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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

The attached is forwarded for your
information and will be handled
routinely unless otherwise indicated.



Jerry H. Jones
Staff Secretary

Ron Nelson

*I don't recall that sound
version but they sound
good 97 of the later.
make a copy
2000*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON

April 28, 1975

Dear Jerry:

You may already have this article, if not, I am pleased to send it on to you. It is very interesting, to say the least, especially "kicking them grizzlies."

All best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John H. Stender".

John H. Stender
Assistant Secretary of Labor

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Friends Recall . . .**President Ford's Heroic Days as a Yellowstone Park Ranger**

RANGER FORD: Things were never dull when he was on duty 37 years ago.

Picture President Gerald Ford with a Smokey-the-bear hat on and you have some idea how he looked 37 years ago — as a stout-hearted Yellowstone Park Ranger.

The ENQUIRER tracked down three men who were Ford's closest pals during that time and, as they recall, there was never a dull moment when 25-year-old ranger Jerry was around.

Wayne Replogle of Lawrence, Kans., remembered vividly the day Ford directed a dangerous cliff-top rescue.

A park visitor had slipped on some loose gravel and fallen down the steep cliff to a tiny ledge about 500 feet above the swirling waters of the Yellowstone River.

"When we were called, Jerry reacted like lightning," recalled Replogle. "He streaked out to our truck — with me behind him — and we raced to the scene.

"When we got there, the man — badly battered and on the verge of fainting — was holding onto some bushes with only one hand. His other hand had been injured in the fall."

Ford immediately took

charge. He slipped a rope around a tree, bound himself to one end and tied the other end to Replogle.

As Ford fed out the rope, Replogle lowered himself down and grabbed hold of the desperate man. Ford then pulled the two up.

Ranger Ford's strength and composure evidenced itself in other harrowing situations.

John Thune, Ford's roommate at Yellowstone, recalled the night the two arrived home to find a huge grizzly rummaging through the cupboard.

"When the big bear saw us he rushed at us with his paws flying," said Thune. "We jumped to the side and as the bear passed, Jerry gave him a hefty kick in the backside.

"That sure made him move and Jerry chased him off."

But there were lighter moments, too, reminisced Charles Waldron, one of Ford's ranger friends and now a retiree living in Portland, Oreg.

"We had to create our own amusements at Yellowstone," said Waldron. "So we used to wrestle each other."

One night Ford and Replogle were throwing each other all over the place when they crashed right through the wall.

Replogle recalled with a laugh: "There was plaster everywhere, so we ran out, bought some new plaster, and patched up the wall before our boss could find out."

But wrestling, rescuing and kicking bears can take it out on a guy at the end of the day — even a strong man like Ford.

"He would go out like a light at night and it was hell waking him up," said roommate Thune. "I'd throw pillows at him, I'd yell — but nothing worked.

"Finally, in desperation, I would throw my boots at him.

"There I was," said Thune with a touch of awe, "throwing my boots at the future president of the United States."

— RICHARD COWAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: JERRY H. JONES



The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- I don't recall these heroics
but they sound good 37 years later.
Make a copy for me.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld
Bob Linder