

**The original documents are located in Box 45, folder “Friends - Powell, Clara (Former Ford Family Housekeeper)” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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I am writing in response to your letter of November 5, 1974.

I will not execute the release or otherwise consent to the publication of an interview with me until a copy of the text of the interview and proposed graphics have been submitted to me for approval.

If the text, headlines, and graphics are accurate, in good taste and otherwise satisfactory, I will consent to the publication of the <sup>interview</sup> ~~article~~. In the event I do approve publication of the interview, my approval will be limited to one publication in the National Enquirer and I will reserve all rights for any other use of the interview. You will arrange to have the article copywritten in my name.

If the article is not satisfactory to me, it is my understanding it will not be used and all photographs and/or other material I have furnished will be promptly returned to me.

(NOTE: If it's not too late, she should ask for \$500-1000.  
\$100 is too low.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Clara Powell



"820-2640"

Sheila.

Dada with Edward

5th November, 1974

Mrs. Clara Powell,  
3528 Williams Lane,  
Baileys Crossroad,  
Virginia, 22041

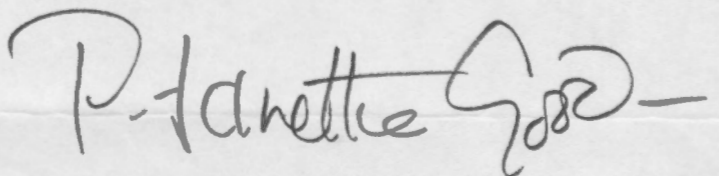
Dear Mrs. Powell,

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, I feel the article entitled, "My years with the Ford Family" is quite delightful and at the White House request we will be sending them a copy of the story.

I would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed byline release form and return it to me as soon as possible, so I can expedite arrangements for publication.

Many thanks for your help and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Janette Goodwin", followed by a horizontal line.

P. Janette Goodwin,  
Articles Editor

PJG/amc

Encl.



# ENQUIRER

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In consideration of the sum of \$100.00 (One hundred dollars) payable to me only if and when the article referred to below is published, the undersigned hereby grants to NATIONAL ENQUIRER, INC. the exclusive right to publish an article entitled:

" My years with the Ford Family.

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under my byline with such photographs and art work as may be suitable to illustrate the text. I authorize the publisher to make such revision and changes therein as it may deem desirable.

I hereby grant to the publisher the exclusive right to sell the said article, to have it printed in any other publication and to copyright it in its own name in the United States of America and elsewhere.

Dated in \_\_\_\_\_

the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
address

In the presence of

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your letter of November 5. I regret very much that it would be quite impossible for me to sign the enclosed release to National Enquirer in which you will have rights to publish an article entitled "My years with the Ford family."

I have spoken with my lawyer and he says that under no circumstances should I give you any release whatsoever on this article. In the release form it is also stated that I give the publisher the right to make any revisions or changes <sup>deem desirable</sup>. ~~as may be determined~~. This also is undesirable. The article could appear entirely different than ~~the original statement~~ originally stated.

I would appreciate it very much that you return any photographs that you have.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

Clara Powell was an important member of President Ford's family for many years. As housekeeper, she helped raise the Ford children. One of them, Susan, told **The ENQUIRER**: "Clara has always been like a second mother to me. She would do anything for us. She's a real sweetheart."

Here, in her own words, Mrs. Powell, 66, tells of her years with the Ford family.

## My 20 Loving Years as Housekeeper for President Ford's Family

I was housekeeper for President Ford's family for more than 20 years and I know I could never have worked for nicer people.

The children always told me I was their second mother. I look upon them all as my family . . . and I always felt I was one of the family.

Susan sent me a Valentine in 1973 and wrote: "You are so special to our whole family. You taught us to be the way we are. We all love you so dearly."

And Susan's brother Jack once wrote: "You were always the one person I could count on to understand me and encourage

**By CLARA POWELL**

her bed. One day it got out and we couldn't find it. Another girl who came in to do the cleaning went to clean the bathroom one day — and came rushing downstairs saying she'd seen a snake.

Mrs. Ford and I followed her upstairs — and there was Susan's black snake.

We had the job of putting it back into its box — after that

simple but I loved it because she had put so much time and trouble into it.

When Mike was about 14 he gave me a silver heart locket which I really value. I almost cried when he said it was for his "second mother."

I also have a lot of memories I treasure, like the way the children would always bring their little secrets to me, particularly Susan.

I can remember her seeking me out and whispering, "Look, this is what I bought Daddy for Christmas," or "I'm making this for Mommy — what do you

**'The Children Called**

**Me a Second Mother'**



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For more than 20 years Clara Powell was an important member of President Ford's family. As housekeeper, she helped raise the Ford children. One of them, Susan, told The ENQUIRER: "Clara has always been like a second mother to me. She would do anything for us. She's a real sweetheart." Here, in her own words, Mrs. Powell, 66, ~~tells~~ tells of her years with the Ford family.

end blurb.

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Susan sent me a Valentine in 1973 and wrote: "You are so special to our whole family. You taught us to be the way we are. We all love you so dearly."

And her brother Jack once wrote: "You were always the one person I could count on to understand me and encourage me . . . "

The Fords are a down-to-earth, straighter forward American family. It really was a pleasure working for them.

I went to work for the Fords in the late 1940s, when Mrs. Ford was pregnant with her first child, Mike, and I spent most of my time looking after the children.

When Mike was a baby learning to talk, I used to say to him, "Come on, talk to your Daddy because he'll be President of the United States

one day," never dreaming it would really materialize. The Ford children were nice, well-behaved kids. They didn't argue

~~They were good kids and didn't argue or fight, but when Mike and Jack were little and I was ready to go home at the end of the day, they~~ start crying fit to bust.

MORE



~~The Ford children were nice, well-behaved kids. They didn't argue or fight, but when Mike and Jack were little and I was ready to go home at the end of the day, they would start crying fit to bust. Sometimes I had to bring them home with me and then when they were good and sleepy take them ~~han~~ back.~~

The children were crazy about animals. They had ducks, chickens, rabbits, birds, tropical fish and <sup>d</sup>gogs. Susan even had a black snake and Steve had an alligator.

Susan kept her snake under her bed. One day it got out and we couldn't find it. Another girl who came in ~~to~~ to do the cleaning went to clean the bathroom one day--and came ~~r~~ rushing downstairs saying she'd seen a snake.

Mrs. Ford and I followed her upstairs--and there was Susan's Black snake. We had the job of putting it back into its box--and after that the snake went outside!

Steve's alligator was pretty big. One day it got out of its pen and got into the swimming pool. Steve went in after it and luckily knew how to handle it. He wasn't frightened and managed to get it out. Eventually the alligator died and we buried it in the back yard.

The children loved to have me read to them. Their favorite book was "Black Beauty," which they wanted read time and time again. MORE

I'd read to them at nap time when they were small and their father would read to them again at night.

They got just about everything they wanted as kids--ping pong tables, trains sets and all--but they weren't spoiled. <sup>Not at all,</sup> ~~What's~~ more, they aren't today. Being President hasn't changed Mr. Ford or his family one bit.

Christmas was always celebrated a ~~week~~ <sup>week</sup> early at their home because they went on vacation, mostly skiing, every holiday. The children gave me some lovely gifts, which I still treasure.

One year when Susan was quite young she proudly presented me with a clay plaque she had made at school. It was simple but I loved it because she had put so much time and trouble into it.

When Mike was about 14 he gave me a silver heart locket which I really value. I almost cried when he said it was for his "second mother."

I also have a lot of memories I treasure, like the way the children would always bring their little secrets to me, particularly Susan.

I can remember her seeking me out and whispering, "Look, this is what I bought Daddy for Christmas," or "I'm making this for Mommy--what do you think of it?"

This more than anything ~~else~~ made up for the fact that I didn't have any children of my own . . .

NOT MORE

I had to leave the Fords in 1969 to take care of my ailing father, but they haven't forgotten me. The kids still like to come out to my house at Baileys Crossroads in Virginia for a meal with me and my husband Raymond.

I was with Mr. Ford when he was confirmed as Vice President--and on the day he was sworn in as President I got a call from Susan saying they'd been looking for me and I was supposed to be with them. I had to <sup>U</sup> just fly to get dressed and go down to the White House.

I was amazed that they'd taken the time to think of me on such a big day. I was so elated, but deep down in my heart I'd always known that if anything like that happened, they would want me to be with them.

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# ENQUIRER

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11th November, 1974

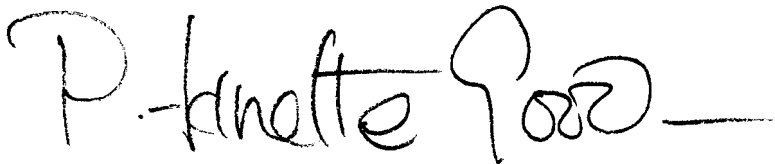
Ms. Patti Matson,  
Room 208, East Wing,  
White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Patti,

Further to our telephone conversation today, I am enclosing a copy of the interview with Mrs. Clara Powell. I feel that it is a nice little read and shows the affection between President Ford's family and their former housekeeper.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance in both setting up the interview and in obtaining quotes from Susan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "P. Janette Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "P" is large and loops around. The last name "Goodwin" is written in a more compact, cursive script. A horizontal line extends from the end of the signature.

P. Janette Goodwin,  
Articles Editor

PJG/amc

Encl.