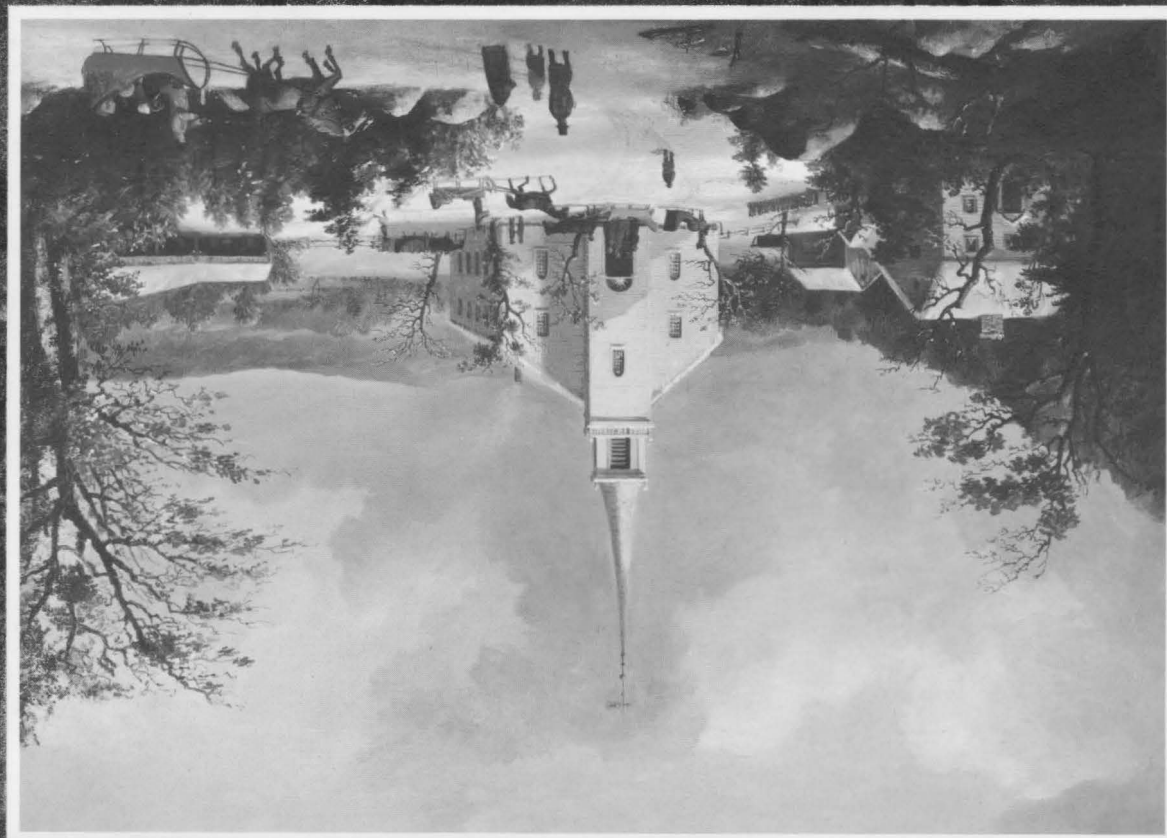


The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “Christmas, 1976 - Card” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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In his classic painting "Going to Church," George Durrie (1820 - 1863) beautifully captured the mood of winter in his native Connecticut. Reproductions of this work were widely circulated, making it a familiar scene to nineteenth century Americans. The original painting was presented to the White House in 1963.

Christmas 1976





*With best wishes from our family
for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

The President and Mrs. Ford

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

The President and Mrs. Ford mail their first Christmas cards tomorrow to about 35,000 Heads of States and foreign dignitaries Members of Congress, some state and federal officials and personal friends of the family.

The card is a reproduction of a painting in the White House collection. The painting, by New England artist George Durrie (1820-1863) is entitled "Going to Church" and captures the mood of winter in Connecticut. The original painting was presented to the White House in 1963.

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N.Y. Times 12/16/76

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 1976

Notes on People

With a lot of help from their staffs, President and Mrs. Ford yesterday mailed out the first batch of the 35,000 Christmas cards they are sending this year. The cards bear a reproduction of a painting entitled "Going to Church," completed in the 19th century by a New England artist George Durrie. The

and put off, but it's nothing serious."

Have another of those stories about horrible-but-humorous postal services: Leon Spain of Huntsville, Ala., received on Tuesday a letter mailed Sept. 29 in Rainsville, Ala., a town 100 miles from Huntsville. The letter finally reached

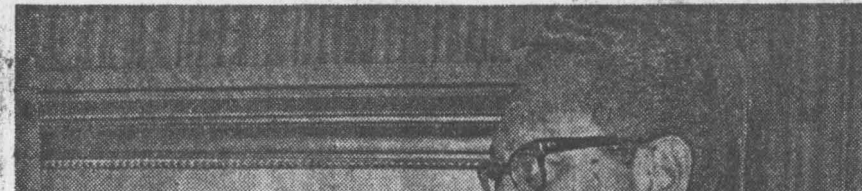


THE WASHINGTON POST

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1976 E 3
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The White House Christmas card for 1976 being sent out by President and Mrs. Ford is a winter scene called "Going to Church." It's a reproduction

two years, where he heads the Human Resource task force and is expected to chair a subcommittee on banking and currency this year.



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FORD-CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD WILL MAIL CHRISTMAS CARDS STARTING WEDNESDAY TO 35,000 HEADS OF STATE, FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, SOME STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY.

ON THE FRONT OF THE CARDS IS A REPRODUCTION OF A PAINTING IN THE WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION WHICH SHOWS WORSHIPERS TREKKING THROUGH THE SNOW TO ENTER A CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT.

THE PAINTING, BY NEW ENGLAND ARTIST GEORGE DURRIE, WHO DIED IN 1863, IS ENTITLED "GOING TO CHURCH."

THE MESSAGE INSIDE THE CARD READS: "WITH BEST WISHES FROM OUR FAMILY FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD."

MRS. FORD ENTERTAINED MORE THAN 400 CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS THIS EVENING AT A WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

SHE SAT WITH THE CHILDREN AS THEY WERE ENTERTAINED BY "BIG BIRD" AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SESAME STREET TELEVISION PROGRAM.

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT THE FORDS WILL HOST A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS. THE PRESIDENT ON THURSDAY NIGHT WILL LIGHT THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE ELLIPSE SOUTH OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD'S FINAL WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARD WILL FEATURE A PAINTING OF PEOPLE GOING TO CHURCH IN 19TH CENTURY CONNECTICUT.

THE WHITE HOUSE SAID YESTERDAY THE FRONT OF THE CARD IS A REPRODUCTION OF "GOING TO CHURCH" BY GEORGE DURRIE, A PAINTING IN THE WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION.

THE INSCRIPTION, UNDER AN EMBOSSED PRESIDENTIAL SEAL, SAYS: "WITH BEST WISHES FROM OUR FAMILY FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD."

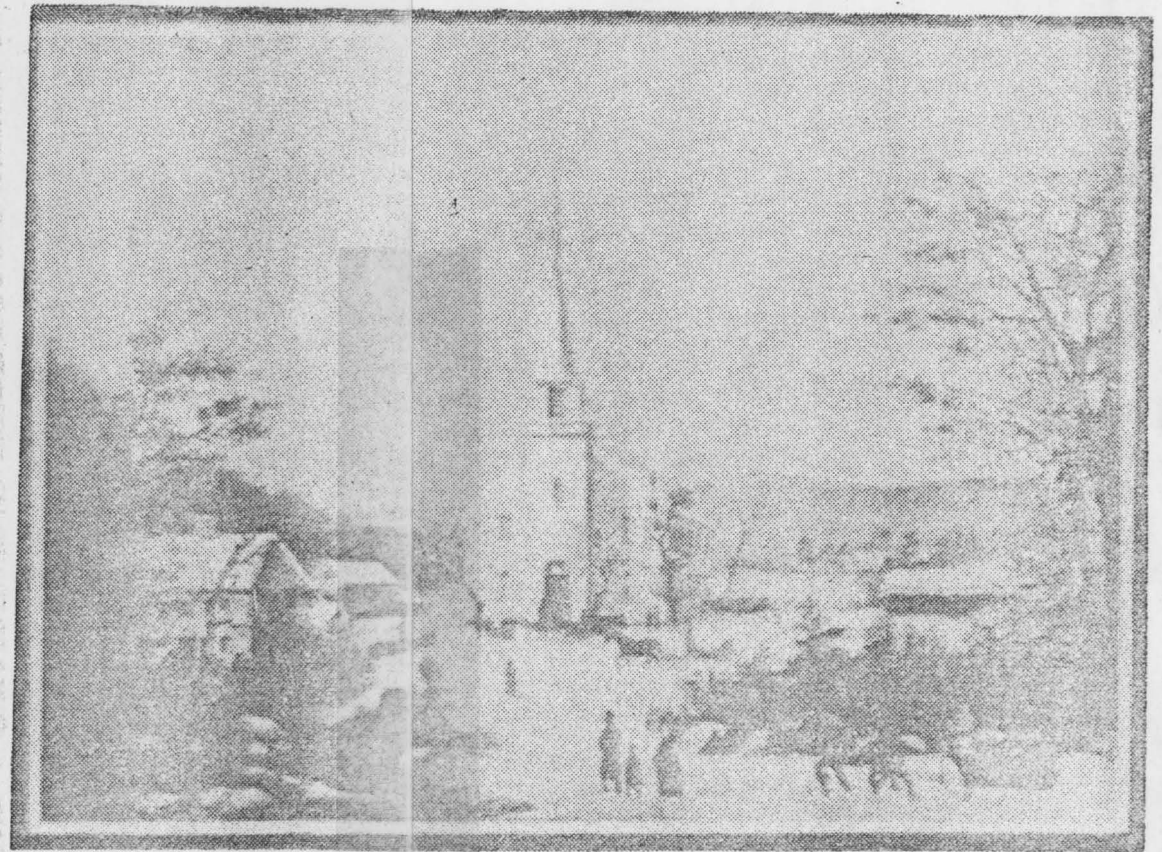
UPI 12-15 12:04 PES



AP Photographs

A Capital Party It Was

*With best wishes from our family
for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
The President and Mrs. Ford*



Big Bird, the character from Sesame Street, stood tall in the White House Tuesday. And who wouldn't, what with getting a big hug from Betty Ford, a lovely smile from Susan, and practically upstaging Santa Claus? The festivities were part of

At right is the 1976 Christmas card of President and Mrs. Ford. It features a Connecticut winter scene called "Going to Church" by 19th century painter George Durrie, from the White House art collection.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

8 Audiovisual Unit
 Book Collection
 Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: photo of the 1976 Ford Christmas Card

WM Photo 8DE 76 B2446

2 8"x10" BW

1 8" x 10" color

The item was transferred from: Weidentfeld Bros 36 Christmas -
1976 - Card

Initials/Date let 5/76