

**The original documents are located in Box 45, folder “Ford, Susan - "Seventeen" Column - Press Coverage” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE · PRESS DEPARTMENT

FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
3/10/75

# Seventeen News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Susan Ford's "White House Diary"

PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER TALKS ABOUT MALE CHAUVINISM, THE PRESS, AND  
A PROM AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN FIRST COLUMN FOR SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE

NEW YORK -- Susan Ford sounds off about women's capability, male chauvinism and her feelings about the press in the first of her monthly columns in the April issue of Seventeen Magazine (on newsstands March 27).

Susan, whose column is entitled "White House Diary", takes issue with remarks attributed to Gardner Britt, a boy she has been dating. Gardner was recently accused of "male chauvinism" by one magazine writer because he said he assumed Susan would stay home and raise a family rather than have a career.

"I don't believe Gardner's a chauvinist and I resent the article," Susan writes, "because I feel it took out of context things both of us said. I think I'm not the kind of person to have a career, but it's too early to tell. I know I enjoy photography, athletics and fashion -- there are so many possibilities!"

But she does admit she disagrees with Gardner about one thing. "He thinks men are more capable. I think a woman can do as good a job as a man. It all depends on the job and the person."

Susan admits she "loves children and would like to have several." And while she feels someone has to be at home with the children, she says it doesn't have to be the mother. "If the man is a family-type person who likes being with children and the woman prefers to work -- he should stay home and she should go out to a job."

The 17-year-old President's daughter recalls her feelings about the press

-more-

following Mrs. Ford's operation for cancer. "In the beginning I resented the fact that the reporters were always standing there when we went in and out of the hospital. I felt they were invading my family's privacy. But later I realized that the publicity about my mother was very good because it has helped other women and saved so many other lives."

Things are pretty much back to "normal" for us now, she says, although "my mother has to take it easy. Her doctor says she is coming along very well, and we're all so grateful."

Like high school seniors across the country, Susan is busy with arrangements for her senior prom -- except her graduating class at Holton Arms, the private girls' school she attends, will truly have a night to remember. They have been invited by President and Mrs. Ford to hold their prom at The White House.

"We usually have the proms at a country club or hotel, but when my parents said we could have it at The White House, the whole class of '75 is now helping plan it."

The prom will be held Saturday night, May 31, from nine to midnight, with two bands. The class picked the first group, "Outer Space" from Maine. Susan picked "The Sandcastle," a group she heard at a party in Virginia.

Still undecided is who Susan's date will be, but the President's daughter has selected her prom gown -- it's a ruffled print long dress by Barbara Quincy for Murray Hamburger, which she models in the April Seventeen.

Also undecided is whether to hold the dance in the East Room, which has huge crystal chandeliers, or outside on the South Lawn, in a big tent in which a dance was once given for Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Anne. And whether boys should wear black or white tie.

Refreshments will be similar to proms across the country -- soft drinks and nonalcoholic punch and "we're still deciding what else to serve," Susan said.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(newsstand date: April 29)

Susan Ford's "White House Diary"

PRESIDENT WILL DEFINITELY RUN IN 1976, DAUGHTER SAYS IN MAY SEVENTEEN

NEW YORK -- Political pundits can stop conjuring up possible candidates for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1976, according to Susan Ford.

"My father will run for reelection," Susan writes in her monthly column for the May issue of Seventeen Magazine, "and while my mother wasn't too happy about moving to The White House in the beginning, she is basically very adaptable. That's why it's easy for her to adjust to the idea that my father will run for reelection. If he's happy, we're happy."

But the President's 17-year-old daughter reveals that "if Dad and Mother do talk together about some of his big decisions, they never do it in front of me. When I've walked in on conversations and knew I shouldn't be there, I've left." She further reveals that "sometimes when Daddy comes upstairs at night you can see he is tense. He tries to let his cares slip away as soon as he steps off the elevator. But he can't always manage it." Then Mrs. Ford and sometimes Susan suggest calling "the boys" (her three brothers, all away from home) or maybe some friends.

One "decision" Susan prefers to discuss with her father is money. Sunday night is allowance time at The White House and each week the

President asks Susan, "How much do you estimate you'll need this week?" Susan says the amount runs from seven to 12 dollars (this does not include clothing) and there are actually times when she says, "Daddy, I don't need any money."

Her budgeting abilities may have been learned from Mrs. Ford, whom Susan describes as "unmerciful when it comes to money. Anyone who has been around her is bound to become a bargain hunter."

Susan credits her mother with showing her how to recognize well-made clothes and to stay away from poorly made ones or fad items that will be out of style next year. The First Lady and her only daughter are about the same size and often swap clothes. "We have one red velveteen jacket that we swap back and forth all the time. I can't even remember who it originally belonged to," Susan admits.

And when it comes to boy friends, she definitely prefers discussing this topic with her mother. "Mom doesn't hesitate to give me her opinions about them and usually I take her advice. Sometimes I talk to my dad about my boy friends but not as often. Mostly he just teases me about them."

But, Susan points out, "Both Mom and Dad have always been willing to listen. We haven't always agreed, but it would be pretty dull if we did. My parents encourage us to think for ourselves."

However, she concludes, "My mother doesn't ever talk to me about any of her problems. She doesn't coddle us kids either, and she has never tried to hang on to us."

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FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
4/28/75



# *seventeen*

YOUNG AMERICA'S FAVORITE MAGAZINE

320 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022  
(212) 759-8100

June 23, 1975

Sheila:

Here are copies of the news release for Susan's  
June column.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Karen Poydenis*

Karen Poydenis  
Publicity Department



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Newsstand date: May 29)

Susan Ford's White House Diary

PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER SAYS GROWING UP WITH 3 BROTHERS IS "LESSON IN SURVIVAL"

NEW YORK -- When you're the only girl in a family with three older brothers, "growing up with them has been a lesson in survival," according to Susan Ford.

The President's daughter, 17, writes in her monthly column in the June issue of Seventeen Magazine that her brothers -- Mike, 25; Jack, 23 and Steve, 19 -- "never miss a chance" to let her know if "I look too fat or my hair looks awful."

Susan recalls that she wasn't her brothers' "first choice." Just before she was born, Mrs. Ford decided that a fourth boy would be more practical than a girl. And, in fact, she remembers that her brothers "used to threaten to send me back."

This may be one of the reasons Mrs. Ford never trusted the boys to baby-sit for Susan. "They liked to go to the fuse box and turn off the lights to scare me," she says. "Or they'd hide under my bed and when I kneeled down to say my prayers, they'd suddenly jump up and grab me."

As she grew older, Susan's dates were "always screened" by one of her brothers. If she had a date with someone they hadn't met, they would make her stay upstairs about fifteen minutes while they "chatted" with him. They never went so far as to break off a date, but if they got "bad vibes, I'd hear about it when I came home."

But turnabout is fair play and occasionally when Susan and her brothers have double-dated, "I tell them what I think of their dates too." Eldest brother Mike is now married; Jack has just graduated from Utah State as a forestry major and "is more independent and political than the rest of us. He's the one who gives Dad the young people's views on ecology, Vietnam and amnesty."

Despite the teasing and lesson in survival, Susan says, "I've always looked up to them and counted on my brothers as friends." She concludes that "my brothers are a good deal -- even if they did originally want to send me back."

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FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
5/27/75



FROM THE DESK OF

LOLA CHERSON

June 17

Dear Sheila -

Enclosed are copies  
of the release sent to  
the Washington list  
plus women's editors  
throughout the country.

Regards,

Lola

**seventeen**

320 Park Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 759-8100

FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
6/19/75

FOR RELEASE JUNE 26 & THEREAFTER

"White House Diary"

SUSAN FORD'S SUMMER PLANS INCLUDE SHARPENING PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS

NEW YORK -- What does a President's daughter do during her summer vacation? "This summer I have more things lined up than I'll probably ever have time to do," writes Susan Ford in her monthly column in the July issue of Seventeen.

Photography is number one on her list. Susan explains that her senior project at school was taking pictures of her father at work. "That was fun but I need a lot more experience before I'm ready to show my pictures to anybody but my family," she admits.

So part of this summer she plans to go to news and feature events with some professional photographers she knows who cover The White House. And she'd like to do a photo essay on Washington, D. C. "The city is so alive -- with thousands of visitors who stream in to the famous monuments. I'd like to capture that feel of activity and excitement if I can," Susan reveals.

Other summer plans include "fun reading" as opposed to required school assignments. Two favorite authors are Mark Twain and Herman Hesse and books on her list include J. R. R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" plus "Portrait of the Assassin," which President Ford wrote after he served on the Warren Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination.

Susan also hopes to spend time at one of the beaches on the Atlantic. "I especially love swimming in the ocean, but the part I like most about the beach is the feeling of relaxation and aloneness. I can sit by myself, enjoy the motion of the waves and fall asleep listening to the gulls." ###

FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
7/23/75

Susan Ford's "White House Diary"

FOR RELEASE JULY 29 & THEREAFTER

PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER TALKS ABOUT GHOSTS AND LINCOLN'S BED

NEW YORK -- Susan Ford believes in ghosts and that's one reason you won't find her sleeping in the famous Lincoln bed in The White House.

There have been too many stories about Lincoln's ghost supposedly seen pacing that room, she writes in her monthly column in the August Seventeen. And when another President's daughter, Margaret Truman, and two of her girl friends stayed in the big bed one night, they actually didn't get any sleep at all.

"But it wasn't because of any ghost," Susan explains. "It's just that the bed is terribly lumpy and on top of that, Margaret Truman learned that her father had planned to play a trick on them by having a butler dress up in a tailcoat and stovepipe hat and drift in during the night." But the butler got sick and spoiled "the plot."

Several former White House families have left a "mark" behind them. David Eisenhower hid several notes reading "I shall return" with his name. And Lynda Johnson, about to be married to Charles Robb, left a piece of tape glued to a shelf which read: "Lynda Bird's hope chest."

When Susan showed it to the Robbs on one of their visits to The White House, Lynda had forgotten all about it and was surprised it was still there. She wanted to tear off the tape, Susan reports, but Mrs. Ford said no; she was going to have it varnished over, as a small bit of White House history that the next "tenants" might enjoy finding as much as Susan did.

The President's daughter reveals that she "plans to leave my mark" when the Fords move out, but what that will be is slated as a surprise. ###

THE WASHINGTON POST

F 2 *Thursday, July 10, 1975*

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Susan Ford made an auspicious start in her summer job as a photography intern at the Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal. A photograph she took at a Shawnee County land auction was

Susan Ford's "White House Diary"

PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER GETS LETTERS ON DRUGS, DOGS AND DATES

NEW YORK -- Some Americans write their Congressmen or the President himself, but more than 200 citizens sit down every week and send their problems and opinions to the President's daughter.

"When my Dad was a congressman, I used to be amazed at the things people would write him about," Susan Ford says in her column in the September Seventeen. "But now that he's President, I'm surprised at the things people write me about!"

Susan reveals they range from getting the President to stop deportation proceedings against former Beatles' star John Lennon, using her "influence" to decriminalize the use of marijuana to a complaint from a man that the famous racehorse Secretariat had been retired to a stud farm!

"I can't intercede in any of these matters," she says. "For instance, I love the Beatles' music but it would be improper for me to interfere." She did ask about the Lennon case and found out it was going through the right channels at the Immigration Commission.

Among the unsolicited mail is a lot of advice and criticism about her own activities. One memorable postcard had a picture of a donkey -- with the written message: "Any jackass can take pictures." She received that after stories appeared about her attending a photo workshop during the summer.

And then there were the dog lovers who complained after the papers ran

pictures of the Ford family's birthday party for Liberty, their golden retriever. One called it a "posh pooch party" and others wanted to know how food could be wasted while people were starving.

"Actually, the party was no big deal," Susan writes. "Liberty gets lonely so I had her brothers and sisters come from nearby Virginia for her to play with. We shaped her dog food into a cake and that was all there was to it!"

Susan gets many letters from young people. But her favorites are from little kids because "they're so cute and funny and some of them want me to baby-sit for them." Some Washington area mothers have written requesting Susan's baby-sitting services. On the other hand, there are letters that have advised her not to baby-sit. "You're too old," they say.

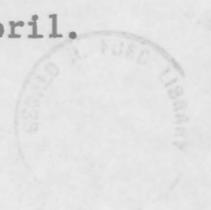
There are also many people who simply want to be pen pals with the President's daughter. And others, of course, write asking for dates. "If I had the time, some of the pen pal offers sound tempting. But the dates don't interest me because I have my own friends to go out with," she explains.

After receiving thousands of letters, Susan says she's not always certain why people write her. "Sometimes they think I can help cut through red tape and sometimes they just need a sounding board. Or sometimes they're lonely, like the woman who wrote she was old, alone and facing an operation, and it would hearten her to get a letter from me."

Susan enters Mount Vernon College in Washington next month. In order to devote her time to her freshman studies, her column in the September issue of Seventeen will be her last. She began the column last April.

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FROM: Lola Cherson  
Publicity Director  
8/20/75



WASHINGTON POST 8/19/75

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# Letters and Postcards Keep Rolling In

Susan Ford, the 18-year-old daughter of President and Mrs. Ford, has been swamped with an amazing amount of mail, at the rate of 200 letters a week.

She talks about her mail in her final column in the September issue of Seventeen magazine. Some of her

for his honeymoon home, and he walked out owning a hotel.

Frederick "Rick" Alexander bought the 95-year-old Union Hotel for \$3,000 and also got the furniture he wanted for his fiancée and their new home.

No one was more surprised than the 21-year-old University of Nebraska senior when he ended up a hotel own-

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- SUSAN FORD HAS WRITTEN HER LAST WHITE HOUSE DIARY ARTICLE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

PRESS SECRETARY SHEILA WEIDENFELD SAID THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER "FOUND IT WAS TAKING TOO MUCH OF HER TIME" IN VIEW OF HER CURRENT SUMMER COMMITMENTS AND FALL COLLEGE PLANS.

SUSAN, 15, WHO STARTED WRITING THE MONTHLY COLUMN IN APRIL, BEGAN A SIX-WEEK INTERNSHIP THIS WEEK IN THE PHOTO DEPARTMENT OF THE TOPEKA (KAN.) CAPITAL-JOURNAL AND ENTERS MOUNT VERNON COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IN THE FALL.

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## Susan Ford Giving Up Her Magazine Column

Susan Ford will give up her monthly column with Seventeen magazine after the September issue, the White House and the

"She just does not have the time now, with the summer program she has planned for herself, plus entering college in the

## PERSONALITIES

# The White House Diary of Magazine Columnist Susan Ford

the tradition of recent identical daughters, Susan Ford, 17, has obtained a magazine columnist. "White House Diary" appear in Seventeen be-

who understands so well that the highest title this country has to offer is Citizen Volunteer and that in the free societies men have both rights and responsibili-

family. This is a job in itself—he has eight children and 13 grandchildren.

## Thomas Elected

Helen Thomas, White

elected to the Gridiron Club.

Other new officers, to be installed on May 3, are Lawrence M. O'Rourke, vice president; Paul F. Healy,

erans who hit the New York theatrical bigtime, will be married March 29 in Brookline, Mass.

Sherin, who directed the "Of Mice and Men" which

Great White Hope" at Arena later made her a Broadway star and won her an Oscar nomination for her performance in the film version. Sherin also directed Alexan-

they had broken a ring of exporters of fake paintings. Nine persons were identified as being associated with the export of modern paintings to the United

musical folklore" has been written in the Soviet Union by Ukrainian composer Ilya Meitlis, 72, and dedicated to the anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Ger-

Notes on People

Dutch Visit to Saudis Off Over Ban on a Newsman

The Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Max van der Stoep, has postponed an official visit to Saudi Arabia because that country refused a visa to a Dutch journalist who is Jewish.

The newsman, Jaap van Wesel, works for the left-wing weekly *Brij Nederland*, mainly in Israel. The Saudi embassy at The Hague said last week that no Jewish journalists would be allowed to enter the country for Mr. van der Stoep's visit, which was to begin March 22.

Mr. van der Stoep, in a written answer to questions, told the Dutch Parliament yesterday: "I wish to emphasize that the Dutch Government rejects any form of discrimination on the basis of race and creed that might form the basis for the granting of such visas." He expressed hope for better relations between Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands, the first country to experience an Arab oil embargo and the last to have it lifted.

Based on a diary she is keeping, as recommended by her mother and her editor, 17-year-old Susan Ford has begun a monthly column in

seniority. Because he is receiving \$5 a day for the current 60-day legislative session, Mr. Moan can collect only \$67 weekly for unemployment, instead of \$87.

Wasn't it only yesterday that Julie Harris was playing a 12-year-old in "The Member of the Wedding?" Well, it was 1950, and the champagne, flowers and pink-iced cake at the Morosco Theater yesterday were to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the actress's Broadway debut in "It's a Gift," at the age of 19.

Since then she has appeared in 26 Broadway roles—winning four Tony awards, a record—and in major productions elsewhere, as well as in films and television. After yesterday's matinee of "In Praise of Love," Rex Harrison, Miss Harris's co-star, stepped to the footlights and confided the significance of the date to the audience. Miss Harrison, still in costume and long mauve skirt and embroidered blouse, blew out all 30 candles on the cake with one breath.

Frank Blair, who, after 22



The New York Times

Julie Harris with her co-star, Rex Harrison, as he explained the significance of yesterday's date to audience.

school's president for the last 15 months.

Three men will be made honorary professors: President Ephraim Katzir of Israel, a post-doctoral fellow at the school (then Brooklyn Polytechnic) in 1948-49; Dr. Fazlollah Reza, Iran's Ambassador to Canada, who received a doctorate in electrical engineering there in 1950, and Dr. Arnaldo Angelini, president of Italy's National Board of Electric Power.

A luncheon for 850 persons at the Plaza Hotel, with

recorded conversations but it titillated New Orleans this week. Mayor Moon Landrieu told his staff in a memo Monday to use "appropriate caution" in talking to people from *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*, the state's largest newspaper, because the editor, Ed Tunstall, "electronically records his telephone conversations without advising the other party." In a Page 1 story the next day Mr. Tunstall said the taping was "merely a method of memory shorthand" and that conversations were "normally erased the following day."

VAIL, COLO. (AP) -- SUSAN FORD, 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF PRESIDENT  
RD, HAS ARRIVED HERE FOR AN 11-DAY SKIING HOLIDAY DURING HER EASTER  
CATION.

MISS FORD FLEW FROM WASHINGTON TO DENVER THURSDAY.

MISS FORD SAID SHE PLANS TO WORK ON HER NEW MONTHLY COLUMN FOR  
SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE, "WHITE HOUSE DIARY." THE REST OF THE TIME, SHE  
SHE WILL "SKI AND HAVE FUN."

Wash Post 4/29/75 pB-2

## PEOPLE/SCENE

# The Scoop From Susan Ford

Susan Ford says in her  
May column for Seventeen  
magazine—The second of  
"Susan Ford's White House  
Diary"—that her father will  
definitely run for President

among various other roles,  
as the private detective in  
"Psycho," a presidential as-

### Personalities

half-hour dive in minus 28-  
degree weather through the  
thick ice of Denali Park

adopted children, suffered a  
leg abrasion early Sunday  
when he tried to escape the  
flames racing through his  
\$200,000 seaside home by  
climbing down a rope