

The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “Christmas, 1975 - White House Tours” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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For immediate release
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1975

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

The President and Mrs. Ford will open the White House to the public for two evenings of tours during the Christmas season. The tours will be Dec. 29 and Dec. 30 from 6:30 -- 9 p. m.

Reservations are not required. Admission is free, and visitors should come to the East Gate of the White House (on East Executive Avenue) to participate.

The tours will be by candlelight, with torches lighting the East Entrance and the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. Lights in the residence will be turned to candlelight intensity. There will be fires in the fireplaces. The string ensembles of the Armed Services will provide music. Each visitor will receive a momento explaining how to make some of the handcrafted ornaments on the White House Christmas tree.

In addition to the public tours, there will be some special tours for:
-about 700 children and adults in schools or programs for the handicapped and mentally retarded in the Washington, D. C. area; Dec. 18, 1:30-3:30 p. m.
-White House press corps and their families, Dec. 29 1-3 p. m.
-Members of Congress and their families, Dec. 23 2-5 p. m.
-White House staff and families, Dec. 22-23 7-9 p. m.

The first special tour of the Christmas season was for about 1300 senior citizens. It was held Dec. 11 from 6-8 p. m.

#

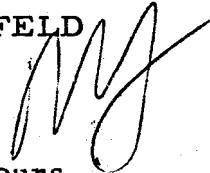
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD
MIKE FARRELL
Special Holiday Tours



For your information the following holiday tours have been scheduled:

1. Thursday, December 11, 1975, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Candlelight Tour for the Elderly

At Mrs. Ford's request we extended an invitation to senior citizens to visit the White House. The invitations were extended through several national organizations for senior citizens. There were fires in the fireplaces, and the Army String Ensemble performed. Each visitor received one of the holiday letters from Mrs. Ford containing the instructions for the decorations.

2. Thursday, December 18, 1975, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Mrs. Ford has asked that we schedule a holiday tour in cooperation with the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. The Committee will be working with various schools and organizations in the metropolitan Washington area in extending the invitations. Mrs. Ford sponsored a similar tour last year. One of the Armed Service string ensembles will perform, and each guest will receive the holiday letter.

3. December 22 and December 23, 1975, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Candlelight Tour for the White House Staff and their families.

4. Tuesday, December 23, 1975, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

At the request of President and Mrs. Ford the White House will be open for Members of Congress to drop by with their families to view the Christmas decorations.

5. December 29 and December 30, 1975, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

At the request of the President and Mrs. Ford the White House will be open to the public for candlelight tours. There will be fires in the fireplaces, and string ensembles of the Armed Services will perform. The lights in the Residence will be turned to candlelight intensity, and torches will light the East Entrance. Each visitor will receive a holiday letter as a momento. Reservations are not required, and admission is free. All those who wish to participate should come to the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

Special Note: You might wish to do the Candlelight Tour for the Public as a separate release to make sure that people are aware this will be taking place.



R B

PHOTOS-TV:

BETTY FORD'S PRE-CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK INCLUDES A (2 P.M.) THURSDAY VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN (1731 BUNKER HILL RD., NE) WHERE SHE WILL HELP DISTRIBUTE GIFTS AND PARTICIPATE IN A PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN. OTHER EVENTS ON THE WHITE HOUSE SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK INCLUDE A PRESS PREVIEW OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ON MONDAY; A WHITE HOUSE PARTY TUESDAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS; A BALL FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WEDNESDAY NIGHT; AND A RECEPTION FOR THE MEDIA ON FRIDAY NIGHT. CONTACT: PATTI MATSON, 456-2164.
UPI 12-12 03:01 PES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1975

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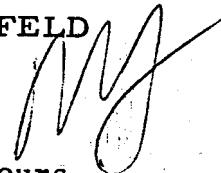
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Press Tour - 29th

1:00 - 3:00

Year
November 21, 1975

To: AARFAC Christmas Files

From: Ann B. Brown

Re: Popcorn Strings

See attached xeroxes from 1972 and 1974. This year we had to decorate two trees, the usual tree at AARFAC and a 19' Christmas tree for the White House. To do so requires triple the amount normally required. We also decided to use dried red peppers on the strings alternating with popcorn.

We were not able to get old popcorn from the Williamsburg Theatre as we have in the past. Mr. Alexander, Manager of the Cafeteria kindly took their machine out of storage and popped the equivalent of four large garbage bags of popcorn for us. This was a donation to the Folk Art Collection.

The red peppers were supplied by Mr. Irvin Sprinkle of the Landscape Department, and some were also raided from Libby Hodges of the Flower Section. To obtain the best peppers, Mr. Sprinkle should be notified of our need and the quantity desired in September, the first part. Peppers need a long time to dry, and pepper crops are very susceptible to climate change. This year apparently was a bad year for growing peppers, and consequently, we had great difficulty in obtaining the amount of peppers desired.

We contacted Mrs. Peters, Director of Volunteers of Eastern State (229-4200) who arranged to have the patients in occupational therapy. Mrs. Peters handles all the arrangements from her end. AARFAC's responsibility is to provide popcorn thread, needles, and refreshments for the patients. We brought the popcorn to the hospital on Nov. 1, and it was ready for us to pick up on Nov. 20, on the date we stipulated. Mrs. Peters told us in advance when we could pick up the peppers, and all arrangements went through her office.

We provided 32 -40 embroidery crewel needles (with large eyes) and 30 yards of white thread (125 yards a spool). We also provided cookies and coke and paper cups for approximately 35 people (the amount was suggested by Mrs. Peters.) The strung and unstrung popcorn was stored in plastic garbage bags.

The people at Eastern State were very cooperative and helpful. There seemed to be no difficulty in having the patients string red peppers.

A. B. B.