

## POOL REPORT, VAIL COLORADO, PRESIDENT'S SHOPPING TRIP

DECEMBER 23, 1976

The pool was informed that the President was out on a shopping trip approximately five to ten minutes after 1:00, when he was already out in the streets of Vail.

According to Major Barrett, he left the residence about 1:35. He was shopping by catalogue and decided to go down and shop in town himself.

The first place he went was to Pepi Gramshammer's and he had a cup of coffee there with Sheika and Pepi, and then went out into the streets and went into Vail Custom Jewelry.

Asked along the way what he was doing, he said, "I am Christmas shopping." And then asked what he was going to buy, he said, "I am not going to tell you because that wouldn't be a secret." Those are not exact quotes, but approximate.

At 2:25 he went into Reflections, which is a photo shop and gallery, and Sheika and Pepi were with him on this tour. He looked at animal prints, a bald eagle, several other things. Went in there afterwards and the people said he hadn't bought anything but was still thinking about it. He was in there for ten minutes.

After that he went just a couple of doors down into Alpenhaus Shroyer, which looked like a bric-a-brac odds and ends -- I hope I am doing it justice. They had china and souvenirs, porcelain.

He came out of there, and he came over to where Phil Jones was standing, and he put his arm around Phil, and he said, "We have a ceremony." Then he took a little wooden gnome with some whiskers on it, and he handed it to Phil, and there was an inscription on the bottom. It said, "To Phil with love, G.R.F.," amid much laughter.

Then he went into a place called the Alaskan Shop, which had Eskimo artifacts and other crafts.

The pool went into the Alpenhaus and the pool was AP and UPI reporters, and then there were some cameras, and according to poolers, the President said at one point, "I am a lousy shopper. I always leave things to the last minute."

Inside the Alpenhaus he picked up a couple of acrylic Christmas tree ornaments. He said he hadn't gotten Jack and Steve a present. He said Steve and Jack are so uncommunicative -- the context being he did not know what to get them. He said Susan has already gotten her present.

At one point -- I'm not quite sure when -- he said that Susan had bought him this sweater he was wearing, which was a wool Icelandic type sweater with blue trimming.

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I forgot to mention the gnome that he purchased for Phil Jones cost \$2.55.

After that he went back to Gramhammer's for a cup of coffee, stayed there about ten minutes and then went back to the residence. He seemed to be in good spirits. He shook hands. He laughed a lot. He was limping quite noticeably, favoring his right foot.

That is all I have. Do you have anything you want to add?

There is very little else, I think, to report. He said that he had already gotten Mike and Gayle some sweaters for Christmas.

Also, when he went into the Vail Custom Jewelers, there is a little sign in the window. I don't have the exact quote. It says something like, "Carter may have peanuts, but we have diamonds," or something like that. The exact quote, courtesy of Fran Lewine, was "Carter gives you peanuts; Vail Custom Jewelers gives you diamonds."

Someone mentioned that to the President, and the President, referring to the lady who apparently ran the shop, the President said, "She told me about that and I stayed well away from it."

Then after he left the Alaskan Shop, he walked over to Pepi's with Pepi and Sheika, and they went inside and had a cup of coffee. They were in there for about 20 minutes. He came outside about 20 minutes after 3:00 and walked down the main drag of Vail up to his house.

That was it.

Phil Shabecoff, New York Times  
Tom DeFrank, Newsweek