

# NEWS FROM THE FORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

Spring 2002



## President Ford Messages Grand Rapids

To the 10,000 Grand Rapidians assembled in front of the Museum on September 15 in honor of the victims of the terror attacks on New York and Washington four days earlier, President Ford sent the following recorded message:

"At a time like this, one's thoughts naturally turn homeward. For Betty and me, that means Grand Rapids. This week, all Americans are neighbors. All of us are New Yorkers. All of us are Washingtonians. Most important, all of us are patriots.

All week we've heard repeated references to December 7, 1941. No doubt for most of you, Pearl Harbor is just a name in the history books. For my generation, of course, it was a defining moment. From time to time, it's been suggested that those who survived the Great Depression, overcame the hateful doctrines of Hitler and avenged the attack on Pearl Harbor represent America's Greatest Generation. In fact, we were ordinary Americans confronted with some of the greatest tests in American history.

**"We have taken the worst that terrorists have to offer. Now we will show them the best that America has to give."**

Now I have not the slightest doubt that today's Americans will show every bit as much courage and character and resilience and determination as we were called upon to display 60 years ago. I know as well that everyone within the sound of my voice will join me in saying a prayer for all the victims and their families; for those who remain tortured by uncertainty as to the whereabouts of their loved ones; for those who have risked their own lives in rescue attempts; and for those ministering to our grieving neighbors.

I would also ask your prayers for the President of the United States. Take it from me, there is no lonelier or more



Photo Courtesy WOOD TV8

*Grand Rapidians joined together for a candlelight vigil on the evening of September 15 in a Ceremony of Remembrance and Resolve held in Ah-Nab-Awen Park.*

responsible position on Earth. Especially at a time like this, when our president confronts questions of life and death, war and peace. Make no mistake: whether or not we declare war, war has been declared on us. As President Bush has said, it is a different kind of war that we are called upon to wage. We are by nature a peace-loving people. But we have been violated—savagely, without warning, by a foe whose cunning is equaled only by his cowardice.

We have taken the worst that terrorists have to offer. Now we will show them the best that America has to give.

That includes reaching out to all our fellow citizens in a loving embrace, whatever their nationality or religion. For any of us to give in to mindless hatred or bigotry at home would only ratify the evil that was inflicted from abroad. And that is something we can never permit. Betty joins me in thanking you for your extraordinary outpouring of generosity and patriotism. May God bless you all, and may God bless America." ■

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## Notes from the Library and Museum Director



In looking forward for the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum, the Museum's new addition and renovation project will dominate the next months, and well into next year. Keeping the Museum open during the construction process will be a challenge, but the staff and the contractor are committed to making it work. There will be no major temporary exhibits during the

transition to the new gallery. In the meantime, the model of George Washington's Mount Vernon home, on display in the Museum's lobby for much of this year, will provide visitors an inside look at this historic mansion. And visitors will have a chance to experience, or re-discover if they have been to the Museum before, the dynamic and engaging permanent exhibits on the American Presidency and the life and career of Gerald Ford.

Being in the business of history also means looking back, naturally reflecting on the past months at the Library and Museum. The obvious place to start is with the tragic events of last September 11. In response, our nation's leaders have done just that—they have led, with careful and considerate, firm and focused actions. For that, we are grateful. The Museum's *Ceremony of Remembrance and Resolve* on the evening of September 15 was a moving and memorable tribute to fallen heroes and innocent victims. Since those dark days, the increased security procedures at both the Library and Museum are testimony to our need for ongoing vigilance.

On October 11, in the midst of this heightened sense of patriotism and support for America, the Museum opened a spectacular exhibit on arguably our nation's greatest President, Abraham Lincoln. For the next four and a half months, an unprecedented number of visitors poured through the doors to see the exhibit, even in the middle of a Michigan winter. What made *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* even more special was the extraordinary support from local schools. To have almost 12,000 students experience and learn from the exhibit was amazing. Much thanks to the Museum and Foundation staff who conceived of, created, and sustained *Lincoln*, and to the Steelcase and

Ford Foundations for their generous support.

In Ann Arbor, the students in my *American Presidency in the 1970s* class have been a breath of fresh air for the Library and staff. The fourteen students have all been enthusiastically doing research in the papers at the Library, seeing first-hand the qualities of Presidential leadership and decision-making in the White House. Doing work in original documents, participating in class discussions, and writing a long seminar paper provide them a valuable and unique learning experience. Looking upon their work, I have pronounced it good, and will be teaching a similar class for the University of Michigan again this fall.

The past months have brought changes in our staff also. The most obvious and far-reaching was Foundation Director Richard Norton Smith's move to the Robert J. Dole Institute at Kansas University. It is hard to overstate the value of Richard's contributions to the life and vitality of the Library and Museum. With his departure, the Library and Museum staffs have risen to new challenges. At the same time, the staff has renewed their commitments to excellence, to customer service, and to support each other. These commitments bring us back to the beginning, allowing us to look forward, and to move forward with the Museum expansion and other new programs.



*In opening the program on Recession, Dennis Daellenbach reiterated the research value of and the continued interest in the Library's archival collections associated with the long and distinguished careers of the panelists, reading brief excerpts from selected documents. [l-r: Dr. Daellenbach, Dean of the Ford School of Public Policy Rebecca Blank, Dr. Paul McCracken, Dr. Michael Maskow, and Dr. Edward M. Gramlich].*



## Studying the American Presidency at the Ford Library

*"If I had to go back to college again – knowing what I know today – I'd concentrate on two areas: learning to write and to speak before an audience. Nothing in life is more important than the ability to communicate effectively."*

GERALD R. FORD, *A TIME TO HEAL*.

What better place in college to learn to write and speak than a History class at the University of Michigan? Library Director Dennis Daellenbach, renewing a former teaching liaison with the University, is again teaching an undergraduate seminar, *The American Presidency in the 1970s*. The class meets at the Library.

Students in the 2002 winter term examined the people and the social, economic, political, and foreign policy issues that shaped the Presidency of Gerald R. Ford. These issues are uniquely significant because of the circumstances surrounding them in the 1970s. And they are equally significant because of their on-going relevance to decision-making in the White House, Presidential leadership, and the importance of character and integrity in public service.

The focus of the class was to research and write a major seminar paper based upon the students' use of the rich historical documents in the Ford Library. During the semester, the students also made several oral presentations to their fel-

low class members, sharing the results of their research and writing experiences. Paper topics ranged from the *Mayaguez* Crisis and the last days of the Vietnam War to the nomination of John Paul Stevens to the Supreme Court, the campaign strategy in the 1976 Presidential election, and the New York City financial crisis.

When asked why he was taking the class, Matthew Nolan had a simple answer. Matt, who currently is the President of the Michigan Student Assembly, the University's central student government, said, "The opportunity to do research at a Presidential library was something I couldn't pass up. The Ford Library is an unbelievable resource for University students. Professor Daellenbach and the Library staff have been more than helpful with our research, and I've gained a completely new perspective on the Ford Presidency."



Winter semester, 2002

## Ford Library and Ford School Co-Host Events

The Gerald R. Ford Library and the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy teamed up to co-host two events this spring. On March 7, the Library and School sponsored a program on the U of M campus entitled *Escaping Recession*. Dr. Edward Gramlich, a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System delivered the keynote address on this timely topic. A panel discussion followed, lead by Ford School Dean Rebecca Blank, featuring Dr. Gramlich, and two eminent economists, Dr. Paul McCracken, a former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors from the U of M Business School, and Dr. Michael Moskow, President & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

As this issue goes to press, plans are being set for a dinner hosted by President Ford on the evening of April 16 at the Library for the former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Laureate, Oscar Arias. President Arias is scheduled to give the annual *Ford School Citigroup Lecture* the following day in the Michigan Union. On the morning of April 17, President Ford will meet with students from the Ford School and Dr. Daellenbach's class on the American Presidency.



## President Ford Praises Grand Rapids

President Ford spoke warmly of Grand Rapids institutions at a gala celebration in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (formerly named the Pantlind Hotel) on the evening of October 10, 2001. Excerpts of his remarks appear below.

"This evening is all about renewal — how a community can be reborn through the leadership and imagination of those who love it most. Such renewal can take many forms. Soaring towers, vibrant cultural institutions, revitalized neighborhoods — each offers testimony to just how far we have come.

**"This evening is all about renewal — how a community can be reborn through the leadership and imagination of those who love it most. Such renewal can take many forms."**

It hardly seems possible that twenty years have passed since we all gathered to celebrate the opening of the old — or should I say the new — Pantlind. No doubt each of us cherishes a special memory from that occasion. I loved the Pantlind coffee shop where on many mornings I consumed too many breakfast calories. Over the years, the Pantlind Ballroom had countless Republican political dinners for Barry Goldwater, Senator Everett Dirksen and others.

You may not know this, but the Pantlind and I literally grew up together. We were both born in 1913, a fact duly noted in the dinner that evening, along with the extraordinary Van Andel/DeVos renovation that had brought the hotel back to vibrant life. At which point, my irrepressible wife turned to me and whispered "Maybe you need a little renovation too."

I've had my own definition of the aging process, and it has little to do with the passage of time. I don't think you measure age with a clock or a calendar. I don't think you grow old at all, not as long as you retain your curiosity about life, your openness to new ideas, your interest in people who might be strangers one day and fast friends the next.

What is true of individuals holds equally true for cities. To me, Grand Rapids is among the youngest of American cities — a place whose enduring values and bedrock faith coexist with the pioneering scientific explorations of a Van Andel Institute, the architectural boldness of a DeVos Center, the public popular Arena, the constant striving for excellence of an Amway Grand Plaza — and the cultural outreach of a Ford Museum.

This is also the twentieth anniversary of that institution which bears my name but which is, in no way, a personal monument. Two decades ago, I expressed the wish that it might be a dynamic, constantly changing institution that would enrich the life of this community and bring further distinction to this great state. We are achieving that goal. Rich and Jay became

Charter Members of the Board of Trustees and continue to serve as Honorary Members.

The last five years have witnessed the fullest realization of my hopes. I congratulate and thank Richard Norton Smith. His leadership and vision have been extraordinary. Please visit the Museum during the next four months, when Grand Rapids plays host to one of the most comprehensive exhibits ever mounted on my favorite President, Abraham Lincoln.

Soon we will break ground on a 10,000 square foot addition to the Museum, featuring new educational facilities and a replica of the President's Cabinet office. I compliment Marty Allen for his leadership on behalf of the Ford Foundation.

More than once over the years, I've noticed that both the Ford Museum, and the great glass tower which joined the old Pantlind a few years ago, reflect in their mirrored exteriors the city of Grand Rapids. From time to time, it's useful for all of us to pause and reflect on the community from which we derive so much of our identity and even more of our inspiration. That's never been truer than now.

Through the private investment of Rich and Jay, creating the hotel led to new community ventures including the Public Museum, the Arena, the Art Museum, the Spectrum Health Center, the Van Andel Institute and DeVos Hall.

I know Rich and Jay would join me in acknowledging that the renaming of the ancient Interurban Bridge, the Gillette Bridge, was appropriate. That bridge links this fabulous hotel and the Ford Museum. This revitalization created a new meeting place on the Grand for ethnic festivals, annual celebrations on the Grand, 4th of July fireworks and most recently the Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Resolve relative to the September 11 tragedy."



[l-r] Dick DeVos, Rich DeVos, President Ford, Jay Van Andel, Steve Van Andel and Amway President Joe Tomaselli celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

Photo Courtesy Amway Grand Plaza Hotel



## Foundation Update

The Foundation's mission is to honor Gerald R. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service, with a focus on community affairs and educational programs, conferences, research grants, and projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the government and the Presidency. The Lincoln lectures, exhibit and published curriculum guide, the Ceremony of Remembrance and Resolve, the Christmas tree lighting, White House Weekend, the grants for researchers, the support for the Museum's new addition, and the ongoing publicity for all the Museum's programs readily attest to the Foundation's dedication to this mission.

### NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation Board of Trustees is set for June 3 in Washington. The Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize Luncheon this year will take place in the ballroom of the Willard Hotel. The National Press Club will host the event and the award ceremony will be broadcast live on C-SPAN and National Public Radio. The Board will convene its annual meeting at 4:00 at the Capitol Hill Club.

Photo Courtesy Grand Valley State University



*Grand Valley State University, a major collaborator in the Lincoln Lecture Series, generously organized a dinner in its stunning new facility in honor of each lecturer. The November 15, 2001 dinner for Richard Norton Smith also served as a farewell to the departing Foundation Executive Director and newly-named Trustee. [l-r: Library Director Dennis Daellenbach, GVSU Vice President Dr. Pat Oldt, GVSU President Mark Murray, Richard Norton Smith, Foundation Chairman Marty Allen].*



*In another GVSU and Foundation collaboration, distinguished history professor and Foundation Executive Director Richard Norton Smith hosted "A Presidential Tour of New England and the Hudson Valley," September 21-20, 2001.*

## GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

President Ford  
and Betty Ford  
*Honorary Co-Chairmen*

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## Collaboration: Community: Involvement: Growth

A critical part of the Gerald R. Ford Museum's mission is to be a community resource. During its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Ford Museum continued its long history of community involvement and service. And while numbers are not the only measure of success, those in concert with high quality activities point to a successful season.

On September 7-9, the Museum participated in its 21<sup>st</sup> *Celebration on the Grand*.

Each year our Museum and others open their doors, free of charge, to join in the community-wide celebration of the rich and varied cultural organizations and activities available in our community. This year 5,500 visited over the course of that weekend. While here, visitors were also able to view the National Portrait Gallery's *Portraits of the Presidents* exhibit.

Then came the horrific events of September 11 that shook the American nation. On a somber note, the Museum took the lead in sponsoring a *Ceremony of*

*Remembrance and Resolve* in response to the tragedies. The Museum and Ford Foundation staff, the Mayor of Grand Rapids, Congressman Vern Ehlers, and other public officials took part in the ceremony the evening of September 15, held in front of the Museum on the banks of the Grand River. Approximately 10,000 people from the Grand Rapids area gathered together in the candlelight ceremony of renewal and dedication—to reflect, to gain strength, to remember those who perished and the many true American heroes. President Ford addressed the audience in a special recorded message to offer his thoughts on the tragic events. The Ford Museum could provide no better or more meaningful community service than to help the people of Grand Rapids come together to lift their spirits and to express their sympathy and sorrow and solidarity.

Following the opening of *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* on October 11, subsequent activities over a three day weekend on October 12-14 included a *Civil War Encampment*, complete with soldiers in military drills and life around the campfires. Although Michigan's weather was uncooperative, it didn't dampen the spirits of the 2,400 people who toured the *Lincoln* exhibit and experienced the outdoor encampment first-hand. Friday, October 12, was *Education Day*. Hundreds of school children participated in special learning activities with the re-enactors in the encampment. When the

rain and mud drove visitors inside, re-enactors appeared in nearly every unused corner of the Museum with their authentic costumes and knowledgeable interpretation.

After a one-year hiatus *Christmas on the Grand* re-commenced on November 16 with the ever-popular *Tree Lighting Ceremony*. Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie, the Salvation Army, WOOD TV8, and representatives from our armed

forces were joined by the Voices of Freedom Choir, the Dickens Carolers, and nearly 1,500 people to kick off the 2001 holiday season. Local cultural and civic organizations, including the Grand Rapids Symphony and American Red Cross, decorated sixteen trees with holiday and other appropriate themes, transforming the Museum lobby into a winter wonderland. Over the next seven weeks, 16,500 visitors enjoyed the community-inspired holiday decorations.

For many years the Museum has been the site for *Naturalization Ceremonies* for new American citizens. Just in the past fall and winter alone, almost 1,000 people took part in this moving milestone, pledging their allegiance to the United States of America.



A city park lodged between the Grand River, the Ford Museum and the Gillette Bridge was the site for the Ceremony of Remembrance and Resolve and the Civil War Encampment.



John Ball Zoo volunteers Tami Orendorff and Tara Lafferty received honorable mention in the 2001 Christmas Tree decoration competition, whereby each year community organizations grace the Museum lobby with beautiful and imaginative decorated trees.



## Museum Expansion and Renovation Ready to Go

**T**he Ford Museum is on the threshold of an exciting and challenging new chapter in its history. The National Archives and Records Administration's budget for FY 2002 included \$4.4 million for expansion and renovation of the Museum. The Gerald R. Ford Foundation, with financial support from the State of Michigan and Ambassador Peter Secchia, is generously providing additional resources for educational and exhibit-related expenses. The two-year project includes an 8,000 square foot addition to the building and a complete redesign of the existing interior work areas. The results will totally transform the Museum with a spacious temporary exhibit gallery, education center, state-of-the-art collection storage area, expanded Museum Store, and increased and consolidated office space for both NARA and Foundation staff.

The second floor of the Museum will have the most visible changes to the public. The top floor of the new addition will be a highly functional 3,500 square foot gallery designed specifically to showcase the best of temporary exhibits. In the renovated space immediately adjacent to the temporary exhibit gallery the Michigan Room will serve both as a conference room and a special learning center for classes. And next to the Michigan Room will be the Cabinet Room, a faithful replica of the historic meeting room in the West Wing. Combining an interactive exhibit and innovative educational experience, visitors and students alike will make history come alive in the Cabinet Room as they take part in the decision-making process in the Ford White House.

**"The temporary exhibit gallery, Michigan and Cabinet Rooms, and NARA staff office suite will be completed by July 2003"**

Less visible to the public will be the renovations in the work areas of the building. The current administrative office on the second floor will become an expanded office suite for the Foundation and Foundation staff. In the new addition, on the first floor beneath the temporary exhibit gallery, there will be an office suite bringing together the NARA staff, currently spread out in makeshift office space throughout the facility. The renovation also doubles the size of collection storage, allowing the transfer and consolidation of the Bicentennial gifts currently at the Library in Ann Arbor with the gift objects already housed at the Museum. And the Museum Store will enjoy expanded room for inventory and better display areas.

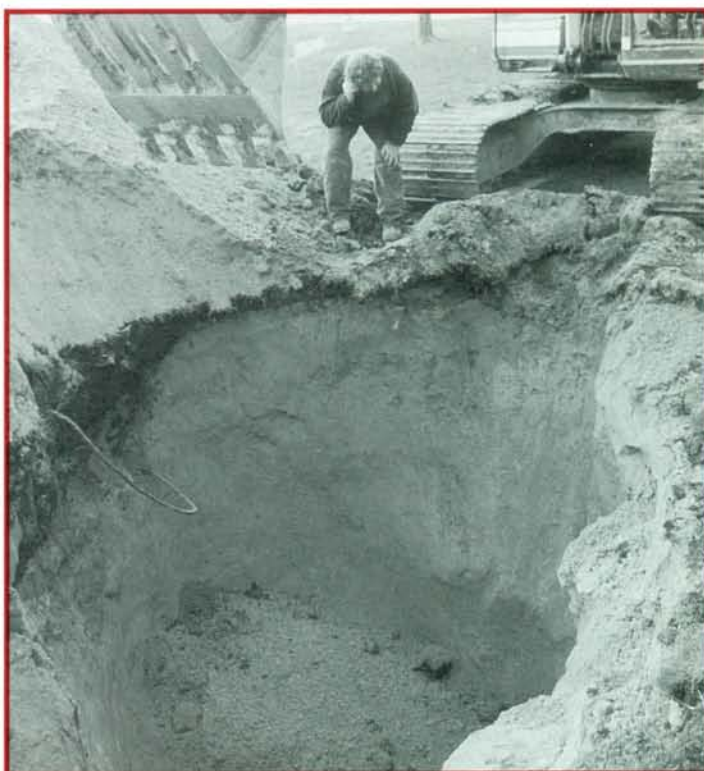
To allow the Museum to stay open during construction, the project will move in stages. The temporary exhibit gallery, Michigan and Cabinet Rooms, and NARA staff office

suite will be completed by July 2003, in time for the opening of a new temporary exhibit and celebration of President Ford's 90th birthday. The following months, with completion set for April 2004, will involve renovation of the loading dock, Foundation office suite, collection storage area, the Museum Store and entrance vestibule.

**"there had to be archeological testing of the site"**

Before turning the first official shovel of dirt, even before designating a general contractor, there had to be archeological testing of the site. On December 20, 2001, archeologists Janet Brashler and William Monaghan supervised the digging of two holes 18 feet deep next to the building. After sifting through and evaluating the huge piles of subterranean material, their findings were conclusive: no evidence to indicate any significant pre-historic deposits in the area of the proposed addition.

General contractors turned in their proposals on February 15. Award of the contract took place on March 22, with a planned groundbreaking in late April or early May. As the saying goes, "*Pardon Our Dust*" during construction, as we all eagerly anticipate the coming of the "new" Gerald R. Ford Museum.



*Looking for archeological evidence of former inhabitants of our Grand River site.*



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN, A Personal Journey



Abraham Lincoln stands alongside George Washington as our greatest president. In part it is because he was such an unlikely success. Sixty percent of those who cast votes for president in 1860 chose another candidate. His political detractors derided him for his lack of military experience at a time of national crisis and for legislative experience that was hardly more pronounced. Though a gifted orator, his crude humor revealed his stunted education and matched his raw appearance, they claimed. This reveals only the tip of an iceberg of criticism, hiding beneath boisterous waves the jagged edges of death threats and disunion.

Those who knew Lincoln knew better. This man who appealed to the "better angels of our nature," who sought "malice toward none; with charity for all," and who, along with thousands of his countrymen, gave his "last full measure of devotion" will long be remembered.

For four months the museum stoked that memory of our 16<sup>th</sup> President in an exhibit heralded by visiting Lincoln scholars as one of the most significant in recent memory. This sweeping exhibition, amassed from the vaults of nineteen private and public collections, reached from Lincoln's boyhood home in Kentucky to the battlefronts of the Civil War to the final train ride that returned his body to Springfield, Illinois. Bolstered by a veritable "Who's Who" of Lincoln historians speaking to packed auditoriums, the exhibit drew over 50,000 visitors, including more than



*Richard Norton Smith escorts President Ford on a tour of the Lincoln exhibit.*

11,000 school children, a pace unequaled by any previous exhibit.

Abraham Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who had stayed by the President's side throughout the night, declared, "Now he belongs to the Ages." *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* was an exhibit for the ages. The telling of this story, unique to the city of Grand Rapids, was assembled by the museum's staff and generously underwritten by the Gerald R. Ford and Steelcase foundations.

## Capacity Crowds at Lincoln Lectures

To accompany *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and Grand Valley State University sponsored a remarkable lecture series on our nation's 16th President. For five consecutive Thursday nights beginning on October 11, the series drew capacity audiences to the Museum's auditorium for some of the greatest Lincoln scholars in the land.

Noted historian Michael Beschloss opened the series and the *Lincoln* exhibit on the evening of October 11. Subsequent speakers in the series were the Pulitzer Prize winning Civil War historian James McPherson; Douglas Wilson, director of the Lincoln Center at Knox College who spoke on Lincoln's early life and career; Allen Guelzo an authority on the spiritual life of Lincoln; Harold Holzer who discussed the famed Lincoln-Douglas debates; and Richard Norton Smith, the Ford Foundation's outgoing Executive Director, who delivered his final lecture at the Museum before assuming his duties as Director of the Robert Dole Institute at the University of Kansas.



*Douglas Wilson*



*Harold Holzer*



*Grand Rapidsians attended the Lincoln lectures in force—from Michael Beschloss' William E. Simon Lecture on October 11 to the final series lecture by William Gienapp on February 16 (see page 9).*



# White House Weekend and Presidents' Day at the Gerald R. Ford Museum February 16-18, 2002

William Gienapp



Author and Lecturer  
"This Fiery Trial"

Sandra Hansen



in *Civil War Women*

Fred Priebe



as Abe Lincoln

The public was cordially invited to attend the annual *White House Weekend*, held during the last four days of *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey*. And attend they did ... a paid attendance of nearly 5,400 people adds up to the most heavily attended extended weekend the Museum has ever experienced. Over 600 guests filled the auditorium for three scheduled programs on Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend's activities included two family performances, *Abe Lincoln* and *Civil War Women*. Fred Priebe delighted the audience with his first person interpretation of our 16th President on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday, Sandra Hansen's one-woman performance depicting the lives of five remarkable women was entertaining as well as informative.

William Gienapp presented the final *Lincoln Lecture* on Saturday evening, February 16, as part of *White House Weekend*. Dr. Gienapp's two most recent books, both published in 2002, are *Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America* and *This Fiery Trial*, a highly acclaimed edited collection of Lincoln's writings and speeches. Lincoln biographer David Herbert Donald said of *Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America*, "The best brief biography of Lincoln I have read. Briskly written, concise, and informed by the latest scholarship, it is destined to become a standard book in its field."

The festivities concluded on Monday, Presidents' Day, with a celebration of the American Presidency, featuring Presidential birthday cake, costumed interpreters, crafts and a presidential straw poll. Not surprisingly, Abraham Lincoln did win the poll, although George Washington, whose birthday Presidents' Day honors, did well also.

The four days of record attendance and special events were a fun and energizing way for staff and visitors alike to close our inspiring Lincoln exhibit.



President Ford with Sandra Hansen, Fred Priebe as Abe Lincoln, and the Civil War enactors

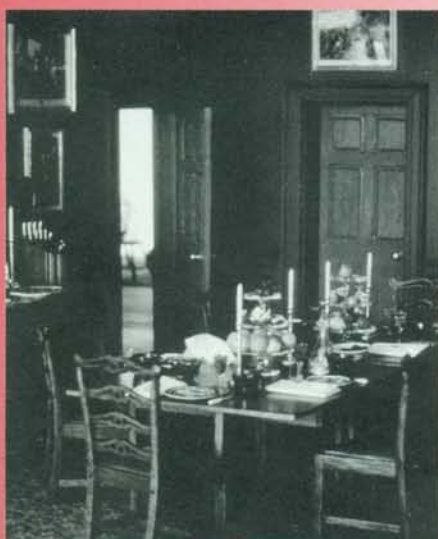


William Gienapp graciously autographed copies of his two books for those attending his lecture on President Lincoln.



## Mount Vernon in Miniature

The Museum's Lobby will be the venue for temporary displays during the closing and renovating of the temporary exhibit gallery. First and foremost on the agenda, a faithful reproduction of George Washington's beloved home, *Mount Vernon in Miniature*, opens April 19 and runs through October 20, 2002. Built on a 1/12 scale, the replica stands 10 feet long, 8 1/2 feet high and 6 feet wide, featuring a state of the art mechanical system that lowers two sides and raises the roof for viewing the interior. Built to commemorate the bicentennial of the death of George Washington, the mansion owes its conception to a small group of miniaturists in Washington State, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, and master architect Stan Ohman. Ohman worked over 4,500 hours for five years to create the 22-room house, complete with 16,000 shingles, 58 windows, and eight exterior and 36 interior doors.



*A table set for dinner,  
Georgian style*



*Washington's study*

## Permanent Core Exhibit Remains Open during Museum Remodeling

**T**he Ford Museum's permanent core exhibit makes visitors "participants" in history. Completely renovated only five years ago, its ten state of the art galleries feature hands-on interactive video and holographic displays. Visitors are able to travel by video with President Ford and Secretary Kissinger to various hot spots around the globe, take a holographic tour of the Ford White House, "stand" on the floor of the 1976 Republican National Convention and experience a day in the Oval Office through sophisticated lighting and new soundtrack. A Watergate gallery includes a six-minute, multi-screen history beginning with the June 1972 break-in — plus the actual burglary tools on display for the first time ever.

We're open daily from 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day). Do stop by and take a tour through the galleries.

### "THE 1970S, AN OVERVIEW" GALLERY

In the first gallery, a multi-media re-creation of pop culture immerses visitors in the sights, sounds, and issues of the tumultuous period. Video and sound bites recalling various news events blend with early 1970s memorabilia including platform shoes, tie-dyed garments, bell-bottom jeans, love beads, eight-track tapes, and MIA bracelets. An interactive display incorporates music, icons of home life, and 1970s statistics such as life expectancy, median income, cost of a new car, and a typical grocery basket.

### "CONSTITUTION IN CRISIS" GALLERY

Visitors move from the 1970s gallery to a gripping multi-screen video history of the Watergate scandal. The display also features the actual burglary tools used in the Watergate break-in.



### **"WHO IS GERALD FORD?" GALLERY**

After experiencing the mood and climate of the 1970s, visitors journey farther back in time to Ford's early days — from his formative years through his congressional service — in a re-creation of his father's paint and varnish company. This display portrays Ford as a man of decency and integrity, highlighting the important role his Grand Rapids upbringing played in developing this future leader. Visitors also see Gerald Ford as the nation first came to know him, through a re-creation of his vice-presidential confirmation hearings.

### **"FORD BECOMES PRESIDENT" GALLERY**

In this gallery, visitors experience Ford's transition from Vice President to President through a re-creation of the East Room of the White House. A photo mural, architectural detail, and an audiovisual presentation enable visitors to experience the events surrounding the resignation of Richard Nixon, Ford's dramatic swearing in as the 38th president of the United States, and the hectic weeks that followed.

### **"AT WORK IN THE OVAL OFFICE" GALLERY**

The Oval Office replica features dramatic overhead lighting synchronized to a narration detailing the activities and artifacts in America's most famous room. As viewers activate the display with a touch-screen monitor, recorded voices of actors portraying Ford, Rockefeller, Kissinger, and others describe the highlighted areas for a look at a typical day in the most atypical of work spaces.

### **"LEADERSHIP IN DIPLOMACY" GALLERY**

Here visitors can participate in U.S. foreign policy decision making. By selecting a location on a giant interactive world map, guests can travel with President Ford and Secretary Kissinger to hot spots around the globe and learn about the events or diplomatic challenges the Ford administration faced. The realism of this exhibit is heightened by the display of an authentic Vietnam-era UH-1 Huey helicopter.

### **"NEW MOOD AT THE WHITE HOUSE" GALLERY**

The Ford administration brought with it a new mood at the White House. In this visually exciting gallery, a unique holographic device brings the White House to life. A spectacular graphic presentation puts the viewer right inside the White House. Visitors activate the display by selecting one of ten rooms in the President's house. A large screen appears on which the history of that particular room unfolds across two centuries. Featured are head of state visits, life in the family quarters, and elaborate state dinners for Queen Elizabeth and other world leaders. In this gallery, visitors also enjoy a changing selection of Bicentennial gifts presented to President and Mrs. Ford.

### **"AMERICA AT 200" GALLERY**

In this gallery, artifacts and video images recount Gerald Ford's domestic policy including the energy crisis, CIA reform and the economic recession. Besides demonstrating Ford's reliance on those who worked with him, this gallery also illustrates Betty Ford's outspoken advocacy on a variety of women's issues. Here you will see elegant gifts from foreign heads of state and items recalling America's Bicentennial celebration.

### **"THE 1976 CAMPAIGN" GALLERY**

In a walk through the 1976 Campaign gallery, visitors go back in time on the floor of the tumultuous 1976 Republican National Convention to experience the challenge by former California governor Ronald Reagan. Mini theaters feature excerpts from presidential debates, election night coverage, and Jimmy Carter's inauguration. Visitors have an opportunity to stand behind a podium and TelePrompTer to deliver an actual Ford campaign speech.

### **"AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE" GALLERY**

In the final gallery, video vignettes highlight Ford's post-presidential activities. Photos and interviews with Gerald Ford and his contemporaries trace his continuing tradition of service, interest in contemporary issues and personal integrity since leaving the White House. Mrs. Ford's post-White House activities are also recounted here.





## Library Opens Stanley Scott Papers

Stanley Scott, as Assistant to President Ford for Minority Affairs, was a vocal advocate for Black Americans. Early in the administration he was especially active in bringing together groups of Black leaders to meet the new President. In the first few weeks of his Presidency, President Ford opened lines of communication with Black Americans when he invited the Black Congressional Caucus to meet with him. Later that fall, on October 25, 1974, he met with Black civil rights leaders in the Oval Office. Vernon Jordan, then executive director of the National Urban League, noted "that has not happened in this country since 1968."

Stanley Scott was an experienced journalist and public relations specialist when he joined Richard Nixon's White House staff in June 1971. Working in the Office of Communications, he publicized administration initiatives of special interest to African-Americans and was involved in the effort to gain the support of Black voters for President Nixon in the 1972 campaign.

Scott served as the Office of Public Liaison's contact for many minority organizations and individuals seeking assistance, information, or meetings with government officials. Their interests included the administration's response to a drought in Africa, the appointment of Blacks to positions in the administration, White House interactions with the Congressional Black Caucus and other Black organizations, Federal civil rights activities, equal employment opportunity, and minority business programs.

Scott left the Ford White House in October, 1975 to become Assistant Administrator for Africa at the Agency for International Development. In a farewell letter, President Ford wrote, "You have served very effectively as Special Assistant to the President and before that as Assistant to the Director of Communications of the Executive Branch. I know the work has been demanding, but with your ability, candor and energy, you have made significant contributions in the important field of minority relations. I am sorry to lose you."

This past fall the Library opened the recently donated papers of Stanley S. Scott, covering the years 1971 to 1976. The new collection, (over 39,000 pages) is a major resource for examining the role of African-Americans on the White House staff and issues and policies of interest to minorities.

The finding aid to the Scott papers can be viewed on the Library and Museum website at: <http://www.ford.utexas.edu/library/findaid/scott0.htm>. Other Library collections containing the working files of African-Americans on the Ford White House staff include the files of Arthur Fletcher, Richard Parsons, and Norman Ross.



*President Ford and Stanley Scott walk over from the West Wing to the OEGB where the President will address national newspaper publishers. January 23, 1975.*

## Gerald R. Ford Found

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to \$2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Geir Gundersen, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, by phone (734) 741-2218 ext. 232, or email [geir.gundersen@nara.gov](mailto:geir.gundersen@nara.gov). Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the Fall 2001 awards and their topics are:

### **Nitsan Chorev**

New York University

*Trading in the State: International Trade Policy and the Birth of Globalization, 1969-1979*

### **Mario Del Pero**

University of Bologna, Italy

*Fighting the Cold War. United States Policies in the Mediterranean Theatre during the 1970s. The Cases of Italy, Portugal, and Spain.*



## Library Offers Faster Access

Diplomatic historians and others have wanted access to the "Presidential Country Files" for many years. The Files contain cables between U.S. embassies and the Secretary of State, memos created by the National Security Adviser and his staff, and White House Situation Room messages. So named because the contents are arranged by country, the Presidential Country Files comprise less than 10 per cent of the national security material sent to the Library in 1977. They nonetheless fill 34 linear feet of shelf space, and every page requires line-by-line review before release.

The Country Files are part of a declassification backlog that stretches well into the next decade. In March 2001, however, the Library designated the files as its top review priority. For researchers, the news was even better. The Library invited them to request priority processing of individual countries according to a first-come-first-serve work queue. The program has been a big success, helping historians such as Matt Honohan, whose interview appears in this newsletter, gain timely access to good material.

If there was a surprise in the public response, it was in the broad international citizenship of requestors. The first overseas request came almost immediately, from Sweden. The roster now includes historians and journalists from South Africa, Portugal, Greece, Canada, Japan, Korea, and Australia. Some have visited the Library, others have purchased photocopies by mail.

The Library might replicate this approach in other national security collections once work is completed in all of the Presidential Country Files. According to supervisory archivist Dave Horrocks, "It's been win-win. Requestors gain more predictable and timely access, while archivists and researchers in general keep most of the production efficiencies of systematic processing. The backlog is so large in declassification that any edge is welcome."

## Research Grants

### **Robert Leeson**

Murdoch University, Australia  
*The Decline and Fall of Bretton Woods*

### **Cecile Menetrey**

University of Cambridge, England  
*American-Vietnamese Relations: 1975-1979*

### **Michael W. Rubinoff**

Arizona State University  
*The Ford-Reagan Relationship in Campaigns 1976 and 1980*

### **Joe Sherman**

Independent Scholar  
*The Clean Air Act in the 1970s*

### **Kimberley Weathers**

University of Houston  
*An Obstructed Path: National Health Insurance in the United States*

## "NEWS FOR RESEARCHERS"

Wonder what files are newly available for research? Want to keep informed of new reference services? The Library now offers a web page, "News for Researchers," that chronicles items of special interest to users of the archives. A headline link on our home page, [www.ford.utexas.edu](http://www.ford.utexas.edu), will take you right there.





## An Interview with Foundation Research Grant Recipient Matthew J. Honohan

**Project Title:** "Hanging Together: ASEAN, the United States, and the Pursuit of Southeast Asian Stability, 1965-1979". Ph.D. Dissertation (in progress), Contemporary History Institute, Ohio University.

**What is your research about?** – I am studying the origins and development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was a non-communist body formed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines in 1967. (During the eighties and nineties ASEAN added Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia). An important component of this study is an analysis of American relations with ASEAN, and their efforts to create a stable, peaceful region.

**Why is it significant?** – ASEAN became particularly prominent in the decade following the Vietnamese conquest of Cambodia during 1979. During that time, the ASEAN nations successfully united to persuade the international community, in forums such as the UN, not to recognize the government Vietnam installed there. This degree of political cooperation is particularly remarkable when you consider that as recently as 1965, the region was nearly torn apart by the Vietnam War and the Konfrontasi (Confrontation), Indonesia's undeclared war in opposition to the formation of Malaysia. The goal of my research is to see how, through ASEAN, the member states were able to develop quietly the political relationships that made its actions from 1979 forward possible.

**What Ford materials did you use?** – During my first trip in 1999, I had to rely on White House Central Files and various office files, which are only of marginal value in the study of foreign affairs. More recently, I have been able to take advantage of the NSC Presidential Country Files for East Asia and the Pacific, which have been opened since April 2000. The Ford Library's program to respond to researcher's requests in deciding which countries to open first has been most helpful. Through that program, within a year I was able to conduct research in the country files of all five ASEAN nations.

**Did anything in the Ford materials surprise you?** – There have been a few things, but one in particular stands out. The Cambodian government collapsed in the early months of 1975, culminating in the departure of Marshal Lon Nol through Indonesia to the United States in early April, and the victory of the Khmer Rouge shortly thereafter. What I learned after the April 2000 documents release was that starting in February, the ASEAN ambassadors in Phnom Penh secretly collaborated with the Japanese Ambassador to persuade Lon Nol to step down, in an effort to stop the blood-



*Matt Honohan*

letting. Last spring, in Kuala Lumpur, I had the opportunity to meet the Malaysian ambassador who was there, who both corroborated and added a great deal of detail to what I found in the Ford Library documents. This revelation is particularly remarkable because ASEAN's public posture at that time was that it had no political function whatsoever.

**What unanswered Ford administration question vexes you most?** – Because neither the State Department record nor much of the National Security File is declassified yet, it is still very difficult to get a good handle on all the nuances of policy. In this situation, the Ford Library's program of declassifying selected National Security Presidential Country Files per researcher request has been invaluable to me, providing a first look at previously classified materials.

**Have you used foreign government archives?** – Not one of the ASEAN members has opened its foreign ministry archives from the ASEAN era to researchers. However, I did get some useful materials in the Philippines from the private papers of Carlos Romulo, who was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs under Ferdinand Marcos from 1969-1984.

What was far more useful to me when I traveled through Southeast Asia last year was the opportunity to collect oral sources. I interviewed about twenty diplomats who were active during the sixties and seventies. In addition, there is the ASEAN Senior Statesman Oral History project at the National Archives of Singapore, a collection of about 100 hours of interviews conducted in 1994-95, from representatives of all the original ASEAN states. Sources such as these are crucial for understanding ASEAN history, because so much of the diplomacy was conducted informally, and – I've been told – never documented even for the secret archives.



**Does U.S. policy look different when seen through these archives?** – Not really. What the interviews mainly did was reinforce my impression first gleaned from the American documents, that particularly during the Johnson, Nixon and Ford years, the United States went to great lengths, both publicly and privately, to keep its hands off ASEAN affairs, out of fear that American endorsement would be a “kiss of death” for ASEAN. The irony is that despite these efforts, ASEAN’s detractors from the beginning argued that the United States was pulling the strings in the background, and that ASEAN was merely a “second SEATO,” a puppet of American influence.

**Has 9/11 affected your project?** – Fortunately for me – not to mention my parents’ blood pressure – I arrived home after a year in Southeast Asia on August 23, 2001. I suspect that if I were there now, it would have been more difficult for me to get interviews, particularly in the Muslim countries, Malaysia and Indonesia. I do not think there would have been overt hostility, because the sixties and seventies generation whom I met are by and large pro-American, but I imagine there would have been a greater reticence on the part of some. That would have been a shame, because the retired Malaysian and Indonesian diplomats I met were by far the most willing to discuss their experiences openly.



## A Landmark New Curriculum Guide

**F**rom an educational perspective, *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* accomplished something as well as an exhibit can do. *Lincoln* brought together a rich assortment of documents and artifacts—the real stuff of history—and tied them to a subject of genuine interest to Americans—Abraham Lincoln and his tumultuous time in our nation’s history. The combination made an especially meaningful connection to today’s social studies curriculum.

Nearly 12,000 students experienced *Abraham Lincoln: A Personal Journey* during its four-month run. Their visits were enhanced with the museum’s first published curriculum guide. Curriculum materials have been developed for past exhibits. Rarely, however, have they been as extensive as this packet ... and never before professionally printed and bound. Seven area educators worked with the Museum’s education staff on the development of the materials in the guide. The information and exercises in the resulting product related directly to the Michigan Department of Education’s Content Standards and Benchmarks for Social Studies and Language Arts.

Teachers identified four main themes for the student-centered learning. First and foremost was a desire to see stu-

dents learn about Abraham Lincoln, his common roots, his service to community, and some of the difficult decisions he was called on to make. Second, was to help students put significant events of our nation’s history into chronological perspective. This was especially important for our younger visitors, so they could begin to see a continuum of history. The third theme focused on students gaining a basic understanding of the meaning and significance of particular original documents. And teachers identified the fourth theme as helping students appreciate and learn from primary source materials. Activities ranged from reading basic time lines and maps to interpreting historical documents, artifacts and cartoons, to exploring presidential power, including Lincoln’s suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus.

The curriculum guide has been very favorably received by educators, and now sets the standard for future Gerald R. Ford Museum education materials.





**Mount Vernon In Miniature**, April 19-October 20, 2002. Join the hundreds of thousands of people across the nation who have viewed this traveling replica of George Washington's beloved home, a remarkable piece of American heritage, during its visit to the Ford Museum. The elaborate miniature mansion gives an in-depth and detailed look at Washington's residence without requiring a visit to his home state of Virginia. According to Mount Vernon Executive Director James Rees, the model shows in spectacular detail Washington's talent for architecture and design, demonstrating that he had a flair for decorating of which most Americans are totally unaware. Duplicating the original building on a 1/12 scale and precise to the exact detail, the model has tiny door knobs that turn, latches that latch, windows that open and close, lit candles and fireplaces, door knockers that knock, and drawers that open. **Mount Vernon in Miniature** is indeed a fitting tribute to the vision of our nation's first President.

**Mother's Day**, May 12, 2002. Free admission for moms, and a long-stemmed rose for the first 50 mothers.

**Flag Day**, June 14, 2002. Celebrate Flag Day with a display of state flags, flag crafts and flag etiquette tips.

**Father's Day**, June 16, 2002. Free admission for dads, and a White Caps game ticket for the first 50 fathers.

**Independence Day**, July 4, 2002. Spend this all-American holiday at the Gerald R. Ford Museum with activities for the entire family. Stay until dark to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display.

**President Ford's 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**, July 14, 2002. Help us celebrate with birthday cake, free admission, and more.



The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs and exhibits are supported entirely by private contributions and bequests. In honoring President Ford's lifelong commitment to public service, the Foundation's focus is on community affairs and education programs, conferences, exhibits, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency.

THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Mirshah

## Gerald R. Ford Foundation

1000 Beal Avenue  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

For information about Library programs:

Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2114 (734) 741-2218  
Email: [ford.library@nara.gov](mailto:ford.library@nara.gov)  
Website: <http://www.ford.utexas.edu>

For information about Museum programs:

Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353 (616) 451-9263  
Email: [ford.museum@nara.gov](mailto:ford.museum@nara.gov)  
Website: <http://www.ford.utexas.edu>

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