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E.W.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE/OEOB STAFF

SUBJECT: The Christmas Pageant of Peace
Thursday, December 18, 1975, 4:45 p.m.
Ellipse

You and your family and friends are invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Christmas Pageant of Peace on the Ellipse, Thursday, December 18, 1975, at 4:45 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained by calling the White House Visitors Office (extension 2200 or 2201). The program will begin at 5:00 p.m., and reserved seats will be held until 4:45 p.m.

The President and Mrs. Ford will light the National Community Christmas Tree at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Happy Holidays!

Michael J. Farrell

Michael J. Farrell
Director
Office of White House Visitors



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE

THE ELLIPSE

Thursday - December 18, 1975

Departure: 5:28 P.M.

From: Terry O'Donnell TOD

BACKGROUND

While every President since Calvin Coolidge has participated at least once during his Administration in the lighting of a symbolic National Christmas tree, the first "Christmas Pageant of Peace" was not organized until 1954 when a group of local civic and business leaders banded together to form Pageant of Peace, Inc. The tradition has continued and the Pageant has grown to become the focal point of the Yuletide season in the Nation's Capital.

The focus of the celebration is the national Christmas tree, a living 42-foot Colorado blue Spruce donated by the National Arborists Association as a continuing year-round symbol of the Pageant and all it represents. Prior to 1973, each year's tree came from a different State.

The Christmas Pageant of Peace, generally known as the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, is sponsored by the Pageant of Peace, Inc. The president of the organization, John W. Dixon, will be the master of ceremonies. The National Park Service is a co-sponsor. The event will be carried on Live Nationwide Television.

Your participation will involve observing a brief program, delivery of remarks and, finally, throwing of the switch to light the tree.

SEQUENCE

5:28 p. m.	You and Mrs. Ford board motorcade on South Grounds and depart en route Ellipse.
5:29 p. m.	Arrive Ellipse. Proceed on foot to off-stage holding area.
5:30 p. m.	You and Mrs. Ford arrive off-stage holding area and pause for announcement.
5:31 p. m.	"Ruffles and Flourishes" Announcement "Hail to the Chief"
5:31 p. m.	You and Mrs. Ford proceed on stage and take your seats. <u>Yours is the second stage left of the podium between Secretary Kleppe and Michele Lee, a Campfire Girl.</u> Mrs. Ford's is the second seat stage right of the podium between John W. Dixon and Assistant Secretary of Interior Nat Reed.
	LIVE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION ATTENDANCE: 2,000
5:32 p. m.	Grande Illumination Parade enters seating area.
	<u>NOTE:</u> The parade will be comprised of a Fife and Drum Corps, the Colonial Williamsburg Dancers, and the Continental Congress Singers.
5:35 p. m.	Brief remarks by John W. Dixon, Master of Ceremonies.
5:36 p. m.	"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" by the Continental Congress Singers.
5:37 p. m.	Dance by the Colonial Williamsburg Dancers.

3.

5:39 p. m.

Prayer for Peace by The Reverend
Demetrios Kalaris, Sts. Constantine
and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

5:40 p. m.

"Wassil Song" by the New England
Conservatory of Music Chorus.

5:43 p. m.

Remarks by Secretary Thomas S.
Kleppe.

5:45 p. m.

Remarks by Boy Scout Christian
Edward Rademacher.

NOTE: Upon completion of his
remarks, Christian will shake hands
with you as he returns to his seat.

5:46 p. m.

Remarks by Campfire Girl Michele
Adrienne Lee.

NOTE: En route the podium, Michele
will present Mrs. Ford with a bouquet
of flowers. As she returns to her
seat, she will shake hands with you.

5:47 p. m.

Introduction of you by John W. Dixon.

5:48 p. m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.

LIVE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION

5:53 p. m.

Your remarks conclude.

You remain standing and ask the Boy Scout
and the Campfire Girl to join you at the switch
box (stage left) in lighting the National Christmas
Tree.

4.

With the two scouts to your left, you place your hand on the switch box with that of the children and ask them to throw the switch.

5:54 p. m.

The tree is lighted.

5:55 p. m.

You and the two scouts remain standing at the switch box for the singing of "Joy to the World" by the New England Conservatory of Music Chorus.

5:57 p. m.

You return to your seat upon completion of "Joy to the World."

5:58 p. m.

Benediction by His Excellency Bishop Eugene A. Marino, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington.

5:59 p. m.

Singing of "O Come All Ye Faithful" by the audience and chorus.

6:01 p. m.

Thank you remarks by John Dixon.

6:02 p. m.

You and Mrs. Ford depart the stage and proceed to the motorcade for boarding.

6:02 p. m.

Music by the U.S. Marine Band.

6:04 p. m.

You and Mrs. Ford depart Ellipse en route South Grounds.

6:05 p. m.

Arrive South Grounds.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL WHITE HOUSE/OEOB STAFF

SUBJECT:

Restricted Parking

Ellipse Area

Thursday, December 18, 1975

Because of the 1975 Christmas Pageant of Peace Ceremony, the east side of the Ellipse parking area and a small section on the west will not be available for parking after 3:00 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 1975.

If you plan to be here after 3:00 p.m., we would encourage you to take available public transportation. If it is necessary for you to drive, please plan on moving your vehicle by 3:00 p.m. to the west side of the Ellipse, or a commercial parking lot.

The above will be in effect from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Attached is a map that indicates those areas affected on December 18. There will be no entry after 10:00 a.m.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

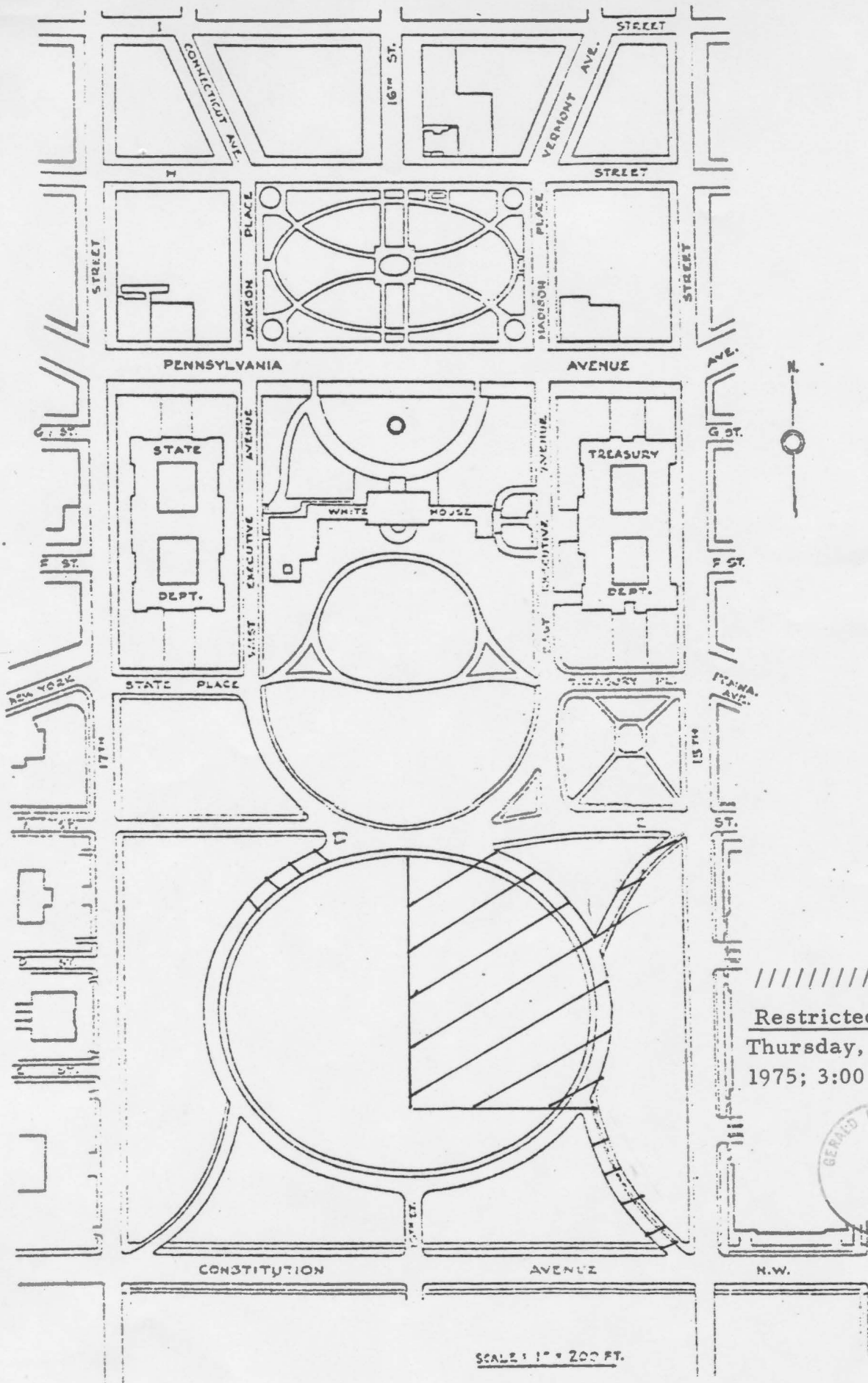


Michael J. Farrell

Director

Office of White House Visitors

Attachment



Restricted Parking
Thursday, Dec. 18,
1975; 3:00 - 7:00 pm



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 18, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

THE ELLIPSE

5:50 P.M. EST

Mr. John Dickson, Mayor Washington, Mr. Ambassador, Secretary Kleppe, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

As we gather here before our Nation's Christmas tree symbolic of the communion of Americans at Christmastime, we remind ourselves of the eternal truths by which we live. We celebrate the virtues of the human spirit -- faith in God and love of one another, and the guiding principles of America -- liberty and justice for all.

In our 200 years we Americans have always honored the spiritual testament of 2000 years ago. We embrace the spirit of the Prince of Peace so that we might find peace in our own hearts and in our own land, and hopefully in the world as well.

Christmas is a celebration of love -- it is a time of joy, of giving, of caring. We renew, we demonstrate our conviction that it is more blessed to give than to receive, to believe than to doubt, to hope than to despair, to love rather than stand apart.

We are a national family called America. We come from varied backgrounds. We live in areas far apart from each other. We have different dreams. But we are united this Christmas by our common commitment to one another.

We have much to be grateful for as we enter this Christmas season. We are at peace, and through our efforts significant progress has been made toward a more durable peace throughout the world.

Yes, we have endured economic difficulties but our Nation and we in the American family can now look forward to a more prosperous new year, and on this eve of our Bicentennial year liberty and justice still burn brightly as the guiding stars of our Nation.

MORE

We pray this Christmas not only for ourselves and our country but for all our brothers and sisters on earth. We ask for the strength and resolution to help lift the burdens of poverty, ignorance, hunger and disease from the minds and bodies of men and women and children everywhere.

As we enter America's third century, let us make sure we carry with us our abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of peace on earth and the living example of goodwill to all men and women. Let us join the great principles of our past, spiritual and temporal, with the great promise of our future.

With the help of God, America's third century will be our proud legacy to so many generations yet to come.

Tonight, as we light the national Christmas tree, Betty joins me in wishing all of you a very merry Christmas and a new year of peace and happiness.

Thank you.

END (AT 5:54 P.M. EST)

Star 12/19/75

Friday, December 19, 1975



—Associated Press

The National Christmas tree stands out over the smaller trees on the Ellipse following the official lighting of the 45-foot Colorado blue spruce.

PRESIDENT FORD PUSHES BUTTON LIGHTING NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE AND BROADCASTS HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THE NATION AT CEREMONIES ON THE ELLIPSE BEGINNING AT 4:45 P.M.

28

White House Tree Topping

Washington, Dec. 2 (UPI) — Workers began decorating the national Christmas tree today, using a cherry picker to put a specially designed Liberty Bell ornament atop the 45-foot tall blue spruce.

With the American bicentennial year at hand, the tree, on the White House Ellipse, will be decorated with 4,600 red, white and blue lights.

It will be surrounded by 13 smaller trees representing the 13 original colonies. These will be decorated alternately in solid red or blue lights. Forty-four other small trees, representing the other states and the territories, are placed in a row leading to the national tree.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1975

N.Y. Daily News



Wintry Winds Chill Fords at Yule Lighting

By Philip Shandler
Washington Star Staff Writer

Old Man Winter, arriving too soon as usual, punched the temperature lower than it's been since last season and set the Washington area shivering in its boots.

Gusting down from Canada yesterday on winds that reached 35 miles an hour, the cold air made even Santa Claus put on an overcoat for last night's annual Christmas tree lighting at the White House.

The Old Man whistled around the area busting water lines and snapping tree limbs and generally trying to make a mess for this morning's already-chilled motorists.

NOT OFFICIALLY due until Monday, Winter seemed, like an unwelcome house guest, intent not only on coming early but also on coming on strong.

The mercury plummeted to 19 at the National Weather Service station at National Airport at 2 this morning. The temperature fell to 14 at Dulles. And it may have been as low as 10 in some outlying spots, weather officials said.

Today the temperature was expected to stay below freezing. It might get a little warmer tonight and tomorrow, but the chance of snow will increase, too, the forecasters said — from zero today to 20 percent tonight.

The Weather Bureau isn't ready yet to talk about snow for Christmas. But President Ford invoked the holiday spirit in switching on the light of the 50-foot tree on his lawn.

"We are a national family called America," the President declared. "We have different dreams but we are united this Christmas to one



President and Mrs. Ford, along with Christian Rademacher, representing the Boy Scouts of America,

and Camp Fire Girl Michele Lee, light the National Christmas tree during ceremonies last night.

THE FORD FAMILY was reunited briefly just before that. Mrs. Ford was delayed a few minutes in getting to the ceremony when traffic stalled her car.

But she arrived in time to join other dignitaries in overcoats — including the unidentified official Santa whose red suit barely showed — and an estimated 7,500 plain people in oohing-and-aahing the big turn-on.

Icewater burst from hydrants and froze on the road at such points as Dorset Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase and Wilson Boulevard at Seven Corners in Arlington.

Road workers scurried about putting sand on areas of heavy traffic in anticipation of this morning's rush hour.

Little rushing was expected, on the other hand, in Maryland's northwestern panhandle, where more than four inches of snow fell last night.

—Associated Press

Nation's Christmas Tree Gets Liberty Bell Crown

Wash Post 12/17/75

By Patricia Camp

Washington Post Staff Writer

The National Christmas Tree got a new ornamental topping yesterday when Bicentennial boosters from the National Park Service placed a four-foot gold and green replica of the Liberty Bell atop a 47-foot live Colorado blue spruce transplanted from Pennsylvania.

At a morning ceremony held behind the White House on the Ellipse, a small group of park officials and news reporters and photographers watched the tree topping. In keeping with the bicentennial theme, the main tree will be decorated with 4,600 red, white and blue lights and will stand amid 13 smaller trees representing the 13 Colonies during American Revolution.

John W. Dixon, Texas industrialist and president of the Christmas Pageant of Peace Committee said the tree lights will be turned on for the first time by President Ford on Dec. 18. In addition, the New England Conservatory Chorus and other groups will be giving evening concerts at the Ellipse, 16th Street and Constitution Avenue NW from Dec. 18 through Dec. 23.

The General Electric Co.'s lamp business division, which has acted as lighting consultant to the pageant for 12 years and which donated the Liberty Bell ornament, said newer Christmas lamps are being used around the tree this year and will conserve about 40 per cent more energy than last year's lighting.

There have been Christmas tree decorating and lighting ceremonies in the nation's capital since 1923 when President Calvin Coolidge first participated in the festivities.

Trees once were selected from various states and trucked to Washington for the occasion, but in 1973 a live tree was planted on the Ellipse after conservation groups complained it was wasteful to cut down a tree every year for only two weeks of use.

Park Service officials said three private groups would present nativity scenes again this year on the Mall, one featuring live animals.

For information about the pageant's events, call the Park Service at 426-6700 or 426-6690.

UP-081

(NATIONAL TREE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- WORKERS BEGAN DECORATING THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE TODAY, USING A CHERRY PICKER TO PUT A SPECIALLY DESIGNED LIBERTY BELL ORNAMENT ATOP THE 45-FOOT TALL BLUE SPRUCE.

WITH THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL YEAR AT HAND, THE TREE ON THE WHITE HOUSE ELLIPSE WILL BE DECORATED WITH 4,600 RED, WHITE AND BLUE LIGHTS.

IT WILL BE SURROUNDED BY 13 SMALLER TREES TO REPRESENT THE 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES -- DECORATED ALTERNATELY IN SOLID RED OR BLUE LIGHTS.

FORTY-FOUR OTHER SMALL TREES, REPRESENTING THE REMAINING STATES AND TERRITORIES, ARE PLACED IN A ROW LEADING TO IT.

LIGHTS ON THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE OFFICIALLY WILL BE TURNED ON DEC. 18. THE PRESIDENT TRADITIONALLY FLIPS THE SWITCH, BUT A NATIONAL CAPITOL PARKS SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NOT CERTAIN YET WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PRESIDE AT THE CEREMONY THIS YEAR.

UPI 12-02 01:55 PES



*File -
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Please*

UP-088

R B

PHOTOS-TV:

DECORATING OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE WILL BEGIN TUESDAY. WORKMEN, USING A CHERRY PICKER, WILL "TOP OUT" THE TREE BY INSTALLING THE TOP ORNAMENT, A BIG LIBERTY BELL IN KEEPING WITH THE NATION'S BICENTENNIAL. A RED, WHITE AND BLUE BICENTENNIAL THEME WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON THE MAIN TREE AND THE SMALLER STATE TREES LEADING TO IT. THE BIG TREE WILL HAVE ALL WHITE LIGHTS, WHILE THE SMALLER ONES WILL HAVE RED AND BLUE ONES. THE TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ABOUT DEC. 18 WITH THE TRADITIONAL BROADCAST OF SEASON GREETINGS TO THE NATION BY PRESIDENT FORD. CONTACT: 426-6700.

UPI 11-28 01:37 PES

UP-089

UP-095

R B

CORRESPONDENTS:

WHITE HOUSE OR METROPOLITAN POLICE PRESS CREDENTIALS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR COVERAGE OF THE TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY OPENING THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT OF PEACE ON THE ELLIPSE DEC. 18.

ANYONE PLANNING TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHO DOES NOT HAVE EITHER OF THESE CREDENTIALS SHOULD CONTACT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 426-6700, BY TOMORROW TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE.

UPI 12-09 03:03 PES

