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February 17, 1975 • 40¢

14227

People

weekly

**Pat Neal, 10
years after**

**Saxbe: Nixon
pressured
me himself**

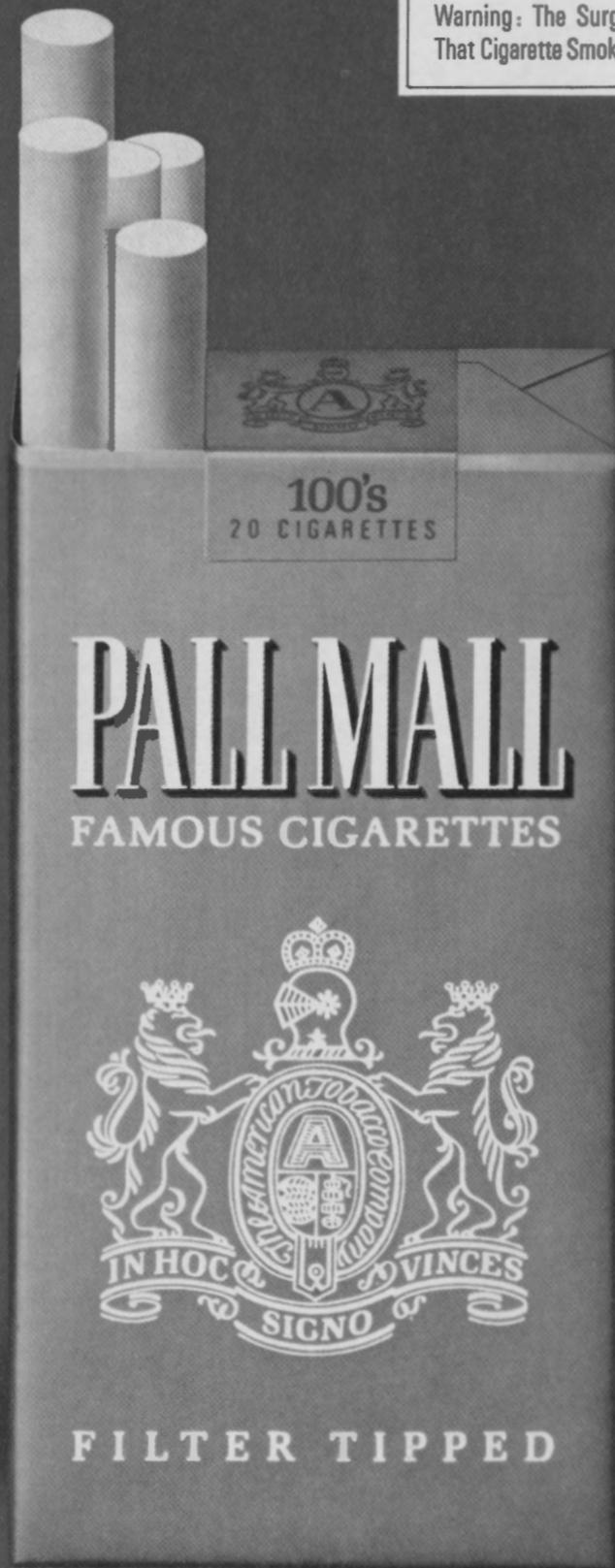
Redecorating, partying,
feeling good again

**HAPPY
ROCKEFELLER**

**Norman Lear:
his dad is
Archie, his
wife is Maude**

**The man who
is building a
plastic heart**

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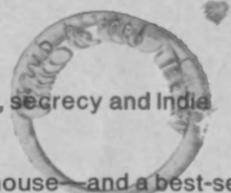
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People

weekly

February 17, 1975 Vol. 3 No. 6

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HAPPY ROCKEFELLER: THE NAME BEGINS TO FIT AGAIN

From the very beginning of her publicity-splashed marriage to Nelson Rockefeller, Margaretta Fitler Murphy Rockefeller has shrunk from the limelight whenever she could. Even last summer, on the day President Ford nominated her husband to be his Vice-President, Happy Rockefeller did not appear at the White House for the formal announcement but remained at the family's New England seaside retreat. Later, after mastectomies were performed following the discovery of cancerous lesions in both breasts, she avoided most public appearances and made only fleeting visits with her husband to Washington.

Recently, however, Happy Rockefeller has been tentatively testing the social waters. While maintaining her customary assiduous silence on political matters, she hosted a luncheon last month at the Kennedy Center for the wife of visiting British Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Then, that evening, she turned up at the White House looking radiant for the state dinner.

Remarkably, she shows no sign of her recent illness, nor is she obliged to undergo sometimes painful physical or chemical therapy. Only a few days ago, during a visit to Admiral's House, the official vice-presidential residence now being renovated, she pirouetted like a schoolgirl for a photographer friend and later posed impishly beside a window. "The real me," she confided cheerfully.

Not long before that, she also enthusiastically led a swarm of some 100 reporters and cameramen on an exploratory tour of the residence. Located on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory, Admiral's House is a turreted Victorian hulk that until last June was the home of the Chief of Naval Operations. Although the Rockefellers would obviously prefer to live in their own elegant dwelling on Foxhall Road in Washington, complete with swimming pool and tennis courts, Mrs.



Though hardly palatial by Rockefeller standards, Admiral's House, situated on a hill near Embassy Row in northwest Washington, will be the Vice-President's official residence.



Her patience rewarded, Mrs. Rockefeller catches a moment with the Vice-President. Soft-spoken but adamant, she keeps her private life out of the news.

TERRY ARTHUR

On one of her increasingly frequent visits to Washington, Happy Rockefeller waits for her husband in his capital office.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 6, 1975

TO: PATTI MATSON

FROM: JUDY HARBAUGH

Enclosed are photographs of the Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller.

The Vice President was born on July 8, 1908, in Bar Harbor, Maine. She was born on June 9, 1926, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Hope we can get together soon!



pls file



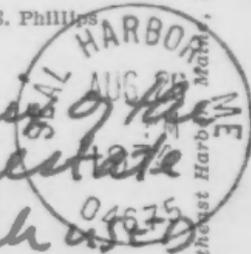
The EYRIE, summer home of the late John D. Rockefeller, Jr. at Seal Harbor, Maine was erected in 1914 and demolished in 1962.

Aerial color by Luther S. Phillips

Seal Harbor, Maine, U.S.A. D. Phillips & Son, Publishers

Dear Patti-

They don't allow pictures of the present Rockefeller estate so here's how the rich used to live. This is a lovely area full of crashing surf, rocks, lighthouses & wild flowers. + today (Sat.) much fog. This has been a fun assignment. The new veep is more relaxed & peaceful than we ever saw him in N.Y. I feel the same way. See you next wk.
Carol



RURAL AMERICA



POST CARD

Address

Patti Matson
571 7th St. S.E.
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Thursday, Oct. 17th, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD'S STATEMENT ON MRS. ROCKEFELLER

"I was deeply distressed when I received the news of Mrs. Rockefeller's operation. I am sure that the love of her family, the prayers of the entire nation and her inner strength will be of great sustenance during this time. I only wish I could be by her side to give her the strength so very many have given to me."



Trewhitt finds "an element of daring" in the choice, "a mark of GF's self-confidence." Further, says the Sun man, "it's a mark of GF's courage that he's willing to have both NR and HAK looking over his shoulder at the same time." ...In article emphasizing NR's "unique assets," WSJ's Otten also finds GF demonstrating "surprising self-confidence, his freedom from fears expressed by some associates that the supercharged NR might in time come to dominate Admin." And announcement itself "also typified the easy, relaxed operating style GF's followed so far."

Carter of NY News features excerpts from Kalbs' book on HAK detailing the Secy's close ties to NR, his hostility to RN in '68 and his subsequent development of "total respect" for RN. Carter sees HAK as central in both RN's decision to resign and GF's selection of NR.

WSJ edit calls GF's week "off to a good start" w/NR and amnesty -- both "evidence of a deft touch on GF's part." NR was "the obvious choice...Clearly a man of nat'l stature... It's reassuring to US to have a known quantity as VP and doubly reassuring to learn a less known Pres. makes his selection on the grounds the selection bespeaks."

NY News "most fervently and heartily endorses [NR]...A 1st magnitude star in a galaxy of lesser lights." The NR choice was "an act of statesmanship" by GF, says NY News. "It speaks volumes for his personal character as well as his devotion to the nat'l interest." Instead of picking "a gray semi-nonentity, ...he chose the strongest and most vigorous individual in sight." Urging confirmation "w/all possible dispatch," NY News says "GF/NR can provide...firm, positive leadership" needed to end the uncertainty "and the sooner they get the green light to proceed in tandem the better it'll be for all of us."

"Responsible and encouraging," says NYT. "A tribute to GF and NR that one was big enough to make the offer and the other big enough to accept. ...NR's a hard worker who knows how to get things done. GF strengthened Admin. and US confidence in his own capacity for disinterested ldrshp, "NYT concluded. ... Similarly, Sun edit says "GF showed the inner self-assurance to pick NR. ...a qualified man at possible expense of a shiny-bright ticket in '76...By opting so dramatically for the GOP 'mainstream,' GF once again showed his instincts for healing and for overcoming the divisiveness that's marred US public life for so long...He's shown a potential for growth and expansion of his outlook that augurs well...Nowhere is this more evident than in nod to NR."



Rockefeller
NOVEMBER 3, 1975Office of the Vice President
Washington, D. C. FW

The Vice President presented the following letter to the President at the White House this morning:

November 3, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

The time is virtually at hand when you will be firming up your program for the Presidential primaries, the Republican National Convention and the Presidential Campaign of 1976. Involving, as this must, difficult calculations, considerations and decisions, it will clearly help you in this task if the range of options is simplified at the earliest time.

As I have told you and the American people, I have been honored by your nomination of me as Vice President and by the approval of the Congress. In association with you in the months since that time, I have come to have the highest regard for your dedication to the Presidency and for your courage, resolution and forthrightness. Your friendship and that of Mrs. Ford mean much to Mrs. Rockefeller and myself.

My acceptance of the Vice Presidency, as you know, was based upon my concern to help restore national unity and confidence after the shattering experience of Watergate. Working under your leadership toward this goal has been challenging and rewarding as our basic institutions are surmounting the unprecedented crisis and the nation is returning to its regular elective presidential pattern next year.

Regarding next year and my own situation, I have made clear to you and to the public that I was not a candidate for the Vice Presidency, that no one realistically can be such, and that the choice of a Vice Presidential running mate is, and must be, up to the Presidential candidate to recommend to a national party convention.

After much thought, I have decided further that I do not wish my name to enter into your consideration for the upcoming Republican Vice Presidential nominee. I wish you to know this now for your own planning. I shall, of course, continue to serve as Vice President to discharge my Constitutional obligations and to assist in every way I can in carrying on to cope with the problems that confront the nation until the installation once again of a President and Vice President duly elected by the people of this great Republic.

Sincerely yours,

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:55 AM EST

NOVEMBER 25, 1974

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: Okay. It's Monday, so this must be Washington, right?

Well, I am not going to try to tell you that this is the most significant briefing since the end of World War II, and I don't expect you to be dazzled by it either.

I see everybody's in good humor this morning. We have a new secretary in our Press Office. That ought to brighten some of your days. Her name is Judith Ann Haugh, and you will see her when you do business with the Press Office.

The President came in a little late this morning, too, getting to the office at 9:20, and since then, he has met with Jack Marsh, Dick Cheney, who you know is Don Rumsfeld's deputy, Bill Timmons, Bob Hartmann and myself.

During the time that I was in the office, the President called Governor Rockefeller and asked about Mrs. Rockefeller's condition.

Q Is that after the operation?

MR. NESSEN: It was about an hour ago, and I am not sure what time the operation was, Fran.

The President said Mrs. Ford was concerned, and Mrs. Ford had thought about calling herself, but it was decided that the President would call and the President said "Mrs. Ford asked me to wish Happy the best."

Mrs. Ford has sent flowers and said "You give her our love, our prayers are with her. When you get a little clearer picture, call us back."

Tomorrow morning, the President will brief leaders of Congress on his talks in the Far East.

Q What time?

MORE

#80

happys
operation



Happy day

NEW YORK — "Wherever Nelson is, I'm happy," says Happy Rockefeller, 48-year-old wife of Nelson Rockefeller, who has been by his side since 1958, when she became a volunteer during his first campaign for the governorship of New York.

But she wasn't at his side in Washington, the day Gerald Ford nominated Rockefeller as his vice-president — a move that left a bad taste with many White House reporters. At his appearance in the press room, Rocky told the press, in a very chauvinistic manner:

"At 9 o'clock last night, there was no suggestion that she be present. This was billed as a sub-cabinet and cabinet leadership meeting, and when I finally got her off the beach at a picnic in Seal Harbor

of Sen. Hugh Scott (R.-Pa.), posed for pictures and lunched with Betty Ford before returning to the Rockefellers' summer retreat at Seal Harbor.

Happy, who has said, "I don't know a thing about politics," has always preferred to stay in the background. In fact, the White House has said she does not grant interviews.

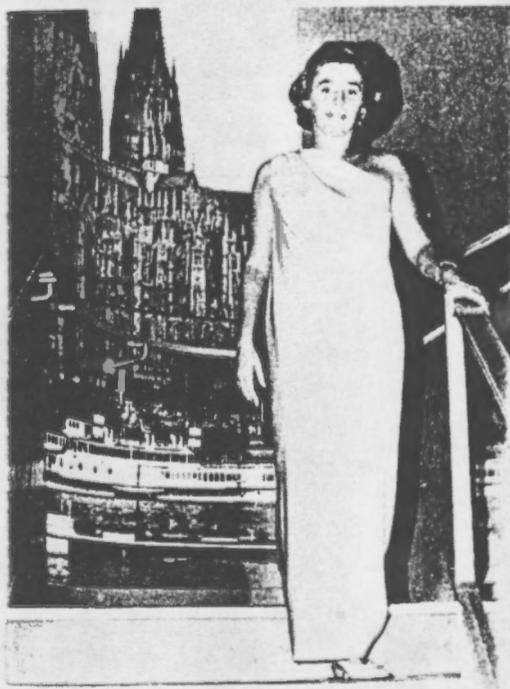
Some say she is totally apolitical, that she's not really interested in the issues, just Nelson.

While somewhat shy in social situations, she handles herself well in public. She's a good campaigner, a good handshaker and terribly devoted to Rocky.

"I enjoy talking things over with Nelson, sharing, being aware. I tell him what I think. Yes, he listens. Unlike a businessman's wife who cannot be part of her husband's job, I can share with Nelson, be with



are here again



1967



1968



1969



1970



Rockefeller and hers in April 1963 from Robin Murphy), had been longtime acquaintances.

The Murphys' Westchester home was adjacent to the Rockefellers' Pocantico Hills estate, built on land bought from the Rockefellers, and both families had

run for New York governor (WWD, Nov. 9, 1966). "I must try to give him all the support I can." And when he announced his candidacy for the GOP nomination for president in 1968, Happy's reaction was, "I'm very proud of Nelson. I'll help him by giving him all

EYE[®]

Report from Sealed Harbor

SEAL HARBOR, Maine — “Oh God! Here comes one of those reporters,” moaned Peter Iselin, his crag-and-roast-beef lunch interrupted.

“Oh, dear, how dreadful,” exclaimed Maud Duane, Iselin’s luncheon guest. “I’m going to say absolutely nothing.”

Peter Iselin is married to Happy Rockefeller’s cousin. Ms. Duane, his mother-in-law, is Happy’s aunt.

“I’m sorry,” said Peggy Rockefeller. “I can’t help you. I have house guests and my husband has retired to another section of the house.”

Peggy Rockefeller’s husband, David, is the brother of Nelson Rockefeller.

“I don’t want to get involved,” said Bill Fletcher.

Fletcher, a stockbroker, lives on the same road as the Nelson Rockefellers and taught their children, Mark and Nelson Jr., to sail.

The telephone rang at the home of Dr. James Slater Murphy.

“Hello?” he said.

The voice at the other end started to identify herself. When the word “reporter” was spoken, Dr. Murphy hung up. Dr. Murphy is Happy Rockefeller’s first husband.

If anyone still had doubts that Happy Rockefeller is a very private person, the reaction to questions about her at this Maine resort put an end to such reservations. The fact that her husband is the vice-president-designate of the United States has not kept Happy from shunning the spotlight.

The feelings extend to her children as well.

“If you really want to alienate Happy,” said

an old sweatshirt with paint on it and frayed dungarees. That’s the reason we like him. He treats the natives like natives. I’m a Democrat, but I’ll vote for his ticket ... as long as he doesn’t run for president.”

“I was sitting right here the other day,” said a gardener outside The Lighthouse Restaurant, “and David come right up and says, ‘Happy to see ya.’”

