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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

From: Robert T. Hartmann

To: Agnes Waldron

Date: August 20, 1975

Time

xixkix
p. m.

I would appreciate your handling
the attached as soon as possible.

Thank you!



What has
happened to
this? I
have some
questions



THE READER'S DIGEST

200 Park Avenue • New York, N. Y. 10017

Telephone: 972-4000

August 19, 1975

Honorable Robert Hartmann
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Hartmann,

Melvin Laird suggested that I send the enclosed copy of "Camp David: Hideaway for Presidents" for your review. He assured me that you would pass it along to the proper person to check the facts concerning Camp David. The writer pulled the anecdotes about the Presidents from a variety of sources, some of which I have indicated in the margin. I would appreciate any information to the contrary.

I hope to have completed my research report on the article in about a week, so I would appreciate very much your prompt attention. You may reply by mail at the above address or I can be reached by phone at 212-972-6142. Many thanks.

Respectfully yours,

Linda Sylvan

Linda L. Sylvan
Editorial Research

Research

November '75 - Final

AJ

Original

C - ESS

The peace and beauty of this Maryland mountain
is balm to our Chief Executives ; - and its spirit
may have averted a war

LS

bid 8-18-75

Camp David: Hideaway for Presidents

By

Peter Michelmore

There is nothing too fancy about the hidden complex of moss-green, batten-and-board cabins, a single-story Presidential lodge and recreational facilities. But up there, on the high, eastern slope of Catoc-tin Mountain in north central Maryland, six successive American Presi-dents have found refreshment of mind and body and cares of office.

The sights are white-tailed deer, turkey vultures and virgin for-est, the smells are woodsmoke and wet bark, the sounds the cry of the hawk and the far-off roar of jets.

Harry S. Truman by Margaret Truman
Margaret Truman would wince when her father suggested a week-

p. 334

end at Camp David. She found it damp and cold.¹ Jacqueline Kennedy thought it so inelegant on her first visit that her husband teased her by saying, "Now Jackie, why are we building a country place at Atoka (in the posh hunting district of Virginia) when we can have a wonderful place like this for free?"

Yet President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who called the place Shangri-la, had many joyous days and nights on the mountain. President Dwight ^D E. Eisenhower, who re-named the retreat Camp David after his grandson, relished it for stag bridge sessions and for quiet times with oil and canvas. Today, President Gerald R. Ford looks upon the retreat as a family sanctuary reserved for exercise, meditation and long talks with his wife and children. [?] study

Presidents approach Camp David by way of a 30-minute, 65-mile helicopter ride from the White House. If snow or fog prevents landing on the 1890-foot-high Catoclin Mountain, the chopper comes down on the high-school football field at Thurmont, the clean-scrubbed little town at the base of the mountain, and the President continues on by car.

Camp David occupies a small fraction of 5769 acres of public

wilderness park originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. It is surrounded with a high, double-chain-link fence with snagged, razor-sharp steel on top, and armed Marines at a sentry-box guard at the main entrance. When the President is in residence, newsmen are permitted a few paces beyond the sentry box to work from a trailer. Reporters may also walk to a small shelter at the edge of the helicopter landing pad, just inside the border fence, to watch a Presidential arrival. But that is usually the last they will see of the Chief Executive until he returns maybe a day, maybe even two weeks later, for the journey back to Washington.

Unauthorized aircraft are prohibited from flying over Camp David, and the President's house, Aspen Lodge, is so merged into the mountainside that it cannot be observed from a distance, even with the most powerful telescope.

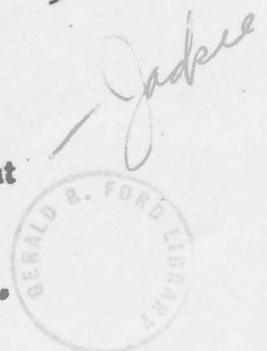
Lyndon B. Johnson, the most gregarious of recent Presidents, thought it inappropriate for the American leader to drop out of sight in this manner, and he seriously considered closing Camp David when he first came to office in November 1963.

Some weeks later, however, after the Johnsons had put in a particularly hectic few days of public engagements, the President became noticeably restive at a White House banquet. In the reception line he leaned over to Lady Bird and whispered, "Would you like to go to Camp David?" Within two hours, they were on the way by helicopter.

"We woke up to snow and serenity and fire burning in the fireplace," Mrs. Johnson recorded in her diary.

Each President has added recreational facilities. In addition to a swimming pool and bowling alley, there are stables (but no resident horses), roller-skating rink, skeet-shooting range, archery targets,

*A White
House Diary
by Lady Bird
Johnson p. 41*



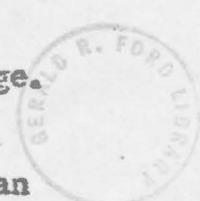
tennis court, sauna, and a well-trapped par-three golf hole.

A few civilians such as landscape gardeners and swimming-pool caretakers visit the camp periodically under tight security. But Navy Seabees, who comprise the vast majority of the 150 military personnel assigned to the retreat, maintain the cabins, sports facilities act as chefs and stewards for guests and service the highly sophisticated communications system. They eat in one of the dozen David cabins and may enjoy the sports in the absence of the President.

Since the days of President Roosevelt, the camp has been funded by the Department of Defense, and present operating costs are estimated at \$350,000 a year.

Aspen Lodge has four bedrooms, each with private bath, a huge beamed living room paneled in oak and carpeted wall-to-wall and an adjoining sun-room. It is more snug than luxurious, though far more

when not being used by official guests of the Pres.



comfortable than when Roosevelt acquired the place from the Interior Department in the spring of 1942, seeking a sanctuary more convenient -- and more private -- than his Hyde Park, N. Y. home.

There, at "Shangri-la," ^{the} ~~which~~ war receded sufficiently to permit Roosevelt to indulge in his favorite after-dinner pastime of relating tall stories. Later, he would work on his stamp collection while his secretary, Grace Tully, organized the poker playing. Miss Tully rarely lost and, for some time, the living-room wall at Aspen Lodge bore the sign, penned by Roosevelt: "Visitors will beware of gamblers (especially female) on this ship."

In May 1943, Roosevelt drove up for a weekend at the camp with Winston Churchill. The tides of war were turning, and legend has it that the two Allied leaders planned the Normandy invasion at Catoctin. But the British prime minister's own recollection was of his interest

James M. Burns
Roosevelt: The
Soldier of Freedom

P. 255

from various
newspaper
clippings



in watching Roosevelt at his stamps and in the trout fishing on Sunday.

The public did not even know of the existence of Shangri-la until after the war, and it was rarely in the news during the Truman Administration, although he kept the retreat in good repair and found it convenient for an occasional weekend of poker. President Eisenhower made the sanctuary famous as Camp David. After the General's heart attack in 1955, he found it essential to get away for needed rest.

In September 1959 Eisenhower was host to Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State Christian Herter. Khrushchev had been threatening to back East Germany in forcing the Allies out of West Berlin, and it was Eisenhower's idea that if he had the Russian leader off by himself they might talk and head off a potential war. When Khrushchev was with Gromyko and the other Russian officials housed in the guest cot-

*news paper
clipping*



tages, the premier in fact was full of tough bluster. Alone with Eisenhower and a single interpreter, however, tramping the woods, Khrushchev was relaxed and companionable. "We were able to have a real bull session," Eisenhower said later.

*from Eisenhower's
former Press Secretary
James Magerty, now
deceased*

?

Back in Moscow, Khrushchev dropped his aggressive stance on Berlin and coined a phrase that enthralled editorial writers around the world -- "the spirit of Camp David."

The next man in the White House had an affinity for the sea, not the woods, but when John F. Kennedy wanted to evade completely the ever-present newsmen, he, too, went to Camp David. Up on the mountain, he could flub an iron shot, read James Bond thrillers and puff on a cigar without anyone looking over his shoulder.

President Richard M. Nixon used Camp David often and, in 1972, spent as many as 25 weekends there.



↓ Information gathered from Mr Laird, David Kennerly and others

More than any of his predecessors, President Ford has tried to keep the business and pressures of the Presidency away from Camp David. A star football player in college, the President still craves physical exercise. At Camp David, he plays rigorous tennis, practices golf, jumps on the trampoline, swims and skeet shoots. The companions he prefers most during these outdoor hours are his children.

wife and

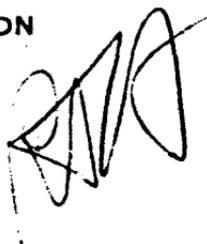
family
survival
tradition

After sleeping late on a weekend morning, President Ford customarily joins the family for a leisurely breakfast of strawberries, waffles and sour cream. Sometimes he walks and thinks alone in the woods that autumn colors so brilliantly. From Camp David to Washington, it's only 30 helicopter minutes, but it's days and days away in peace and beauty.



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Respectfully yours,

Linda Sylvan

Linda L. Sylvan
Editorial Research



Research

The peace and beauty of this Maryland mountain
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November '75 - Final

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Original

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bid 8-18-75

Camp David: Hideaway for Presidents

By

Peter Michelmore



GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

GILMORE, Kenneth O.

(Reader's Digest article
on Camp David)

November 4, 1973

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

Counsellor Robert Hartmann has given to me your letter addressed to him of October 20 with the advance copy of the November issue of Reader's Digest.

I very much enjoyed reading the article entitled, "Camp David: Hideaway for Presidents." I thought the article was superbly done, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving us an advance copy of the article.

Thank you again for your kindness.

Warmest regards,

JERRY FORD

Mr. Kenneth O. Gilmore
Managing Editor
Reader's Digest
Pleasantville, New York 10570

GRF:Dowton

~~cc~~ Counsellor Robert Hartmann with incoming letter



READER'S DIGEST



PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. 10570

MANAGING EDITOR • *Kenneth O. Gilmore*

D / Thank / sincerely done

October 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Hartmann:

Here is an advance copy of our November issue with the article on Camp David. We're especially grateful to you for your assistance in getting it put together.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert T. Hartmann
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Nita

FROM: AGNES WALDRON

This is what I
sent to the
Reader's Digest
Researcher,
Aw

A HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
MOUNTAIN RETREAT,
CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND

1972

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWARD

SHANGRI-LA

THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION

THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION

THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION

THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION

THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SKETCH

DECK LOG OF THE USS SHANGRI-LA

MILITARY HISTORY OF CAMP DAVID

FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE

CAMP COMMANDERS

PHOTOGRAPHS

FOREWARD

For thirty years, the secluded camp atop Catoctin Mountain has served the White House as the Presidential Mountain Retreat. First established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Camp has served Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and now President Richard Nixon. It has become a place away from the pace of Washington yet close enough to be completely in touch. It has served the Presidents, their families and their guests, the Cabinet, the White House Staff and several Foreign Heads of State. The Camp with its peaceful and natural setting has provided for all a place to rest and to work and to see the entire world more clearly.

This history attempts to relate the story of the Camp in terms of the Presidents who have used it. The physical development of the Camp has been included from its days as Camp Hi-Catoctin, later as Shangri-La, and now as Camp David in order to give the reader a greater appreciation of the history and environment. The history is based on a search of military and White House records which in many areas were sketchy at best and were often found to be severely lacking. The research and composition were done by the military staff at the Camp and in particular, Petty Officer John L. Gerik, U. S. Navy. Through his dedication, patience and hard work, hundreds of loose ends and fragments of history have been brought together in a most readable and enlightening story.

This history forms the foundation for continued documentation and development. The national historical importance of Camp David requires such a document to be maintained.

J. L. DETTBARN
Commander, Civil Engineer Corps
United States Navy
Camp Commander

1972

SHANGRI-LA

During the months following America's entry into World War II, officials in Washington, following the urgings of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, searched the countryside surrounding Washington for an area that would be suitable for the President to use as a retreat. There were many factors that had to be considered in selecting the site. For obvious reasons, the President's home in Hyde Park would not be feasible. For security reasons, the long trip could not be considered; there would also be a serious problem of communications, as the President liked to keep in constant contact with his War Room in the White House. The President's yacht, USS POTOMAC, again could not be utilized because of security problems; both the U. S. Secret Service and the Navy were fearful of German submarines which might attempt to sink the ship if it were known that the President used it frequently for pleasure cruises. For reasons that dealt with the President's health, his physicians preferred some place that would remove the President from the oppressive heat of summertime Washington. Thus, the criteria for the President's Retreat would be: proximity to Washington; elevation to insure coolness; and above all, it would have to be located where Presidential security could be maintained.

With these ideas in mind, the National Park Service of

the Department of the Interior was directed in March of 1942 to study locations within a prescribed radius of Washington. The location, which would be developed into the weekend retreat, would also include the happy medium of accessibility and seclusion; it would be elevated; it would have a woodland character and view. It would also, if possible, make use of available utilities and related facilities. There were at first three possible locations and on March 27 and 28, members of the Park Service visited the three: Furnace Mountain on the Virginia side of the Potomac River below Harpers's Ferry; Shenandoah National Park, Virginia; and the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, near Thurmont, Maryland. The Park Service's report dealt with location, travel time, land status, utilities, existing building construction, road improvements, supplies, and future use. Also attached were tables giving the estimated cost of development. The report summarized its findings in a "General Statement", part of which is summarized:

"There are three sites suggested as a possible location for a summer week-end camp for the President."

1. Comer's Deadening in Shenandoah National Park. One hundred miles from Washington, 3,300 feet high, it would require three hours travel. Estimated construction time and cost would be two to three months and approximately \$150,000.
2. Camp Site #4, Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area. Sixty miles from Washington, 1,700 feet high, it would require two hours travel. Construction estimates would be about the same as those suggested for Comer's Deadening. There was also a swimming pool located within a half a mile of the Camp.

3. Camp Site #3, Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area. This location was within a half mile of Camp Site #4 and had an elevation of 1,800 feet. There was a group of cabins constructed on the site; existing buildings could be revamped to meet the requirements. Construction could be completed by June at a cost of \$25,000 provided clearance could be given by the first of May.

The Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area Project was begun in 1935 to show the feasibility of making parks from worn-out agricultural land. Constructed by WPA, the Demonstration Area utilized almost exclusively materials salvaged from the area. For example, over two and one-half million feet of blighted chestnut, plus the lumber made available by clearing roadways utilized for constructing the cabins, were sawed at the project sawmill. Lumber for shingles and flooring was bought in the vicinity. Mountain sandstone was crushed into stone; loose stone and stone fences provided rock. The Project's blacksmith shop fashioned ironware and hinges. Other Project shops made lighting fixtures, tables, windows, and doors. Deserted farm houses in the area yielded considerable glass. Because of the topography of the mountainous area, building dams which would create swimming lakes was impractical. Concrete swimming pools, with modern filtration and recirculation plants, supplied with water from nearby springs and streams, were constructed in each camp. Camp Hi-Catoctin, Camp Site #3, had been completed during the winter of 1938-1939, and for three years it had been used as a family camp for

Federal employees.

During the afternoon of April 22, 1942, President Roosevelt, with an entourage which filled five automobiles, departed the White House and turned north, traveling out of Washington. At 3:45 that same afternoon, these autos passed through downtown Frederick, Maryland, where, of course, the principal occupant was recognized. A little over two hours later, at 5:55, the same group again passed through Frederick. After pausing briefly for a red light, the vehicles continued south toward Washington.

During this two hour period, the President was inspecting both Camp Site #3 and Site #4 in the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area. Apparently the President favored the Catoctin area over the Comer's Deadening location for there is no record of an inspection trip to that site. In a report dated April 24, 1942, the National Park Service presented the President with a Cost Estimate of converting Camp #3 into his retreat. It listed such items as alterations to the Lodge, utility service, conversion of craft shops into cabins, and selective gardening. Only two days after he visited the area, the President had decided that Camp #3 would be his retreat. No doubt that buildings and utilities existing greatly reduced both time and cost of construction. He penciled on the cost estimate the Park Ser-

vice presented him, the other accommodations he desired:

"Fix up one cottage for Miss Hackmeister and any stenogs
Fix up one cottage for Mr. Hassett and other male staff
Fix up one cottage for Philipinos and Valet - 6 bunks
Secret Service to sleep in tents"

At Catoctin on April 30, the President gave final approval to preliminary sketches for the Lodge and the National Park Service started preparation of the working drawings. On May 11, with the use of preliminary prints, the construction crew was able to start. While construction was in progress, Jimmie Doolittle led an American air attack on Tokyo. While reporters were questioning the President as to where the pilots took off, he smilingly told them "Shangri-La." It followed as a matter of course to apply this name to the Mountain Retreat. On the President's first official visit, July 5, 1942, he wrote in his "log book:"

U. S. S. Shangri La

Launched at Catoctin, July 5, 1942

The nautical implications were due to the fact that members of the President's yacht "POTOMAC" staffed and serviced the compound after construction was completed. The President carried his "seagoing" compound further along these lines by referring to his visits as cruises.

Before the camp became "operational", a good deal of construction was needed. The task facing the construction crew was to redecorate, relocate, remodel, or recondition a number of crude picnic cabins into a compound that would accomodate a weekend colony of approximately 40 people. Also, the crews were to utilize local materials, thereby reducing the construction cost.

Of first priority, of course, was the main lodge. This was a one room building, 17'6" by 28', an open porch and roofed-over outdoor kitchen. The concept which was used to remodel the Lodge called for utilizing the existing room as a combination living-dining room. The terrain, view, and the planned location of other buildings dictated that the bedroom wing be built to the south of the existing room, at an angle of 30°, and that the kitchen wing be built to the north of the room. As finally constructed, the Lodge embodied a living-dining room, a screened porch, a paved terrace, a bedroom corridor, four bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen, a pantry and a kitchen porch.

Although use of the compound was not anticipated for the winter months, due to its elevation, fireplaces were included in the construction of the bedroom wing. Since these fireplaces were the heating system, there were several safety precautions that were mandatory. Rock wool between the walls would retard the spread of fire. All chimney

flues were capped with spark arresters. Brick walls eight inches thick were built under the living room, thereby creating three separate areas under the cabin. And finally, a special inclined bridge from floor level to the ground was cut from the wall. This section was hinged at the bottom and counter weighted within the wall thickness. With pressure from the inside, this special emergency exit was activated and the wheel-chair bound President could escape.

Furnishings throughout were quite simple. No particular style dominated, and all were obtained by combing the White House attic and Navy storage. A conference table under a rustic wagon wheel chandelier dominated the living-dining room. Over the main door hung a replica of the Presidential seal. The front entrance looked upon a small pool that was stocked with trout. A rough-hewn log bench was provided for the President.

An existing frame cabin north of the Lodge provided the nucleus for the communications cabin. Actually the communications cabin consisted of the basic cabin along with two other cabins which were removed from their original positions. This building incorporated all communications equipment, including telegraph, a switchboard, and two private telephone circuits. A special telephone trunk line connected the compound to the White House, and was only activated when the President was in residence. An entirely separate system for inter-camp communications was

also installed. The operators and others of the staff in the cabin also had a full bathroom and an electric hot water supply.

Other existing cabins were also moved and/or joined to others to afford the staff accommodations. One of these was joined to another existing cabin to the southwest of the Lodge. When completed, remodeled and partitioned, it contained two sleeping rooms connected by a bathroom for guests or staff. As with other cabins, it was supplied with hot water by an electric heating unit.

The servant's sleeping quarters were located in the remodeled, one-time craft shop. By removing work benches and partitions, and enclosing certain openings, sleeping quarters were obtained for a staff of six Phillipine stewards. Nearby a group latrine was revamped for the use of the servant staff. Walls were built to enclose the open porch and to conceal its wash basin. A shower stall with a dressing room was partitioned off within. Two more remotely located latrines were remodeled in the same manner, save that each had an electric hot water heating unit installed.

The existing water supply was sufficient to serve the cabins with the addition of water lines. Two cesspools were constructed to serve the cabins. The Lodge and guest cabin were served by one, and the communications cabin by the other.

On the President's inspection trip of April 30, he indicated the nature and extent of selective cutting he desired to develop and improve the views eastward from the Lodge. Using these guidelines for the underdeveloped view extending southeastward to the distant valley and with a little more selective cutting, a more natural appearance of the woods line was affected and the heads of the trees against the sky were more dramatically silhouetted.

Another desirable view, almost due east from the Lodge, was also improved. This revealed in the middle distance the pine wooded hillside at the base of Catoclin Mountain and the valley beyond in the general direction of Keysville, birthplace of Francis Scott Key. The dogwood trees and low shrubs were retained in the immediate foreground where the two views converged below the porch. Other than the clearing necessary to accomodate the buildings and the drive, and the removal of damaged and broken limbs, no other cutting was done.

The nature of the retreat, the character of the main Lodge, and its intended use with the picnic grill, necessitated the construction of an informal terrace. To achieve this, the entire terrace area was filled to an average depth of three and one half feet. Walls were constructed to simulate rock ledges. Weathered stone, varying in size from three cubic feet to twenty-five cubic feet or more, were used to

create the desired effect. Desirable trees in the edges and slopes of the terrace were protected with loose rock fills and covering ledge stones so placed as to result in a minimum of fill over the roots. The terrace paving consisted of large slabs of local flagstone laid with grass joints.

The access drive which ran from the main gate to the main Lodge was designed to approximate the appearance of a meandering lane in alignment, grade, narrow width and amount of clearing. The old service roads which ran past the Lodge were obliterated. Where possible, portions of these roadways were used for underground utility lines and new footpath locations to avoid further disturbance to the forest cover. Large boulders in several locations preserved the alignment, aided in obliteration and marked trail entrance locations.

To aid the obliteration of the old, and to enhance the "natural wilderness" some landscape planting was done in the vicinity of the Lodge. All of the plants were of native stock. The nature of the soil and the relatively short haul allowed larger plants to be moved than normally would have been attempted. All plants were balled in burlap. The larger plants were dug with oversized balls and transported on platforms to increase their chances of survival. The

planting of native ferns and wild flowers in the vicinity of the cabins, Lodge and terrace was not attempted owing to the lateness of the season (late June, early July). Plants of this nature were left to seed themselves naturally from adjacent, undisturbed stands.

As mentioned earlier, there was a swimming pool located nearby. For convenient access by automobile, a nine foot approach drive was devised. Limited clearing was necessary and some selective clearing removed dead and unsightly growth. A frame platform sized to receive a tent furnished by the Marine Corps functioned as a dressing room, located on the lawn adjacent to the swimming pool.

When the National Park Service was initially tasked with the job of converting Camp #3 into the President's summer retreat, the anticipated completion date was July 1. Heavy rainfall during the months of May and June, along with the wartime scarcity of materials and skilled labor caused this deadline to be slightly delayed. The construction crew, consisting of the Secret Service, the Army, the Marine Corps, the Navy, and aided by the cooperation of a WPA project in the area, nevertheless, substantially completed the project. On July 5, 1942, President Roosevelt made an inspection trip to the camp. Those uncompleted items may have hampered the housewarming, but they certainly did not

dampen the spirit of the President. The day before, U. S. Airmen had joined with the Royal Air Force in the first Allied assault on German targets on the mainland of Europe. On July 7, after the President had departed for Washington, the construction crew immediately returned to work and completed those unfinished items. And on July 18, the President returned for his first overnight "cruise" and stayed for three days.

THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION

When construction was completed, Shangri-La had 20-odd duplex cabins and miscellaneous buildings. The buildings housed overflow guests, regular camp crew and others. Often as many as a hundred people would be on board with the President - his secretaries, their secretaries, a doctor, medical assistant, cryptographers, radio operators, telephone operators, chauffeurs, valet, movie operator, and U. S. Secret Service agents. Few of the auxilliary cabins had running water. Washing facilities for most of those on duty were long outside metal troughs, without any covering and with cold water only. All the cabins were of rough lumber. All latrines were out of doors.

For the camp crew, maintaining the Camp was a diversified job. Buildings and roads were maintained, fences were mended, land cleared, grounds policed, retaining walls were built, a water and a fire department were operated. The crew endeavored to keep all buildings looking rustic, and the several types uniform in appearance. All of this was in addition to housing and feeding guests and caring for the well-being of the President.

After the President had started using the Camp, someone with an original bent of mind drew a unique map of Shangri-

La with expressive names designating the various cabins. This hung in the President's cabin: "The Bear's Den." In the vicinity of the President's lodge, the communications cabin was named "One Moment Please." The guest cabin was known as "The Roost." Mike Reilly, in charge of the U. S. Secret Service contingent, was quartered in "221 B Baker Street;" cabins for the other members of the Secret Service crew were for "The Baker Street Urchins." The Secret Service communications cabin was "The Eyrie." The President's physical therapist, Lieutenant Commander George Fox, was housed in "The Pill Box." The mess hall was known as "The Breadbasket" and the Filipino stewards were housed in "Little Luzon." The liberally scattered drinking fountains were known as "Water Holes." The swimming pool was known as "Bear Wallow" and the bath house was "Hickory Limb." The main entrance gate was appropriately called "Tell It to the Marines."

Presidential security always had the highest of priorities. When the Catoctin area was placed on the list of possible sites, the Secret Service checked the area thoroughly, walking back and forth through the surrounding woods, examining the mountain roads, learning who lived in the community, testing the soundness of camp buildings and finally flying many times overhead. Their report was favorable. They were particularly pleased that the natural-wood buildings were all but invisible from the air because of the dense

forest growth around them. In the summer, the buildings were entirely invisible unless a plane flew very low.

Physically, Shangri-La was ideally situated, located at the peak of a mountain. The highway which ran to the entrance was a prohibited thoroughfare, with limited access. A ten foot barbed-wire overhang encircled the compound. Sentry booths were provided at regularly spaced intervals and each booth was equipped with a telephone for a general alarm if necessary. Flood lights around the perimeter were controlled by a single switch, as were a second set of lights surrounding the President's Lodge. The Secret Service was well pleased with the compound as they felt facilities for the protection of the President were ideal.

The Marines who were charged with the responsibility of protecting the President while he was on board Shangri-La were quartered in Camp Misty Mount. There were more than a hundred Marines, commanded by Colonel Brooks, who commanded the Marines at Warm Springs, Georgia. At Shangri-La they patrolled the boundaries and cooperated with the Secret Service. Patrolling with war dogs, the Marine security force maintained the highest form of protection. Those people who had need to go about camp in the dark of night might be challenged several times in the course of a short journey. Even stray dogs that got into camp were rounded up to insure absolute peace and quiet.

The other group camp in the Catoctin Mountain Park was Camp Greentop, perhaps even more secret and security-minded than Shangri-La. Referred to mysteriously as a camp for training commandos, it was in fact established for the training of saboteurs. "Wild Bill" Donovan, Head of the Office of Strategic Services, (OSS), established in June, 1942, started the camp as a training camp for his new charges. The proximity of this camp to Shangri-La constantly worried the Marines and the Secret Service. They were afraid that some of the OSS trainees might try their newly learned tactics by staging a mock raid on the Presidential retreat. The Secret Service, realizing that the camp desired no intercourse with outsiders, respected their desires. Mike Reilly explained it: "We haven't called because we don't want them to call on us." Despite all fears, there was never any problem between the two compounds.

Although every effort was made to protect the President at Shangri-La, there was one rather hazardous experience which involved F. D. R. Although the President never showed himself in Thurmont, he did enjoy riding around the mountain roads in the area. One morning, accompanied by a Secret Service agent, he turned onto a private road running through a large estate. When they arrived at the caretaker's cottage, they were confronted by a small woman carrying a shotgun, who absolutely refused to believe their

answers when she asked who they were. When they said they did not have the owner's permission, in writing, to be there, she pointed the shotgun at the pair. Needless to say, they departed in a hurry. The next morning, Mr. Charles Paine, was called to the White House by the Secret Service and told what had happened. He was taken in to see the President, and, after apologizing, wrote him a permit to use the road through his place. It is not known whether or not the President was ever able to use this permit.

Another equally hazardous incident occurred with Mrs. Truman. Shangri-La, being situated on a mountain top, was well populated with copper heads and rattlesnakes. Snakes were in such abundance that it was not unusual for the camp crew to encounter one or more daily. The unusual activity of a Presidential visit, though, usually caused the snakes to keep their distance. On one occasion a copper head appeared close to Mrs. Truman. A steward, however, armed with a kettle of boiling water, drove the snake to cover, and Mrs. Truman was never aware of the incident.

The security of the President also included keeping the location of the "Summer White House" away from the press. Rumors in Washington were that the President was going to Herbert Hoover's old camp on the Rapidan in the Shenandoah National Park. Members of the White House Staff hoped that this rumor would circulate widely in order to safeguard

the security of the President. Word eventually leaked out. In fact, when Washington society writer Evelyn Peyton revealed the approximate location of Shangri-La, F. D. R. was furious, fearing that knowledge of the location would cause the compound to be placed off limits to him for security reasons. A while later, on October 15, 1943, a UPI release revealed that the location was in the "rolling Catoc-tin Mountains of Western Maryland." The National Park Service confirmed the fact that the President had used the area on several occasions. They referred all questions to the National Capitol Parks Service, which in turn passed them on to the White House. The White House said absolutely nothing.

Two years later, though, with war in Europe over, and the war in the Pacific drawing to a close, reporter Frank Henry of the Baltimore SUN, along with photographer Frank Miller, rented a plane and flew over the retreat. The September 16, 1945, issue carried the pictures and story. Henry reported that government officials were reluctant to talk about the installation. After learning that he had photographed the compound, they changed their tune, but still would not allow him to enter the camp. On September 30, however, reporters and photographers were given their first inside view of historic Shangri-La, the place of "meetings that shaped the world."

Although every effort was taken to insure the secrecy of the place, residents of Thurmont knew of its location. They even had an infallible method of knowing the President was coming. Before all Presidential visits, a Marine sentry would stand guard at the little bridge that crossed Big Hunting Creek on the road up the mountain. Although the residents of Thurmont knew the day, they did not always know the hour. Usually the Presidential party would drive through Frederick and the word would be relayed via telephone. But, as one Thurmonter explained it: "the President fooled us more than once. His party would skirt Frederick and then he'd more than likely take us by surprise."

Shangri-La was a "retreat" and its basic purpose was to give the President a place where he could relax. Slacks and athletic-type woolen shirts were his favorite dress. There never was any formal routine. The President liked to sit on the screened porch talking, working over his stamp collection, cat-napping, playing solitaire, doing whatever appealed to him. If he was reading or working on his stamps, or seemed to be thinking, no one intruded. There never was any unscheduled caller. He had a telephone in his bedroom directly connected to the White House on which he could make out-going calls; but no one could call him. When an important call came to the camp switchboard, the President would be notified. He would then go to his phone and tell

the White House to connect him with the caller.

Harry Hopkins was almost always "up" with the President and they would spend much of their time going over reports and cables and composing replies. If the weather was sunny, they would work on the screened porch, outside on the patio; if wet, they would move inside into the living-dining room. The President's secretary, Grace Tully, and her assistant, Dorothy Brady, usually accompanied them to handle all dictation and typing.

Although a retreat, Shangri-La was a place where much work was accomplished. One of F. D. R.'s assistants, William D. Hassett recorded a "typical" working weekend in Off the Record with FDR. Hassett was invited on his birthday to spend the weekend of August 28, 29, 30, 1942, with the President at Shangri-La. In Mr. Hassett's words:

August 28, Friday

Our cars finally rolled out of the South Grounds at 3:55 and, having taken a circuitous route, reached Shangri-La at 6:05. The President settled himself on the porch to the rear of his cottage; said we would have dinner at 7 and cocktails in ten minutes. The President was as good as his word; lost no time in shaking Martinis on the porch. After dinner the President went back to his favorite corner of the porch and asked for his stamps, always a diversion.

The President retired early on Friday and after walking over to visit Captain Jack Keever, U. S. Navy, Officer in charge of Shangri-La, Mr. Hassett retired at about 11:00.

August 29, Saturday

Lazy day for me. The President stipulated that I need not work, and as a matter of fact, there was little work that I could do. Took a few phone calls, but nothing important. Mrs. Hopkins arrived before lunch bringing some mail, which Grace Tully handled, as she has done on all previous trips here.

The day was one of important conferences for the President. He is working on three important speeches: one to be delivered Monday afternoon at the dedication of the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda; another to the youth of the world from the White House Thursday noon; and the third, most important of all outlining the President's plan to control inflation, will be delivered from Hyde Park. All of this deals with, perhaps, the most important phase of the war since Pearl Harbor.

On Saturday morning, Averall Harriman, whose presence in the United States was unknown, arrived to discuss his conference in Moscow with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin. He shared the cabin "The Roost" with Mr. Hassett. Later that afternoon, General Arnold and a Dutch General arrived for conferences with the President. On Sunday, August 30, the President decided to return to Washington after lunch. When, after an afternoon of fog and drizzling rain, the sun appeared at 5 p.m., the party departed Shangri-La for Washington.

Shangri-La served as more than a retreat for President Roosevelt. As one government official once stated, this secluded little mountain retreat not only had the data on the fighting fronts and the potential fighting fronts, but was actively in touch with them all. For example,

President Roosevelt was at Shangri-La when he received news, "by direct radio communication," that the American forces had landed at Algiers, establishing a second front. On Prime Minister Winston Churchill's first visit to the Catoc-tin Retreat, the two received word of the King of Italy's resignation. President Roosevelt wrote in his deck log:

Rumor proved false much to our regret.

It was at Shangri-La that the President received the news of Allied landings at Sicily and the "resignation of Mus-solini and that the King has replaced him with Badoglio. May it be true this time." That same afternoon, President Roosevelt sent a cable to Prime Minister Churchill which said: "When the news from Rome came this afternoon, by co- incidence I was at Shangri-La again, but this time it seems to be true." The cable went on to discuss terms of sur- render and the course of the war to follow. Over the week- end of June 24 - 26, 1944, F. D. R. wrote in the deck log:

*Cherbourg Falls
June 25*

This was just two weeks after Allied landings at Normandy. Shangri-La also served as the Catoc-tin Command Center; the last log entry, undated, bears the following signatures:



Douglas MacArthur
C. W. Nease
W. J. Stiles

President Roosevelt initiated the practice of inviting foreign heads of state to the Presidential Retreat. During the war, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made two visits to the site. On May 11, 1943, he arrived in Washington to confer with President Roosevelt. On Friday, May 14, 1943, he accompanied Mr. Roosevelt to Shangri-La for a three day weekend. The two returned the following weekend. As the two drove through Thurmont, their motorcade stopped at an intersection. As the Secret Service agents stood on the cars, people in the vicinity rushed to see the two heads of state. The crowd cheered and Prime Minister Churchill made his famous Victory sign as the motorcade continued up the mountain.

During the two weekends, Mr. Churchill relaxed by exploring the Western Maryland countryside. This included a visit to Thurmont's "night spot" the Cozy Restaurant. Here, he enjoyed a cold beer and gave the waitress some coins for the juke box.



Another respite enjoyed by the two men was relaxing on the veranda of the "Bear's Den" with cigars and highballs. The Prime Minister also enjoyed fishing with the President. The two men would sit side by side on portable canvas chairs, the President pole-fishing and the Prime Minister smoking. The cigar smoke created enough of a screen to protect both of them from the mosquitoes; they would sit and talk by the hour.

Fishing was one of President Roosevelt's favorite sports. During the construction of the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, the trout streams in the area were considerably improved, under the direction of wild life technicians; they were also more heavily fished than ever before. The two major streams in the area, Big Hunting Creek and Little Hunting Creek, were one of the reasons President Roosevelt selected the area for this retreat. They tumbled over the rocks into deep, clear pools which were shaded by big hemlock trees. The President had little luck with the streams; however, Little Hunting Creek emptied into an old ore pit of the old Catoctin Iron Furnace and at that point made a wide, deep pond that was ideal for fishing. Here President Roosevelt found his "spot." Bound by the geographical limits of the Park, this pond was always stocked with plenty of brook trout whenever the National Park Service knew of an arrival. The President would be driven down the back roads to the old ore pit; after

boarding a rowboat manned by a sailor or Marine, he would
relax by casting for trout.

THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION

Following the death of President Roosevelt on April 12, 1945, there was some debate as to whether the Catoctin Area and Shangri-La would be returned to the National Park Service. Some government officials felt that the tract should be maintained as a national shrine because of the monumental decisions reached there. This belief was confirmed by President Truman in a letter to the Governor of Maryland, Herbert R. O'Connor:

"I have decided because of the historical events of national and international interest now associated with the Catoctin Recreational Area that this property should be retained by the Federal Government and made a part of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

"This action is in accord with the position expressed by the late President Roosevelt before his death.

Thus the entire area was to be retained by the Federal Government as an historical shrine. By April of 1947, the Marine assigned to Shangri-La for the protection of the President were moved from Greentop, and, during Presidential visits, were housed aboard Shangri-La. Camp Greentop was made available for use by the Maryland League for Crippled Children after May 1, 1947. The President's camp still remained closed to the public. Camp Greentop once again became the "Crippled Children's Camp."

During the summer of 1945, residents of Thurmont and those assigned to Shangri-La were expecting to see President and Mrs. Truman. For several weeks after the death of President Roosevelt, Shangri-La was deserted; the exception was the maintenance crew of approximately twenty men. Although the rumor was that the house was being made ready for the President, it was not until September that President and Mrs. Truman visited Shangri-La. During this visit, the President was described as being interested, but not enthusiastic about the retreat. On his second or third visit, he told Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon, Assistant Naval Aide to the President and Officer in charge of Shangri-La, that he felt cooped up because the trees and underbrush grew right up to the walls of the Main Lodge. He further stated that if the growth were thinned out, he might feel differently about the place.

With this in mind, a working party from the President's yacht, the USS WILLIAMSBURG, reported to Shangri-La to accomplish the work the President desired. With axes, saws, and bulldozers, they cut down trees, rooted out stumps, and cleared the underbrush. After a few blisters, strained muscles and sore backs, there appeared a wide open lawn on the east side of the Lodge which sloped down and away to the forest and a flagstone fence.

Although these changes pleased President Truman, Mrs. Truman's first visit was one rainy day in the Fall of 1945. She found the "retreat" dull. It is believed that because she cared little for the place, President Truman lost interest. However, on Mother's Day, 1946, Mr. Truman chose to have lunch at Shangri-La with his wife, daughter and his mother, Mrs. David Wallace. The President's motorcade for this visit differed markedly from those of President Roosevelt. It consisted of a plain, District of Columbia-licensed sedan, for the President and his party. The Secret Service agents, having "relaxed" some of their wartime procedures, followed a short distance behind. When the President's car was halted by a red light in Frederick, the agents remained in their own vehicles; they did not surround the car as they had done with President Roosevelt.

President Truman's favorite exercise was walking, and at Shangri-La he was usually accompanied by Lieutenant Commander Rigdon. These were the only times the Secret Service would allow the President out of their sight. Not one to stick to main roads, the President seemed to favor the myriad trails in the area. He also enjoyed roaming in the Camp jeep, with Mrs. Truman at his side, the Secret Service and Officer in charge of Shangri-La in the back seat. Mrs. Truman frequently used the Camp for informal luncheons, such as a pool-side buffet.



Because of the inadequate heating, President Roosevelt closed the Camp during the winter. President Truman decided to keep the Camp open year round, so all buildings were made tight for the mountain-top winters. Steam heat was installed in the Lodge and some of the guest cabins. President Truman also opened the Camp to members of his staff, when he or Mrs. Truman were not there. With these improvements and changes in policy, Shangri-La was in use part of nearly every week. Many members of the White House Staff used it as a place for social entertainment.

In opening Shangri-La to the White House Staff, there were restrictions placed on its use. First of all, only a select few were authorized the privilege and then only when the visit would not interfere with the use of the Camp by the President, First Family, or official guests. It was further understood that all visitors at the Camp, other than the President's personal and official guests, would pay their respective mess bills and other expenses that might be incurred. Special purchases of food not included in the usual ration were to be billed to the individual involved.

Guests were expected to comply with Camp regulations which were required for security and operational reasons.

There were no other restrictions placed upon the guests' conduct except that there must not be any "wild parties" or other unbecoming conduct. Excessive drinking or gambling for high stakes were absolutely forbidden.

Arrangements for visits to the Camp by those staff members authorized were made through the office of the Naval Aide to the President. Conflicts as to desired dates of visits to the Camp were resolved by the Naval Aide on the basis of seniority. The exception to this rule was when arrangements had been completed for a visit by one member of the staff and his party, no change or cancellation could be made except by agreement with that member for whom the arrangements had been made. Those members of the staff who were authorized use of Shangri-La were furnished a copy of Commodore Vardaman's Memorandum to the President which outlined the Camp's use and regulations. They were requested to hold it in confidence so that, for security reasons, the Camp would not be discussed as to its location, facilities or any phase of its operation.

During the Truman administration, Shangri-La was a place for relaxation. Often, the President would drive himself to the Catoctin retreat, with his family and official guests accompanying him. Movies in the large Navy mess were common fare for Mr. Truman and his guests.

When the weather permitted, the President would take a half hour walk, usually accompanied by Lieutenant Commander Rigdon. During this period, the two men would usually cover a mile to a mile and a half. In the summer, the President would follow his walk with a swim and sun bathing. On those days when the weather was inclement, Mr. Truman would remain in the Main Lodge; the exception would be to walk to the Navy mess for movies.

President Truman did not take as many guests to Shangri-La as did President Roosevelt. On several occasions, he and Mrs. Truman would go up alone. Frequently, Lieutenant Commander Rigdon was the only member of the White House Staff to accompany them. Often, when Mrs. Truman was out of Washington, Mr. Truman would journey to Shangri-La and spend a weekend by himself.

Although the cloak of secrecy had been removed, the press was not admitted inside the compound itself. They would travel to Thurmont, where they found quarters. Once a day, a Camp representative would travel to Thurmont and brief them on what, if anything, had happened at the President's Lodge.

THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION

On January 20, 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower took office as the President of the United States and the use of the Catoctin Mountain Presidential Retreat continued. President Eisenhower renamed the compound "Camp David" after his grandson, David Eisenhower. The Eisenhowers made other changes to the Camp: President Roosevelt's escape door was removed; the family's living quarters were made more private; the building was air conditioned. President and Mrs. Eisenhower regarded the place as one of their private homes; therefore, the Camp was no longer available to members of the Cabinet or White House Staff. Also, because of the President's affinity for the game of golf, the broad lawn east of the Main Lodge was converted into a three-hole golf course.

During President Eisenhower's administration, Camp David was used mainly as a place to relax. The Eisenhowers divided their time between the Camp and their farm in Gettysburg. Over the July Fourth weekend, 1953, President Eisenhower paid one of his first visits to Camp David. He was accompanied by Mrs. Eisenhower and her mother, Mrs. John Doud. Throughout the weekend, the President kept in close touch with the Korean situation through telephone communications with the White House, much like President

Roosevelt did, ten years prior. This particular weekend, though, the President found time to visit the Crippled Children's Camp at Greentop. After spending about half an hour with the children, the President departed, leaving some money for the children's dessert.

Other, more monumentous events took place at Camp David during the Eisenhower administration. In 1955, while recuperating after his heart attack, the President chose Camp David for his first Cabinet Meeting. The meeting occurred on November 22, 1955 and those in attendance were: Assistant on Disarmament Harold Stassen, Agriculture Secretary Benson, Defense Secretary Wilson, Secretary of State Dulles, Postmaster General Summerfield, Labor Secretary Mitchell, Budget Director Hughes, Health Secretary Folsom, Commerce Secretary Humphrey, Interior Secretary McKay, U. N. Ambassador Lodge and Vice President Nixon. Some decisions reached during this meeting included the President deciding to ask Congress to aid in the construction of Egypt's Aswan dam; propaganda was to be increased in Eastern Europe; cuts to the military budget were to be halted; more money was to be devoted to the Inter Continental Balistic Missile System. All of these measures were designed to counter the Soviet Union's increased anti-United States stance. These meetings also produced the material the President would use for his State of the Union and other messages to Congress and the American people.

One day prior to these meetings, President Eisenhower was driven from his Gettysburg farm to meet with the National Security Council at Camp David.

While relaxing at Camp David, President Eisenhower found time, on several occasions, to attend church services in nearby Thurmont. The first time this happened was in 1953 when the President attended services at the Trinity United Church of Christ. He gave no advance notification of his plans and was pleased when no special attention was given him.

When British Prime Minister Macmillan visited the United States, the two heads of state journeyed to Camp David for a weekend. They conferred about such topics as Anglo-American friendship, rebuilding the British trade position, and American aid in restoring faith in the Prime Minister's Conservative Party in Britain. On the Saturday of this weekend visit, preparations were made for the two to attend church. Representatives from Scotland Yard and U. S. Secret Service agents inspected the church and facilities were approved. Since Thurmont, at that time, had no policeman, a visit to the Mayor's house resolved arrangements to handle the traffic problems that would arise from the motorcade.

After the two attended services, they returned to Camp David and concluded their talks. They then returned to Washington. This visit was considered to be one of the most important and longest world conferences during the Eisenhower administration. This was also thought to be the first time two world leaders worshipped under the same roof.

In the Spring of 1959, President Eisenhower hinted that Chairman Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union and he might exchange visits. On August 3, 1959, the President announced the planned visit of Khrushchev to the United States. This was after Vice President Richard Nixon went to Moscow in July. On August 5, Chairman Khrushchev held a press conference and confirmed the visit, remarking that there were no "issues that could prevent the creation of a climate of confidence and mutual understanding."

On Friday, September 25, 1959, President Eisenhower and Chairman Khrushchev flew to Camp David by helicopter. Their first conference began shortly after they arrived and lasted about three hours. It was "a general discussion of the world situation." On Saturday, Vice President Nixon was summoned to join the discussions as were several other advisors on both sides. On Sunday, President Eisenhower went to church and Chairman Khrushchev remained at Camp David. Conferences ended about noon on Sunday. The

two men decided to drive back to Washington and attracted a large crowd when they passed through Thurmont.

Just what the discussions were about and what resulted was not revealed at that time. However, over a decade later, Chairman Khrushchev, in Khrushchev Remembers, said of the visit: "I remember a conversation I once had with President Eisenhower when I was a guest at his dacha at Camp David. We went for walks together and had some useful informal talks." Concerning military spending, President Eisenhower said: "You know, we really should come to some sort of an agreement in order to stop this fruitless, really wasteful rivalry." Chairman Khrushchev answered: "I'd like to do that. Part of my reason for coming here was to see if some sort of an agreement would come out of these meetings and conversation." From these meetings, the phrase "spirit of Camp David" was coined to denote what was then thought to be a more amicable attitude toward world problems.

In the summer of 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated by the Republican Party for the Office of President of the United States. Unable to find a place where he could work undisturbed, the Vice President accepted President Eisenhower's invitation to use Camp David to prepare his speech for accepting his party's nomination.

At Camp, Mr. Nixon studied history and philosophy in the works of such people as H. G. Wells, Arnold Toynbee, and Winston Churchill. After a week of solitary study, Mr. Nixon returned to Washington to write his speech. The study that the Vice President was able to accomplish while at Camp David also served for his later speeches during the campaign.

After the November elections, it was at Camp David that President-elect Kennedy met with President Eisenhower. Among the topics under discussion were the Cuban situation and the orderly change of administrations.

THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION

After President Kennedy took office, he and his family continued the use of Camp David. On one of his first visits, President Kennedy was met at Camp by Representative Charles McC. Mathias, whose Congressional District includes the Catoctin area. Congressman Mathias pointed out the history that the area had to offer and enumerated the various points of historical importance. President Kennedy was obviously interested, for, later in his administration, he visited the battlefields at Gettysburg and Antietam while he was at Camp David. In both instances, he showed intense interest in the troop movements over the sites. He wanted to know about specific actions of various divisions and how the troops made their way to the scenes of the action.

Under President Kennedy's direction, the policy of opening the Camp to White House Staff members when the President or First Family were not in residence was re-established. As during the Truman Administration, all facilities but the President's Lodge were utilized. Again, as before, all mess bills were paid by the individual concerned. Cabinet members, agency heads, and senior White House Staff members were authorized use; restrictions were much as they were during previous administrations. The

President's Naval Aide handled all bookings for the Camp on a priority basis.

When the entire First Family was at Camp David, they would relax, using the stables, riding path, riding ring, playground for the children, pool, or simply walking about the Camp. Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his family became frequent visitors. On his first visit, he stayed in Aspen Lodge and asked if a football was available for a game of touch football. On several occasions, home movies were shown in Aspen, by both Kennedys. On April 18-22, 1962, Colonel John Glenn and family visited Camp upon the invitation of President Kennedy. This was the first privacy the Colonel had had since his flight into space.

Camp David was a favorite place for Mrs. Kennedy and the children. Mrs. Kennedy especially enjoyed the privacy and freedom the Camp afforded her. While at Camp, she was able to move around without drawing a crowd. Even the Secret Service agents would stay out of sight. All recreational facilities were heavily used. Mrs. Kennedy even stabled her horses aboard the Camp. For Mrs. Kennedy, Camp David was close to the many interesting sights, and the nearby communities contained a number of stores which struck her fancy. It was not unusual for her to drive to

Thurmont and do her shopping. Fantasyland Park in nearby Gettysburg was a favorite spot for John Jr. and Caroline. Mrs. Kennedy took them to that children's park on several occasions.

As with President Eisenhower, there was time for worship while President Kennedy and his family were at Camp David. The recreation hall in Hickory would be converted into a chapel and Mass would be celebrated, usually by the Reverend John J. MacNulty, from nearby Fort Ritchie, Maryland. Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families would be invited to attend the services with the First Family.

During the Kennedy Administration, Camp David was not in use as much as it had been. The nearness of Cape Cod and the house the Kennedys were building in nearby West Virginia accounted for this.

THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION

President Lyndon Baines Johnson first visited Camp David as Vice President. After he assumed the office of the Presidency, one of his first visits to the Catoctin Area was to visit the first Job Corps Camp, just down the road from Camp David. After spending some time with the young men in the Camp, Mr. Johnson met at Camp David for dinner with his foreign and military advisors. After the meal, the group flew back to Washington. Mr. Johnson became a frequent guest after this first visit. He would come to Camp David to relax. He enjoyed movies, bowling, walking about the Camp or simply sitting on the patio and enjoying the view. When disturbed by the several demonstrations and other political disturbances of the day, Mr. Johnson would climb into his helicopter and fly to Camp David for a "clearer view of national horizons."

The President's daughters, Lucy and Lynda, also enjoyed the Camp, entertaining their friends there on several occasions. Recreational items which appealed to them were movies, bowling, shooting skeet, and the swimming pool. Lynda Johnson would often drive to Harriet Chapel at Catoctin Furnace for church services. President Johnson continued the policy of holding church services

at the Camp. On July 18, 1965, church services were held on board by Dr. Billy Graham, who was spending the weekend with President and Mrs. Johnson. As with the Kennedys, the Camp David crew and their families were invited to attend.

President Johnson also continued the policy of entertaining visiting Heads of State at Camp David. On July 22, 1967, Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson was a guest, and he and President Johnson held a joint press conference at the lower patio of Aspen Lodge. Over the weekend of June 17, 1967, President and Mrs. Johnson hosted Prime Minister and Mrs. Harold Holt of Australia. The weekend was originally scheduled for the Johnsons' Texas ranch, but at that time, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin was in New York and President Johnson wanted to stay close to Washington, should the opportunity for a meeting with the Premier arise. President Johnson explained the nature of the trip to the Maryland mountains by saying: "primarily we look forward to having a nice Saturday evening and Sunday with an old and treasured friend."

During the weekend, the two leaders toured the Camp on a golf cart and held numerous private discussions which covered such topics as the Middle East, Australia's role in the Vietnam war and other topics of the day. For enter-

tainment Saturday night, the two showed each other home movies. On Sunday, both families, along with fifteen members of their parties, attended church services at Harriet Chapel at Catoctin Furnace. After the services, the President and the Prime Minister chatted with the congregation and played with the children present.

In April of 1965, when the Dominican Crisis broke out, President Johnson received his first news while at Camp David. He kept in close contact by telephone to the White House Situation Room. On Sunday, April 25, the President invited his advisors to fly to Camp David for conferences, but because of the fog, helicopter operations were cancelled. President Johnson was driven to Thurmont where he boarded his helicopter for his return flight to Washington.

President Johnson on several occasions used Camp David for conferences with his highest advisors. In The Vantage Point, he described one such conference:

"After dinner we reviewed the progress of discussions on the nonproliferation treaty...the next morning, October 2, we continued our talks. Much of the time we wandered over the paths and through the autumn-colored woods at Camp David.

In April of 1968, shortly after President Johnson announced that he would not seek re-election and that he

was seeking peace talks concerning the Vietnam War, he held a conference at Camp David. Those in attendance were Secretary of State Rusk, Ambassador to Vietnam Ellsworth Bunker, Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford, Mr. Walt Rostow, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Earle G. Wheeler, Mr. MacGeorge Bundy, and Mr. Averall Harriman. Discussions concerned mainly the selection of and alternate possibilities for the talk sites. A press office was established in nearby Thurmont and all news items were released from that point. Again from The Vantage Point, Mr. Johnson described the conference:

"On the evening of April 8, I flew by helicopter to Camp David. It was a relief to get away from the noise and carbon monoxide of downtown Washington. At the Aspen Lodge I changed into more comfortable clothes and sat in the living room talking with Walt Rostow about the problems we would be discussing the next day. Finally, I dozed off in my chair until dinnertime. The next morning, I drove to the helicopter pad to greet my visitors from Washington....We went to the Lodge and over breakfast, talked about Vietnam and discussed the latest exchanges with Hanoi. We later moved outside to enjoy the sunshine and continue our discussion.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION

Less than one month after he was inaugurated, on February 15, 1969, President Richard Nixon made his first visit to Camp David as President. The President appeared interested and favorably impressed. The tone of the visit was relaxed, quiet, and informal. With his frequent visits, Mr. Nixon changed the entire complexion, tone and history of Camp David. President Nixon has work and vacation complexes in Key Biscayne, Florida, and San Clemente, California. These two locations are generally used by the President for extended periods of time. The Florida location is used for trips of four to five days; Mr. Nixon will travel to California for periods of two to three weeks of work and relaxation. Camp David is used by the Nixon administration for weekend visits, mid-week conferences, and in quiet preparation for his trips abroad, his speeches, and his major national and international decisions.

Since Richard Nixon has been President, he has used Camp David nearly as much as the previous five Presidents combined. For example, in the first two years of his administration, he equalled, in total number of visits, the usage for Camp David's first twenty-seven years. In fact, Camp David is in almost constant use by the Presi-

dent, First Family, Foreign Heads of State, Cabinet Members, and the Senior White House Staff. For the President and First Family, Camp David is a place to relax, to get away from the pressure, and to have a family get together. All recreational facilities are utilized, with movies being the most frequent pastime. The President quite often will simply relax and read in Aspen Lodge. Sometimes he will work in an office set up in one of the nearby cabins, or he will walk down to his office in Laurel Lodge. Bowling is a frequent respite, as is the swimming pool, constructed behind Aspen. Another favorite item enjoyed by the entire First Family, is walking about the Camp, or riding about on a golf cart. The President frequently, in walking about the Camp, will inspect new construction. The entire First Family enjoys simply relaxing on the patio or beside the pool in the midst of the hardwood forest with the breathtaking view of the valley below.

As with previous Presidents, Mr. Nixon attends church services in the nearby communities. For example, on Easter of 1971, with the entire First Family at the Camp, including Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, they attended Easter Sunday services at the Thurmont Methodist Church. In 1972, the First Family attended Easter services at nearby Gettysburg Presbyterian Church.

Several Heads of State have visited the Catoctin Mountain Retreat during the Nixon administration. Prime Minister and Mrs. Gorton of Australia visited in May of 1969; in February of 1970, President and Mrs. Pompidou of France were overnight guests preceding their official arrival at the White House: in April 1970, Chancellor Willy Brandt spent three days relaxing and fishing at the Camp during his state visit. In June of 1970, Princess Anne and Prince Charles, as the guests of Tricia Nixon and Julie Eisenhower, and several of their friends, flew to Camp David for an evening of outdoor exercise and a picnic on the lawn of Aspen Lodge. In December of 1970, President Nixon held conferences in Aspen Lodge with British Prime Minister Heath. This was one of the few opportunities the press have been given access inside the Camp in several years. In October of 1971, President Tito and Mrs. Broz of Yugoslavia were guests and in December 1971, President and Mrs. Medici of Brazil visited the Camp. In June 1972, President Echeverria and his official party were overnight guests at Camp David preceding their State arrival ceremony at the White House.

Upon the invitation of President Nixon, the Astronauts of Apollo XIII, Apollo XIV, Apollo XV, and Apollo XVI have relaxed with their families at Camp David after their historic flights.

For the Nixon Administration, Camp David has been a place for more than pure relaxation. For example, in August of 1969, The President met with the Vice President and the entire Cabinet to discuss the Administration's major overhaul of the welfare program. In June of 1970, the White House Domestic Council held its first formal meeting. Perhaps the most important decision associated with Camp David during the Nixon Administration was the events that took place on the fifteenth of August, 1972. It was at Camp David that President Nixon gathered his economic advisors to formulate the plans and policies that would affect the entire nation and the world. After the policies were written and after the President addressed the nation, he presented Camp David jackets to all who were in attendance.

For President Nixon, Camp David has become a favorite place to write his major speeches. In March of 1969, the President chose Camp David to write his eulogy to President Eisenhower. It was also at Camp David that the President wrote his Vietnam Policy Statement address in November of 1969. The State of the Union Addresses of 1970 and 1972 were written at Camp, as was the President's Busing Speech in March of 1972. Another first for Camp David was at noon on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 1971, when President Richard Nixon addressed the

(nation from Maple, a guest cabin just a short walk from
(Aspen Lodge. Maple was again utilized for the President's
Veterans' Day, 1971, radio address. Again in August 1972,
just prior to the Republican National Convention, Presi-
dent Nixon gathered at Laurel Lodge with the entire Cabinet
and his high level political leaders for meetings and
dinner.

There have been several occasions when President
Nixon has come to Camp David alone, save for the military
staff, doctor, and his valet, Manolo Sanchez, who always
accompany him. On such visits, he will simply walk about
the Camp by himself, or sit on the patio of Aspen Lodge
pondering the decisions he must face. One such trip
occured just prior to his historic journey to Mainland
China, in February of 1972. It appears that in doing so,
he chooses Camp David simply to get away from it all.
He is not bothered; there is no one to interrupt his chain
of thought. He takes only those phone calls that are
absolutely necessary. He is, in a sense, a man apart from
the world. What affect the mountain atmosphere has on the
President may never be known. Suffice it to say, Camp
David is a place where President Richard Nixon, and those
Presidents who preceeded him in the use of Camp David, is
able to not only relax and enjoy the company of his family,

but a place where Presidents can, and have, and will make
decisions which alter the course of history.

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APPENDICES

President Roosevelt's Sketch

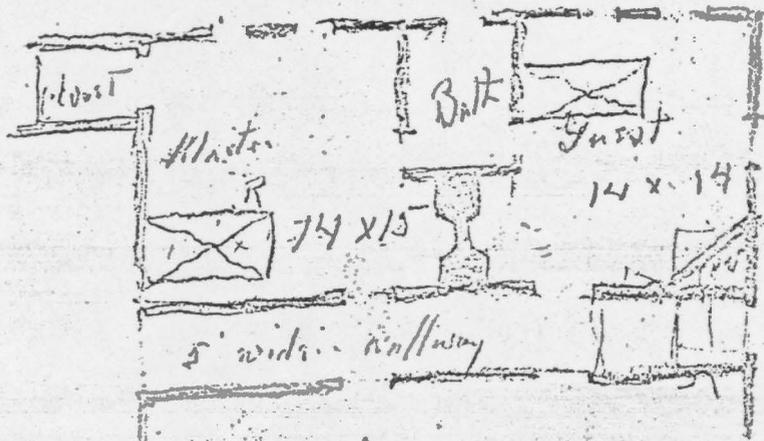
Deck Log of the USS SHANGRI-LA

Military History of Camp David

Foreign Heads of State

Camp Commanders

Photographs



Same as
 other side of hall - 2
 beds in one of the
 rooms.

Height of
 ceilings in
 Bed Rooms ?
 at least 11 ft
 No ceiling in
 Living Room or Por



THE DECK LOG OF THE USS SHANGRI-LA

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FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Prime Minister Winston Churchill
Princess Juliana

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Prime Minister Harold MacMillan
Chairman Nikita S. Khrushchev
President Adolfo Lopez Mateos
President Alberto Lleras Comargo
President Charles DeGaulle

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Prime Minister Lester Pearson
Prime Minister Harold Holt

President Richard M. Nixon

Prime Minister Gorton
President Georges Pompidou
Chancellor Willy Brandt
The Prince of Wales (Charles)
The Princess Anne
Prime Minister Edward Heath
President Tito
President Medici
President Echeverria

CAMP DAVID

CAMP COMMANDERS

Originally established in 1942 as Shangri-La by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Camp was directed by various naval officers detailed from the Presidential Yacht and from the Office of the Naval Aide in Washington until 1958

Captain J. H. Keevers, U.S. Navy
Lt. Commander W. H. Ridgon, U. S. Navy
Lieutenant R. C. Peniston, U. S. Navy
Lieutenant H. L. Culbreath, SC, U. S. Navy
Lieutenant G. O. Fowler, U. S. Navy
Lt. Commander C. H. Weyrauch, SC, U. S. Navy

CAMP COMMANDERS

In Residence

Lieutenant T. E. Wynkoop, SC, U. S. Navy
5 August 1958 - 12 September 1961

Lt. Commander M. H. Breen, CEC, U. S. Navy
12 September 1961 - 15 April 1963

Lt. Commander C. M. Howe, CEC, U. S. Navy
15 April 1963 - 13 August 1965

Commander J. P. Jones, CEC, U. S. Navy
13 August 1965 - 12 July 1967

Commander J. R. Dunn, CEC, U. S. Navy
12 July 1967 - 7 August 1969

Commander J. L. Dettbarn, CEC, U. S. Navy
7 August 1969 -

PHOTOGRAPHS