

The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “Ford, Susan - Events - 6/8-12/75 - Ansel Adams Yosemite Workshop” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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The Ansel Adams Yosemite Workshop

Bill Turnaz - Business Manager - general aide

Can refer press questions re Ansel Adams /~~209~~ 408 624 2558
Once the Seminar has started (209)372-4511 625 1803

Susan is going as Ansel Adams' guest - she is paying her own air fare

28th year for June workshop in Yosemite -- it specializes in creative photography

June 8-18 - intense 10-day workshop

Includes about 68 students; in addition, 9 professional photographers who teach; all the photographers who teach have had some impact in creative photography; 9 staff assistants who help, as well.

Everything is done in small groups of 8 to 12 each; many of the classes are held outside; much of the photography is done with a polaroid so students can have an "instant analysis"

workshops are very flexible,

- i.e., afternoon session might be with Ansel Adams -- maybe analyzing photos -- or individualized critique sessions;
- i.e., darkroom sessions, showing cropping, etc.
- i.e., evenings might be a slide show or lecture, usually end at 10:00 or 10:30 p.m. -- rapping follows with other students and instructors

9:00 a.m. is usually starting time, but for instance might have dawn photos -- it varies a lot

Emphasis is on informal, flexible schedule

Headquarters is small gallery in Yosemite -- The Ansel Adams Gallery (darkroom is there). Note: probably shouldn't release unless pressed -- the people know around there

Ansel Adams lives in Carmel, California; he met with President in late January to talk about National Parks -- then had lunch with Betty Ford and she took them on tour; mentioned how interested Susan Ford was in photography--because of that, and the President and her brothers relationship with National Parks, Ansel Adams invited her.

Ansel Adams is described as Americas most renown creative photographer in the country - photographer as artist; not really "landscape photography," but does have long relationship with national parks. Born in San Francisco in 1902 - nose broken in San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

Pretty much the first 68-70 who apply - invited Susan a month ago -- held a spot open in case she could come (they always have many more applicants than they can accept). They hoped to meet in San Francisco in January, but schedules didn't jibe.

Students will stay -- either campout in the park (1,000 square mile park - California) or in cabins or hotel rooms. Most stay at Yosemite Lodge -- rustic -- central accomodation.

Age of students -- all over the map -- range from 16-17 to 70's; usually one-third students; one-third a variety of doctors, lawyers; one-third photographers making a living at it; very broad range of abilities.

Ansel Adams' basic philosophical concept is the inspiration of natural beauty and photography; reason for the workshop in Yosemite is correlation between natural emotional feelings and the photos that result.

Students use their own cameras. Susan has a NIKO Mat (35 mm)

Two of the professional photographers -- Arnold Newman, renown American portraitist, New York, and Philip Hyde, color photography specialist, Taylorville.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 5-27-75

TO:

Shelia Kidenfeld

FROM: Kathy Tindle

For your information: _____

Comments:

Per your conversation
w/ Dave Kennedy.





ANSEL ADAMS

ROUTE 1, BOX 181, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA 93921 TELEPHONE (408) 624-2558

May 14, 1975

Mr. David Kennerly
Personal Photographer to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear David,

Bill Turnage told me that you had indicated you would be glad to deliver my letter to President Ford. I believe the subject is of great importance, both to the President personally and to the future of the country. Your support and assistance are more deeply appreciated than I can say. I enclose a copy of the letter the President sent me last month, and to which I am responding, and also a copy of my letter to the President for your information.

I hope you will be able to make the long-promised visit to Carmel soon. Perhaps, if Ms. Susan Ford decides to accept my invitation to the Yosemite Workshop, you could come out for a day or two at that time.⁺ One way or another, let's get together!

Warmest regards,

Try! AA

Encs.

AA:ar



May 14, 1975

Ms. Susan Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Ford,

My good friend David Kennerly has told me of your interest in photography. I would like to invite you to attend, as my guest, my June workshop in Yosemite National Park. The workshop begins on the 8th and continues through the 18th. As you will see from the enclosed poster, we have a variety of outstanding creative photographers on the staff, including Arnold Newman, the great portraitist, who has recently photographed your father.

The workshop is intended for photographers of all levels and persuasions, but a serious commitment to the medium is certainly helpful, as the ten days are rather intense. We utilize field sessions, darkroom teaching, seminars, print critiques and lecture/slide presentations as the situation requires. I think you would find it a very stimulating environment and there are always quite a few young students with whom you would have much in common. As you may know, Yosemite National Park is among our great national treasures, and June is a particularly beautiful time. The waterfalls are at full roar in the Valley, and there is still snow in the surrounding high Sierra. I have sent a copy of this letter to David and hope that you would seek his advice if the invitation interests you. We would be happy to make all of the necessary arrangements in Yosemite.

I will look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, please give my warmest personal regards to your parents. I admire them very much and have the warmest memories of my January visit to the White House.

Sincerely,

AA:ar
cc: David Kannerly ✓





ANSEL ADAMS

ROUTE 1, BOX 181, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA 93921 TELEPHONE (408) 624-2558

May 14, 1975

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

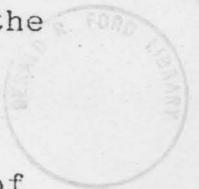
My Dear Mr. President,

Your continuing interest in my ideas concerning our National Parks is a source of great pride. I am fully aware of the honor you have accorded me, first by meeting with Bill Turnage and me, and now by responding to my memorandum in your good letter of 8 April. I have pondered long and hard about a response, as I do not wish to take your time with polite but meaningless sentiments. I believe the President, more than anyone else, must be exposed to frank and candid views, even if they differ in substance, as mine will in this letter. But I respond in a spirit of constructive candor because I have great respect for your openness and remarkably direct approach. I have asked our mutual friend, David Kennerly, to personally deliver this letter to you because I wish to maintain that marvelous directness of communication that David has done so much to foster.

I accept the high level of idealism presented in your letter and warmly congratulate you for the stated commitment to the National Parks Idea. I continue to feel, however, that a clearer statement and more emphatic element of leadership is needed from The White House. The appointment of a career man to lead the National Park Service is nice, but frankly raises further concern about the commitment to change and to imaginative new concepts in Park management. I sincerely question whether the necessary leadership is going to come from the NPS at this time and under the present staffing. Like many old bureaucracies, the Park Service needs a real and recurring push from "the top" - and that means the President.

I must further state the deep dismay with which I and, I think, all of my environmentalist friends, view the selection of Stanley Hathaway as Secretary of the Interior. This appointment has caused a major trauma in the environmental community, and has grievously eroded the credibility of the Administration's commitment to a positive environmental ethic. I believe you underestimate the depth and strength of the new environmental concern in America. What is done is done, of course. May I, Mr. President, suggest an ameliorative next step? The appointment of a strong Under Secretary of Interior, acceptable to environmental

*Jim
John
June 8-75*



President Gerald Ford

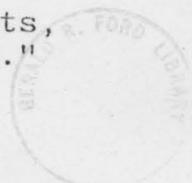
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groups, would be very much the most constructive decision you could make. The present Assistant Secretary of Interior, Nathaniel P. Reed, would without question be the candidate most able to "redress the balance." Bill Turnage and I would be honored to work with your staff and our environmentalist colleagues in effecting a new and progressive modus operandi. Again, I implore you to have a high regard for the eternal realities of our physical environment. The economic crisis is a short-term phenomenon; our "little planet" is the only one we have, and we must have it for a long time. A balance between economies and environment is possible. Indeed, it must be possible, if we are all to survive and progress. Your leadership, Mr. President, must -- as on the Parks issue -- be dynamic and not passive.

I would like to ask for a further commitment to new leadership in the area of the National Parks. Your letter mentions that a Task Force has been established to take a fresh look at the Park Service. This gives me little comfort, as the Task Force is totally internal (NPS) and led by a tired, superannuated bureaucrat from the Santa Fe, New Mexico office. What kind of new and truly imaginative broad-scale thinking can we expect from a group of that calibre and composition? Why not a distinguished Presidential-level Commission to define the role of National Parks in their second century? Do not the Parks deserve the very best minds and hearts our nation has?

In closing, Mr. President, I wish to renew my personal plea for leadership from you. The Office of Management and Budget casts a pall over every agency in Washington, and even Cabinet Officers cannot alter the course of government-by-accountant. Only you can set the priorities. Only you can stimulate new approaches and new levels of energy. I deeply believe that the American people would respond, in the Bicentennial Year, to bold leadership from you on a program of National Parks for the Future.

Thank you, Mr. President, for taking the time to read my plea. I hope we can work together in the months and years ahead. I regret my inability to join you at the State Dinner tomorrow, but, as I explained to Mrs. Ford, I must be in Tucson to receive an honorary degree from the University of Arizona. Meanwhile, I have invited your daughter to come to Yosemite National Park in June and study at my annual photography workshop. If she accepts, rest assured that we will look after her with "parental concern." If she is seriously interested in photography, I believe she would find the workshop a remarkable learning experience.



President Gerald Ford

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My warmest personal regards to you and Mrs. Ford, as well as to that superb young photographer who is doing so much to raise both the public's esteem for photography as well as its understanding of your work as President. It has been one of the great opportunities of my life to know you, Mrs. Ford and David.

Warmest personal regards,



Ansel Adams

cc: David Hume Kennerly



Notes on People

Betty Ford May Speak at Women's Parley

As more countries begin to name delegations headed by their "first ladies" — or by Cabinet-level ministers or prominent women, and sometimes by women who are both talk-show hosts and



Wash. Post - 6/11/75

Seeking a 'Women's Year' Talk

First Lady Betty Ford is being urged to deliver the main address for the United States at the International Women's Year conference

Free Course

Susan Ford is a guest of Ansel Adams at Yosemite National Park and is not paying for the 73-year-old

Personalities

by Mrs. Ford



Wash Post - June 10, 1975

Personalities

A Pair of Arrivals

Steven and Jack Ford are staying at the White House now, for the first time since their father became President and Nixon, who ordi-

than display in Playboy magazine."

The parks director, Alfred Howard, said that "breast-feeding is a natural and

Washington Post 2/11/75

Seeking a 'Women's Year' Talk by Mrs. Ford

Free Course

Susan Ford is a guest of Ansel Adams at Yosemite National Park and is not paying for the 73-year-old nature photographer's 12-day course, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

Personalities

chatted with Ethel Kennedy, her daughter Courtney, her escort Bob Woodward, Ray Schoenke, the Redskins' lineman, and television cor-

that the trees were at the end of the runway.

Croce's hit records included "Don't Mess Around With Jim" and "Bad, Bad

first. After that the idea of suicide had vanished.

Zappa Zapped

American rock singer Frank Zappa lost a court claim for \$19,000 yesterday over a canceled concert in

dent Harry S. Truman, was graduated from Milton Academy in Milton, Mass. last weekend.

His father, Clifton Daniel Sr., associate editor of The New York Times, gave the



ARTS

ANSEL ADAMS IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND BEFORE A BELOVED RIVAL'S CAMERA



COURTESY OF N.Y. GRAPHIC SOCIETY—ANSEL ADAMS

Ansel Adams's 1944 photograph of snowy Yosemite now hangs opposite Gerald Ford's desk at the White House.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

Betty Ford loved the picture, she told Adams as they toured the Lincoln Bedroom, because "you can see the clouds move."

Together they represent 133 years of shutter-snapping. So when Ansel Adams, 73, the dean of nature photographers, got together recently with 91-year-old photographic doyenne Imogen Cunningham, the conversation was professional—and predictable. “Now, Ansel,” declared the nononsense nonagenarian as she arrived at Adams’s Carmel, Calif. home, “I’m going to take your picture, and then

Though nearly a generation older than Adams, a fact she announces triumphantly, Cunningham is no less industrious. She made her first photograph in 1901 and is still hard at the job—leaping into and out of cars and through heavy doors without assistance, gleefully flashing the peace sign to hitchhikers on the road. Famous for her portraits, she has been honored for her pictures of such friends as Mar-

maker named Roi Partridge, in the nude atop Mt. Rainier. “You couldn’t chase a naked man around Rainier those days,” says Cunningham, who shelved the series for 50 years.

As for her pictures of Adams (which she took at the request of PEOPLE), she said ecstatically: “Oh, look, I actually got him to frown. Ansel is such a smiley person. In fact, he’s too damn nice.” And Imogen? “I have a terrible

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