

The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “12/23-30/75 - Vail, Colorado (2)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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POOL REPORT - A.F.-1, Andrews to Grand Junction, Colo.-Dec. 23, 1975

President Ford, coatless, wearing a business suit, boarded the plane carrying a dark brown puppy in his arms. Mrs. Ford, wearing a fur coat, led Liberty on a leash. We were told later that the puppy was a three-month-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Riva that belongs to Jack, who will arrive in Vail later today from the West Coast. He traded one of Liberty's puppies for ~~it~~ it about three or four weeks ago, according to Sheila Weidenfeld.

Takeoff was at 8:19 ~~am~~ a.m. Passengers included Dick Cheney with his wife and two children, Donald Rumsfeld with wife and three children, Sheila and Ed Weidenfeld, Brent Scowcroft and Ron Nesser.

According to Nesser, the President worked on the plane on two folders of bills and personnel appointments and on other paper work. Nesser said he signed some bills and appointments ~~but none were major~~. He expects "a fair number" of bill signings ~~in Vail~~ in Vail.

Giving what he described as a "human interest story," Nesser said the President put in a phone call at 7:15 p.m. yesterday to Beth Ann Cameron, 8 years old, in Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn. Beth Ann was orphaned when her parents and three sisters were killed in a truck accident in Vermont ~~about two weeks ago~~ about two weeks ago. Since then she has been hospitalized with broken arms, legs and other injuries she suffered when she fell 87 feet from the bridge the family's truck slammed into. According to an AP story in Saturday's Washington Star, she is afraid Santa won't find ~~her~~ her this Christmas because she was taken to the hospital in Connecticut, ~~then~~ after first having been taken to a hospital in New Hampshire. The President, according to Nesser, told her he would make sure that Santa knew where she was so that he could bring her presents. Nesser had no report of the child's reaction. He said the call lasted four or five minutes.

The President plans to ~~change clothes and head~~ change clothes and head for the ski slopes immediately after arrival in Vail, Nesser said.

--Stan Carter



POOL REPORT, December 24, 1975, Vail, Colo.

Meandering through the snow, your pool assembled outside Ted Kindel's house shortly after 7 p.m. to await the arrival of the president and family. A small crowd, maybe 15 or 20 folk, stood around and watched. ~~It~~ Preceded, at brief intervals, by Susan and Steven, The President and Mrs. Ford arrived at 7:31, in a brief motorcade, ~~through the snow~~, coming to dinner.

Easily returning the crowd's greetings, Mr. Ford first waved his pipe and then his hand at them. He and the crowd exchanged "Merry Christmas" and he said "have a nice day ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow."

Reporters asked the President and Mrs. Ford, who was wearing a black coat trimmed with black fur, about what they wanted for Christmas. At one point the President said "just being here." Mrs. Ford said no presents had yet been opened.

Ring~~ing~~ through the air came the de~~ter~~mined shouts of "Merry Christmas" from an upstairs window of a house near the Kindel residence. A group was gathered at the window, and they succeeded ~~at~~ after a time in attracting the President's attention and a returned shout of "Merry Christmas."

Yea, and as the dinner hour had been reached for the President, it had also arrived for the pool, which adjourned to Cyrano's at approximately 7:40, where the friendly management seated us at 8:30. The food was fine.

Caroling was in progress ^(outside) when the pool returned to the Kindel residence at 9:45 ~~at 9:45~~ p.m. It was led by Richard Bass, the president's landlord and the President's tenant, both. ~~He had~~ About 75 persons were singing, carrying ~~some~~ songbooks. They sang loudest when the television lights went on, perhaps because it was then easiest to read the words. They sang "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," and "White Christmas." After a time Mr. Bass left, and with him ^{went} most of the group. But perhaps some 25 persons remained, and when, at 10:05 p.m., a voice with a Brooklyn accent called from an upstairs window "Silent Night," they ~~started~~ sang it.

Happily dancing a ~~jazz~~ jig, or perhaps a hornpipe, Santa Claus emerged from the ~~house~~ house a few minutes later. As he leaped about, the President and Mrs. Ford also came out on the front steps. The crowd sang "We Wish You a Merry ~~Christmas~~ Christmas" and the President smiled and swayed with the singing. He joined in for a bit, and plainly enjoyed himself.

Responding ~~then~~ to their good wishes, he said "Thank you all, nice to see you."

In the course of the drive to the church, the pool was advised that Santa was none other than the ubiquitous Mr. Kindel.



Snow was falling, noticeably enough to keep the windshield wipers going on the drive to the Vail Interfaith Chapel. And when the president got out of his car there, he was ~~once~~ once again greeted with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." He replied "Thank you very much.... God Bless You."

The church ~~is~~ is a simple wooden building, with a small balcony where the musicians sat and performed. It was crowded quite a bit beyond its normal seating capacity, which seemed to be 240. I would estimate the crowd at about four hundred. *The service was Lutheran.*

Mrs. Ford sat to the ~~President's~~ President's left, about four rows from the back. Susan was on his right. Mike and Gail to her right. Steve and Jack and Dr. Ukash in the row behind. With his tan topcoat off, it was possible to see the president attired in a red blazer and a white turtleneck. He wore his glasses through much of the service, and had a couple of spots of windburn on cheeks and upper lip.

After assorted carols, and the Revised Standard Version (I'm pretty sure, and know it wasn't King James) account from Luke ~~2:1-20~~ 2:1-20 of the birth of Jesus, the sermon was preached by Don Simonton, pastor of the Church of the Holy Cross, High Country Lutheran Parish.

Skiing figured prominently in the sermon, as he talked about ski trail design and a prominent local designer Max (Sorry, couldn't catch last name). The designer's main point was to design trails that would have an appeal when a skier looked "back up the trail." And the designer, said, according to pastor Si monton "I design ~~some~~ trails for looking up."

And, he said, "Skiing and Christmas have something in common -- the need to look up if you want to appreciate them fully."

New Mexico, he said, was the place where he first appreciated this fact. A few years ago, walking to church on Christmas Eve ~~in~~ under a star-bright sky, Rev. Simonton himself looked up and heard angels singing ... "I was transported back through the years.... For the first time I was feeling the spirit of that first Christmas."

Drawing on that experience, he observed that the ^{shepherds} shepherds were the only one aware at the Nativity that anything special was happening. The rest, he said, were 'preoccupied with accommodating and entertaining crowds of visitors.... merry-making in the inn... the kinds of things that are apt to preoccupy us in a place like ~~this~~ this."

A true appreciation of Christmas, he urged, requires looking up. "you may see stars, or, hopefully, snowflakes." (that line got a chuckle.)

He emphasized that it was necessary to do more than look up physically, but spiritually, too.



~~And the three of the Nativity, the wise~~ "Always," he said, "it's always a mistake to second guess God," and he cited the failure of the three wise men, for a time, to continue following the star in the east to Bethlehem, or Podunkville, as he called it, but to stop in the capital of Jerusalem

~~Propably~~ Podunkville was not the place, ~~it~~ however, and they learned this when they went to ~~Bethlehem~~. The lesson of that is that "the truly significant ~~and~~ events originate not in capitols or palaces, but in heaven, with God."

~~Propably~~ ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~capital~~ ~~of~~ ~~Jerusalem~~
~~Podunkville~~

Pastor ~~Simonton~~ Simonton said that sometimes the "spirit of Christmas doesn't last much longer than the wrappings and the hangover." He said that was because the focus was too narrow.

~~Yet again he returned to the skiing theme and he spoke of the great~~
Yet again he returned to the skiing theme and he spoke of the great moment in the course of ~~his~~ learning to ski when ~~some~~ skiers "can take their eyes off the tips of their skis and look a little further."

Numbering the advantages of this condition, he said it ~~can~~ facilitates a better feel for the snow, reduces accidents, and, most important, broadens the skier's vision.

Even more important than in skiing, though, was the fact that looking up can promote a better lifestyle, in which a person can be "tuned in to ~~his~~ creator and renewer."

When the worshipers left, he urged, they should "lift up your heads tonight... let your life be more heavenward focused."

(Yesterday is now the day of these ~~na~~ events and I will try to wind this up briefly while maintaining its basic scheme.)

Exiting from the church after the 42-minute service -- a copy of the program is posted -- the President and Mrs. Ford were again applauded. He stopped and shook a few hands, including one of a 6 year-old boy whose name sounded like John ~~Arundel~~ ^{Arundel}, who said he came from Virginia. "Virginia -- that's quite close to the Capitol and the White House," the president said.

~~Arundel~~ ^{Arundel}, or ~~whom~~ whoever, then asked if the president remembered him from a press conference, and the president seemed to say yes.

Regrettably, your pool was by now tearing off with the motorcade, and cannot explain ~~the~~ this last exchange, ~~in~~. We could not ~~in~~ interview the young man to find out what press conference he meant, or how he came to be there. Good night.

Adam Clymer -- Baltimore Sun



Dec. 24

The Fords will be going to church sometime today. The time hasn't been determined.

At 7 o'clock they will be going over to Ted and Nancy Kindel's home for an informal dinner which will include Jim and Gloria Brown and their 5 children, the Kindels and their five children, and the Ford family.

The dinner will be served buffet style ~~and~~ and will include ham, roast beef and fresh salmon. There will also be a relish tray, salad, and the desert will be sherbert, and chocolate and mocha tortes.

The Kindels are close friends of the President and Mrs. Ford. They moved to Vail 12 years ago. Mr. Kindel is Director of Vail Associates. Mr. Kindel's father was President Ford's Eagle Scout leader in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Tonight the Fords will open their Christmas gifts. Tomorrow morning they will open their stockings.



Telegram

NO. WDS.—CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED.	PRESS		OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM
					DPR	NPR	

Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

pool report--dec .25 1975 from bass home to gondola no. 2

President left Bass home at 10:15 a.m. ~~in~~ in midst of light powdery snowfall. Drove in 4-car motorcade to Gondola No. 2x in terminal building. Mr. Ford stopped in front of elevator taking him to ski lift to wish workers there a Merry Christmas. He said to one of them, "Give my regards to Bill." Ford was dressed in blue ski pants and jacket, cherry red boots, white ski cap and brown sweater that looked new. He took chair car No. 8 to top of mountain accompanied by Pepe Gramhammer, Ted Kindel and Larry Buendorf (secret service agent). The presidential party cut in front of about 80 skiers who were waiting in line to use the lifts. President waved to press pool and waiting skiers but did not stop to talk to them. ~~xx~~

His ski car left gondola No. 2 at 10:25.

lou cannon
bob pierpoint



NO. WDS.—CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED.	PRESS		OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM
					DPR	NPR	

Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

Pool report from Pool 2, halfway down Simba trail ---Dec. 25, '75

The president was delayed slightly ^{ON} ~~from~~ his run, we were told, because he stopped in at Eagle's Nest for "coffee," an excuse that the ski guides chuckled about. The stop was apparently for more basic needs.

We saw two agents skiing down about 200 yards ahead of the president's party, each skiing along the wooded areas on either side of Simba trail.

^{Ford} He skidded to an abrupt halt, spraying us all with snow and coming very close to several of us. He was in control all the way, however.

"How could you have any better snow," he said.

He was asked several "tough" questions, like how is the snow and what did you get for Christmas.

Ford laughed and said he had received 10 turtle neck sweaters. "I said I wanted one and I got 10."

He was asked if he might stay beyond Tuesday and he said he thought that was a good idea. It was said in jest, however, and there was no indication he meant it.

Larry Buendorf was at ~~his~~ his side all the way.

He then excused himself and said it was just too good skiing to stand around and talk.

About 20 minutes later, he made his second run past us, skied over toward us, but did not stop. On that run, he stopped at another group of reporters about 200 yards down the hill.

Mashek, Beckman



December 25, 1975

POOL REPORT -- CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON

While awaiting Ford's descent from the ~~ski~~ mountain, the pool heard Ron Nessen announce a late addition to ~~xxxx~~ the President's Christmas day blessings. Nessen said a Gallup poll, to be released over the weekend, would show that Ford's job performance rating (favorable/unfavorable) has jumped by five points since the last rating period, presumably from 44 percent approval to 49.

Without giving ~~any~~ specifics, Nessen also said that Ford was not planning on doing ^{extensive} much political campaigning for the Republican primaries but would likely "stay in the White House and be President." He said he expected Ford would visit New Hampshire and Florida ~~in~~ "one time each" in advance of those primaries. He added, however, that he expected Ford to "continue to go out of town to make Presidential speeches." Asked how ~~any~~ listeners would be able to tell the difference between political and presidential ^{addresses,} talks, Nessen replied, "I'll tell you."

Nessen also cautioned reporters that they "shouldn't believe the common wisdom that the Ford campaign is poorly organized." He cited reporting by the Washington Post's David Broder, who "went up to New Hampshire and found the Ford campaign highly ~~organized~~ organized," but by contrast found "no trace of the Reagan campaign," according to Nessen's reading.

Copies of the Ford family gift list, prepared by Shiela Weidenfeld, were distributed just before noon.

-----o-----



President Ford completed his three-hour ski expedition at 1:24 p.m., sliding ruddy-faced and winded to a graceful stop above Gondola one with almost no tourist-spectators on hand to greet him. He said he was tired but repeated again that he "felt great" and said he was looking forward to attacking a 22-pound Christmas turkey. Asked if he considered giving up skiing, Ford replied, "Why? I ski better now than when I was a good many years younger. X I'm better now than I was last year."

At the entrance to the Bass house, Ford paused briefly to publicize the donation of replicas of Teddy Roosevelt's skis to the Vail Ski Museum. ~~or~~ The original nine-foot hickory all-purpose skis, used by Roosevelt in Western skiing during the 1880s, are in the Smithsonian. The ash replicas were donated by Ski magazine and contributing editor Morten Lund through Ford to Robert W. Parker, Vail Associates executive who is chairman of the Vail Bicentennial committee. Ford told Parker "I'd be delighted to donate a pair" of his own skis to the museum, but opined that "they won't be as historic as these" Roosevelt replicas. Ford also told Lund, "I enjoy reading Ski magazine." (Copies of a press kit celebrating this presentation are available in the press room.)

Dave Beckwith-Time
Bob Pierpoint-CBS



DECEMBER 25, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The following information was provided by Sheila Weidenfeld. If you have any questions, please contact her.

Among the gifts exchanged by the Fords were:

TO THE PRESIDENT

Black Leather After-Hour Shoes
Blue, Brown, White, Maroon Turtleneck
Sweaters
Blue Ultra Suede Shirt Jacket

From Mrs. Ford
From Mrs. Ford
and Children
From Mrs. Ford
and Children

TO MRS. FORD

Ski outfit
Photography Book LA DANCE,
by David Hamilton
PSALMS AND NOW by
Leslie Brandt
Field Trial Lessons for
Mrs. Ford's dog, Misty
Chinese Print

From The President
From Susan
From Mike and
Gayle
From Jack
From Steve

TO SUSAN

Red terry cloth feet pajamas
Jean Skirt and Gauze Shirt
Puka Shell Necklace

From President and
Mrs. Ford
From Mike and Gayle
From Steve and Jack

TO JACK

Money
Cordoroy Shirt
Ski Sweater
Two Turtleneck Sweaters

From President and
Mrs. Ford
From Mike and Gayle
From Susan
From Steve

(MORE)

TO STEVE

Down payment on a Saddle

From The President
and Mrs. Ford

Flannel Shirt

From Jack

Three Cassette Tapes

From Mike and Gayle

Photography Book THE COWBOY
by Robert Reynolds

From Susan

TO MIKE AND GAYLE

Cloisonne Vase

From The President
and Mrs. Ford

Money

From Susan

Ski Sweater (To Gayle)

From Steve

Leather Book Bag with initials (To Gayle)

From Jack

Cowboy shirt (To Mike)

From Jack

Navy Wool Shirt (To Mike)

From Steve

STOCKING STUFFERS

The President's

Filled by Gayle

Mrs. Ford's

Filled by Jack

Susan's

Filled by Mike

Jack's

Filled by Steve

Steve's

Filled by President

Gayle's

Filled by Susan

Mike's

Filled Mrs. Ford

CHRISTMAS DINNER

At 8:00 p. m. at Bass House. Menu: Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Mashed potatoes and gravy, green peas with pearl onions, cranberry sauce, salad, rolls, pecan pie a la mode and Christmas cookies.

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CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has asked his top economic advisors to come here for a meeting on Saturday, December 28, to review the current economic situation and to review the work the Economic Policy Board has been doing under the President's guidance and direction. You will recall that in his speech to the Business Council, the President said his economic advisors would be working through the holidays, looking at ways to augment and update the economic proposals the President made in October.

The Saturday meeting, and the previously announced energy meeting on Friday, are part of the President's preparation for his State of the Union speech, the annual economic report, the budget, and other presentations the President will make in January.

Those attending the Saturday meeting will be:

Treasury Secretary Simon
William Seidman
Alan Greenspan
Arthur Burns
Roy Ash
Bill Eberle
Ken Cole

Those coming for the Saturday meeting, as well as those coming for the energy meeting on Friday, will arrive by government aircraft Friday morning. It is currently planned that they will return to Washington Saturday afternoon. (Roy Ash will be arriving separately by commercial plane from California.)

The President worked briefly this morning before skiing. He plans a long work session with Don Rumsfeld this afternoon.

On Thursday the President plans to work in the morning before skiing again at 11:30 a.m. The usual protective pool will be escorted to the base by Eric Rosenburger.

The President was informed of the incident at the White House at 8:45 this morning, approximately 45 minutes after awakening, by Major Robert Barrett, his Army Aide. Major Barrett gave the President additional details at 10:15 am. The President asked Major Barrett to keep him informed.

Among the gifts exchanged by the Fords were:

TO THE PRESIDENT

- Brass book ends from Williamsburg From Mrs. Ford
- Turtleneck sweater From Susan
- Wool shirt-jacket From Jack
- Basket of cheeses and sausages From Mike and Gayle

TO THE WHOLE FAMILY

- A whittled wood sculpture of a Mountain From Steve
 Goat fighting off a golden eagle which is attacking its baby goat. The sculpture is entitled "Eagle's Prey" and was made by Henry Larson of Lolo, Montana. It was done out of a single piece of soft white pine. About 1 ft. high and 8" wide. Will probably be in the oval office. Picket knife

TO MRS. FORD

- Yellow quilted bathrobe From the President
- Bedroom slippers From Susan
- At-home blouse and long skirt outfit From Jack
- Bracelet with a ship charm From Mike and Gayle
 (made in Mass. out of whale tooth)

The skirt is not burgundy and navy. ← sluish beige color

TO SUSAN

white home sewing

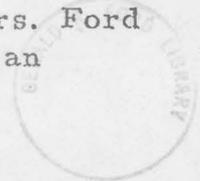
- An informal summer green jersey From the President
 long dress and Mrs. Ford
- A frog flower pot From Mike and Gayle
- A wind shirt (which is worn under a From Jack
 ski jacket to keep warm)

TO JACK

- A watch From the President
 and Mrs. Ford
- A two-handle canvas bag From Susan

TO MIKE AND GAYLE

- A watch From the President
 and Mrs. Ford
- A bag of household knick-knacks From Susan
 (aprons, picture frames, pot holders etc)



A winter coat (for Gayle) From the President
and Mrs. Ford

TO STEVE

A watch From the President
and Mrs. Ford

A pair of cowboy boots From Jack

A two-handle canvas bag From Susan

STOCKING STUFFERS

The President's ,	Filled by Mrs. Ford
Mrs. Ford's ,	Filled by Jack
Susan's ,	Filled by Barbara Manfuso
Jack's,	Filled by Susan
Steve's,	Filled by Gayle
Gayle's	Filled by Deede Jervis
Mike's	Filled by Steve
Barbara Manfuso's	Filled by Mike
Deede Jervis	Filled by The President

The CIA report is expected to arrive here late tomorrow afternoon.
The method of transmittal still has not been determined.

We plan to have a noon briefing on Thursday.

#

December 26, 1975

POOL REPORT - PRESIDENTIAL SKIING WITH ALPINE GROUP

This is a pool report for anybody that wants it from the pool that was on the mountain for the President's run this morning.

The President made two runs down the Bwana trail. On the second run, just after he had stopped momentarily to be photographed and to talk with us, he fell as he made a right turn from the Bwana trail into a flatter trail leading off to the right. He was down only for a few seconds. He came right back on his feet and continued with those who were with him.

As he skied off, a spectator in a small group that was clustered at that point shouted out, "The Democrats still ski better." I don't know whether it was a man or a woman that made the remark.

The fall occurred just moments after the President had been given two United States Ski Team racing patches by members of the United States Ski Team who were with him.

Earlier the members of the team had praised the President's skiing ability, describing him as an expert. This was part of the Olympic group and I will come back to that part of the earlier stuff.

On handing him two small patches, one of the members of the ski group said jokingly, "Training begins at 5 o'clock tomorrow, Mr. President." It was just after that the group set off and the President's spill occurred. He had skied about 50 yards from the point where we had awaited him, down a shallow incline to a nearly level spot where he was making his right turn. It was just as he made the right turn. It was just as he made the right turn that he spilled.

As I said, he popped up by himself without help immediately and went on. As far as we could tell, there was no visible injury to him. He just pitched over to one side as he made his turn. He was skiing with the Alpine group.

We saw him come by twice during a period of about 20 or 30 minutes between the two runs and perhaps, as I have said -- this incident occurred on the second run -- perhaps the best thing to do would be to go back and take chronologically some of the chatter there was after the first run when he came down and stopped where we were gathered, which was at Bwana and Post Road.

The President said, as he pulled up, "C'mon, Susie." This was to Susie Patterson of the ski team and then he said, "Whew, that's hard work." There was a little puffing as he said it.

MORE

Hank Tauber said, "He's a fine skier, I'll tell you. He's advanced, he's not an intermediate skier. He is an expert, no kidding."

Ford said, "Thank you, Norm." He got his name wrong. (Laughter) Hank then said, "It's Hank."

Someone asked Hank Tauber, "Are you ready to put him on the team?" Hank said, "As an alternate, for sure, really." Ford said, "Way down at the end."

Tauber said they had a delightful run, and said, speaking of the President, "He set the pace. It's really good. Susie taught him a couple of things."

Ford thanked him for those remarks and Susie said, "He is ready to go." Some one asked Susie what she had tried to teach him and Ford interjected, "To keep my feet." Then he hugged Susie, putting his arm around her shoulders. I don't know how old Susie is. Some one advises me she is 20.

Hank Tauber came in again, remarking, "He", that is the President, "said he has a problem with his knees but they are perfect. "

When somebody said to Susie, "What did you try to teach him, Susie?" before Susie could reply, Ford said, "To keep my feet." That is his quote.

After this point where Hank said that the President had said he had problems with his knees but they were perfect, Hank said, "I am really impressed."

A reporter asked the President if he ever thinks about politics when he is skiing. Ford's reply, "Not when I am skiing with Susie." (Laughter)

A reporter mentioned the famous Gallup poll with the five point improvement in his approval rating and Ford said, when he was asked what did he think of it or why it occurred, "Because of Susie and the skiing."

He was asked again about the significance of polls and, as he had before, he said, "We will go by the poll in November. That is the best one."

I think Ann then asked him if that was going to be true throughout the campaign and he said, "That is right, tht that is the only one that counts."

MORE

A related question was to the effect, did he not think there might be such a thing as a psychological boost from polls, and he said, "No, no, no."

At this point Tauber was asked why they were here today. He said, "We came to ski. The President invited us." You know from the earlier report what Ford was wearing. He had on what was described to us as a black racing suit. It was two-piece. It had red, green and purple -- narrow red, green and purple stripes along the shoulders. He had on a knit cap with the letters USA on it, with a red, white and blue band trimming around the bottom of the cap. He was wearing red boots. He had Rossignol skis that were orange, white and blue, I believe.

The second run came about between twenty and thirty minutes after he had stopped and talked to us. As he came down the slope toward us, you could see that he hit a small bump or depression, I don't know which it was, but there was a slight jar visible as he skied at that point, but he recovered his balance just as it happened and when he came down, someone said, "It looked as though you hit a bump." Ford said, "A small one."

Then after a pause, he said, "I recovered pretty good." This was coming toward us on the second run and preceding the fall. He was coming down the hill toward us and just as he approached us, there was a slight jar in his skiing. He paused for an instance, came toward us and said there was a slight bump.

He said he was going in, but I don't know where he is.

He then stopped for a few minutes. There was some very minor chatter. Tauber again praised Ford's skiing and said, "He has very strong technique. He stands well on his skis."

It was at that point that the two racing patches were given to him by members of the ski team and, after receiving those, the group sped off down the slope and it was at that point, as I previously said to you, that the spill occurred.

This happened after the praise. The praise occurred on the first run and on the second run.

Phil Jones, CBS
Thomas Ottenad, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

#

The Presidential ski party arrived back at the base of the mountain near Gondola number 1 at about 2:20pm. The group put in more than three hours on the mountain in mini-blizzard conditions.

Everybody except the President looked thoroughly winded. Mr. Ford skied up and announced to the pool, "I have a health report." He said, "Russ, Grace and Charlie all survived and did beautifully."

Mr. Ford said the skiing was "great" and "it couldn't be better". Despite the heavy snowfall the President told us the visibility was really quite good. "The snow was ^{just} ~~really~~ ideal and nobody was over ^{there} but us."

Russ Ward commented at that point: "I am breathing a whole lot harder than you are." Mr. Ford had a good ~~xxxx~~ laugh.

I asked Mr. Ford how he could dance until 1:30am then ski three hours and he answered, "well that's just a normal day ~~xxxx~~ ...I feel great."

IN answer to another question, the President said he is sorry the vacation is more than half over but while he would like more time it can't be done.

Mr. Ford complimented the reporters who skied with him. They said he (Ford) ^{kept} ~~kept~~ a tough pace - ~~to keep up with him~~. Sources said Mr. Ford did not fall but our colleague ^{did}.

gittines



December 27, 1974

Lunch Menu:

Soup and Sandwiches

The same energy group will be having a buffet dinner this evening around 8:00 p.m. The menu consists of:

Lamb currey
Steamed rice
tossed salad
Gran Marnier Mousse

The President and Mrs. Ford will drop by the Ted Kindels' home prior to the buffet for a party given by Peter Siebert and Ted Kindel both of whom are past Directors of Vail Associates. They will be leaving their home at approximately 7:15 p.m. and returning by ~~8:00~~ ^{7:45} p.m.

Mike and Gayle left this morning to visit Gayle's family who live in the Baltimore area.

NO. WDS.—CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	<input type="checkbox"/> OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM UNLESS BOX ABOVE IS CHECKED THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

POOL REPORT FROM PRESIDENT GOES SKIING 12/30/74

President arrived at gondola number two//..Lionshead... about 10:45. He was riding in jeep wagon and accompanied by secret service and ski patrol. Also his skiing partners for the day...Mrs. James Brown of Utah and Sheika Grammshammer, wife of Pepi and you all know who he is.

President wearing a mixture of ski wardrobe...orange parka... red-white-blue stocking cap and brown pants and red boots.

He talked briefly with pool ...said he had vetoed a couple bills but we would have to get this information from Ron.

As he walked to gondola a kid came up to him and asked for an autograph. The President signed "Jerry Ford" on the kids ski lift pass. The kid's name...David ~~Delin~~ *Devlin* of Midland, Michigan. He is 14 years old.

Delin told pool he planned to keep the autographed lift pass.

President finally made it into gondola #59...yellow... about 10:50. Before departing President asked the pool photographers if Frank Johnston (Washington Post fame) had gone home. He was told Johnston was on special ski assignment.

jones/beckman



New Year's Eve

The President and Mrs. Ford will have a quiet dinner with the family at 7:30. The menu will be lamb chops, mint jelly, au gratin potatoes green beans almondine, salad, low calorie dressing and a surprise dessert. The Fords have invited close friends to drop in at about 9:30. The guests include: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kindel, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Parma, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pati, Mr. and Mrs. Pepi Gramshammer, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Laughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Scott, Mr. John Mueller, Dr. and Mrs. Lukash, David Kennerly, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rumsfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Nessen, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weidenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Willy Bogner, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hoeger (pronounced Hager), Mr. Brad Lichtenheld and Elizabeth Juen (his date).

FYI: John Mueller is the caretaker of the house.

