Thibaut Elected Trustee at Annual Foundation Meeting

At the eleventh annual Gerald R. Ford Foundation meeting in Washington on June first, 25 trustees joined President Ford at the Capitol Hill Club to review the year's activities and discuss future plans.

Among the items of business conducted was the election of J. Robert Thibaut to the Board of Trustees to complete the term of the late Dean Burch. Rob is the president and co-owner of T S Restaurants of Hawaii and California, as well as chairman and co-owner of Waterfront Restaurants, Inc. He has been active in the Young President's Organization, including serving as chairman and director of the Hawaii Chapter. Rob has served as a director of various civic organizations in Hawaii. He attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, majoring in political science, and graduated from Harvard Business School (Owner-President's Program). Rob resides on the island of Maui with his wife Patty and their children, Angela, Chris, and Rob, Jr.

In other business, the trustees adopted the annual budget and heard reports on upcoming Library and Museum programs, the William E. Simon Lecture Series, the research grants program, and the Ford journalism prizes.

Executive board member Robert Hooker described for the trustees a plan to raise additional endowment funds. President Ford pointed out the added income created by the enlarged endowment would be used to refurbish and update the core museum exhibit, finance traveling and temporary exhibits to encourage attendance, and to provide support for basic library and museum programs, supplementing those funds provided by the government. The President announced that Paul O'Neill will be chairman of the fundraising effort.

Archivist of the United States Don Wilson, an ex officio member of the Board and former director of the Ford Library, reported on several significant legislative issues affecting the National Archives.

Chairman Martin Allen closed the meeting with adoption of a memorial resolution in honor of the late Dean Burch. The resolution cited Burch's "helpful counsel, wise leadership and great contribution" to the Foundation during his ten-year tenure as a trustee.

Following the meeting, the Foundation hosted a dinner for former Ford administration associates and friends of the President. William T. Coleman, Jr., Secretary of Transportation during the Ford administration, delivered after-dinner remarks on the plight of urban America.

Solomon and Burt Win Journalism Prizes, President Ford on Congress and America Bashers

In June, at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., President Ford announced the winners of the annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes. The two $5,000 awards, sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, are designed to recognize journalists whose high standards for accuracy and substance help foster better public understanding of the presidency and national defense issues.

Burt Solomon of the National Journal, won the fifth Ford prize for reporting on the presidency. In selecting Solomon, the panel of judges described his work as judicious and insightful, and suggested that his weekly columns "consistently go well beyond the immediate passions and concerns of daily news and constitute a continuing account of the American presidency."

In thanking President Ford for the award, Mr. Solomon stated that he had a boss who once said, "recognition counts more than money."

However, said Solomon, "I find a bit of both especially welcome." He went on to say, "What I have tried to do, in writing a weekly column on the White House, is to figure out the nuances of who George Bush is, and how his staff works, and doesn't work, and how that has shaped the course of his administration."

—Burt Solomon

President Ford, after handing out the awards, delivered some timely remarks relating to the coming election. Ford, in a very emotional tone, also urged the new Congress to make the changes necessary to help it become a positive force in governing the nation. Specifically, he addressed the potential changes in the House of Representatives. "The new House is going to have at least 150 new faces. In my opinion, this new Congress will have to do what the Congress did back in 1945-46. They passed a legislative reorganization act. Under that act the house cut standing committees from 48 to 19. That was a tough thing to do then and it will be tough now. But we really have to reduce the number of committees, subcommittees, and the number of staff people that they employ. The size of the congressional staff has become a real growth industry in recent years. They have gotten out of control."
"I wanted to know personally what this thing called war was all about."
—Douglas Jehl

"We also have to redefine jurisdictions. We have to increase the power of the leadership. They have to be able to run the institution. They must have the power to control the members of their party. You cannot have 435 prima donnas. There needs to be some way to insure loyalty to the party and the leadership on critical issues."

"Because of my love and respect for the House as an institution, I hope the new Congress gets things in order, so they can become a fully effective, co-equal, and coordinate partner of the executive branch in solving the critical problems that we face at home and abroad."

"I am fed up with these people who go around bashing America!"
—President Ford

At the question and answer session, President Ford said that he is "fed up with these people who go around bashing America." He listed military, political, and economic accomplishments of the last forty years and said, "That's a pretty good track record. In my humble opinion, we ought to be proud of this country. It's a pretty good place to live and a pretty good example for other countries."

Archivist of the United States Don W. Wilson, right, with Hank Meijer, chair of the host committee for the World War II exhibit, and Merri Jo Bales, communications director for the Northwestern Region of Consumers Power.

Consumers Power Gift to Bring World War II Exhibit to Ford Museum

On October 9, Consumers Power presented a $30,000 check to Dr. Don Wilson, Archivist of the United States. The contribution was made to bring the massive exhibit "World War II: Personal Accounts—Pearl Harbor to V-J Day" to the Ford Museum, September 11, 1993, to January 3, 1994.

"Personal Accounts," a $1.5 million enterprise, is a nationally traveling exhibition created and coordinated by the National Archives in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the most devastating war in history.

It's all there, from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day. The original footage of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the letters sent home by GIs, the diary of George Patton, the correspondence between Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, the medals, the weapons, Adolf Hitler's last will and testament, and the safety plug from the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki are just a few of the artifacts that bring the war alive to the exhibit's visitors.

The exhibit, in Dr. Wilson's words, "is a deeply moving, highly personal exhibition of unique documents. These diaries and letters, written by GIs and generals, offer a kaleidoscope of emotions— Isolation, fear, discomfort, euphoria—that are at once individual and universal. Reading these accounts stirs further recollections of the war years, whether our own experiences or those recounted by our parents or grandparents."

This will be the only Michigan venue for this exhibit. The Museum expects to have several programs in conjunction with the exhibit. A 1940s fashion show, a Big Band concert, film series, lectures, and activities for school groups are just a few of the possible enhancements to "Personal Accounts." Put it on your calendar for next year.
Research Grants

The Foundation's Grant Committee reviewed a near-record number of applications last spring before awarding the grants listed below. About half the recipients were doctoral candidates, reflecting a commitment to help both new and established scholars. Most grants supported Ford Library research visits of one to two weeks as part of larger projects spanning several presidencies. The availability of pertinent archival material is an important factor in award decisions, and new acquisitions and collection openings constantly expand the award possibilities. For grant information and collection advice, contact grants coordinator David Horrocks at 313/741-2218.


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<th>Spring Grant Recipients:</th>
<th>Frank Laird</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Polly J. Diven</strong></td>
<td>University of Denver</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>&quot;Solar Energy Policy in the United States Since World War II&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Domestic Politics of U.S. Foreign Economic Assistance&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Robert M. Eisinger</strong></td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
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<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>&quot;NASA and the Search for a Reusable Spacecraft: The Space Shuttle and National Politics, 1964-77&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Presidents, Policy, and Public Opinion&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Paul R. Henggeler</strong></td>
<td>Loyola University, Chicago</td>
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<td>Bowling Green State University</td>
<td>&quot;Federal Historic Preservation Policies&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;After Camelot: American Politics in the Age of Kennedy&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Jonathan T. Y. Houghton</strong></td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>&quot;Gerald R. Ford and the Limits of Power&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The North Carolina Republican Party: From the New Deal to the New Right&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Anne M. Khademian</strong></td>
<td>Moscow (Russia) State University</td>
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<td>University of Wisconsin at Madison</td>
<td>&quot;The Development of the Republican Party in the South, 1960s to 1970s&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The FDIC, the Federal Reserve Board, the OCC, and Banking Supervision: Institutional Design and Regulatory Politics&quot;</td>
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Museum Exhibits for 1993

The Museum's first feature exhibit for 1993 will focus on presidential elections. On display from January 30 to March 14, "Presidential Campaigns" is a traveling show adapted from an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. It explores a century of campaigning, from fireside chats to photo-ops, from front porch speeches to whistle-stops. It also examines how the people have engaged in marches, rallies, and lobbying campaigns.

The 2000-square-foot exhibit features campaign memorabilia, political photos, historical objects, archival documents, and radio and television spots. We hope to supplement the exhibit with materials from the 1992 election.

The next temporary exhibit will be "Breakthrough: The Fight for Freedom at the Berlin Wall." It tells the story of the Berlin Wall from its construction in 1961 to its fall in 1990. Objects, photographs, and a video presentation are part of the exhibit organized by the German Museum of Berlin and the Checkpoint Charlie Museum.

"Breakthrough," shown from March 23 to May 7, will focus attention on the Museum's section of the Berlin Wall, which was donated by Fred Meijer.

In addition to "Personal Accounts," described in another article in this newsletter, the National Archives has sponsored another traveling exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II. It features works produced by artists assigned to the front lines. Watercolors, oils, and field sketches capture many personal and emotional aspects of the war. "The Artist's View" will open at the Ford Museum on May 1, 1993.
Major Acquisitions

Future researchers don’t know it yet, but they had a great summer at the Ford Library. Some outstanding collections arrived.

The papers of Robert T. Hartmann, an intimate adviser to Ford since 1965, are often exceptional in both breadth and quality. Included, for example, are 1969-70 minutes of congressional leadership meetings with President Nixon and handwritten directives from President Ford on the themes and tone for his 1976 State of the Union address. Archivists are now arranging and describing the collection for opening sometime in 1993.

For many years the Ford Library has had exceptional holdings on domestic and international economic matters with the files of L. William Seidman and the Economic Policy Board, Alan Greenspan and the Council of Economic Advisers, Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve, and others. Still, there was a crucial omission—the papers of William Simon, Treasury Deputy Secretary and Secretary from 1973 to 1977. Now the gap is filled with receipt of a microfiche set of the extensive Simon Papers. The microfilming was made possible by a generous grant from the Olin Foundation and the splendid cooperation of Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, where the originals are kept. The microfiche are open to research.

Few journalists, if any, observed Gerald Ford more closely than did Jerald F. terHorst, former Washington Bureau Chief of the Detroit News. TerHorst was President Ford’s press secretary until resigning in protest of the Nixon pardon. He then wrote in 1975 the first detailed biography of Ford. These papers are temporarily closed pending processing.

Ron Nessen, terHorst’s 1974-77 successor as presidential press secretary, donated a substantial collection of papers several years ago. This summer, the Library was fortunate to receive valuable additional files and a fine collection of original artwork for political cartoons.
University of Michigan Students Use the Ford Library

When President Ford placed his library in Ann Arbor, he gave the University of Michigan a unique educational resource. Each year the Gerald R. Ford Library draws a variety of students who peruse the presidential papers. Undergraduates have become the Library's largest user group, accounting for two-thirds of our researchers.

In addition to being available for individual students, the Library has cooperative arrangements with several departments to provide primary research experiences for history, political science, communications, and archives classes.

Library director Frank Mackaman teaches a senior level history symposium on the Ford administration and supervises the writing of senior honors theses. Students learn how to organize a complex research project, analyze primary source material, and develop writing and critical thinking skills.

This year's symposium focuses on the presidential election of 1976. The students, who will be among the first to use the newly-opened President Ford Committee Records, will research such topics as the primary campaign, campaign organization, advertising, presidential debates, and Ford's choice of a vice-presidential running mate.

Two recent honors students have won prestigious awards for papers researched at the Library under the direction of staff members. One of them received a scholarship to Oxford University based on a paper about President Ford's clemency and amnesty program for Vietnam era draft evaders.

Also using the Library are future physicians in the American history class of an accelerated medical school program, future journalists learning how to gather information from archives, and future archivists comparing practices in various archives.

Last year the Library developed an archival sampler that expanded our services to the undergraduate market. Students can view interesting correspondence, diaries, transcripts, and tape recordings selected from nine presidencies. America Since Hoover: Selected Documents from the Presidential Libraries, 1929-80, specifically illustrates the issues and events discussed in the lectures of Professor Sidney Fine's history course, "The United States Since 1933," but it is available to anyone.

Some students have a chance to get an even closer look at the Library and its documents as participants in the University's work-study program. They typically work about 150 hours a semester performing basic manuscript processing tasks, preservation photocopying, and data entry.
"JFK": The Fallout

The hornet's nest stirred up by Oliver Stone's movie "JFK" has affected the Gerald R. Ford Library in several ways. Three little-used collections have suddenly attracted attention.

Researcher interest in the papers of Gerald Ford relating to his service on the Warren Commission has increased. The Library holds copies of exhibits, reports, proceedings, and depositions sent to Ford for his use during the Commission's investigation. The 17-cubic-foot collection also contains unique materials such as personal notes and drafts, correspondence, and Ford's writings about the work of the Commission. We have also received mail requests for materials on the movement of President Kennedy's body between the time of death and the burial, which are found in the records of the Department of the Army, Military District of Washington, Directorate of Ceremonies and Special Events. These files, which document arrangements for the funerals of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Johnson, and Eisenhower, as well as Kennedy, are part of National Archives record group 338. They were deposited at the Ford Library in 1987.

In response to former President Ford's public statements on the need to open all Kennedy assassination materials in government custody, Library archivists have processed the portions of the records of the President's Commission on CIA Activities within the United States (Rockefeller Commission) which deal with the assassination. In 1975 this commission looked into three areas of possible CIA involvement in the assassination: [1] the allegation that Watergate defendants E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis participated in the assassination; [2] the allegation that the CIA had relationships with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby; and [3] the possible connection between alleged CIA attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and the Kennedy assassination (although this issue was not addressed in the final report).

The first area led the Commission into the whole question of the number of shots fired and the controversy over the "pristine bullet." After hearing testimony and examining films and documents, the Commission found no "credible evidence of any CIA involvement" in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Processing this segment of the Rockefeller Commission files did not automatically open all the materials to research, although most of the materials directly related to the Kennedy assassination are available. Under the recently passed "President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992," all records determined to relate to the assassination must be reviewed first by the originating agency, with justifications written for any documents recommended for postponement of disclosure. Those decisions can then be over-ridden by a Review Board appointed by the President.

COMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Through December 6, 1992: "QUILTS" Exhibit. Quilting demonstration by Jacqueline Trute at 1 p.m., Saturday, November 14.

December 5 and 6, 1992: "Decorate the President's Christmas Tree." Workshops for the entire family. Registration begins November 2.

January 30–March 14, 1993: "Perpetual Campaign: The Making of the People's President." Exhibit examining the electoral process.


May 1–July 31, 1993: "WWII Combat Art." Exhibit of 40 original works of art.

Former Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., at the Foundation dinner following the annual meeting on June 1.
On October 29, President Ford welcomed President George Bush to his hometown of Grand Rapids. Other platform guests at the rally were Governor John Engler and actor Bruce Willis.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation
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The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by contributions and bequests in an effort to honor Mr. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service. The focus of the Foundation is on community affairs and educational programs, conferences, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

Gerald R. Ford Foundation

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