

For immediate release

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

BACKGROUND ON FORD FAMILY

The Nation's First Family is an outdoor-sy, sports-loving family, close-knit and informal in their life-style.

The family consists of four children, ranging in ages from 17-25 and in interests from ranching to the ministry. Susan, the youngest, is a senior in high school and the only Ford offspring to live in the White House. Her three older brothers, Steve, Jack and Mike, have a variety of interests and are scattered in locale from the East Coast to the West.

Susan, 17, is a senior at Holton-Arms, a girls school in Bethesda, Md. A tall, blue-eyed blonde, she plans to attend Mount Vernon College in Washington, D.C. next year and is considering the possibility of a career in child care or fashion. She is a sports enthusiast and especially enjoys skiing, swimming, horseback riding and tennis. Among hobbies are photography, needlepoint and caring for a growing family of plants at the White House. Susan also has unofficial charge of the White House pets, a sealpoint Siamese named Shan and a golden retriever named Liberty.

The youngest son is Steve, 18, who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., last year and decided to take a year off before starting college. He is a ranchhand on a cattle ranch near Missoula, Montana, and has also worked on a ranch in Utah and a dairy farm in Virginia. He is looking into studying agriculture when he returns to school.

Jack, 23, is a senior at Utah State University at Logan, Utah. Though his plans following graduation are uncertain at the moment, he is particularly interested in environmental affairs. Jack's interests range from reading to camping, from sports to music. He has been a member of the US Forest Service fire fighting crew and has been a park ranger for the National Park Service.

Mike, 25, and the oldest of the Ford offspring, is married and a student at the Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary in Essex, Mass. He is married to the former Gayle Brumbaugh of Catonsville, Md. Mike, a political science major as an undergraduate, is studying for a masters degree at the Seminary and is interested in a career working with young people. Gayle has a masters degree in social work.

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