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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1975

Dear Meredith:

In response to your November 7 letter with the questions for Mrs. Ford, the following answers corresponding to your questions are forwarded to you for the Bicentennial issue of Women's Work.

1. The need for equal opportunity for everyone is what convinced me to support the ERA. I intend to keep on doing whatever I can for the ERA until it is ratified.
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4. I think a woman should aspire to any office she wants and feels qualified for. By the same token, she should feel prepared to make the sacrifices that go along with running for office. We are never going to have women senators or governors or Vice Presidents or Presidents if women don't aspire to the offices.
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In general, I see the future for women in our country wide open, free to go in whatever direction a woman chooses. Our changing role as women will bring new responsibilities with the rights; but on the whole, I think the changes will bring a focus on the right of every woman to choose her own individual lifestyle. And this is where I feel the emphasis belongs.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Ms. Meredith M. Homet
Women's Work
1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006



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**women's
work**

file

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES for WOMEN

Editor-Frances Knight Palmeri
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 638-4868

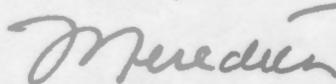
January 14, 1976

Ms. Sheila Weidenfeld
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Sheila:

Just a note of thanks for your assistance in obtaining
WOMEN'S WORK's "remarks" with Mrs. Ford. We hope she is as
pleased with the article as we are.

Sincerely,



Meredith M. Homet
Business Manager

MMH:fhh



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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~~for~~ ^{for which they} have the desire to ~~hold~~

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Women's Work

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES for WOMEN

Editor-Frances Knight Palmer
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 638-4868

821 5 Jay
Arling Va
22204

November 7, 1975

Ms. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Sheila:

I am in New York for the National Exhibit of Women's Programs and Services until November 14th so I will call you when I return.

I have enclosed the questions for Mrs. Ford and a press release WOMEN'S WORK did on the Bicentennial issue. The directors of WOW, my editor and I would like to present the "first 1976 copy" of the magazine to Mrs. Ford with a photographer present. We substituted the "plates" idea in case they are still in Vail on our distribution date of December 30, but this presentation is very important to us.

Thanks so much!



Meredith M. Homet
Business Manager

MMH:fhh

Encl.



Editor-Frances Knight Palmeri
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 638-4868

QUESTIONS FOR MRS. FORD

1. You have become well known as a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. What convinced you to support the amendment? Interpret what happened to ERA in the New York and New Jersey legislatures. In view of its defeat in both places, do you plan to intensify your campaign in its behalf?
2. Wider Opportunities for Women is concerned not only with working women, but we respect the woman who chooses to make homemaking her career. Do you feel that a salary of \$5000+ a year is a fair assessment of a housewife and mother's worth? How do you feel about social security for housewives?
3. It is known that women are the major consumers in this country and yet they have an insignificant voice in the economic life of the US. How can their role be enlarged? How can they move into positions of responsibility?
4. What do you think the political realities are for American women at this time? Do you think women should aspire to the presidency or stick to running for office on the local level?
5. Now we'd like to talk about your role as a political wife. Had your husband not been in politics, what do you think your life would have been like? Do you feel a professional, working wife is a liability to her politician husband?
6. As you know, this interview will appear in our Bicentennial issue. What do you think the role of American women in the Bicentennial is -- and how do you see their role developing in the future?



Editor-Frances Knight Palmeri
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bicentennial issue of WOMEN'S WORK will have an exclusive interview with Betty Ford, the most prominent advocate of women's rights. The plates for this issue of the magazine called "from Betsy Ross to Betty Ford," will be presented to Mrs. Ford at the White House in January.

Also featured -

- : Interview with Carla A. Hills, Secretary of HUD, on women in the Cabinet and housing for the single woman
- : Profiles on American women in history including Olympia Brown, the first woman minister in America
- : Women who work in historical settings such as Williamsburg, Olde Towne Alexandria and Stratford Hall
- : Amelia Bloomer - she started women wearing pants

And for the contemporary woman -

- : Employment agencies - rip-off or tip-off
- : Washington job market
- : Creating your own job
- : Women and math
- : Resources, The Schlesinger Library in Cambridge

The current November/December issue of WOMEN'S WORK, now selling on DC newsstands, discusses

- : The marriage tax and how much it costs working individuals to be married
- : Women and credit
- : Role reversal
- : Starting a day care center



Gold

November 5, 1975

Dear Meredith:

Sorry for the delay. . . however, the enclosed background material on Mrs. Ford is being sent per our discussion.

I will be in New York Thursday and Friday; so let's talk on Monday.

Sincerely,

**Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld
Press Secretary to
Mrs. Ford**

**Ms. Meredith M. Homet
Women's Work
1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D. C. 20006**

Enclosures (Portfolio)

SAR



Women's Work

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES for WOMEN

Editor-Frances Knight Palmeri
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

Dec. 17, 1975

1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 2000
(202) 638-486

October 17, 1975

Mrs. Frederick Dent
Mrs. Donald Rumsfeld

Dear Millie and Joyce:

Thank you for agreeing to help Women's Work magazine reach Mrs. Ford.

The theme of the January/February Bicentennial issue of Women's Work is "From Betsy Ross to Betty Ford." The magazine will show the early American flag with the 13 stars being represented by pictures of American women famous in their own right, starting with Betsy Ross and ending with Mrs. Ford. The uppermost star will be left empty as a symbol of future American women. I have enclosed a copy of the promotion sheet for this issue.

We would be honored if Mrs. Ford would grant me a short interview (questions presented in advance). She is the inspiration of working women everywhere. I am a casual friend from the early sixties when the President and Mrs. Ford came to the house on University Terrace twice when I was married to Jim Cross. It would be a positive, upbeat interview that would enable Mrs. Ford to clearly present her thoughts to our readers.

Women's Work is published by 10-year-old Wider Opportunities for Women, a non-profit, self-help organization dedicated to helping women achieve equality in the job market. It is sold on the newsstands in Washington and we have subscribers in all 50 states. I am enclosing the current issue and some recent publicity the organization has received.

All of us are very appreciative of your efforts

Sincerely,

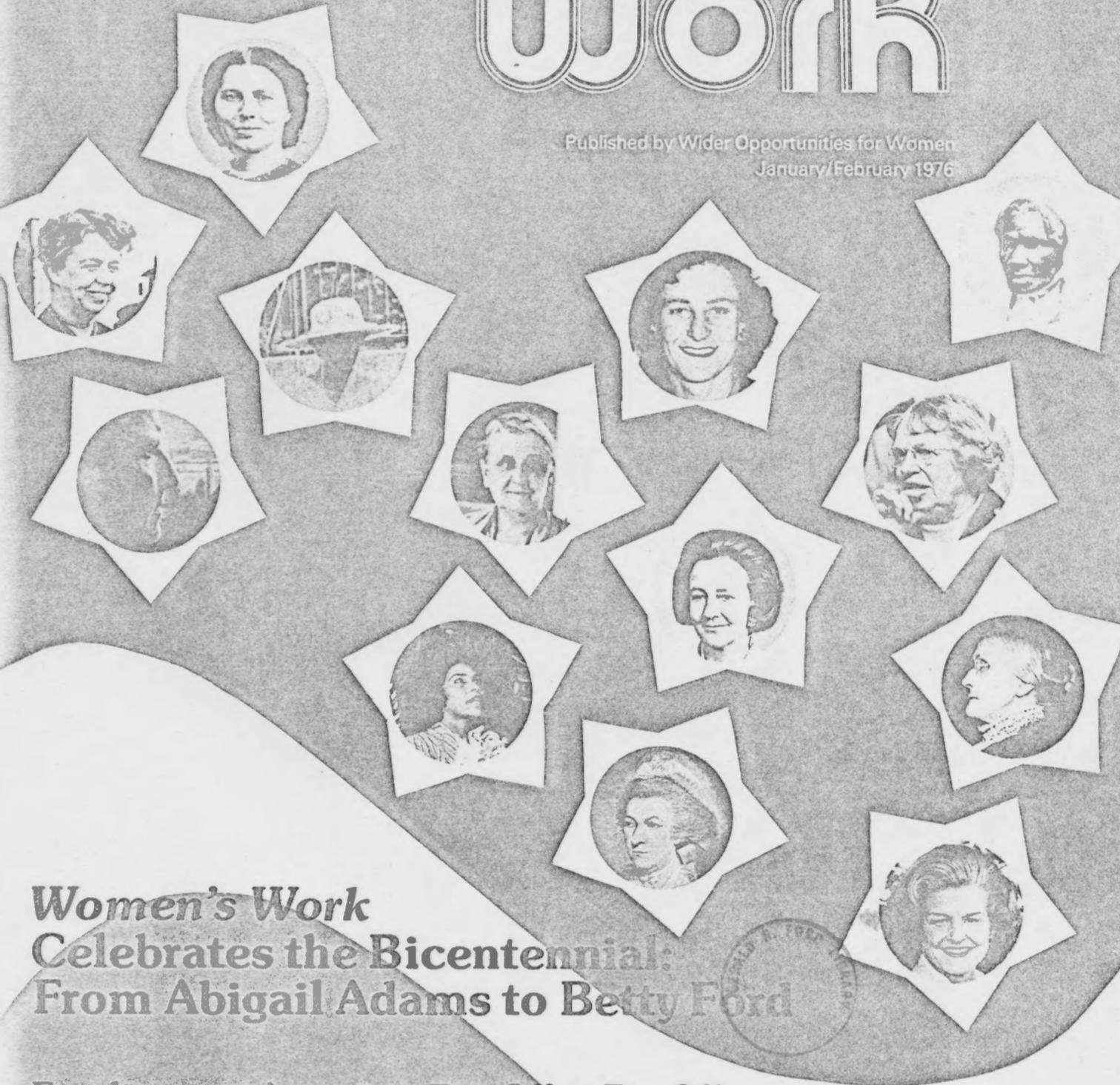
Meredith



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Women's Work

Published by Wider Opportunities for Women
January/February 1976



**Women's Work
Celebrates the Bicentennial:
From Abigail Adams to Betty Ford**

**Employment Agencies: Rip-Off or Tip-Off
Groups Observing the Bicentennial
Interview with Carla Hills**

\$1.00



From Abigail Adams to Betty Ford

Their Private Lives Belong to the Nation

by Helen DuPont



Betty Ford's trademarks — more than her fashionable clothes, good looks and charm — are honesty, conviction and plain speaking. Few First Ladies have ever cared or dared to share pain and suffering with the American public as she has, gallantly and openly. Her honesty in talking about her own personal life and the burdens of being a political wife have engendered an implicit trust in her on the part of a public which has learned to be suspicious of all things tainted with politics.

Cheerfully admitting to lobbying for the political issues she cares about, she talks to the President as she talks to the public: without pulling any punches. "I am my husband's strictest critic," she told a reporter. "He comes to me for it."

The First Lady is an outspoken feminist. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the appointment of a woman to the Supreme Court are important priorities to her, and she makes sure her husband knows it. "If he doesn't get it in the Oval Office," she jokes, "he gets it straight in the ribs." She has not hesitated to use her status to lobby state by state for ratification of the ERA.

Listening to Betty Ford, we hear, echoing across a span of two centuries, the voices of other first ladies. In particular, Abigail Adams, wife of the second president, John Adams, was philosophically and by circumstance remarkably similar to Mrs. Ford: both shared their husband's interest in political issues, both raised large families almost single-handedly while their husbands were on the road, both managed the household responsibilities and both maintained a relaxed and open household.

Reminiscing in his diary about his first meeting with Mrs. Adams, the Reverend William Bently wrote:

"The first time I ever saw Madam was at her own house shelling her beans for a family dinner to which, without any

ceremony or apology, she invited me. . . She was possessed of the history of our country and of the great occurrences in it. She has a distant view of our public men and measures and had her opinions which she was free to disclose but not eager to defend in public circles."

Had the Reverend Bently arrived unexpectedly at the Ford's home just before dinner, he might have had the same reaction to Betty Ford — although he no doubt also would have learned that she doesn't like to cook!

However, Abigail Adams and Betty Ford have one thing in common which transcends home and family: feminism. Abigail Adams maintained a lively and articulate lifelong correspondence with relatives and friends. Through her letters she emerges as a woman of strong and forthright opinion, just as she appeared to the Reverend Bently. Her opinions about women's rights are recorded in pithy letters to her husband. In March of 1776, she directed a communication to him and his associates in the Second Continental Congress to,

"Remember the Ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticular (sic) care and attention is not paid to the Laidies (sic) we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation."

In other letters she spoke frequently of the disparity between educational opportunities available to men and those available to women. Lively and incisive as her correspondence was, she felt her own lack of education,

"If you complain of neglect of Education in sons, what shall I say with regard to daughters, who every day experience the want of it. With regard to the Education of my own children, I find myself soon out of my debth (sic) and destitute and

Cont. on page 20

THE WHITE HOUSE

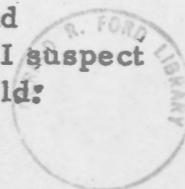
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Ms. Meredith M. Homet
Women's Work
1649 K Street, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006



Editor-Frances Knight Palmeri
Business Manager-Meredith M. Homet

Dec. 17, 1975

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All of us are very appreciative of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Meredith



New magazine defines broader horizons for working women

By PAULA BERNSTEIN

Ten years ago, some Washington, D.C., housewives met over coffee to talk about The Problem. They all wanted jobs. But where to start? Who would hire them? What skills would they need?

Thus was born Washington Opportunities for Women, a self-help magazine

defined as feminine, like dependence, non-assertiveness, conformity and avoidance of competition conflict with achievement-oriented behavior.)

"Our main prupose is to help women in the job world and to find ways for them to get equal pay for equal work," said Meredith M. Homet, the magazine's business manager, in New York recently.

tional jobs. The fact is the work is not divided equally."

She cited U.S. Lbor Dept. figures showing 96% of all people in the U.S. earning \$15,000 or more are white males, with the remaining 4% divided between women and minorities.

"But moving into non-traditional job areas does not necessarily mewn that a woman is going to earn as much as a



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1975

Women Leaving Traditional Roles

By Ron Shaffer

Washington Post Staff Writer

High school just did not do it for Gail Johnson. She skipped a lot of classes because no one seemed to care, was married in the 12th grade and took typing at Cardozo in case she ever needed a job.

"The counselors said that women should be either nurses or secretaries and that we should be sure to learn how to type so we could get a job," Johnson said last week as she wired a transformer to a relay switch of a copying machine.

When she once worked as a

collecting unemployment or welfare checks before they started the training program.

The federal government, through its Concentrated Employment Training Act (CETA) is paying the women \$2.25 an hour and providing day-care service while they study. At a cost of several thousand dollars, Xerox is providing the training.

"I'm no do-gooder. I'm motivated by self-interest," said Xerox plant manager Stephen Rosensteel. The Xerox Corp. wants to be an



Ex-Tulsan is assistant editor

Women, employment discussed in new magazine

By JACQUELYN BOUCHER

Of The Tribune Women's Staff

WHY DO WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR only 1 per cent of the engineering profession?

Why do some classified ads read, 'Women wanted to 'man' front desk?'

How can a female volunteer become a paid employe in her organization?

The answers to these and other questions dealing with women and employment are topics discussed in "Women's Work," a newly marketed magazine published by the non-profit organization Washington Opportunities for Women (WOW). Meredith Homet, a former Tulsan and daughter of the late Mrs. James E. Allison, is assistant editor of the bi-monthly publication.

"We try to help women, starting with the basics — such as explaining how to write a simple resume," said Mrs. Homet during a recent Tulsa visit.

"Then we'll try to provide articles about women who have been successful in their jobs.

"'Women's Work' first was launched in January and was little more than a

TEMPO

pamphlet. Now we have a full magazine with national advertising and circulation in 47 states."

THE PUBLICATION BEGAN as a mass effort on the part of WOW and had no editor. Today it boasts a paid staff of two and a number of nationally known writers whose works are contributed free of charge. According to Mrs. Homet, any money acquired

through advertising and subscriptions, goes to improve the quality of the magazine.

"All involved are working for the love of the cause, which is to help women who want to get out into the working world or who desire employment in a traditionally non-female field."

Strides have been made in the latter, says Mrs. Homet, with the "opening up" of many of the hard-hat areas.

"For a long time women were discouraged from working in these fields because men were afraid their own language would be too vulgar or women would not be physically capable of doing the job.

"If a woman wants this type of job, she must cope with the annoyances or problems herself. They are not the man's worry."

Mrs. Homet says the fields of engineering, law, and scientific research are the areas which have the greatest scarcity of women. WOW maintains an employment service, in addition to publishing "Women's Work," which lists only job which are not traditional wo-

rather than getting bogged down in short term goals. Great progress has been made, but that doesn't mean more can't be done. If women who gain jobs in non-traditional fields do their jobs well, they will put the wedge in the wall that can force a crack."

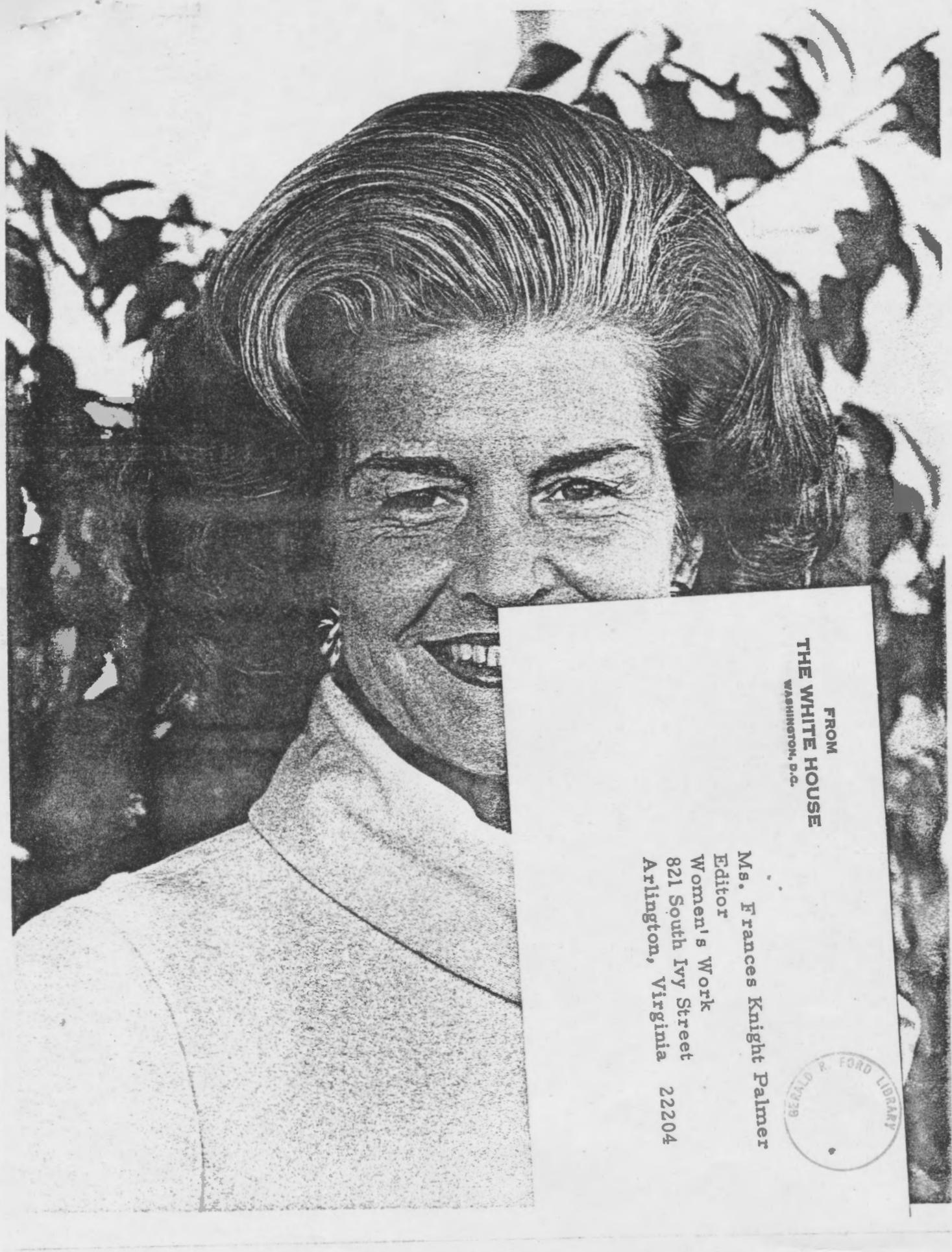
MRS. HOMET'S PRESENT occupation and views seem unlikely in the light of one of her past work experiences.

In 1952, while still living in Tulsa, Mrs. Homet hosted what she now calls a "female nonsense show" on a local television station.

"It dealt with fashion, makeup and cooking, and emphasized the traditional roles of women. I was enchanted with the format at the time, but now when I look back on it, it appears patronizing."

Mrs. Homet traveled to New York from Tulsa 18 years ago and worked as head of national promotion for the New York Times. She later moved to Washington, D.C., where she received a master's degree from American University.





FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ms. Frances Knight Palmer
Editor
Women's Work
821 South Ivy Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204



BRITISH ROAD LIBRARY





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Subject Blk + bot of Mrs. Ford

w/ Women's Group

& glossy hd shot

sent
12/19



Women's Work

Published by Wider Opportunities for Women
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1975



Changing Careers

**Sex Stereotyping
in the Job Market**

**The "Miracle"
at Mexico City**

\$1.00

Wider Opportunities for Women

The Career Center Wider Opportunities for Women (formerly Washington Opportunities for Women) runs the Career Center, a self-help, membership organization that serves Washington, D.C. area job seekers and employers. The Center and its library provide members with career planning, employment and training information and job referral. Operating on an appointment-only basis, WOW's Career Center is located at 1649 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone: (202) 638-4868.

Counseling Programs These offer counseling and testing to individuals and small groups from high school age through adulthood. They were set up to enable women to increase their ability to understand themselves and to develop skills in seeking career and life goals, problem-solving and making decisions. Career guidance courses and workshops, designed to meet each group's special requirements, are provided for both working and non-working women.

Work/Study Programs WOW has created and set up programs for low-income women in skilled occupations previously considered "men's work." The women are placed in well-paying, permanent jobs with upward mobility and given on the job training, supportive services and job-related education as needed during training.

Women Probationers' Program This is an experimental program testing the significance of secure employment along with supportive services in the rehabilitation of women probationers.

WOW: A National Model Since 1972, WOW has provided technical assistance to women's groups and individuals in cities across the nation (including Atlanta, Baltimore, Providence, Boston, Richmond, Minneapolis/St. Paul and White River Junction, Vermont).

WOMEN'S WORK

the magazine in America for the working woman!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

I want to subscribe to Women's Work for one year (6 issues), and am enclosing a check for \$5.00. (Subscription rates for agencies, organizations and firms: \$15.00).

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

I want to be a sponsor of Women's Work and am enclosing a contribution (which is tax deductible) and which includes a free subscription.

Make checks payable to: Wider Opportunities for Women, Inc.
1649 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Cover Photos by Joanne Dolgow

Women's Work

Volume I, Number 5

September/October 1975

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