detroit's managers have been told—in writing—that they can count on an extra year's grace before they have to meet emission-control requirements, a key part of current clean-air laws. Congress set 1977 as the deadline for emission controls, which can have an important effect on gas mileage. But a Department of Transportation working paper sent to auto men before a meeting with Administration officials in Washington late last month told them to assume a deadline of 1978.

NEW NOTES FOR STREISAND

Barbra Streisand, whose brass-band style made her a superstar in "Hello, Dolly!", "Funny Girl" and other hits of pop music, is changing her tune. Columbia Records is planning an album that will feature her belting out songs by classical composers Claude Debussy, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, George Frederick Handel and Hugo Wolf. One critic who had a chance to hear a demonstration tape had high praise for her performance of this difficult repertoire.

President to Vacation in Colorado

The President will depart Sunday for a working vacation in Vail, Colo., ABC reported.

ABC's Steven Geer, in a film profile of the landscape and nightlife of Vail, said the President, who has been vacationing at Vail for five years, will be arriving "with an entourage" this year.

One of the President's ski instructor's Brad Lichenfeld, (on film) said the President "is a fairly good recreational skier...I think he really enjoys it, though he won't make the pro-racing circuit this year."

Geer reported the use of the Bass lodge and the President taking up residence there, this year.

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FORD-CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD ARE GETTING READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH PLANS TO SEND OUT 40,000 GREETING CARDS AND TO HOLD A SERIES OF PARTIES INCLUDING A BALL FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

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NO DATE HAS BEEN SET YET FOR THE FORDS' DEPARTURE FOR VAIL BECAUSE IT HINGES ON WHEN CONGRESS QUITS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. BUT A DEPARTURE IS EXPECTED AROUND DEC. 20, WITH THE FORDS STAYING AT VAIL THROUGH THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

12-03-74 14:11EST



First Lady Betty Ford and her daughter Susan made an ornament for the White House Christmas tree from "scraps out of the sewing basket" and some heirloom lace. Mrs. Ford autographed the bauble.



folio

- Television
- Amusements
- Classified
- Comics



Betty Ford led the applause at the Christmas party at the White House for children from the diplomatic corps.

Washington Star-News

Thursday, December 12, 1974

Section D*

port

All the Kids (Betty, Too)

Loved the Show

By Isabelle Shelton
Star-News Staff Writer

*'Twas two weeks before Christmas,
and kids filled the house.*

*The First Lady was hostess with the
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For immediate release
Monday, Dec. 9, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host a party for children of members of the Diplomatic Corps Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at the White House.

The Amazing Randi (Magician-escape artist James Randi) will provide the entertainment. Mickey Mouse will also make an appearance. Santa Claus and five clowns will be on hand to help Mrs. Ford greet her guests.

About 500 children are expected. The guest list was coordinated through THIS, The Hospitality and Information Service, a volunteer organization to help Diplomatic families in Washington, D.C. Some 89 countries will be represented at the party.

#

BACKGROUND:

The Amazing Randi is a 46-year-old bewhiskered magician from Canada. He says he got his start about 20 years ago while performing in Montreal. The Quebec police watched his escapes and magic tricks and decided he would be a good man to test the security of their city jail. He says he was handcuffed, put in a restraint belt and chains, and placed in jail. He escaped, and the next day the Quebec newspaper labeled him "The Amazing Randi," and his career was launched.

Between performances, he lives in Rumson, N.J. with his adopted son. He has appeared across the US, Canada, Europe and Asia, and has performed on the Mike Douglas and Johnny Carson shows.

Santa Claus is being played by John Nidecker, Special Assistant to the President.

The five clowns are members of the Almas Temple Shrine, ^(Wash, D.C.) the sixth year they've helped entertain at Christmas parties for Diplomatic children. They are John Barrett of Rockville, Md; Max M. Feinsilber of Takoma Park, Md.; William Hillsman of Hyattsville, Md.; Lyle J. Howard of Annandale, Md.; and Lloyd E. Webb of Rockville, Md.

The children will be given a photo autographed by Mrs. Ford and candy, donated by Sen. William Brock of Tennessee.

The centerpiece on the refreshment table in the State Dining Room features patchwork doll-versions of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and his elves. Dressed in patchwork outfits, Santa and Mrs. Claus are holding a large basket of holly. The elves are looking on from a bed of greens on a patchwork runner.

The gingerbread house in the Dining Room was made by Hans Raffert, assistant executive chef at the White House. It is made from gingerbread, icing, candy and cookies, and is entirely edible except for the figures in front.

#

Wash Post 12/25/74

PEOPLE/FASHION

The First Family's Fashionable Schuss

By Nina S. Hyde

President Ford's skiing may not be much improved, but his new ski garb meets all the requirements for



A White Christmas for the Fords

Christmas for the Gerald Fords can be summed up in one word — ski. Every member of the first family, including Mrs. Ford, wants new skids, clothes, or new boots, or

anything else," said Betty Ford.

The First Lady, herself, intends to ski for the first time in several years. She has been reading up on cross-country skiing in

Betty Beale

But I am going to try. In cross-country skiing you don't have the constant

Cross-country requires an entirely different boot, binding and skis so she

der. Young Britt is liked by all the family.

"Even her brothers an-

"I got him several things but he has already wheedled them out of me," responded Nancy. "I got him gold and lapis lazuli cufflinks in Japan and he wheedled me into giving

As for all the entertaining this pair of country-loving Boston bluebloods will have to do, the gray-haired, wide-eyed, pretty Mrs. Richardson said: "I just look at it as a totally

Christmas at the new winter White House



Christmas at the new White House



by Frances Spatz Leighton

In bygone years we have had Presidents who've managed to put their personal stamp on Christmas. Andrew Jackson staged "snowball" fights in the East Room of the White House (the snowballs were made of cotton and the combatants comprised all



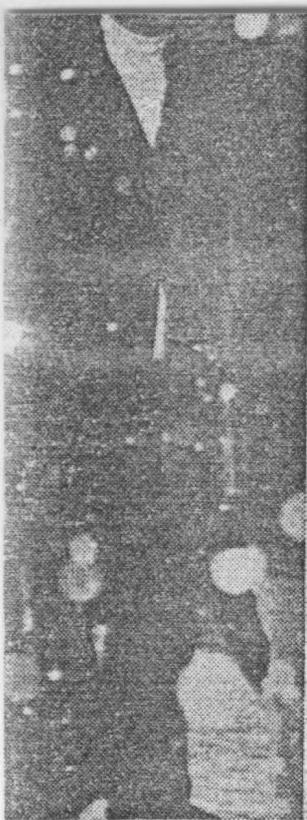
It's Not Exactly a 'Winter White'

By JAMES P. STERBA

Special to The New York Times

VAIL, Colo., Dec. 30—President Ford's rented home during his Christmas skiing vacation here is already being called the new Western White House, but many Vailites say it doesn't fit the image.





United Press International

left a Vail restaurant.



Associated Press

Living area in the home the President is renting from Richard Bass.

Exactly an Exciting Spot for Social Life

head for bed. They go to sleep.

There are some exceptions.

newspapers here.

Mr. Knox and 1,500 or so permanent residents here like

social rulers of Cincinnati, who arrived at their home here yesterday and, as far as

friend to live with, and they usually stay home at night and watch television or listen

Coterie of Friends

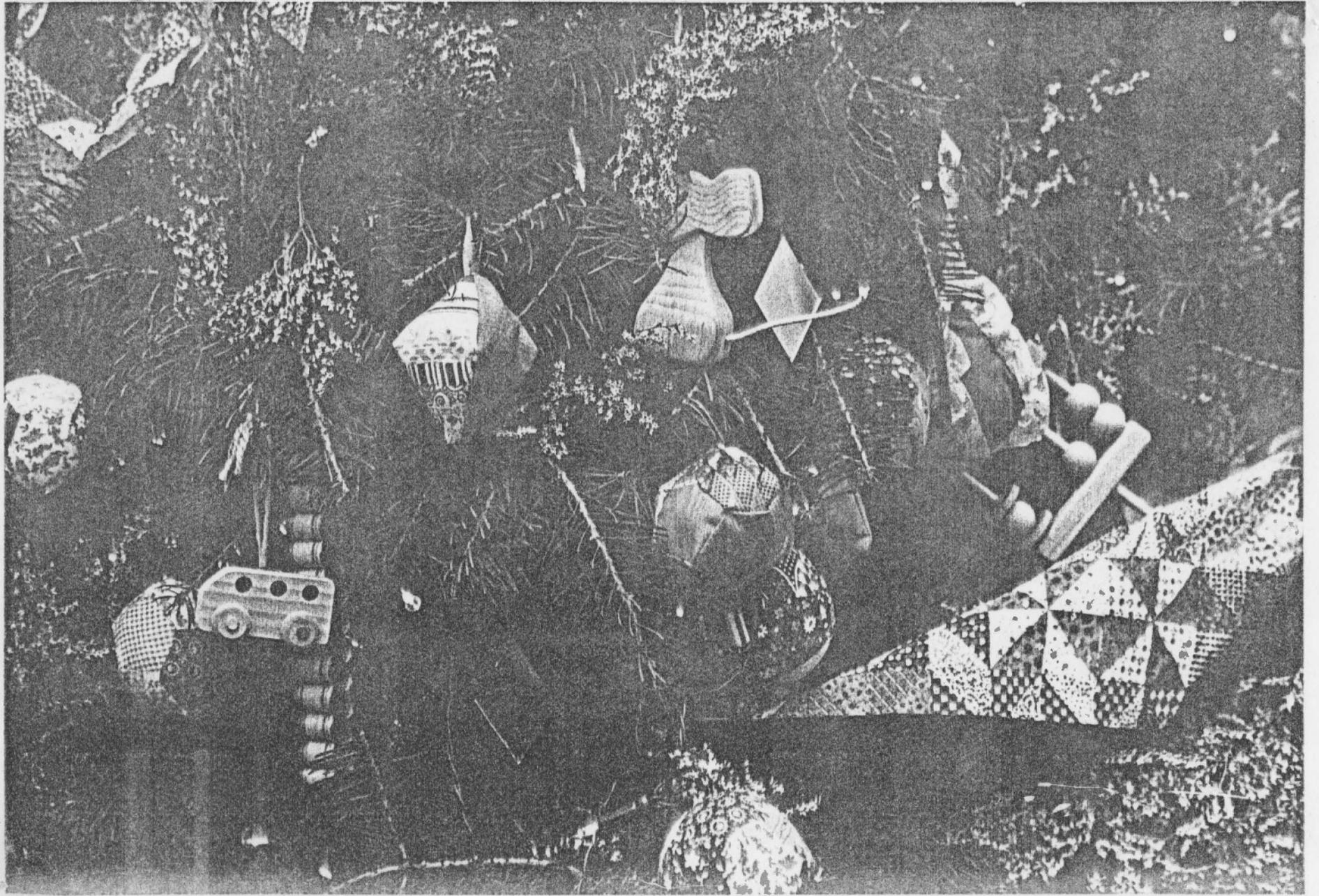
Fuss for the President has been inevitable, but minimal. Nearly every night after a day's skiing and the pesky business of running the country, Mr. Ford and family have ventured out of their five-bedroom chalet—but usually not more than a few hundred yards—to a reception or dinner, usually with the same small coterie of Vail friends the President has known over several years of skiing and golfing holidays.

On Tuesday, before Christmas Eve church services, the Presidential family had dinner next door with the family of C. E. "Ted" Kindel, whose father was the President's scoutmaster in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Thursday, it was a small dinner, again next door, at the home of Fitzhugh Scott, a Milwaukee architect who speeded up construction on his indoor swimming pool here so the President could use it (he has) but who insists that it not be labeled "the President's pool."

"It's my pool and I built it for myself," he said.

Saturday night was the hottest night out for Mr. and Mrs. Ford so far. They went to a dinner given by George Knox and Lawrence Burdick at Red Lion Inn, which Mr. Burdick owns, with 19 other couples. Guests were members of Mr. Ford's college fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon (most were from different schools, however). The President reportedly felt comfortable with the group, and stayed late.





Local florist is picked to decorate White House

BY KATHRYN MARTONE

Today Correspondent

Little Falls — Edward Von Bargaen, a local resident, recently spent an unusual weekend in the nation's capital. He was one of 14 florists who were selected by FTD (a florist's wire service) to decorate the White House for the holiday season.

He explained that Mrs. Ford kept it "elegant and simple" with a lot of greens and red ribbons. He quipped that perhaps inflation and budget cuts had caused her to cut costs and decorate less elaborately than many former First Ladies, but added that the overall effect was "excellent, really fabulous!"

Von Bargaen said that fresh green wreaths and arrangements were used with plenty of plants and



age 3

Possaic, M. J.
Herald-News

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Coverage of press preview of
White House Christmas decorations

Pickup time
in Press Lobby

For reporters: a tour of the decorations will be given at 2 p.m. This will be followed by a question/answer session with Mrs. Ford in the Blue Room regarding the decorations.

1:55 p.m.

For stills and crews: there will be room for crews from ABC, NBC and CBS and a pool of four stills to shoot in the Blue Room as Mrs. Ford answers press questions. Pool of stills: AP, UPI, Washington Post, Washington Star-News

2 p.m.

For stills and crews, not involved in Blue Room pool: there will be full press coverage of Christmas decorations at the close of the question/answer session.

2:45 p.m.
approx.

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now

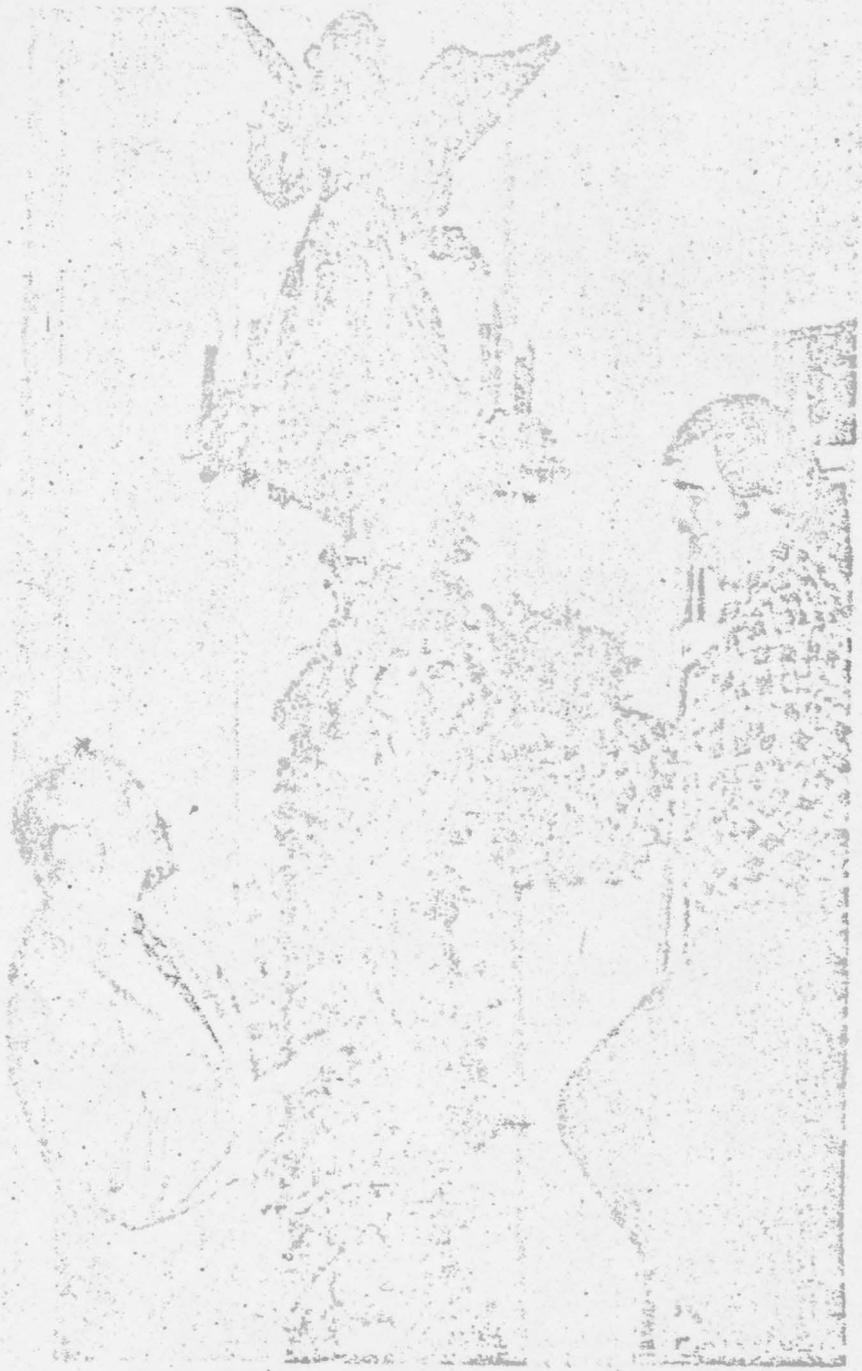
ere

He is vice president of the board of East Orange General Hospital and vice president of the Ironbound Manufacturers Association. Other activities include Robert Treat Council, Boy Scouts of America; Garden State Ballet, Red Cross and the United Fund. A former mayor of Livingston, he has long been active in the Republican Party.

W. Paul Stillman of Fair Haven is in his third six-year term, having been appointed initially in 1960. He is board chairman of the First National State Bank of New Jersey and board chairman of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.

Stillman has been awarded honorary doctorates by Rider College, St. Lawrence University, Seton Hall University and Drew University. He is a director of Union Camp Corp., Tri-Continental Corp., Good Fair Stores, C. F. Mueller Co. and Becton-Dickinson and Co.

Sagner, a resident of South Orange, was a partner in the Levin-Sagner Co., a building and development firm in Livingston, since 1946. He is president of the board of trustees of Newark Beth Israel Hospital and vice president of the Health and Hospitals Council of Metropolitan New Jersey.



SPRUCING UP THE WHITE HOUSE — Ed Von Barga, right, of Little Falls, works on Christmas decorations in the White House with the aid of Ervin Williams, the White House's chief horticulturist. Von Barga was one of 60 florists chosen by the Florists Transworld Delivery Association to help decorate the historic building for the holidays.

Decking out the White House

By CAL DEAL

Herald-News Staff Writer

LITTLE FALLS — Only 60 of the nation's florists were chosen to decorate the White House for this year and Ed Von

Dining Room, where boxwood greens had been carved in the shape of a large gazelle and placed among plants and fresh greens.

More than 100 people were in-
cluded in the work each day, he

short time watching the kitchen's operations.

Security was tight and at times it took Von Barga a half hour to get through the White House gate as he arrived from his hotel. Sometimes

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

THE UNITED STATES NEWS

WORLD REPORT

1705-1-100
\$15 BILLION
TAX CUT
COMING?

Betty Ford's Folksy White House

NEW PROGRESS AGAINST PAIN

Interview With a Leading Medical Authority

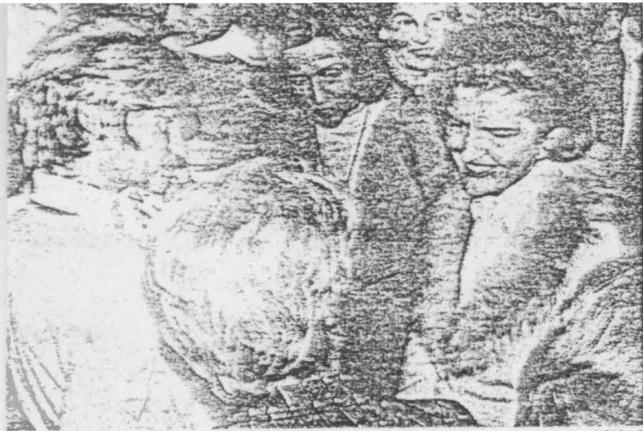
BY [Faded Name]



Betty Ford's Folksy White House

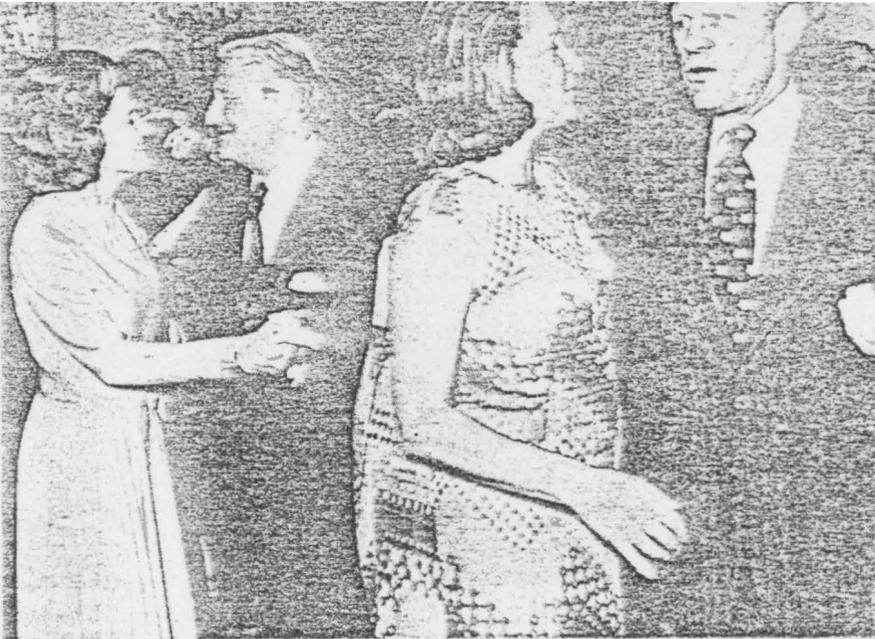
"Happy, free and open."

That's what the First Lady wants the Executive Mansion to be—and she's doing her best to make it that way.



At a brunch, Mrs. Ford thanks volunteers who helped answer "get well" messages after her operation.

USNA/WR



The Fords enjoy dancing. The President demonstrates his skill with Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller while Mr. Rockefeller dances with the First Lady.

WIDE WORLD



A beaming President with singer Vikki Carr. At official dinners, the entertainment is lively and diversified.

USNA/WR



Family fun is often exuberant. As her informally clad father looks on, Susan Ford, 17, takes a zestful bounce on the trampoline at Camp David.

DAVID KENNEDY



Ex-Beatle George Harrison, a friend of son Jack Ford, is part of a richly varied guest list at the White House.

WIDE WORLD

U.S. News & World Report

THE UNITED STATES NEWS

WORLD REPORT

\$15 BILLION TAX CUT COMING?



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