

**The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “4/19/76 - Easter Egg Roll South Grounds” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files 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*



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1976

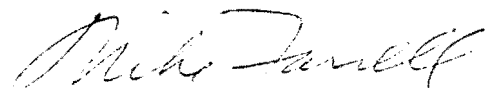
MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL WHITE HOUSE/OEOB STAFF

SUBJECT: Easter Egg Roll  
Monday, April 19, 1976  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Continuous entertainment will be provided by bands and marching units of the Armed Services, and there will be an egg-rolling contest (the White House furnishes the eggs). There will be clowns and special performances near the South Fountain by a magician, a juggler, and trampoline experts. In addition, a marionette variety show will be presented, the St. Andrews Ukranian Orthodox Church parishioners will demonstrate the art of decorating Easter eggs, and a youth fife and drum corps will perform.

The President and Mrs. Ford hope your children will enjoy this traditional event.



Michael J. Farrell

Director

Office of White House Visitors

For Immediate Release  
Friday, April 16, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO MRS. FORD

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Kimo the Klown and Winnie the Pooh will assist in meeting the participants. Volunteer clowns from the Social Security Administration will also be on hand to entertain the children, and the Easter Bunny is expected to make a traditional appearance.

Mrs. Ford has asked that the State Floor of the White House be open for tours during the Easter Egg Roll. Entrance for both the tour and the Easter Egg Roll will be the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

# # #

Make  
Would you  
please call  
me about  
this -  
Shu

A x Rime for Easter Time

An ~~Egg~~ ~~Roll~~ Egg Roll Rime

An Easter Basket of History

The Easter of '76

④ of Eggs & Grass & ~~There~~ Times Past

← my  
favourite  
④  
I agree  
Shu





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 birthday year.

Sincerely,

U  
Mrs. Betty Ford

FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mrs. J. C. Shipp  
4019 24th Road N.  
Arlington, Va. 22207

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/13/76

Dear Mrs. Shipp:

I tried to locate extra  
copies, but I am afraid they are in  
short supply.

Easter Egg

- Began <sup>100 yrs ago</sup>
  - last Easter <sup>1820s at Capitol moved</sup>
  - renting / to adult
  - rolling?
  - presents for what
- 30 sec.

686-4486

Russ Ward

Patti

512

2240159

Annex

333 7770



W Coast  
Fair-Sun  
Mrs. Nixon  
March 31

Began approx. 100 yrs ago (Dolly Madison's time)  
Mid 1900 century Capitol  
1870s (Hayes Admin) moved to WH grounds w/few interruptions since  
(WWI & II)

1975--Noone from family

rolling-- who can roll the farthest (recent yrs started the contest)  
last couple yrs egg rolling the fastest w/the spoon defined distance  
who crosses finish line wins (8 children at a time) eggs for roll  
provided

own eggs for own use

renting--rumor--no problem

Julie went to one  
Tricia  
Mrs. Nixon  
Johnson girls  
no President since Eisenhower (1st yr in ofc?) best recollection  
from people this afternoon

→ 1st yr w/real eggs  
→ 2nd & 3rd  
→ Plastic Eggs?  
→ children w/o eggs

3,775 (1st hour)

4/19/76 Attendance:  
8,814 '76  
10,230 '75



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SHEILA WEIDENFELD

FROM:

MIKE FARRELL *MF*

SUBJECT:

1976 Easter Egg Roll  
Monday, April 19, 1976  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*how many yrs?*  
*cy?*  
The 1976 Easter Egg Roll is scheduled for Monday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All children eight years and younger accompanied by an adult are welcome to attend. The egg-rolling contest will be held again this year with the winners of each contest receiving a small prize. All participants will receive a certificate signed by Mrs. Ford which contains a "Rime for Easter Time." Entertainment will continue throughout the event and will include performances by the bands and marching units of the Armed Services ~~(see attached schedule)~~. There will be a special performance by the Patriots of Northern Virginia, a pipe and drum youth organization, and the art of egg decorating will be portrayed by parishioners from St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Church. There will also be performances by Toto the Clown; Mr. Wayne Alan, a magician; the Bob Brown Marionettes; and the MarVaTeens, a gymnastic team from the Washington metropolitan area. (Additional information on the performers is ~~included in the attached information provided by the National Park Service.~~)

*Do child. bring eggs?*

*Who* → Kimo the Clown and Winnie the Pooh will assist in meeting the participants. Volunteer clowns from the Social Security Administration will also be on hand to entertain the children, and the Easter Bunny is expected to make a traditional appearance.

*for eggs participants?*  
Mrs. Ford has asked that the State Floor of the White House be open again this year for tours during the Easter Egg Roll. Entrance for both the tour and the Easter Egg Roll will be the East Gate on East Executive Avenue.

Attachments



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: Instructions for Social Aides

EVENT: EASTER EGG ROLL

Date/Time: April 19, 1976 10:00 am - 2:00 pm No. of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Uniform: \_\_\_\_\_ Parking: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Place Time for Aides: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Place Time for OIC: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty Aide: Captain Charles H. Mead, USAF

First Family Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Social Aides will attend:

10:00 - 10:45	U. S. Army Band
10:45 - 11:30	U. S. Marine Band
11:30 - 12:00	U. S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps
12:00 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 1:15	U. S. Air Force Band
1:15 - 2:00	U. S. Navy Band

REMARKS:

A First Aid Tent will be set up inside the Southeast Gate.

An ambulance will be on stand by at the Naval Dispensary, 23d Street.

*macell*  
ROBERT E. BARRETT  
*for* Major, U. S. Army  
Army Aide to the President

DISTRIBUTION:

Capt Kollmorgen  
Maj Barrett  
Capt Domina  
Capt Mead

Social Office  
Mrs. Weidenfeld  
Secret Service  
Visitor's Office  
Band

Usher's Office  
White House Garage  
White House Staff Mess  
Mr. O'Donnell  
White House Police

### The Patriots of Northern Virginia

The Patriots of Northern Virginia, organized by Master Sgt. and Mrs. Samuel E. Evans in 1965, is a non-profit, volunteer youth organization that participates in civic and patriotic functions. The Patriots have performed in a variety of events such as the Colonial Williamsburg Field Music Days, nationally televised halftime shows for area football, basketball, and baseball games, the Canadian National Exposition, and on July 4th they will represent the State of Virginia in the National Bicentennial Parade in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### Ukranian Egg Decorators

The Ukranian tradition of egg decorating, as portrayed for the second year at the White House Easter Egg Roll by the parishioners from St. Andrew's Ukranian Orthodox Church, is passed on from generation to generation. This art is over 2,000 years old. Before the advent of Christianity, egg decorating was done every spring to celebrate and symbolize the renewal of nature and life. With Christianity, the meaning of the symbols changed. Today's egg designs include a combination of pagan and Christian symbolism.



### Toto the Clown

Appearing for the second year at the White House Easter Egg Roll, Toto the Clown, formerly with Polack Brothers Circus, provides a variety of circus fun including plate spinning, juggling and magic. Toto has also appeared with the Emmett Kelly Junior Circus and in 1974, represented the State of Maryland for National Clown Week.

# Magical Productions Limited

WEBSTER STREET • MT. RAINIER, MD. 20822  
phone 301 779-2655

## wayne alan

— *Magical Entertainer* —

### PROFILE OF WAYNE ALAN

Wayne Alan is a professional magician who has been performing magic for over thirteen years. He studied dramatic arts and marketing at the University of Maryland. He has performed throughout Europe and the U.S. He recently performed at the White House.

In 1973, he was one of only four magicians from the United States to represent this country in the international stage competition in Paris, France. This was at the Congress De La FISM, the world's largest magician's convention.

Wayne Alan is president of Magical Productions Ltd., a company which he formed in 1971. This firm designs and produces magical presentations for trade shows, industrial shows, shopping malls, and other promotional functions. Among their clientele are such corporations as PPG Industries, American Sta Dri Company, Montgomery Ward and others.

NASA, at Goddard Space Flight Center, had Wayne Alan act as a consultant on the abilities of a supposed psychic, Uri Geller, who performed for them. Wayne has studied haunted houses and other psychic phenomena.

Wayne is an ardent collector of Harry Houdini memorabilia and has researched his life and secrets extensively.

Mr. Alan is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Society of American Magicians and the Magician's Alliance of Eastern States.

### Bob Brown Marionettes

The Bob Brown Marionettes, based in Washington, D. C., will be performing at the White House Easter Egg Roll for the second year. Some of their many other accomplishments are performances at both the Kennedy and Lincoln Performing Arts Centers, Organization of the Smithsonian Puppet Theater, appearances on TV's "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," as well as numerous public service announcements and commercials.

### MarVaTeens

The MarVaTeens are the top gymnastic team in the metropolitan area and the only team to ever produce an Olympian from the Washington, D.C. area (Roxanne Pierce - 1972). Members of this independent club range from 3 years to adult, both girls and boys, with over 700 students participating each week. One of the MarVaTeens coaches, Jack Leonard, holds 5 national tumbling titles, including 1972 and 1973 U.S. Tumbling and Trampoline Association National Tumbling Championships.

## Kimo the Klown

As his Bicentennial gift to the Nation, Kimo the Klown is touring the United States visiting 76 cities and all 50 states. Kimo is donating a year of his time to bring happiness to those who, because of confinement in hospitals, nursing home, old-age centers, and institutions, may be unable to share in the Bicentennial activities in their communities. Kimo the Klown claims Pittsburgh as his home.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1976

*Barbara  
Baker  
EW Receipt.  
Seaw & Robert*

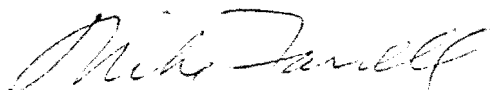
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# # #



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7PM-EASTER-FORD: 210

7WIREPHOTO WX1

WASHINGTON (AP) - PRESIDENT FORD SPENT AN EASTER HOLIDAY GOLFING, CHURCH-GOING AND RELAXING AT CAMP DAVID IN THE NEARBY MARYLAND MOUNTAINS.

AND THE EASTER SPIRIT WAS CONTINUING AT THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY, WHERE YOUNGSTERS 8 YEARS OLD AND UNDER WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TRADITIONAL EGG-ROLLING FROLIC ON THE SOUTH LAWN.

NEITHER PRESIDENT NOR MRS. FORD WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT THE EGG-ROLLING. MRS. FORD WAS LEAVING FOR A FOUR-DAY CAMPAIGN TRIP TO TEXAS.

AS THE CAPITAL SHELTERED OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND IN RECORD-HIGH 95-DEGREE TEMPERATURES, THE FORDS ATTENDED EASTER MORNING SERVICES AT A TINY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ABOUT 10 MILES FROM CAMP DAVID AT CATOCTIN FURNACE, MD. THEY JOINED 124 OTHER WORSHIPPERS IN THE CHURCH AND KNELT TO TAKE COMMUNION.

FORD GOT IN 18 HOLES OF GOLF SATURDAY, WENT SWIMMING TWICE, WATCHED A NEW ALFRED HITCHCOCK MYSTERY MOVIE, "THE FAMILY PLOT," AND TUNED IN ON HIS PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN'S APPEARANCE ON THE TELEVISION SHOW "SATURDAY NIGHT."

HE AND MRS. FORD RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN TIME FOR A FILET MIGNON DINNER SUNDAY NIGHT SO MRS. FORD COULD PREPARE FOR HER TEXAS CAMPAIGN TRIP.

0228AES 04-19



# Egg Rolling Forecast: One Shell of a Mess

*Quotes and notes from Washington parties uncovered for The Washington Star by Ymelda Dixon.*

Liz Carpenter, Lady Bird Johnson's top aide, recalled past Easter egg rolls on the South lawn and shuddered at what it will be like there today with so many

ter. Easter is a big deal at chez Winchester and Lucy delights in telling the antics of her friend, Georgetown bachelor Burton Wood. Wood dyes and donates eggs for his friends' children. Once he was trying to put some eggs on a young friend's window ledge when he heard a police siren followed by a voice shouting



NØ71

R  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON WEEK AHEAD CALENDAR

MONDAY (APRIL 19)

( EVENT: ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL.  
TIME: 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
LOCATION: ENTER WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS VIA EAST GATE.  
CONTACT: 426-6725. )

Ø4-16-76 13:49EST

( ANNUAL EASTER EGG ROLL HELD ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE,  
FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

OPEN TO CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND YOUNGER, ACCOMPANIED BY AN  
ADULT. ENTER BY SOUTHEAST GATE. PROGRAM INCLUDES AN EASTER  
BUNNY, CLOWNS, BAND AND OTHER CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT.

UPI Ø4-16 Ø1:19 PES



visitor to the White House.  
fish stories at the swear-  
other, Thomas, as chief of  
ing. At rear, the President  
o will have ambassadorial  
progress in stabilizing Sino-  
relations.

## She Can Not Tell a Lie

Mrs. Ford reveals a hooper's leg underneath as she responds to a heckler in the crowd at Washington Mall and rolls back skirt to prove she's wearing a denim dress and not ultra-suede. She also paid call on the new entertainment area which is meant to make the waiting time for a visit to the White House less tedious for tourists.

# The New York Times

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— NEW YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1976 —



**CLOWNING ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN:** Betty Ford, wearing a clown hat, being told by a clown at yesterday's Bicentennial Easter Egg Roll that she "has a

The New York Times/Teresa Zabala  
cute nose." Children up to 8 years old swarmed over the White House lawn to push eggs with spoons. Plastic eggs and steel spoons were used for the first time.

## Personalities



*First Lady Betty Ford.*

tional Park Service plan to save tourists foot-wearying hours of standing in line for White House tours.

On her visit to the Ellipse to get her ticket, Mrs. Ford told a crowd of tourists that she sometimes had to wait in line at the White House in past years. Tourists can pick up free tickets marked with designated times. If you want, they can sit on bleachers and listen to free entertainment.

Betty Ford used a ticket yesterday to get back into the White House.

The First Lady, who is campaigning with her husband to stay in the White House for a new four-year lease, used the ticket to call attention to the Na-

B. FORD LI



Associated Press

**FISH STORIES**—While President Ford talks at White House with newly sworn-in chief of U.S. Liaison Office in Peking Thomas S. Gates, Betty Ford swaps fish stories with Gates' grandson, Scott, 6. Gates served in the Eisenhower cabinet.





The New York Times/Teresa Zabala

**AFTER BEING SWORN:** Thomas S. Gates being congratulated by President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller after becoming head of U.S. Liaison Office in China. Betty

Ford is with Mrs. Gates at left. Notes on People, page 24. Earlier, Rogers C. B. Morton, campaign manager, said Mr. Rockefeller was not ruled out as running mate. Page 18.







## He Egged Them On.

Preceded by the first lady, President Ford greets children gathered on the South Lawn of the White House yesterday for the annual Easter Egg Roll. Ford is the first chief executive to personally greet rollers since Ike did it in the '50s. Some 8,000 were on hand in 90-degree weather for hottest egg roll ever.

AP photo

LIBRARY



—Associated Press

**A QUICK PEEK**—First Lady Betty Ford turns up the hem of her dress to show that she is wearing a denim dress and not ultra-suede as someone in the crowd said. Mrs. Ford toured the Washington Mall yesterday to inspect the tourist facilities.