

The original documents are located in Box 35, folder “Easter Egg Roll - White House” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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A Rime for Easter Time

Look out on the lawn and what do you see?
Lots of flowers and grass and many a tree;
But if you look and try very hard,
You see history in this famous yard.

Let's turn the clock 'round
To 1800 in Washington town.
That was the year John Adams and wife
Became the first family in White House life.

In all its one hundred and seventy-six years,
This House has shared the laughter and tears,
Not just of the families who came here to stay,
But of the whole Nation at work and at play.

Abe Lincoln lived here in the midst of a war,
And soldiers camped on the lawn by the door.
Astronauts and inventors, poets and kings,
Parades and picnics, weddings and things--
All these are part of the White House story,
And America's two hundred years of glory.

Here where your Easter egg rolls
Is also where our history unfolds.
For America's birthday this very year,
Let's join together in a special cheer:
"To America--the land of the free,
To what she was and what she will be."



*The President and I hope you have
fun today at the Easter Egg Roll,
and we also hope you long remember
your visit to the White House in
America's 200th birthday year.*

*Sincerely,
Betty Ford*

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. FORD

SUBJECT: White House Easter Egg Roll

I have just received from the printers the poem that each child will receive at the Easter Egg Roll. I thought you would like to have several copies.

Also enclosed is the badge which the "winners" of the egg-rolling contests will receive.

Thank you.

Mike

Mike Farrell

Attachments



A History of the Easter Egg Roll



The Easter Egg Roll is a tradition for young people which may go back to Dolley Madison's time. We know that children gathered on the grounds of the Capitol to roll eggs in the mid-19th Century. By the 1870's, most likely during the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, the Easter Egg Roll had moved to the White House grounds, where it has been held with few interruptions each year since.

By the end of the 19th Century, games known as "egg picking," "toss and catch" and "egg croquet" were firmly established. "Egg rolling" was the favorite, however. Observers reported eggs by the hundreds rolling down the hills of the grounds, with children often right behind. (The first one to the bottom won.)

Over the years, thousands of people -- including children and grandchildren of Presidents -- have participated in this Easter celebration. Today, you will be entertained by bands and clowns, and in the best White House tradition, there will be an egg rolling contest. Good luck! The President and I hope you will have a most enjoyable day.



Sincerely,
Betty Ford

Monday, March 31, 1975

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

ITEM TRANSFER FORM

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

- Audiovisual Unit
- Oversized Container
- Book Collection
- Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: 1 blue and white "White House Bicentennial Easter Egg Roll, 1976" button with a "First Place" ribbon Attached.

The item was transferred from: Betty Ford White House Papers
Box 8
Folder: Easter Egg Roll – White House

ACCESSION NUMBER (A/V & Museum Transfers only): 1979-NLF-010

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