

August 20, 1976

FOCL REPORT - FOCL NC. 4

President Gerald Ford arrived at a private field in /von, Colorado, aboard a White House chopper at 3:40 p. m.

Ford was met by Bill Nottingham, the owner of the land, his wife Neva, and Nottingham's elderly father, Emmett.

The President then motorcaded the 8 miles to Vail through a brief but heavy rainfall.

Mrs. Ford, Susan and Jack arrived on an earlier plane at Grand Junction and had gone ahead to Vail on choppers.

Mr. Ford told the Nottinghams: "The air is fresh... company is good. The golf course looks in great shape..." and he was looking forward "... to nine holes of golf to get the kinks out."

The Presidential motorcade arrived at approximately 4 p. m. at the Vail home of Richard Bass, where the Fords will be staying while in Vail.

A welcoming crowd of some 150 people lined the last block or so of the Presidential route to the Bass house, waving posters and calling their support for Ford. A group of teenage girls were yelling, "We want Jack!"

Outside the house, the President was greeted by Vail Mayor and Mrs. John Dobson. The Dobsons congratulated the President on his nomination and wishes him a pleasant stay in Vail.

President Ford waved at the assembled press before meeting Jim and Gloria Brown, their daughter Jennifer and a friend, Amy Kindel. The Browns are friends of the President from Utah.

The President appeared relaxed as he chatted with the Browns and the Dobsons. Also on hand to greet the President was "Independence," offspring of Liberty, the Ford's golden retriever. Independence belongs to 17-year-old Amy Kindel, a local Vail resident and daughter of Ted Kindel, another friend of the President.

The President then went into the house for a private greeting with Mrs. Ford, Jack and Susan, and to change for golf. After the President went inside, a crowd of about 30 people, carrying Ford signs, chanted: "We want Ford!" along Mill Creek, just outside the secure area.

The President returned from playing nine holes of golf at the Vail Municipal Course at 7 p. m., about 2 hours after he began. The President played in a foursome with Dr. William Lukash, his physician, Major Robert Barrett, his military aide, and John Atkinson, the Assistant Pro at the course. He did not divulge his score, and said, "You never should ask that. We didn't destroy the course." Atkinson said of Ford, "He was a great partner." He drove in a golf cart from the ninth green smiling broadly and waving to the crowd of well-wishers gathered around the Pro Shop. He drove to an area near his car, turned and thanked Atkinson, said, "I really enjoyed it." Before getting into his car, he turned to the crowd and waved and said, "See you out here tomorrow. Had to get warmed up today."

CHUCK COLLINS, WTTW-TV
JILL BEASLEY, VAIL VILLAGER
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