

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “1976/04/19 - Easter Egg Roll, White House” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Pullen

Look out on the lawn and what do you see?

Lots of flowers and grass and many a tree,

but if you look and try very hard

you see history in this famous yard.

Let's turn the clock round

to 1800 in Washington town.

That was the year John Adams and wife

became the first family in White House life.

In all its one hundred and seventy-six years,

this House has shared the laughter and tears,

not just of the families who came here to stay

but of our whole Nation at work and at play.

Abe Lincoln lived here in the midst of a war

and soldiers camped on the lawn by the door.

Astronauts and inventors, poets and Kings,

parades and picnics, weddings and things.

All these are part of the White House story,

and America's two hundred years of glory.

Here ~~on the lawn~~ where your Easter egg rolls

is also where our history unfolds.

For America's birthday, this very year,

let's join together in a special cheer

to America---the land of the free

to what she was and what she will be.



For Immediate Release
Friday, April 16, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO MRS. FORD

The 1976 Easter Egg Roll is scheduled for Monday, April 19, from 10 AM to 2 PM. All children eight years and younger accompanied by an adult are welcome to attend. The egg-rolling contest will be held again this year with the winners of each contest receiving a small prize. All participants will receive a certificate signed by Mrs. Ford which contains a "Rime for Easter Time." Entertainment will continue throughout the event and will include performances by the bands and marching units of the Armed Services. There will be a special performance by the Patriots of Northern Virginia, a fife and drum youth organization, and the art of egg decorating will be portrayed by parishioners from St. Andrews Ukranian Orthodox Church. There will also be performances by Toto the Clown; Mr. Wayne Alan, a magician; the Bob Brown Marionettes; and the MarVaTeens, a gymnastic team from the Washington metropolitan area.

Kimo the Klown and Winnie the Pooh will assist in meeting the participants. Volunteer clowns from the Social Security Administration will also be on hand to entertain the children, and the Easter Bunny is expected to make a traditional appearance.

Mrs. Ford has asked that the State Floor of the White House be open for tours during the Easter Egg Roll. Entrance for both the tour and the Easter Egg Roll will be the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

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A History of the Easter Egg Roll



The Easter Egg Roll is a tradition for young people which may go back to Dolley Madison's time. We know that children gathered on the grounds of the Capitol to roll eggs in the mid-19th Century. By the 1870's, most likely during the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, the Easter Egg Roll had moved to the White House grounds, where it has been held with few interruptions each year since.

By the end of the 19th Century, games known as "egg picking," "toss and catch" and "egg croquet" were firmly established. "Egg rolling" was the favorite, however. Observers reported eggs by the hundreds rolling down the hills of the grounds, with children often right behind. (The first one to the bottom won.)

Over the years, thousands of people -- including children and grandchildren of Presidents -- have participated in this Easter celebration. Today, you will be entertained by bands and clowns, and in the best White House tradition, there will be an egg rolling contest. Good luck! The President and I hope you will have a most enjoyable day.



Sincerely,
Betty Ford

Monday, March 31, 1975



Let's turn the clock round
and make it 1800 in Washington town.
That was the year John Adams and wife
became the first family in White House life.
In all its one hundred and seventy-six years,
this House has shared the laughter and tears,
not just of the families who came here to stay
but of our whole Nation at work and at play.
Here on ~~this lawn~~ where your Easter egg rolls
is also where ^{the} American history unfolds.
Abe Lincoln lived here in the midst of a war
and soldiers camped on the lawn by the door.

~~XX~~

Ponies, ~~and dogs~~ and once even sheep grazed on the ~~lawn~~ grass
where so much of our history also does pass.

When important visitors arrive on the scene,
they're greeted by soldiers, sailors, marines.
Flags wave and bands play and march to and fro,
a State arrival is a marvelous show.
When the President goes traveling out of town,
here on the lawn his helicopter comes down.

some families brought pets ^{ponies} dogs, cat & ~~ponies~~
Others started trees, elm

1 3

1 2 3 4 5 6
Picnics and parties ~~and~~ and parades galore 6
all are part of White House folklore.

The Easter Egg Roll~~s~~ happens once each year
but all kinds of ~~for~~ people come to visit here.

When ~~the~~ important visitors arrive on the ~~the~~ scene,
they're greeted by ~~the~~ soldiers, ~~the~~ sailors ~~and~~ marines.
With bands playing and flags waving and marching to and fro
a state arrival is a marvelous show.

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6
When the President takes off on a trip out of ~~the~~ town
~~the~~ here on the ~~the~~ lawn is where his helicopter comes down.
One President played golf on a special small green
another had sheep graze to keep the grass clean.

~~XX~~
Presidents have lived here ~~the~~ for 176 years
and this lovely old house has known laughter and tears.

~~XX~~
Out here on the lawn in 1800 it seems
the yard was a mess full of mud only dreams.
President John Quincy Adams planted an elm tree
and Andy Jackson put in the magnolia tree.

During World War I there were sheep on the lawn
and earlier the Roosevelts had a pony _____
Ponies and sheep and lots of dogs

The White

weddings in the garden
solobus on the lawn

6
6
6

Look out on the lawn and what do you see
lots of flowers and grass and many a tree,
but even if you look and try very hard
you can't see the history of this famous yard,
for here on this green for many a year
famous people have come from far and near.
~~So,~~ just for a moment, let's turn the clock ~~back~~ round
and pretend it's 1800 in Washington town.
That was the year John Adams and wife
became the first family of White House life.

~~They found the house and lived there for
for
176 years since now and then~~

~~Presidents and their families~~

In all of the one hundred and seventy-six years
this House has shared ^{the} laughter & tears
of America ^{gunning} ~~through~~ west to the sea
and keeping its promise as the land of the free

Look out on the lawn and what do you see
lots of flowers and grass and many a tree,
but even if you look and try very hard,
you can't see the history of this famous yard.
For here one this green for many a year,
American heroes come from far and near.

Just for a moment, let's turn the clock round
and pretend it's 1800 in Washington town.
That was the year John Adams and wife
became the first family in White House life.
Jefferson, Madison, Monroe lived here ~~xxx~~ too
and in those years ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ how the country grew.
John Quincy Adams was next, the only son,
to ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ serve as his father had done.
Andy Jackson, the soldier, left ~~x~~ the magnolia tree
that still ~~xxxxxx~~ gives shade to you and me.
Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler and Polk ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
also were among our Presidential folk
Another soldier was Taylor

Look out on the lawn and what do you see?

Lots of flowers and grass and many a tree,

but if you look and think very hard

you can see history in this famous yard.

Let's turn the clock round

to 1800 in Washington town.

That was the year John Adams and wife

became the first family in White House life.

Jefferson, Madison, Monroe lived here too,

and in those years how the country grew.

John Quincy Adams was next, and the only son

to serve as President as his father had done.

Andy Jackson, the soldier, came from the West.

~~Van Buren, Tyler, Harrison~~

Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler and Polk

also became Presidential folk.

Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan

served as the country went west in a wagon.

Abe Lincoln lived here in the midst of a war

and soldiers camped on the lawn by the door.

Johnson, General Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes

all brought their families to White House days.

Garfield was shot and later McKinley,

but in between them, Arthur Cleveland and Harrison