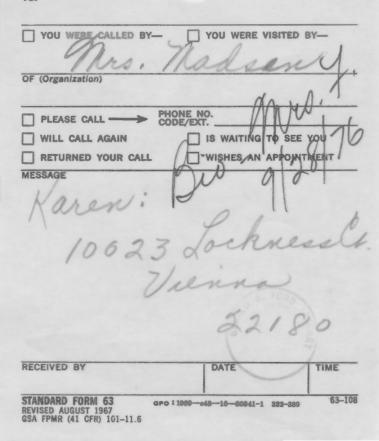
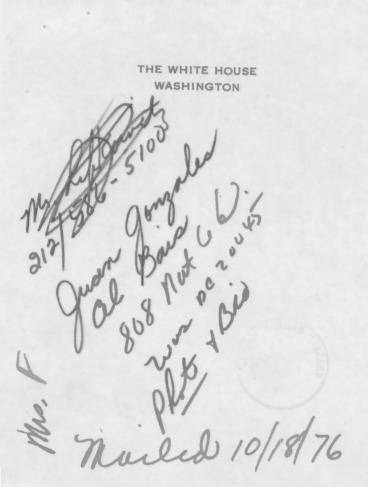
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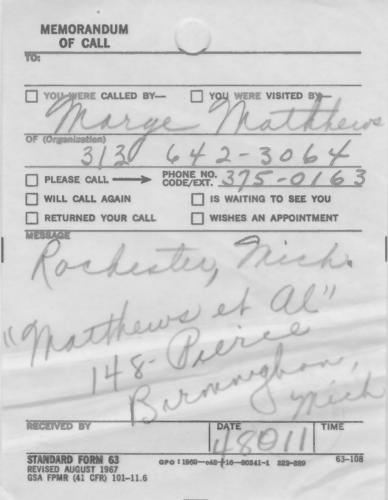
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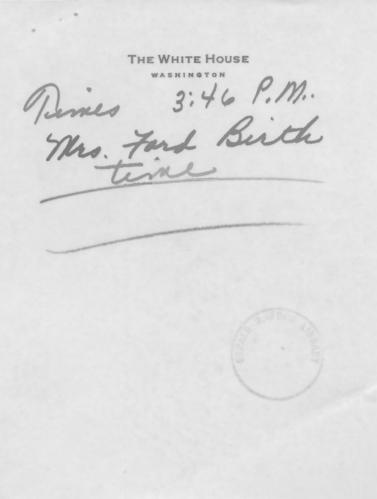
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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

Biography of the President

GERALD R. FORD, 38th President of the United States, was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913. He attended public schools in Grand Rapids, Michigan; received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1935; and an LL.B. from Yale University Law School in 1941.

In 1942 he entered the U. S. Navy, serving almost four years during World War II and participated in 3rd and 5th Fleet carrier operations aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey for two years. He was discharged in 1946 and resumed the practice of law.

President Ford was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1948 and reelected every two years through 1972, serving 25 years in the House. He was elected Chairman of the Republican Conference in 1963 and chosen Minority Leader in 1965. He also was permanent chairman of the 1968 and 1972 Republican National Conventions.

In November 1963, he was made a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and authored (with John R. Stiles) the book, <u>Portrait</u> of the Assassin (1965).

President Ford was nominated Vice President on October 12, 1973, to succeed Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned, and was confirmed December 6. He succeeded to the Presidency August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard Nixon.

President Ford is the recipient of the following awards:

American Political Science Association's Distinguished Congressional Service Award, 1961.

American Good Government Society's George Washington Award, 1966 American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award as "Giant of Accomplishment", 1971

AMVETS Silver Helmet Award, 1971

Boy Scouts of America "Silver Buffalo Award" for distinguished service to our country and its youth, 1975

He has received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from:

University of Pennsylvania Notre Dame University Ohio State University University of Michigan Michigan State University Western Michigan University The Citadel (and numerous colleges) President Ford received all-city and all-state football honors in Grand Rapids during high school, and he was a member of the University of Michigan's national championship football teams in 1932 and 1933. In 1934 he was named the University of Michigan's most valuable player. He served as assistant varsity football coach at Yale while a law student there.

He married Elizabeth Bloomer on October 15, 1948, and they are the parents of four children:

Michael Gerald	Born March 14, 1950
John Gardner	Born March 16, 1952
Steven Meigs	Born May 19, 1956
Susan Elizabeth	Born July 6, 1957

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Office of Mrs: Ford's Press Secreta Telephone (202) 456-2164

SUSAN ELIZABETH FORD

Birthdate: July 6, 19

The youngest of the four Ford children and the only daughter, 18-year-old Susan attends Mount Vernon College in Washington, D.C.

Susan's high school interest in photography expanded last summer with a workshop under Ansel Adams and an internship on The Topeka Capital Journal in Topeka, Kansas. She's now considering a communications major at Mount Vernon and on her travels with the President takes along her camera.

One of her favorite hobbies is needlepoint, and she has made a variety of gifts for family and friends from belts to handbags to cushions.

Like her brothers and father, Susan is an avid skier. She also enjoys water skiing, swimming, biking, horseback riding, and tennis. Like her mother, she started modern dance classes at eight. She also has studied ballet.

Susan cares for a growing number of plants and looks after the family pets. These include Shan, a Siamese cat, Liberty, a Golden Retriever, and Misty, Liberty's puppy.

Susan's first glimpse of the White House was in the summer of 1973 when she sold guide books for the White House Historical Association She also worked as a babysitter and answered phones for a medical telethon.

Susan was born in Washington, D.C. on July 6, 1957. She attended kindergarten at Immanuel Church on the Hill, the Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Virginia where the Fords belong. She attended her first eight grades in Alexandria schools. In June, 1975, she was graduated from the Holton Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland.

She presently lives at home and commutes to Mount Vernon College.

Office of Mrs. Ford's Press Secreta

John Gardner (Jack) Ford

Birthdate: March 16,1952

24-year-old John Gardner (Jack) Ford is the second of four children of President and Mrs. Ford. He graduated from Utah State University at Logan, Utah, in 1975 with a major in forestry. Jack is the only Ford son living in the White House.

Jack is an avid outdoors man and is interested in pursuing his commitments to forestry and natural recources management. He is a former member of the U.S. Forest service fire fighting crew and a former park ranger with the National Park Service. Other interest include skiing, hunting, fishing, and various outdoor activities and contemporary music.

Although not interested in a political career himself, Jack has been active in his father's campaign, traveling extensively for the President's election. Since the beginning of 1976, he has campaigned in Massachusetts Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado and Connecticut, making numerous appearances primarily before college and civic groups.

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8/14/76

BIOGRAPHY

Steven Meigs Ford

The youngest son of the President of the United States, 20-year-old Steven Meigs Ford is a college student and horse enthusiast who works for a professional horse trainer in Southern California.

The 6'l" blond attends California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California as an animal science major. He also works for a professional horse trainer in nearby Mission Viejo raising and training horses. As time has permitted, he has also been involved in his father's campaign for reelection.

Steve's interests center primarily on horses, ranching and the outdoors. He has been tutored in rodeo bronc riding by nine-time world champion rider Casey Tibbs.

Steve is also interested in the preservation of wilderness areas and spent one summer studying grizzly bears in the mountains of Montana with Naturalists John and Frank Craighead.

He moved to the West two years ago to take a job as a ranchhand near Missoula, Montana. He attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah before transfering to Cal Poly. He had previously spent three summers with a wilderness outfitting company in Alaska and had milked cows at a dairy farm in Virginia.

Steve is a 1974 graduate of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He is the youngest of three sons of the President and Mrs. Ford and is a year older than sister Susan. He was born in Washington, D.C.

Among Steve's hobbies are sailing, skiing, backpacking and hiking. As for a future career, Steve says he'll probably stay in agriculture. "I'm not sure what specific area, but it'll probably have something to do with ranching, cattle or horses."

July 1, 1976

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford

Since her husband became President in August, 1974, Mrs. Betty Ford has been involved in activities promoting the arts, securing passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and focusing attention on the problems of the handicapped.

Her strong interest in the arts comes from her own career as a dancer. Mrs. Ford began studying dance at age eight in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She studied and taught at a dance school there until her graduation from high school in 1936. In the summers of 1936 and 1937, she attended the Bennington School of Dance in Vermont. There she studied under Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles Weidman and other well-known modern dance innovators. She continued her dance career with Miss Graham in New York City, eventually as a member of the Martha Graham Concert Group. (In May, 1976, she returned to Bennington to dedicate the college's arts center.)

In 1941, Mrs. Ford (then Betty Bloomer) returned to Grand Rapids and became fashion coordinator for a department store. (Her strong interest in American fashion was recognized by the Parsons School of Design in March of this year, when she received the school's annual award.) During her years as a fashion coordinator, she formed her own dance group and taught dance to handicapped children.

On October 15, 1948, she married Gerald R. Ford. His election to the U. S. House of Representatives from Michigan's 5th District only a few weeks later meant a move to the Nation's Capital. The Fords lived in Alexandria, Virginia from those first years until they moved into the White House.

The Fords are the parents of three sons and one daughter. Most of Mrs. Ford's energies during the 1950's and 1960's were focused on her family, her church (Episcopal) and the political duties of a Congressional wife. Her husband's confirmation as Vice President in 1973 brought new responsibilities, which increased when he became President. As First Lady, Mrs. Ford has shown her interest in American handicrafts through unique centerpieces at State dinners and Christmas decorations. Items from antique weathervanes to dolls have been used as focal points for decorations.

Her commitment to equal rights has been demonstrated in her public remarks and her open lobbying for more women in her husband's administration. She has spoken with diverse groups from homemakers to economists about the need for the Equal Rights Amendment.

During 1976, the First Lady also has been involved in various Bicentennial events, including appearances in Philadelphia, Florida, Arizona and the opening last week of an exhibit on women during the Revolutionary era.

Mrs. Ford also has campaigned for her husband and recently attended two state conventions on his behalf.

During the Ford Administration, numerous state visitors have been entertained at the White House. Among recent guests were the President of France and the King of Spain.

Two of the Ford children, Jack and Susan, live at the White House with their parents.

Mrs. Ford was born on April 8, 1918, in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents, Hortense and William Stephenson Bloomer, moved the family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when she was three.

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July 1, 1976

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE

The First Family

President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford are the parents of three sons and a daughter. The Fords share an enthusiasm for sports, the outdoors, and each other. Separated by different pursuits and individual interests, the family gathers each Christmas for a skiing vacation in Colorado and maintains close touch through frequent calls and letters.

Michael Gerald (Mike) was born March 14, 1950. Mike and his wife, the former Gayle Brumbaugh, live in Essex, Massachusetts, where Mike is a student at Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary. Mike plans to work with young people after completing his theological studies. Gayle has a master's degree in social work and shares Mike's interest in youth, particularly in counseling young people and college students.

Steven Meigs (Steve) was born May 19, 1956. Steve is an animal science major at California Polytechnic University and works part-time on a ranch. Steve, who is learning how to raise horses, also has tried rodeo-riding.

July 8-10, he will represent the President at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede in Alberta, Canada. Steve also worked three summers on a ranch in Alaska, studied grizzly bears and worked on a cattle ranch and dairy farm.

Susan Elizabeth (Susan) was born July 6, 1957. She just completed her first year at Mount Vernon college in Washington, D.C. She hopes to pursue her interest in photojournalism at the University of Kansas next January. This fall, she plans to return to college in Washington, D.C.

Susan has worked as a part-time photographer for the Associated Press. Last summer, she studied with photographer Ansel Adams and interned on the photographic staff of <u>The Topeka Capital</u> <u>Journal</u> in Topeka, Kansas. Like her brothers, Susan is a skiing enthusiast. She enjoys many other sports, including swimming and tennis. John Gardner (Jack) was born March 16, 1952. Jack lives in the White House and has traveled extensively working for the President's election. He graduated from Utah State University at Logan, Utah, in 1975, with a major in forestry. He is a former member of the U.S. Forest Service fire fighting crew and a former park ranger with the National Park Service.

MICHAEL GERALD

-- Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan

-- 25 years old

-- pursuing ministry at Gordon-Conwell, a non-denominational seminary outside of Boston in Wareham, Massachusetts -- he has three more years -- Married Gayle Brumbaugh of Catonsville, Maryland on July 5,1974 --Jack Ford was his best man

-- They met at Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

G- Gayle is 23 years old

-- They now live in Essex, Massachusetts -- about 4 miles from the seminary -- Gayle, after Wake Forest, went on to Switzerland to study at L'abri under theologist, Dr. Francis Schaeffer. When she returned she took courses at the seminary (Gordon-Conwell) and worked as a bank teller in South Hamilton. She has an interest in youth ministry. She may teach or work with the poor. -- Mike and Gayle both enjoy swimming and hiking

YOU WERE CALLED BY-Kathy BARKER Rot RIOS A SPACE (41 CFR) 101-11.5

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MRS. GERALD R. FORD

Birthdate: April 8, 1918

Mrs. Betty Ford came to the White House determined to make the mansion as warm, friendly, and open as the Ford family homes have always been. Her own lively interests in the arts, handicapped children and women's rights have been combined with a focus on home and family life.

Mrs. Ford was born Elizabeth Anne Bloomer in Chicago, Illinois. Her family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when she was three and she began her study of dance there when she was eight. After graduating from high school in 1936, Mrs. Ford attended two summer sessions of the Bennington School of Dance, where she first met Martha Graham. Her dance career continued in New York City, where she joined one of Miss Graham's troups and modeled with the John Powers Agency.

She returned to Grand Rapids in 1941 and became fashion coordinator for a local department store. She also formed her own dance group and taught dance to handicapped children.

Only weeks after their 1948 marriage, Gerald and Betty Ford moved to Washington, where he began his political career as representative from Michigan's 5th District and she began hers as a wife and mother. Within seven years, the four children were born.

During the 1950's and 1960's, Betty Ford's world centered on her active family of three sons and one daughter. Her outside activities primarily involved the Episcopal Church and the Republican Party.

Three years ago with the two younger children almost out of high school, Mrs. Ford thought of going back to work outside the home. But before she found such a job, her husband became Vice-President and in August, 1974, President. Those jobs gave her new responsibilities which used her experience in entertaining, meeting people, and keeping a busy schedule.

In White House entertaining, Mrs. Ford has relaxed the official style to make it more people-oriented. The decorations often are American handicrafts, and the guest lists reflect the diverse interests of the entire Ford family.

Mrs. Ford's lifelong enthusiasm for the arts has shown up in decorations, White House guests, and, most especially, in her own involvement in artistic events. Her schedule shows an active interest in handicapped children and her statements a firm commitment to women's rights.

Today, the Ford home has a very special address, and as President and First Lady, Gerald and Betty Ford have unique responsibilities. But the Fords and their four children, Mike, 25, Jack, 23, Steve, 19, and Susan, 18, continue to be a close-knit family despite geographical separations.