

The original documents are located in Box 11, folder “12/4/76 - Arrival of the White House Christmas Tree” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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For immediate release
Thursday, December 2, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Saturday, December 4, 1976

Approximately Arrival of Christmas Tree for White House.
10:30 am The tree will be presented by Kenneth Guenther
 of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, this year's
 National Grand Champion Christmas Tree Grower.

Monday, December 6, 1976

10:30 am Arrival of His Excellency Giulio Andreotti

8:00 pm State Dinner in honor of His Excellency Giulio
 Andreotti, President of the Council of Ministers
 of the Italian Republic.

Thursday, December 9, 1976

Time to be Preview of White House Christmas Decorations
announced

9:00 pm Christmas Ball for Members of Congress and spouses.

Tuesday, December 14, 1976

4:30 pm Christmas Party at the White House for the children
 of the Diplomatic Corps

Wednesday, December 15, 1976

7:00 pm Party for members of the White House Press Corps

Thursday, December 16, 1976

2:00 pm Mrs. Ford will attend the Christmas Party at the
 Hospital for Sick Children, Washington, D.C.

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L.A. Times 12/5/76 pg. 5
Ford Son Helps With Yule Tree *

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Ford's son Steve jumped aboard a pickup truck Saturday and helped unload the White House Christmas tree, a gift from a champion Wisconsin tree farmer.

Steve told the farmer, Kenneth Guenther of Black River Falls, that in the past he had seen pictures of his mother

Thank you
for the
report
12/15/74
By: 2



AP Photograph

Steve Ford, Left, Decided to Help

Steve Ford Helps Unload Tall Tree

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford's son Steve jumped aboard a pickup truck Saturday and helped unload the White House Christmas tree — a gift from a champion Wisconsin tree farmer.

Steve told the farmer, Kenneth Guenther of Black River Falls, that in the past he had seen pictures of his mother and

November 17, 1976

Memorandum for: Michael J. Farrell
Maria Downs
Sheila Weidenfeld ✓
Susan Porter
Desk

From: Rex Scouten

Subject: 1976 Christmas Tree

This year's tree will be furnished as usual by the National Grand Champion Grower of the National Christmas Tree Growers' Association.

Mr. Kenneth Guenther
Rt. 3, Black River Falls
Wisconsin

AC 715 - 284-5158

The tree will be a 20' Balsam Fir. Delivery to the White House by Mr. & Mrs. Guenther will be made in the forenoon of Saturday December 4.

At the present time we plan to install the tree in the Blue Room on Tuesday, December 7 and to complete all decorations by noon on Thursday, December 9.



Star 11/29/76 A-7

The Nation

Arson Suspected in 6-Death Fire

PHILADELPHIA — Fire officials suspect arson in a weekend boarding house fire that killed six elderly persons and injured 15 others.

Fire Commissioner Joseph Rizzo said the Saturday night blaze at the Johnson Boarding Home was "of an incendiary nature, suspicious and under continued investigation." Police were questioning an 18-year-old employee of the home.

Rizzo said about 22 elderly persons were in the three-story building at the time of the fire. Five of the dead were found on the floor and a sixth was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital. Five of the injured remained in the hospital.

White House Tree Is on the Way

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. — Kenneth Guenther and six helpers cut down a 20-foot balsam yesterday and loaded it on a pickup truck for the trip to Washington, where he and his wife, Diane, will present it to First Lady Betty Ford on Dec. 4 to be used to decorate the Blue Room of the White House.

Guenther, who owns a 360-acre tree plantation about eight miles east of Black River Falls, was selected to deliver the Christmas tree to the White House by winning the National Christmas Tree Grower Association Championship at Holland, Mich., in August. He earlier won the state championship, which means he will supply trees to Gov. Patrick Lucey.

Alaska Senator Refused Korean Gift

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said yesterday he

UP-127

(NATIONAL TREE)

MILWAUKEE (UPI) -- KENNETH GUENTHER OF BLACK RIVER FALLS, WIS., HAS BEEN PICKED TO PRESENT THE NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE TO PRESIDENT FORD THIS YEAR, AN OFFICIAL SAID HERE WEDNESDAY.

THE 18 TO 20-FOOT TREE WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN EARLY DECEMBER, ACCORDING TO DON MCNEIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION.

GUENTHER WAS RECENTLY NAMED NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION CHRISTMAS TREE GROWER FOR 1976. HIS ENTRY OF A WHITE PINE WON HIM THE TITLE OVER ENTRIES FROM 18 OTHER STATES, MCNEIL SAID.

UPI 10-28 06:06 PED

