

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 The Topeka Capital Journal in Topeka, Kansas. Like her brothers, Susan is a skiing enthusiast. She enjoys many other sports, including swimming and tennis.

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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