

The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “12/16/75 - Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MARTIN TAHSE
PRODUCTIONS INC
999 NORTH DOHENY DRIVE
LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA 90069
213 275-4456

ad-lib (?)
special created
for Mrs F's party
(f. before)
7 mac in

December 4, 1975

Ms. Sally Quenneville
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ms. Quenneville:

As requested, I am enclosing two photographs of KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE, with Burr Tillstrom, plus biographical information on Burr Tillstrom.

If you have any questions, or need additional help, please let me know.

Thank you.

Cordially,



Carol Wright

PLEASE NOTE
NEW ADDRESS:
Goldwyn Studios
1041 North Formosa Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046
213-851-6556



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

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

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

Item: 3 8"x10" photos of Fran Allison and Bill Tillstrom
with puppets, Kukla and Ollie

no credits

The item was transferred from: Weidentfeld Bros &
Diplomatic Children's Party

Initials/Date 2/80



Bill Granger

M*A*S*H to trash— and Kukla's back!

KUKLA, FRAN AND OLLIE return to television at 5 p.m. Saturday on Channel 5.



"America's Bicentennial next year. Just think—165 years without television."

The first 13 programs in this new series were shot this summer — and the remaining 26 programs were taken from the Channel 11 series shot in 1970-71.

To my surprise, Kukla and the rest are fresh and funny, shedding a certain sense of *deja vu* I had when viewing them in recent years. The opening episode features a gentle Kuklapolitan circus with my favorites — Cecil Bill, Fletcher Rabbit and Beulah Witch — in featured roles. Ollie is as charming as ever and it might be a good time to reintroduce your kids to Burr Tillstrom's creations. In fact, why doesn't Mayor Daley make Tillstrom a city monument?

Television Town
by Joel Sternberg

Chicago History Magazine
Chicago Historical Society
Excerpt from Summer, 1975 issue

casting, stirred up enough controversy to become the Howard Cosell of his time. And the list of programs could go on and on.

Not all the programs worked. There were a few surprising failures, such as "Vic and Sade." Even though Paul Rhymer continued to write it, it didn't catch on as a seen program. Perhaps the audience already had too clear a mental vision of the characters after hearing them on radio for so many years. On the other hand, "The Quiz Kids," taken over from radio with just a few changes, did well. It transferred around from WNBQ to WBKB and back again, but it stayed on network television, originating from Chicago, from 1949 until the fall of 1956.

The three major contributions to come out of the Chicago School of Television were "Studs' Place," "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," and "Garroway at Large." In all three, one can observe the major elements of the Chicago style at work. As Arch Oboler, the legendary writer and producer of radio's "Lights Out" and other Chicago School of Radio programs, wrote in *Theatre Arts* in July 1951, "While Hollywood rushes to film, and New York frantically tries to force the theatre through the cathode tube, Chicago alone has recognized a new art form in the television medium." He also observed that "where Chicago radio discovered that the listener was as close to the performer as the microphone was to the performer . . . so Chicago television underlines a similar truth—that the television viewer is only a handful of feet from the performer," concluding that "Intimacy, again, is the keynote."

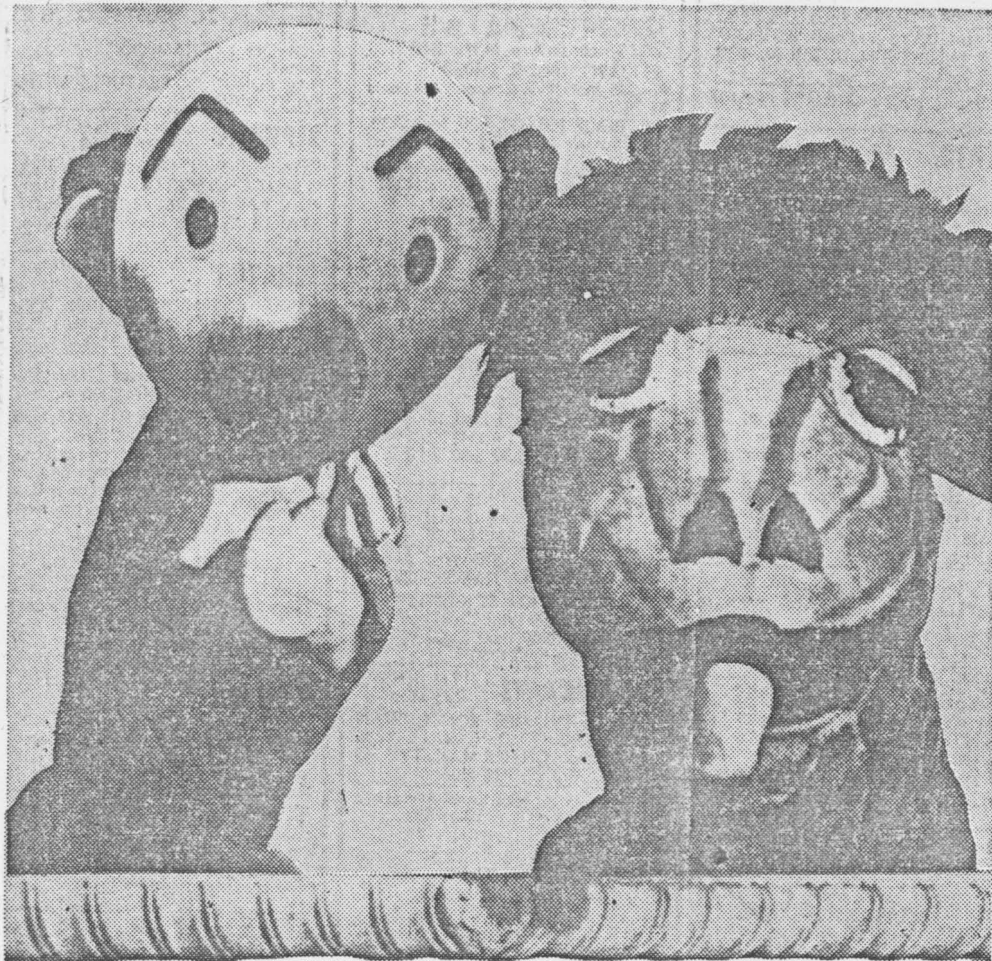
"Studs' Place" had that intimacy. Created and "written" by Charlie Andrews, one-time advertising copywriter who later "wrote" "Garroway at Large," it featured four people—Studs Terkel, blues piano player Chet Roble, folk singer Win Stracke, and actress Beverly Younger as Gracie the waitress—who portrayed essentially themselves. There were no scripts—only, at most, a two-page outline. The "actors"

put plot situations into their own words, making the program a half-hour of real time with no need for flashbacks or pages falling off a calendar to indicate passage of time. Of "Studs' Place," Bill Fay said in *Collier's* in March 1951, "No yak. No belly laughs. Just quiet, natural talk from likable people in plausible situations." "Probably," he observed, "the most true-to-life group of characters extant."

The Chicago School of Television was intimate, improvisational, visual, and happening now, and it also possessed the magic of theater. Of "Kukla, Fran and Ollie," Jack Gould wrote in January 1949, in the *New York Times*, "The puppets, manipulated by Burr Tillstrom, are astonishingly lifelike and informal in their bantering with Miss Allison, who has a knack for treating them as humans yet always keeping her tongue in cheek." Tillstrom, interviewed by *Collier's* in 1950, explained: "If I ever plotted exactly what I was going to say or do, Kukla and Ollie wouldn't work for me. They don't like cut-and-dried stuff. Fran wouldn't be able to talk to them, either. After all, you don't need a script when you're talking to your friends." And, said Fred Allen, "When you see Kukla, Fran and Ollie come alive on that little screen, you realize you don't need great big things as we had in radio."

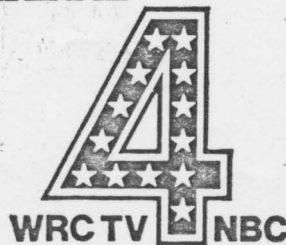
When the show got panned, which happened infrequently, its characters could retaliate. Philip Hamburger of *The New Yorker* reviewed the show unfavorably and complained that it didn't have enough action, so the one-toothed dragon and his button-nose friend "read" his review to their audience and then proceeded to stage a wrestling match for Hamburger's benefit. Perhaps that was the kind of "action" the *New York* critic wanted?

Herbuveaux told *Broadcasting* in 1951 that "TV is the most honest thing in the world, and there's no fakery in it. Be honest, put on a good show and the camera will take care of the rest." Well, perhaps the magic of inspired puppeteering shouldn't be called "fakery," but there were



Kids and grown-ups rejoice!
**KUKLA, FRAN AND OLLIE
ARE BACK.**

**saturdays
6-6:30 pm**



WASHINGTON POST
AD

BURR TILLSTROM BIOGRAPHY

Burr Tillstrom was born in Chicago and attended the University of Chicago. His first public appearance as a puppeteer was with the WPA -- Chicago Park District Theater, and from these appearances he became the manager and star performer of the Marshall Field Marionette Theater.

In 1941 he pioneered with puppets on television at station WBKB in Chicago, and the show was an immediate hit. In 1947 Fran Allison joined him, and KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE bowed on television.

When NBC began its network broadcasting in January, 1949, KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE was seen for the first time across the country. It quickly established itself as one of the network's most popular shows and remained on NBC until mid-season of 1955, when it moved to the ABC network for an additional two years.

When KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE left the network in 1957, it had run up a remarkable record of ten straight years.

During the 1955-56 season, KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE appeared with Mr. Tillstrom's musical adaptation of James Thurber's MANY MOONS, a special for ABC. For NBC during the 1968-69 season, KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE created the musical special, THE RELUCTANT DRAGON.

(MORE)

BURR TILLSTROM BIOGRAPHY (cont'd)

There have been guest appearances with Merv Griffin, Johnny Carson, Jack Paar, Mike Douglas, Dick Cavett, YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS, THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE, FORD'S 50th ANNIVERSARY SHOW, and a number of Perry Como specials.

KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE was one of the few guest attractions ever to appear on YOUR HIT PARADE, and Mr. Tillstrom was guest host on THE TODAY SHOW. As an actor, he appeared in the HALLMARK television production of ALICE IN WONDERLAND. Ed Morrow's celebrated PERSON TO PERSON program visited Burr Tillstrom.

Perhaps one of the most unusual appearances of KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE was with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops, when they performed ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. This success led to the now-famous OLIVER J. DRAGON AT TOWN HALL.

In 1964 Mr. Tillstrom was one of the principal guest performers with THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS, and from this notable television series came his famous hand ballet THE BERLIN WALL, for which Mr. Tillstrom won both a Peabody and Emmy Award.

Since the 1966-67 season, KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE have been hosts for the CBS CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL, seen each Saturday afternoon during the season.

(MORE)

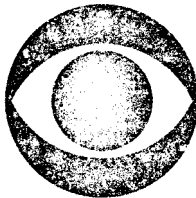
BURR TILLSTROM BIOGRAPHY (cont'd)

In 1972 Mr. Tillstrom created a KUKLA, FRAN & OLLIE retrospective, which opened to unanimous rave reviews at Chicago's Goodman Theater. Other stage appearances have been performed in New York and principal cities across the country.

Mr. Tillstrom has won two Peabody Awards and three Emmy Awards for his television work. He holds an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

* * * *





CBS TELEVISION NETWORK
PRESS INFORMATION
51 WEST 52 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

April 7, 1972

BURR TILLSTROM TO RECEIVE DOCTOR OF LETTERS FROM HOPE COLLEGE

Burr Tillstrom, co-host with Fran Allison of "The CBS Children's Film Festival" series on the CBS Television Network, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Hope College of Holland, Mich., on Thursday, April 13.

Tillstrom's popular creations, Kukla and Ollie, and the genial Miss Allison have been introducing the award-winning series, currently broadcast on Saturday afternoons, for the past six seasons on the Network.

The honor will be accorded Tillstrom "...for creating a world that brings into play every aspect of human imagination, for demonstrating in your work the inexhaustible creativeness of human hands and the human voice...for your strong faith in human and spiritual resources."

Tillstrom and "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" have been recipients over the years of most of the awards issued for children's entertainment-educational programming, including the Peabody and Emmy awards.

Hope College is a liberal arts college founded by the Dutch in 1866. Last year it awarded honorary degrees to astronaut Frank Borman and heart specialist Dr. Christiaan Barnard.

* * *



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

Event: Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 16, 1975 at 4:30 p. m.

Place: State Floor

Number of Attendees: 463 children from 84 countries

Schedule of Events: 4:30 p. m. The children will arrive through the Southwest Gate and will be escorted to the State Floor through the Blue Room (around the Christmas tree) to the East Room where they will be seated on the floor facing the stage at the north end of the room.

NOTE: There will be 11 clowns from the Social Security Administration to amuse the children before the entertainment begins.

4:40 p. m. As soon as all the children have been seated, you will be escorted to the State Floor by Maria Downs where you will meet Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Bellaschi. (Mrs. Swan Weber is President of THIS; Mrs. William Preston is Vice President of THIS; Mrs. Aaron G. Jackson and Mrs. Julius Bellaschi are Co-Chairmen of the Children's Committee of THIS)

Maria Downs will then escort you to the East Room. You will enter through the center door and proceed to the microphone which will be located in front of the stage. You will make brief welcoming remarks and introduce the entertainment -- Kukla, Fran & Ollie.



You will be seated with the children for the entertainment.

5:05 p. m. After Santa Claus arrives on stage, the entertainment concludes. You proceed to the stage to thank Kukla, Fran & Ollie. You will remain on stage and pose for photographs with Santa Claus and Kukla, Fran & Ollie.

You will then invite the children to join you in the State Dining Room for punch and cookies.

NOTE: There will be full press coverage of your remarks and of the entertainment.

5:30 p. m. The party concludes and you will return to the Family Quarters.

As the children depart, Santa Claus (Bill Nicholson) will be in the Ground Floor Hall and will hand out candy and autographed pictures of you and the President.

NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

THIS volunteers will assist with the party.

The Marine Brass Choir will play in the Grand Hall.

A White House photographer will be present.

Background information about THIS is attached.

Pat Howard
December 15, 1975

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS

THIS (The Hospitality & Information Service) is a volunteer committee of Washington citizens formed to be of service to diplomatic residents and their families. Organized in 1961 at the request of the Chief of Protocol, THIS is a non-government, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization. Its sponsors are the spouses of the President's Cabinet and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

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How many
leaves on tree

1947 - Comedian

Murray S. Becker

Sunny Park, NJ
Assing
1973
1700

For immediate release
Monday, Dec. 9, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host a party for children of members of the Diplomatic Corps Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at the White House.

The Amazing Randi (Magician-escape artist James Randi) will provide the entertainment. Mickey Mouse will also make an appearance. Santa Claus and five clowns will be on hand to help Mrs. Ford greet her guests.

About 500 children are expected. The guest list was coordinated through THIS, The Hospitality and Information Service, a volunteer organization to help Diplomatic families in Washington, D.C. Some 89 countries will be represented at the party.

#

BACKGROUND:

The Amazing Randi is a 46-year-old bewhiskered magician from Canada. He says he got his start about 20 years ago while performing in Montreal. The Quebec police watched his escapes and magic tricks and decided he would be a good man to test the security of their city jail. He says he was handcuffed, put in a restraint belt and chains, and placed in jail. He escaped, and the next day the Quebec newspaper labeled him "The Amazing Randi," and his career was launched.

Between performances, he lives in Rumson, N.J. with his adopted son. He has appeared across the US, Canada, Europe and Asia, and has performed on the Mike Douglas and Johnny Carson shows.

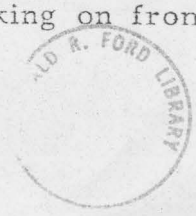
Santa Claus is being played by John Nidecker, Special Assistant to the President.

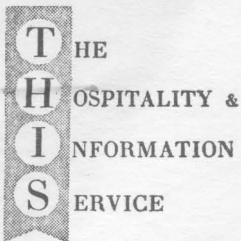
The five clowns are members of the Almas Temple Shrine, ^(Wash, D.C.) the sixth year they've helped entertain at Christmas parties for Diplomatic children. They are John Barrett of Rockville, Md; Max M. Feinsilber of Takoma Park, Md.; William Hillsman of Hyattsville, Md.; Lyle J. Howard of Annandale, Md.; and Lloyd E. Webb of Rockville, Md.

The children will be given an autographed photo of Mrs. Ford and candy, donated by Sen. William Brock of Tennessee.

The centerpiece on the refreshment table in the State Dining Room features patchwork doll-versions of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and his elves. Dressed in patchwork outfits, Santa and Mrs. Claus are holding a large basket of holly. The elves are looking on from a bed of greens on a patchwork runner.

#





For Diplomatic Residents and Families
Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Pl., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009
232-3002

December 10, 1975

Fran Paris:

Attached is a proposed release for the annual White House Christmas Party held for The Hospitality and Information Service. Mrs. Siegel, our Publicity Chairman, talked to last week about it and suggested that I send you a copy for your approval.

When we hear from you then we will go ahead and mail it out.

Thank you,

Mrs. Robert de Sugny
Executive Secretary



PROPOSED RELEASE

THE HOSPITALITY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Mrs. Siegel at 365-1664

or Mrs. de Sugny at 232-3002

Mrs. Ford has invited the children of diplomatic families who participate in programs sponsored by THIS, to a Christmas Party at 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 16, at The White House.

An annual event, this year's Christmas Party will again feature entertainment and refreshments. Children are encouraged to wear their National Dress.

Last year's Party was attended by 472 children from 83 countries.

Organized in 1961 at the request of the Chief of Protocol, THIS is a volunteer committee of 500 Washington women who serve the diplomatic community. Its sponsors are the wives of the President's Cabinet and of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

A non-profit and non-government organization, THIS is associated with and funded by Meridian House International.



WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	Social Security Clowns Aiding at the Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party on December 16, 1975 <i>1 page</i>	N.D.	C

File Location:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD FILES, Box 8, "12/16/1975 - Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party" SMD, 10/13/2016

RESTRICTION CODES

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**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: Frank

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—
Gail Segal

OF (Organization) Hosp. Office

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. 770-2146

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE
669

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
<u>R</u>	<u>12/12</u>	<u>1.00</u>

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL ←
CODE

WILL CALL AGAIN I AM WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL I WISHED AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Poplar's Int'l
Child Care & Home
Partners

ST. HENRY
Hospital
one TH

PJW

RECEIVED BY

DATE TIME

For Immediate Release
Friday, December 12, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will host a party for children of members of the Diplomatic Corps Tuesday, December 16 at 4:30 PM at the White House.

based in Washington

Mrs. Ford has invited Kukla, Fran and Ollie to entertain for the party. They will perform a specially created show for the party. Santa Claus and eleven clowns will be on hand to help Mrs. Ford greet her guests.

Approximately ⁵⁰⁰ 400 children will attend representing 84 countries. The guest list was coordinated through THIS, The Hospitality and Information Service, a volunteer organization to help Diplomatic families in Washington, D. C.

table decor

#

BACKGROUND:

Kukla, Fran and Ollie have been hosts for the CBS Children's Film Festival, (seen each Saturday) ~~afternoon during the season~~, since 1966.

The ^{shows} creator, Burr Tillstrom, has won two Peabody Awards and three Emmy Awards for for his television work.

Kukla, Fran and Ollie's special television appearances include: Tillstrom's musical adaptation of James Thurber's "Many Moons" (1955-56); and a musical special for NBC, "The Reluctant Dragon" (1968-69). They have also appeared on shows such as: Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, The Hollywood Palace, and a number of Perry Como specials.

Tillstrom was born in Chicago. His first public appearance as a puppeteer was with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the Chicago Park District Theater, and from there ~~he~~ went on to become the manager and star performer of the Marshall Field Marionette Theater.

In 1941 Burr Tillstrom and his ^{original} puppets, Kukla and Ollie, launched their television career on station WBKB in Chicago. In 1947, Fran Allison joined them. They first appeared on television in 1949 and became one of NBC's most popular shows. They left NBC in 1955 and performed on ABC for two years.

Santa Claus is being played by Bill Nicholson, Director of Presidential Scheduling, ^{at the WH.}

The clowns are from the Baltimore Social Security Administration and have organized themselves as the Social Security Clown Club which has been officially recognized by the Administration as an employee group since 1970.

The Social Security Clown Club has performed at the White House the past three years at the Easter egg roll.

The Children will be given ^{candy and} an autographed picture of the President and Mrs. Ford and candy.



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, December 16, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
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Mrs. Ford will host a party for children of members of the Diplomatic Corps based in Washington today at 4:30 PM at the White House.

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Press Pick-up in West Press Lobby at 4:15 PM



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, December 16, 1975

APPROVE: Yes ✓
No —
but correct
type

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childrens brochure at the WH "The President's House"
53rd Street # # # #
Big Band finger puppets

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- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

12/3
w/ send
matt

1st. Trip to W.H.
any way

{ Fran Allison
Ptag

Show
1st ^{on} ~~show~~ BC network

12/11

[4-500 children]

This - C. J.



**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

Sally

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Gail Segal

OF (Organization) _____

Hosp. & Serv.

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. 365-1664
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU *x*

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE _____

1:30 to 2:00 dont call

*Entertainment for
Diplomats' Children*

RECEIVED BY _____

R.

DATE

12/15

TIME

1:15

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sally -

Burr Titstrom

Requested we let him
know (in advance if
possible) when we release
his part in the Dip.

Childrens Party - they want
to do something at the
same time in Chicago -

Please let me know - Thanks -
M -

NY Post
St. John

Bill
Dire
of Presid
Schedule

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

Shella

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Joy Bellington

OF (Organization) _____

686-1416

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE _____

*inclusion
sawm*

RECEIVED BY _____

R.

DATE *12/11*

TIME *11:45*

TO:

369 Children

92 American

84 Countries
Representedincluding
America

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

03-108

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.8

STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.8

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY: YOU WERE VISITED BY:

Mr. Robert Seigel, PR

365-1664

Or (Organization)

PLEASE CALL PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT.

Dip Checker's Party

WILL CALL AGAIN

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

(THIS 232-3002

Hosting
Dip
Party

ms. ~~Bess~~
Disigny

Dip
Checker's
Party



RECEIVED

TIME DATE

For Immediate Release
Friday, December 12, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

+ rest of info

Mrs. Ford has invited Kukla, Fran and Ollie to perform at the party for the children of the Diplomatic Corps based in Washington, ^{annual} December 16 at 4:30 ^{PM} at the White House.

Burr Tillstrom was born in Chicago. His first public appearance as a puppeteer was with the WPA--Chicago Park District Theater, and from these appearances he became the manager and star performer of the Marshall Field Marionette Theater.

In 1941 Burr Tillstrom ^{spell out} took his puppets, Kukla and Ollie, ^{and Kuklapolitans} and performed with them at station WBKB in Chicago, ^{where} in 1947 Fran Allison joined them. They ^{first appeared on television in 1949 and = became} were viewed across the Nation for the first time in 1949 on NBC. They became one of the ^{NBC'S} network's most popular shows. They left NBC in 1955 and ^{performed on} moved to ABC network for an additional two years.

last paragraph before background
Kukla, Fran and Ollie will perform a specially created show for Mrs. Ford's party. ~~Their shows are always original and ad-libbed according to the group.~~

Kuk, fr + O's special
Their television appearances include a special for ABC,

Mr. Tillstrom's musical adaptation of James Thurber's "Many Moons," (1955-56); & a musical special for NBC, "The Reluctant Dragon," (1968-69). They have also appeared on shows such as: Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, The Hollywood Palace, and a number of Perry Como specials. ~~Kukla, Fran and Ollie appeared with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops and performed "St. George and the Dragon" which led to the now-famous "Oliver J. Dragon at Town Hall."~~

Mr. Tillstrom has won two Peabody Awards and three Emmy Awards for his television work. ~~He holds an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Hope College in Holland, Michigan.~~

BACKGROUND:

~~Since 1966-67 season,~~ Kukla, Fran & Ollie have been hosts for the CBS

Children's Film Festival, ~~see~~ each Saturday afternoon during the season, since 1966. Their creator, **Burr Tillstrom,**



① description of Kukla + Ollie
② Fran Allison human is the + the other Kuklapolitans created by Tillstrom
Fran is on WBKB radio personality when she + Jill met during the yrs of WWII.

For Immediate Release
Friday, December 12, 1975

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Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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PROPOSED RELEASE for magazines. The White House is taking care of the releases for the newspapers.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: Mrs. Siegel at 365-1664
or Mrs. de Sugny at 232-3002

Mrs. Ford has invited the children of diplomatic families who participate in programs sponsored by THIS, to a Christmas Party at 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 16, at The White House.

An annual event, this year's Christmas Party will again feature entertainment and refreshments. Children are encouraged to wear their National Dress.

Last year's Party was attended by 472 children from 83 countries.

Organized in 1961 at the request of the Chief of Protocol, THIS is a volunteer committee of 500 Washington women who serve the diplomatic community. Its sponsors are the wives of the President's Cabinet and of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

A non-profit and non-government organization, THIS is associated with and funded by Meridian House International.

② 58 countries
③ 500



At the Social Security Christmas party for handicapped children in 1970, several employees of the Social Security ~~provided~~ performed as clowns. Shortly, thereafter, they organized themselves as the Social Security Clown Club and were officially recognized by the Administration as an employee group. They have maintained their active membership roster of between 10-15 clowns despite transfers, retirements, etc.

All members go through an extensive training prior to their first performance and many have attended formal clown classes conducted by the president under the sponsorship of the Baltimore County Dept of ~~Actual~~ ^{Adult} Education. Most are members of Clowns of America and adhere to a strict code of clown ethics designed to make every performance a "~~perform~~ professional" one. They take their clowning seriously.

Every year members of the club participate in many charitable performances at local hospitals and institutions as well as organized ~~events such as~~ appearances in community events such as Social Security Administration Christmas Party for underprivileged, the March of Dime's walkathon, CFC Kick-Off, Savings Bond drive, and the Baltimore City ~~fix~~ fair. In addition, most of the members have performed professionally at birthday parties, business promotions, carnivals, parades and circuses.

This organization has performed at the White House the past three years at the Easter egg roll.

Santa Claus w/ he performed by Bill Nicholson,
Director of Scheduling.

The Clowns are from the BSSA & you have 1 in
- SS CC / all offi rec. (r A as an emplo
group



→ speaks more
the of the original

(part-time) various social agencies some professionally

birthday party
promotion for shop etc

- fund drive
- SFC
- charitable

Kurland - Heppy & Kurley

Kurec - Mikko

Lehr - ~~Erndy~~ Ernie

Olga - Olgie

Pinner - Lollypop & yo-yo

Robts - ? toki

Roland - Holie

Schreyer - Skuffles

Seifert - Essie

Shields - Feathers

Uttenricher - Cuddles



1969 - started - 1st ~~SSA~~ Xmas party
1970 - off. rec.



FROM THE DESK OF

Sally Quenneville

(Dip Chil. Party)

Social Sec. Clown Club

(fun Baltimore)

8-12 Clowns

→ Balloon

(2. as social aides)
along w/s aides

Mr. Marty Kurland

301-594-0662

Pat Howard

+268

Burn

Tillstrom

Kubla Jan

+ Ocell

Dec
16TH

(312)-944-7115 h. chick
(616) 857-5691 mech
MICHIGAN

1st invitation

~~12/3~~ Olympic St
Prod. Co. (312) 829 8637
(1st time)

Pres - 11:15 + us 11am

Mr. Miller

December 1975

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*=private and/or no press	1	2	3	4	5 (Tree Arrives)	6 (Decorate)
7 (Decorate)	8 (Decorate)	9 <i>7 nan</i>	10 (Return D.C.)	11	12 -3:00 IC-2, INC-1 Tea	13 -Private Xmas Party (&GF)*
14	15 <i>FP</i> 1:30 Xmas Volunteers <i>SAG</i> 5-7:00 WH Staff Xmas Party (&GF)	16 U.N. General Assembly Recesses <i>SAG</i> -4:30 Dip. Child. Party	17 <i>SAG</i> -9:00 Christmas Ball (&GF)	18 <i>PM</i> -2:00 Hosp. for Sick Children Party, D.C. -4:25 Light Natl Xmas Tree (&GF)	19 <i>(Dec. 31?)</i> <i>Connie Guard</i> <i>Head Diet</i> <i>SAG</i> -8:00 WH Press Xmas Party (&GF)	20
21	22 <i>2-W.H. Volunteers</i>	23	24 to 1/5 (Vail)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28	29	30	31			



THE
HOSPITALITY &
INFORMATION
SERVICE

for Diplomatic Residents and Families, Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20009, Telephone: 232-3002

March 8, 1972

THE HOSPITALITY AND INFORMATION SERVICE
(THIS)

WHAT IS THIS?

THIS was organized in 1961 at the suggestion of the Chief of Protocol in order to help the hundreds of new diplomats who had arrived with their families in Washington. In 1940 only 55 foreign missions existed in the capital; by 1961 the number had grown to 101; today, there are 124. Diplomatic families totalled 261 in 1940, 1200 by 1961, and today, 1800 reside in the Washington area.

THIS has as its Sponsors the wives of the members of the President's Cabinet and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The Chief of Protocol and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps serve as Honorary Sponsors.

THIS is a private, voluntary organization, not connected with the Foreign Service or any branch of the government.

THIS is made up of several hundred volunteers who give their time to provide a friendly introduction of foreign diplomatic families into the life of the Washington community.

THIS cooperates with organizations which share the same goal and is a member of the IVIS (International Visitors Information Service) Council.

THIS, a non-profit organization, receives its financial support from the Meridian House Foundation and from individual contributions. It is located in Meridian House, formerly the residence of an American Ambassador, and entertains at monthly receptions held to introduce newly arrived diplomats to members of THIS, as well as the programs and services they offer.

THIS services include distribution of free booklets to diplomats, often before their arrival in Washington, on schools, housing, food, and means of entertainment. On arrival the diplomatic family is called upon by a THIS volunteer and given an invitation to "Introduction to Washington" and a packet containing information designed to be of help in adjusting to a new home. The staff of THIS answers almost any question on the telephone, five days a week, and can make referrals where needed to other organizations in the community.

THIS programs include Home Hospitality, English Conversation practice, and special activities organized by eleven standing committees ranging from art tours to children's gatherings.

T

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NFORMATION

S

ERVICE

for
diplomatic
residents
and their
families

Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009 Telephone 232-3002

THIS is a volunteer committee of Washington citizens formed to be of service to you and your family. Organized in 1961 at the request of the Chief of Protocol, THIS is a non-government, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization. Its sponsors are the spouses of the President's Cabinet and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Placé sous les auspices des époux du Conseil des Ministres et du Maire du District of Columbia, THIS est un comité de simples particuliers organisé en 1961 sur les instances du Chef de Protocole. Son but est de rendre service aux familles diplomatiques pendant leur séjour à Washington.

Establecido en 1961 a petición del Jefe de Protocolo, THIS es un comité de ciudadanos particulares cuyos patrocinadores son las esposas o los esposos del Consejo de Ministros y del Alcalde de District of Columbia. Su propósito es el de servir a las familias diplomáticas durante su estancia en Washington.

SPONSORS

Mrs. Henry A. Kissinger
Mrs. William E. Simon
Mrs. Donald H. Rumsfeld
Mrs. Edward H. Levi
Mrs. Earl L. Butz
Mrs. Rogers C. B. Morton
Mrs. John T. Dunlop
Mrs. David Mathews
Mrs. William T. Coleman
Mrs. Frederick Dent
Mrs. James T. Lynn
Mrs. Walter E. Washington

OFFICERS

Mrs. Charles Swan Weber, *President*
Mrs. John Carter Good, *Vice President*
Mrs. William M. Preston, *Vice President*
Mrs. Hans Treupel, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. David E. Lindgren, *Corresponding Secretary*
Mrs. William R. Hyde, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Robert de Sugny, *Executive Secretary*

HONORARY SPONSORS

*Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
United States Chief of Protocol*

THIS is associated with and funded by Meridian House International

1976 WINTER CALENDAR 1976

The Hospitality and Information Service for diplomatic residents and their families has planned the following activities in the hope that you will learn to know Washington and the United States better. THIS arranges special programs not available to the general public. We welcome all of you, no matter how long you have been here. If you are interested in receiving invitations to any of these events, please mark and return the Calendar Reply Form. THIS reserves the right to cancel a program when the response is insufficient.

INTRODUCTION TO WASHINGTON

Receptions are held several times during the year honoring newly arrived diplomats. THIS volunteers explain programs, tours and other events which are planned for you. Information about the Washington area and special events is also available.

SPECIAL TOURS

- January 22, February 19, March 18—Thursdays 9:00 a.m.
Tour of the White House
 A special guide will show you the official residence of the President and his family.
- March 24—Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
Tour of the Department of State
 A visit to the "Foreign Office" of the United States. Some of America's most beautiful furniture and china are on display here.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- March 28—Sunday 2:00 p.m.
'Otello' by Verdi Fee: \$13.00
 The Opera Society of Washington presents Verdi's 'Otello' with James McCracken and Evelyn Lear. James Conlon conducts this closing performance. Orchestra seats.

BICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EVENTS

- January 25—Sunday 2:30—4:30 p.m.
"The American Adventure" Fee: \$1.00 (adults)
 \$.50 (children)
 The gala opening week of a unique entertainment experience in this nation's capital. Using quadraphonic sound and an oversized curved screen, this production promises to be a memorable feature of the U.S. Bicentennial year. The Special Events, Children and Cooking Committees will welcome you and your family to this special event of '76.

- April 4—Sunday 4:00—7:00 p.m.
Springtime Walking Tour of Historic Alexandria Fee
 Visit private homes and public buildings. See how 18th Century Americans lived in this seaport town. Following the tour, join us for refreshments and a fashion show of period costumes at a private home. Sponsored by the American Look and the Home Decoration and Floral Arts Committees.

CHILDREN

Programs planned for 5—11 year olds.

- February 7—Saturday 2:00—4:00 p.m.
Theater Party Fee
 The Howard University Children's Theater will present "Kojo and the Leopard", a play taken from an African folk tale, with costumes, music, and dancing to delight children. After the performance the children will meet the actors and be served punch and cookies.

- March 6—Saturday 10:00 a.m.
Special Tour at the Museum of History and Technology Fee: \$.50
 The Museum of History and Technology will give a special tour for children, ages 8 through 11, of the land transportation exhibit. The guides will lead the children through the history of trains, automobiles, and carriages.

- March 27—Saturday 1:00—3:30 p.m.
A Visit to the Rock Creek Nature Center Fee: \$.50
 This visit to the Nature Center will include a planetarium show about the night sky, a film of local wild life, a live-animal demonstration, and a short nature walk (weather permitting). Designed for children ages 4 through 7, although older children are welcome.

JUNIOR TEENS

Events planned for 12 year olds and up.

- February 6—Friday 5:00—8:00 p.m.
Broadcast House, WTOP T.V. Station Fee: \$2.50
 Tour Broadcast House WTOP T.V. Station, watch a news cast, and meet news and sportscasters. Dinner following at a home within walking distance of the studio.

- March 14—Sunday 2:00—5:00 p.m.
The Wax Museum Fee: \$1.50
 A special tour of the Wax Museum arranged by the owner. This museum contains a large variety of exciting exhibits. A live dolphin will perform in the museum pool.

YOUNG ADULTS

Events planned for older teenagers and young 20's.

- January 23—Friday 9:00 p.m.
An Evening at a Disco
 An evening of dancing and fun at a popular discotheque in Northern Virginia. Tables will be reserved. Good for a date or for a group.

- February 28—Saturday 9:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.
Mardi Gras Ball Fee: \$7.50
 Young Adults have been invited to join the Social Events Committee for an exciting evening of dancing and fun at the Wax Museum. (See Social Events).

- March 27—Saturday 8:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.
International Supper Fee: \$3.00
 Young Adults will join with Social Events for an evening of good food, a terrific combo for dancing, and fun, in the beautiful Chilean Embassy. (See Social Events).

SOCIAL EVENTS

- February 28—Saturday 9:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.
Mardi Gras Ball Fee: \$7.50
 A gala festivity such as that celebrated in New Orleans before the Lenten season. This year's setting will be the new Wax Museum, where dancing will be followed by a midnight buffet supper of crepes.

- March 27—Saturday 8:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.
International Supper Fee: \$3.00
 The Embassy of Chile has graciously extended its hospitality to THIS in offering their Embassy for our International Buffet Supper. Bring a favorite dish from your country and sample recipes from many others. Wines from many countries will also be served. Dinner will be followed by dancing to the music of the Nitefalls.

- April 23—Friday 8:30 p.m.—12:00
Las Vegas Night Fee: \$2.50
 Experience the excitement of a Las Vegas Casino in the elegant surroundings of Meridian House. We will furnish enough "casino (play) money" for a thrilling evening at our games of chance. Your "winnings" can be used to bid on a selection of prizes in our casino auction at the end of the evening. Snacks will be served and a cash bar will be available.

COOKING

Fees include demonstration and luncheon.

- January 27—Tuesday 10:30 a.m.
Hot Hors d'Oeuvres and Dessert Fee: \$3.50
 Hot hors d'oeuvres are always a popular addition to a cocktail party or buffet. With a dessert they can provide a light meal. In Virginia.

- February 12—Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
Delicious, Delectable but . . . Dietetic Fee: \$4.00
 Low calorie recipes which will satisfy the creativity of the gourmet cook. How you can fit a dieting program into your normal pattern of living, eating and entertaining. In Washington D.C.

- March 5—Friday 10:30 a.m.
American Heritage Recipes Fee
 A demonstration of recipes used by early American settlers, which have become part of our heritage. The housewives who settled here from other lands brought their native recipes with them. Gradually these recipes have been adapted to materials and conditions of life in America. In Maryland.

HOME DECORATION AND FLORAL ARTS

- January 22—Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Dried Flowers—Demonstration and Instruction Fee: \$1.00
 Many of you have admired the beautiful dried flower arrangements in the State Department and the White House. At your request, a workshop on how to preserve flowers for winter bouquets will be given by Mrs. Weber, THIS president, in her home.

- February 26—Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Color: A Great Solution Fee: \$1.00
 Bring your decoration problems to Mrs. Geraldine Wilson, interior decorator, whose artistry you may have admired at the Decorators' Show-house. Hear interesting new ideas on home decorating.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCENTS

Foreign language tours on the highlights of the National Gallery of Art's European and American Collection will be given by THIS Foreign Language Docents, by appointment. Call the National Gallery of Art, Education Department at 737-4215, Extension 272.

January 8—Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Special Tour of the Washington Antique Show Fee: \$4.00
 Special tours in English, French, German and Spanish will be conducted by trained docents at the Washington Antique Show. Coffee first at the home of The Honorable and Mrs. Leonard Marks. Highlights at each booth will be discussed.

February 7—Saturday 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
'The European Vision of America' Fee: \$1.00
 A tour of the special Bicentennial Exhibition including more than 300 works of art in diverse media. This major international loan exhibit illustrates the development of the European view of the Americas—from the earliest explorers to the end of the 19th Century. This tour will be offered in English and, upon request, in French, German, Japanese and Spanish.

ART

January 29—Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Visit to the Vice President's Official Residence Fee: \$1.00
 Visit the newly renovated Victorian mansion which Congress last year promoted from "Admiral's House" to Official Residence of the Vice President of the United States. The Vice President's interest in modern art is demonstrated in his private collection. limited.

February 21—Saturday Afternoon
A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Library of Congress Fee
 Our visit to the conservation offices will take in the scientific laboratory and the workshop where demonstrations for conserving library and archival material will take place. You will see how brittle paper is protected and books are covered with leather.

March—Date to be announced
Tour of Artists' Studios Fee
 The Art Committee is organizing a tour of studios followed by tea at a collector's home. Your prompt reply when invitations are mailed will assure you a rewarding experience.

April 3—Saturday 10:00 a.m.—12:00
Visit to Dumbarton Oaks Fee: \$1.00
 Dumbarton Oaks is the only Pre-Colombian Art Museum in Washington. The Honorable William R. Tyler will tell us about this unique collection that was put together by the late Ambassador Robert Woods Bliss and Mrs. Bliss.

AMERICAN LOOK

February—Date to be announced 10:00 a.m.—12:00
American Patchwork Quilting Fee: \$1.00
 A lecture by an authority on the history of our American patchwork (small pieces of fabric sewn together in a design to make blankets or fashions). Learn about the meaning of the different patterns. See how the oldest designs are used in today's fashions.

MUSIC

February 3—Tuesday 10:00 a.m.—12:00
Piano Recital Fee: \$1.00
 A special opportunity to hear a program of classical music by Rebecca Spaatz, a well-known Washington concert pianist. In a private home.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

January 21—Wednesday 9:15 a.m.
A Visit to the Supreme Court Fee
 A visit to the Supreme Court of the United States while court is in session, with special hostess, Mrs. Burger, wife of the Chief Justice.

February 11—Wednesday 12:30 p.m.
Book-Author Luncheon Fee
 Three tables will be reserved for THIS book lovers at this special luncheon sponsored by the *Washington Post* at the Sheraton Park Hotel. Current authors will speak on their most recent book and hold autograph sessions following the luncheon. Attendance limited.

March 23—Tuesday 9:00 a.m.
A Tour of the United States Treasury and Bureau of Engraving and Printing Fee
 A very special tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and of the Treasury Building, one of the oldest continuously occupied buildings in Washington D.C. Mrs. William Simon, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, will be our hostess and you will be able to see the production of currency, stamps, and commemorative medals. Refreshments.

NEEDLEWORK

There is a needlework group which meets in a home every other week to learn and do needlecraft. This is an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, get creative inspiration, and see the work of others. If you would be interested in joining, please check the Calendar Reply Form.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Weekly meetings are held, September through May, throughout the Washington area to practice speaking English and to improve your understanding of American idioms. Please check the Calendar Reply Form if you wish to join a group.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONVERSATION

Revive your past language skills and increase your present ability to speak French, German or Spanish by joining a foreign language conversation group. These groups meet twice a month in the homes of participating members. Please check the Calendar Reply Form if you are interested.

There are many reference books on activities in and around the Washington area. For information about them call the THIS office or Miss Marian King at 362-1894.

THIS can answer your questions regarding schools, language studies, shopping, accredited music and voice teachers, art galleries, theatres, recreation facilities, travel, driving regulations and almost anything else.

The programs and activities of THIS are arranged by the many volunteers of our organization. In the United States, a volunteer is a person who willingly offers his time and services without pay in support of an organization or a cause.

Telephone 232-3002 for information,
 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

CALENDAR REPLY FORM

Please Fill Out and Return To:

The Hospitality and Information Service
Meridian House
1630 Crescent Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Last name _____ Title or rank _____
Husband's _____ Wife's _____
first name _____ first name _____

Home address _____
Number _____ Street _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home telephone number _____

Name of Embassy or International Organization _____

Children _____
Name _____ Year of Birth _____ Sex _____

Home Hospitality: There are many THIS volunteers who would like to entertain you and your family in their homes. Would you be interested?

Are you interested in practicing English conversation with a group in your neighborhood? Daytime Evening

Voulez-vous joindre un groupe de conversation anglaise dans votre quartier? Pendant la journée le soir

¿Le interesa practicar su inglés con un grupo de personas en su vecindad? En las horas del día de la noche

Please indicate your preference for Foreign Language Conversation Groups: French , German , Spanish .

Please fill out reply form for ALL members of your family. Don't forget those who may be home for the holidays.

Please detach and mail.

(over)

CALENDAR REPLY—WINTER 1976

Attendance is limited for many programs. In order that you may receive invitations to events, please complete both sides and return promptly.

L'assistance est limitée pour de nombreux programmes. Afin de recevoir votre invitation, prière d'indiquer ci-dessous ceux auxquels vous desirez prendre part, compléter le questionnaire et nous le faire parvenir.

Para muchas funciones que se ofrecen la asistencia es limitada. Con el fin de recibir invitaciones para tales funciones, rogamos se sirva completar ambos lados de este cuestionario y remitirlo a la mayor brevedad.

Please check:

- January 8—Tour of Antique Show (NGA Docents)
- 21—Visit to the Supreme Court (Community Affairs)
- 22—Tour of the White House
- 22—Dried Flowers (Home Decoration and Floral Arts)
- 23—An Evening at a Disco (Young Adults)
- 25—The American Adventure (Bicentennial)
- 27—Hot Hors d'Oeuvres and Dessert (Va. Cooking)
- 29—Visit to the Vice President's Residence (Art)

- February —American Patchwork Quilting (American Look)
- 3—Piano Recital (Music)
- 6—Broadcast House (Junior Teens)
- 7—Theater Party (Children)
- 7—European Vision of America (NGA Docents)
- 11—Book-Author Luncheon (Community Affairs)
- 12—Delicious, Delectable but Dietetic (D.C. Cooking)
- 19—Tour of the White House
- 21—Library of Congress (Art)
- 26—Color: A Great Solution (Home Dec. & Floral Arts)
- 28—Mardi Gras Ball (Social Events and Young Adults)

- March —Artists' Studios (Art)
- 5—American Heritage Recipes (Md. Cooking)
- 6—Museum of History and Technology (Children)
- 14—The Wax Museum (Junior Teens)
- 18—Tour of the White House
- 23—U.S. Treasury Tour (Community Affairs)
- 24—Tour of the Department of State
- 27—Rock Creek Nature Center (Children)
- 27—International Supper (Social Events & Young Adults)
- 28—'Otello' by Verdi (Special Events)

- April 3—Dumbarton Oaks (Art)
- 4—Walking Tour of Historic Alexandria (Bicentennial)
- 23—Las Vegas Night (Social Events)

I wish to join the needlework group.

Telephone: 232-3002
Between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

(over)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1975



NBC photos

Burr Tillstrom and Fran Allison with Kukla and Ollie in 1954, left; at right, the "Kukla, Fran' and Ollie" show team today.

The Return Of Kukla, Fran And Ollie

By Tom Shales

Beulah Witch swings on a trapeze, Fletcher Rabbit sings a bit of "Vesti La Giubba" and a trained worm endeavors to toot out "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" on a toy trumpet. Once, we thought this was great television.

We were right.

"Kukla, Fran and Ollie" returns to the air tonight at 6 o'clock on Channel 4, one of the five NBC-owned stations to carry a new weekly taped version of the television classic. When the Kuklapolitans graduated from a local Chicago station to the newly established TV division of the National Broadcasting Company in 1947, they found themselves stars of one of the first network TV shows ever, and for the next decade, it remained one of the best.

Neither Kukla, the bald soprano with the puff nose and a look of persistent surprise, nor Oliver J. Dragon, vain companion of bushy mane and predominant white tooth, has aged at all. Of course they haven't aged—they are puppets. We keep forgetting.

Fran Allison, the human interlocutor who visits them and their friends at the threshold of a miniature proscenium, and Burr Tillstrom the gentle wit behind the whole show, look only a little older.

All are figures in the same fine dream. That they still treat one another with love and patience makes the matter of appearances irrelevant and the specter of intervening years entirely negligible. The festive spirit of their casual encounters remains re-

freshing; it is part of Tillstrom's gift that the consistency of his whimsy is always somehow perfect, and the quiet moments of simple song involve us just as securely as the occasional calamity that results when hijinks go unavoidably awry.

Returning to them on their home ground, television, is like meeting an irreplaceable old friend whose first remark, after years of separation, is a joke. One is trapped somewhere between laughter and tears, and the experience is quizzically exhilarating. Memories reinforce themselves and become fragile and profound.

What seems amazing now, practically speaking, is that a network pro-

See KUKLA, C4, Col. 1



Villager

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9 / OCTOBER, 1975





Burr Tillstrom, who, according to Mary Tyler Moore and others, is the father of some of our closest friends.

by Bill Donaldson

Last month Kukla, Fran and Ollie came back to television in a weekly series set to run nationally the whole season. Now, that's epic news for a lot of people, but the return was quiet,



*Saturdays at 5 on NBC:
"Here we are
Back with you again;
Yes, by gum and yes, by golly!
Kukla, Fran, and dear ol' Ollie."*

A CONVERSATION WITH BURR TILLSTROM

to continue the new series (can anyone imagine the show without her?) and will appear in all the programs.

Tillstrom's and Miss Allison's association goes back to the years during W.W. II, when they met selling war bonds together in a temporary booth at the Wrigley Building plaza. Tillstrom was already a locally prominent puppeteer; Miss Allison, a WBBM radio personality. Tillstrom's and Kukla's friendship, though, goes back to the late 30s, when Tillstrom

Los Angeles Times

Oct. 25, 1975

RIDING A NOSTALGIA WAVE

The Kuklapolitans Are Back

BY JON FOREMAN

CHICAGO—Kukla, Fran and Ollie—two delightful puppets and an equally delightful lady who were television favorites from 1947 to 1957—are back on the air again, riding the crest of the revival wave.

The weekly half-hour series returned to TV as part of the fall lineup and is syndicated to stations across the country (including KNBC Channel 4 in Los Angeles, where it is seen Sundays at 6 p.m.)

falling out, but they never hate each other. I don't try to gimmick them up. I can't change them. They were established as characters before the TV show started. And think of Fran. She reacts to them with absolute honesty and spontaneity. She never memorizes lines. She doesn't pretend or patronize." (Fran, incidentally, first appeared on radio as a singer in Iowa, then went to Chicago where she established herself as "Aunt Fanny" on the Breakfast Club. In private life, she is married to music publisher Ar-

Interview with A 1-Tooth Dragon

By Judy Flander
Washington Star Staff Writer

Ollie, the dragon, surveys the audience. "I'm counting the house," he says. "I don't speak before less than 50 people."

Flash bulbs light up the small stage where the National Association of Broadcasters puppetry workshop is being held.

Ollie freezes, his best side to the camera.



WASHINGTON STAR

Portfolio

Wed, June 4, 1975

Television Reviews

Don Adams Screen Test

(Sat., 7:30-8 p.m., KNBC)

Lighthearted approach saves day in new series offered to syndie market by MCA-TV. Taped at Universal, idea would seem to have sprung from screen test from Uni tours — with celebs added and a contest included.

Don Adams hosts pair of tests in which contestants are selected from audience by casting directors and resolved by guest director, in first episode Jackie Cooper. Scenes from films — "Destry Rides Again" and "From Here To Eternity" — are matched by would-bes with pro actor (Doug McClure, Danny Thomas, standing in for James Stewart, Burt Lancaster).

Filming is shown, including outtakes, and final product, shown in b&w to approximate originals, gives overall impression of contestants' ability. In this case, Pamela Rodriguez in Marlene Dietrich role won, was given part in feature film.

Producer Marty Pasetta directed with zest and economy. Gerald Gardner, Dee Caruso wrote sharp material for occasion.

Tone.

Kukla, Fran And Ollie

HERE COMES THE CIRCUS

(Sun., 6-6:30 p.m., KNBC)

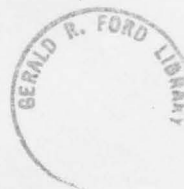
Joyful return of children's show (which many adults may find rewarding as well as wise beyond kiddie expectations) pits Fran Allison against ticket taker Buelah, who is observing inflation, and brings her into contact with kinder Kukla, the ringmaster.

The characters are there, with Ollie as roustabout, and Buelah changing roles to become nervous trapeze artist. Fletcher is around with his trained worm who tries adding twos, and Fran patiently bides her time talking with her puppet friends, who are far more sophisticated than might at first be expected.

Burr Tillstrom, who writes, speaks for all puppets and handles them with all the skill of yesteryear, knows his audience. The old team, not looking a day older, gets in there and pitches for the circus to delight of youngsters. It's in a good timeslot, and something worth attention of viewers who may find something both new and nostalgic in one of the rare traditions of tv still around.

Produced by Tillstrom and Martin Tahse Prods., distributed on syndie trail by Baron Enterprises, half hour is charming.

Tone.



WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD IS KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
LIGHTS GLOWING AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS WEEK.
SHE INVITED 500 CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO
ATTEND A RECEPTION TODAY FEATURING TELEVISION PERFORMERS KUKLA, FRAN
AND OLLIE.
SANTA CLAUS WAS SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENT, COURTESY OF BILL
NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULING.
UPI 12-16 12:59 PES

UP-166

(KIDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE)

(BY RICHARD H. GROWALD)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SOME 500 CHILDREN OF WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATIC
COLONY ROMPED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE TUESDAY AND ASKED PRESIDENT FORD'S
WIFE BETTY QUESTIONS THEIR PARENTS PROBABLY NEVER WOULD DARE.

MRS. FORD HAD NO SOONER SHOUTED A "HI!" TO THE CHILDREN AT THE
EAST ROOM PARTY WHEN ONE YOUNGSTER SHOUTED, "WHERE'S MR. FORD?"

THE FIRST LADY LAUGHED AND REPLIED, "I HOPE THE PRESIDENT IS
WORKING. THAT'S WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DOING."

"WHY?" DEMANDED ANOTHER OF THE CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 AND 10.



PEOPLE/SCENE

A Children's Celebration

The White House and the Vice President's House were both filled with crowds on Tuesday—but only about 4 feet up from the floors. It was the day to have children in for early Christmas celebrating.

Bill Nicholson, the director of presidential scheduling, was wearing a Santa Claus suit and First Lady Betty Ford was wearing a regular suit when they entertained the children of diplomats at the White House party. The annual party, arranged by The Hospitality and Information Service (THIS) also starred "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" and featured punch and cookies and dialogue between Mrs. Ford and the children, left.

At the Vice President's House on the Naval Observatory grounds, it was the children who did the entertaining. Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, right, were serenaded with a selection of carols by singers who will also be traveling around the area hotels, restaurants and shopping centers, to benefit Children's Hospital National Medical Center in a project called "Caroling for Children's."



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post

Celebrating with Betty Ford at the White House...



By Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

...And with the Rockefellers at Admiral's House.

Roberts - Daily -
Mult?

Frank Gallagher
785-6416

Stop
Nord Wall

UPI
CBS
AP ✓
ABC ✓
NBC ✓
Star ✓
Post ✓

✓ ① Call

✓ ② Clear

no photos til
Frank, - act
then for 5-7 min
STOP

Romy Kissinger (?)

3:50

Lillian Leay

