

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
2009-0166-S

FOIA Number:
2009-0166-S

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 90642
Folder ID Number: 90642-007

Folder Title:
Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
V	0	0	0	0

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01a. Log	White House Telephone Log [President Bush] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	12/25/91	(b)(6)	
01b. Log	White House Telephone Log (Signal Switchboard) [redaction of personal information] (2 pp.)	12/25/91	(b)(6)	
01c. Note	Handwritten notes of Secure Presidential Phone Calls at Camp David with Gorbachev (7 pp.)	12/25/[91]	(b)(1)	
02a. Letter	From Mikhail Gorbachev to President Bush [unofficial translation] (2 pp.)	n.d.	(b)(1)	

Page 1 of 1

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Pinksheet Number: dw2419
OA/ID Number: 90642-007
Date Closed: 5/13/2014
FOIA/Sys Case #: 2009-0166-S
Re-review Case #:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS

LOCATION CAMP DAVID, MD.

DATE CHRISTMAS

TIME	MOVEMENTS
0740	Arrive Laurel
1045	Depart Laurel
1047	Arrive Aspen
1054	Arrive Wye Oak - Wallyball
1210	Depart Wye Oak - Jogging
1221	Arrive Aspen
1256	Arrive Laurel
1535	Arrive Aspen (Time Approximate)
1709	Arrive Laurel
1815	Arrive Aspen
1900	Depart Camp David via Marine - 1
1927	Arrive South Lawn
1930	Residence
1952	Oval - Meet with Mr. Demarest, Mr. Smith, Mr. Skinner
	and Gen. Scowcroft.
2027	Oval - Final preparation
2037	Roosevelt Room
2053	Oval
2126	Depart South Lawn
2158	Arrive Camp David
2207	Aspen - Down for the night



SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Christmas

B Camp David

B RON Camp David

UNP 12/23/91
5:00 pm

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS

LOCATION Camp David, Maryland
Washington, D.C.
Camp David, Maryland

DATE 25 December 1991

[illegible]

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 25, 1991

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation as President of the Soviet Union culminates a remarkable era in the history of his country and in its long and often difficult relationship with the United States. As he leaves office, I would like to express publicly, and on behalf of the American people, my gratitude to him for years of sustained commitment to world peace, and my personal respect for his intellect, vision and courage.

President Gorbachev is responsible for one of the most important developments of this century -- the revolutionary transformation of a totalitarian dictatorship and the liberation of his people from its smothering embrace. His personal commitment to democratic and economic reform through Perestroika and Glasnost -- a commitment which demanded the highest degree of political and personal ingenuity and courage -- permitted the peoples of Russia and other republics to cast aside decades of dark oppression and put in place the foundations of freedom.

Working with President Reagan, myself and other allied leaders, President Gorbachev acted boldly and decisively to end the bitter divisions of the Cold War and contributed to the remaking of a Europe whole and free. His and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's "New Thinking" in foreign affairs permitted the United States and the Soviet Union to move from confrontation to partnership in the search for peace across the globe. Together we negotiated historic reductions in chemical, nuclear and conventional forces and reduced the risk of a nuclear conflict.

Working together, we helped the people of Eastern Europe win their liberty and the German people their goal of unity in peace and freedom. Our partnership led to unprecedented cooperation in repelling Iraqi aggression in Kuwait, in bringing peace to Nicaragua and Cambodia, and independence to Namibia. And our work continues as we seek a lasting and just peace between Israelis and Arabs in the Middle East, and an end to the conflict in Afghanistan.

MORE

President Gorbachev's participation in these historic events is his legacy to his country and to the world. This record assures him an honored place in history and, most importantly for the future, establishes a solid basis from which the United States and the West can work in equally constructive ways with his successors.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 9:00 P.M. EST
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1991

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

The Oval Office

December 25, 1991

Good evening, and Merry Christmas to all Americans across our great country.

During these last few months, you and I have witnessed one of the greatest dramas of the twentieth century -- the historic and revolutionary transformation of a totalitarian dictatorship, the Soviet Union, and the liberation of its peoples. As we celebrate Christmas -- this day of peace and hope -- I thought we should take a few minutes to reflect on what these events mean for us, as Americans.

For over Forty years, the United States led the West in the struggle against communism and the threat it posed to our most precious values. This struggle shaped the lives of all Americans. It forced all nations to live under the specter of nuclear destruction.

That confrontation is now over. The nuclear threat -- while far from gone -- is receding. Eastern Europe is free. The Soviet Union itself is no more. This is a victory for democracy and freedom. It is a victory for the moral force of our values. Every American can take pride in this victory, from the millions of men and women who have served our country in uniform, to millions of Americans who supported their country and a strong defense under nine presidents.

New, independent nations have emerged out of the wreckage of the Soviet empire. Last weekend, these former republics formed a Commonwealth of Independent States. This act marks the end of the old Soviet Union, signified today by Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to resign as President.

I would like to express, on behalf of the American people, my gratitude to Mikhail Gorbachev for years of sustained commitment to world peace, and for his intellect, vision, and courage. I spoke with Mikhail Gorbachev this morning. We reviewed the many

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01a. Log	White House Telephone Log [President Bush] [redaction of personal information] (1 pp.)	12/25/91	(b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Date Closed: 5/13/2014	OA/ID Number: 90642-007
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

PRESIDENT BUSH

DECEMBER 25th, 1991

	TIME		DISC	NAME	ACTION
	PLACED				
OUT	XAM			MR. JOHN E. BUSH	
INC	7:35 PM	7:40		(b)(6)	TLKD-OK 7:36PM
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	XAM			MR. PRESCOTT BUSH	
INC	7:42 PM	7:45		(b)(6)	TLKD-OK 7:42PM
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				
OUT	AM				
INC	PM				

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No: and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01b. Log	White House Telephone Log (Signal Switchboard) [redaction of personal information] (2 pp.)	12/25/91	(b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Date Closed: 5/13/2014	OA/ID Number: 90642-007
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM
SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

December 25 , 1991

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

	TIME		NAME	ACTION
	PLACED	DISC		
OUT	7:07 AM	7:49	Mr. Digger Phelps (b)(6)	Tlkd with LTCOL Gould 7:08 AM Tlkd-ok 7:44 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	8:00 AM	8:04	Mr. Robert Macauley (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 8:01 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	8:11 AM	8:15	Governor John H. Sununu (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 8:14 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	8:31 AM	8:40	Mrs. Dorothy Walker Bush (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 8:32 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	9:33 AM	9:39	General Brent Scowcroft Residence, Washington, D.C. White House Signal 7-3881	Tlkd-ok 9:36 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	9:50 AM	10:25	Conference Call: President Mikhail Gorbachev Office, Moscow, Soviet Union	Tlkd-ok 10:03 AM via DVL
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		General Brent Scowcroft Residence, Bethesda, Maryland White House Signal 7-3881	
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		Dr. Edward A. Hewett (b)(6)	
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		Mr. R. Nicholas Burns (b)(6)	
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		Mr. Dennis W. Cheney White House Situation Room White House Signal 7-2264	
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		Mr. Dimitry Zarechnak White House Situation Room White House Signal 7-2264	
INC	PM			

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM
SIGNAL SWITCHBOARD

December 25, 1991

	TIME		NAME	ACTION
	PLACED	DISC		
OUT	10:30AM	10:40	General Brent Scowcroft Residence, Washington, D.C. White House Signal 7-3881	Tlkd-ok 10:37 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	11:00AM	11:02	MS1 Eileen Borell Aspen Lodge, Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1630	Tlkd-ok 11:01 AM
INC	PM			
OUT	AM		Mr. Orlando Frilles Aspen Lodge, Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1630	Tlkd-ok 12:04 PM
INC	12:04PM	12:05		
OUT	AM		General Brent Scowcroft Residence, Washington, D.C. White House Signal 7-3881	Tlkd-ok 1:40 PM
INC	1:40 PM	1:44		
OUT	AM		Major John E. Wissler Hawthorn Cabin, Camp David, Maryland Camp David Signal 4-1748	Tlkd-ok 4:50 PM
INC	4:48 PM	4:50		
OUT	AM		Mrs. Margaret Bush (b)(6)	PRESUS Cancel 5:44 PM
INC	5:30PM			
OUT	AM		Mr. Jerry C. Weintraub (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 5:56 PM
INC	5:53PM	6:01		
OUT	AM		Vice President James Danforth Quayle Evergreen Lodge, Vail, Colorado 303-476-1436	LW with Mr. Fleener 5:54 PM Tlkd-ok 6:49 PM
INC	5:53PM	6:51		
OUT	AM		Mrs. Nancy Ellis (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 9:31 PM via YANKEE ZULU
INC	9:29PM	9:35		
OUT	AM		Secretary Nicholas F. Brady (b)(6)	Tlkd-ok 9:43 PM via YANKEE ZULU
INC	9:39PM	9:44		
OUT	AM			
INC	PM			

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

SECURE
Presidential Phone Calls
Camp David



DATE:

12-25

TIME:

8⁰⁰

incoming/outgoing

WITH:

Bob Macaulay

SUBJECT:

Business -

"Merry Christmas"

both kids with basis

As next Zagreb yes day

so much to be proud of

FOLLOW UP:

million pound of medicine
to Gorb, nothing " " " Yeltsin

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

SECURE
Presidential Phone Calls
Camp David



DATE:

12-25

TIME:

9:40

incoming/outgoing

WITH:

Brent

SUBJECT:

Went on short
trip. will be taping
Gorbachev phone
call at 10 AM

FOLLOW UP:

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Bush Library Photocopy
George Bush Handwriting

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01c. Note	Handwritten notes of Secure Presidential Phone Calls at Camp David with Gorbachev (7 pp.)	12/25/[91]	(b)(1)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Date Closed: 5/13/2014	OA/ID Number: 90642-007
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
(b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
(b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

SECURE

**Presidential Phone Calls
Camp David**



DATE:

12-25

TIME:

6 PM

incoming/outgoing

WITH:

TO Weintraub

SUBJECT:

Merry Xmas

FOLLOW UP:

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Bush Library Photocopy
George Bush Handwriting

MR. PRESIDENT,

GOOD MORNING SIR, & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

TWO ITEMS SO FAR THIS A.M. -- FIRST, AT 0451 MR. PALO PALAZKENA, AN ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV, CALLED TO SAY, "PRESIDENT GORBACHEV WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO PLACE A FINAL CALL TO PRESIDENT BUSH AT 5:00 P.M. MOSCOW TIME, OR 10:00 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME." I TOLD HIM YOU WOULD BE AVAILABLE. I INFORMED THE WH SITUATION ROOM AND THEY WILL INITIATE THE CALL IAW STANDARD PROCEDURES. YOUR PHONE SHOULD RING AT 10:00.

SECOND, COACH DIGGER PHELPS CALLED AT 0700 TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. HE'D LIKE YOU TO RETURN THE CALL AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. CAMP SWITCHBOARD HAS HIS NUMBER.

VERY RESPECTFULLY,

Mike

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

Bush Library Photocopy
George Bush Handwriting

~~CLASSIFIED~~

12/25/91

UNCLASSIFIED UPON
REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED
ATTACHMENTS

Dw 5/13/14

REPORT FOR 12/25/91

Wednesday - December 25, 1991

CAMP DAVID

P To White House for address to nation
on end of Soviet Union
Return to Camp David

Bob Macauley/Americares
Scowcroft re: Koppel taping phone
call

Gorbachev

Jerry Weintraub/Margaret/Dan
Quayle/Nancy Ellis/Nick Brady

*Final letter from Mikhail Gorbachev
Walker Hancock/thanks for card
Leslie Shell (daughter of Rick at
Peat Marwick)/thanks for card
(through Jack Steel)
Molly Rutherford/thanks for letter
(through Sonny Montgomery)

MATERIALS FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT
December 25, 1991

ACTION

CLASSIFIED

INFORMATION

REMARKS

SCHEDULE

1. And briefing papers for Thursday, 12/26 (to Camp David)

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02a. Letter	From Mikhail Gorbachev to President Bush [unofficial translation] (2 pp.)	n.d.	(b)(1)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Office of the President
Series: Daily Files
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Wednesday, December 25, 1991

Date Closed: 5/13/2014	OA/ID Number: 90642-007
FOIA/SYS Case #: 2009-0166-S	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #:	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Walker Hancock
Box 7133 Lanesville
Gloucester, MA 01930

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dec. 25 ^{US}

Dear Walker,

Thanks for that
lovely card. I can not
wait to see the Flyers
memorial - it is superb.

We had a marvelous
family Christmas at Camp
David. I wrote this as
I helicopter down to D.C.
to deliver a 7 minute speech
then back to Camp David.

Happy New Year

Ag BZ/

cc: Bridget ✓
(in & out)

Dear George and Barbara,
The garish border is meant
to show that my Christmas
wishes go with this photograph
of the Flynns' Memorial that I
am doing for West Point. They
are wishes for a wonderful
Christmas for you and all the
family, and a glorious and
peaceful New Year.
I am made 1991 another
joyful and unforgettable
one for me!
Gracie



FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ms. Leslie Shell
2811 Wroxtton
Houston, Texas 77005



CAMP DAVID

Dec. 25, 1991

Dear Leslie,

Your Christmas Card of
many colors reached me here
today. Mrs. Bush and I love it.
I hope you, too, had a great
Christmas. Happy New Year. Love

Barbara

cc: Bridget ✓
(in & out)

12/26

NOTE TO THE FILE::

(No incoming card attached)

Bridget Montagne

KPMG Peat Marwick

Rick Shell, Houston

Don,

Jack Steel suggested I send
the enclosed Christmas card to
your attention. The card is
from my daughter, Leslie, and
she's been planning this for
a long time. Thanks for any
help you can provide.

Merry Christmas

Rick Shell

FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Miss Molly Rutherford
3330 Red Oak Drive
Meridian, Mississippi 39305



CAMP DAVID

Dec. 25, 1991

Dear Molly -

I loved your letter and
the picture. Cong. Montgomery came
for Christmas lunch with the
Bush family, and he brought
your letter. He also brought those
wonderful pickles we love so much.

I forgot to get your
grandparents address so will
you show them this letter and
tell them that we loved
the pickles. We have some left
but we wolfed a lot of them
down at our Christmas lunch
today. Have a great New Year.

Love
Aly Bush

cc: Bridget ✓
(in & out)



3330 Red Oak Dr.
Meridian, Ms.
December 3, 1991

Dear President Bush,

I was so happy to see you
in Meridian. I hope you enjoyed
it. I hope you come back.

My Grandfather and
Grandmother are the ones who
send you those pickles you
like. They know Sonny
Montgomery very well also.

Meridian is a very nice
town and I wish you could
come more often.

Love,
Molly Rutherford

P.S. - If you have time, please write
back. Merry Christmas! ★ Thank you
for shaking my hand also! ★

THE WHITE HOUSE
MRS. BUSH'S PRESS OFFICE

DAILY PRESS CLIPPINGS
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY---DECEMBER 25,26, 1991

Mrs. Bush	(in folder)
Secretary Skinner	West Wing
Marlin Fitzwater	West Wing
Constance Horner	West Wing
Carol Powers	West Wing
→ Patty Presock	West Wing
First Lady Detail	Staircase
Karen Connell	Room 58 OEOB
Shirley Green	Room 94 OEOB
Anne Griffith	Room 98 OEOB
Diana Kellogg	Room 157 OEOB
Gregg Petersmeyer	Room 100 OEOB
Marguerite Sullivan	Room 268 OEOB
Carolyn Washington	Room 268 OEOB
Benita Somerfield	hold one copy
Ann Brock	
Julie Cooke	
Joan DeCain	
Laurie Firestone	
Jane Moore	
Susan Porter Rose	
Sally Runion	
Peggy Swift	
Anna Perez	
Sondra Haley	
Jean Becker	
Jay Suchan	(plus originals)

(Christmas) Greetings From the President of the United States

By MARY McALEER VIZARD

WHITETOWN, N.Y. WHITE HOUSE followers have never been short of material, from handwritten notes to taped conversations to the tell-all memoirs of erstwhile Presidential confidants.

But Presidential Christmas cards have rarely been seen by more than their 150,000 or so recipients and, of course, their families and friends. Now Presidential holiday sentiments are open to public view at an exhibit of official White House Christmas cards, dating from 1961 to 1990, at Sunnyside, the historic home of Washington Irving here in Tarrytown. The exhibit is sponsored by Historic Hudson Valley, a preservation association.

"What's interesting about these cards is that they reflect what else was going on at the White House at the time," said James Archer Abbott, assistant curator of the Historic Hudson Valley group, at a recent lecture on Presidential Christmas cards.

For instance, the Christmas card sent by Ronald and Nancy Reagan in 1981 may shed light on the web of power in that Administration. The card, a reproduction of a painting by Jamie Wyeth, commissioned by the Reagans, was a night scene of the White House. The only light burning in the Presidential mansion is in Mrs. Reagan's dressing room.

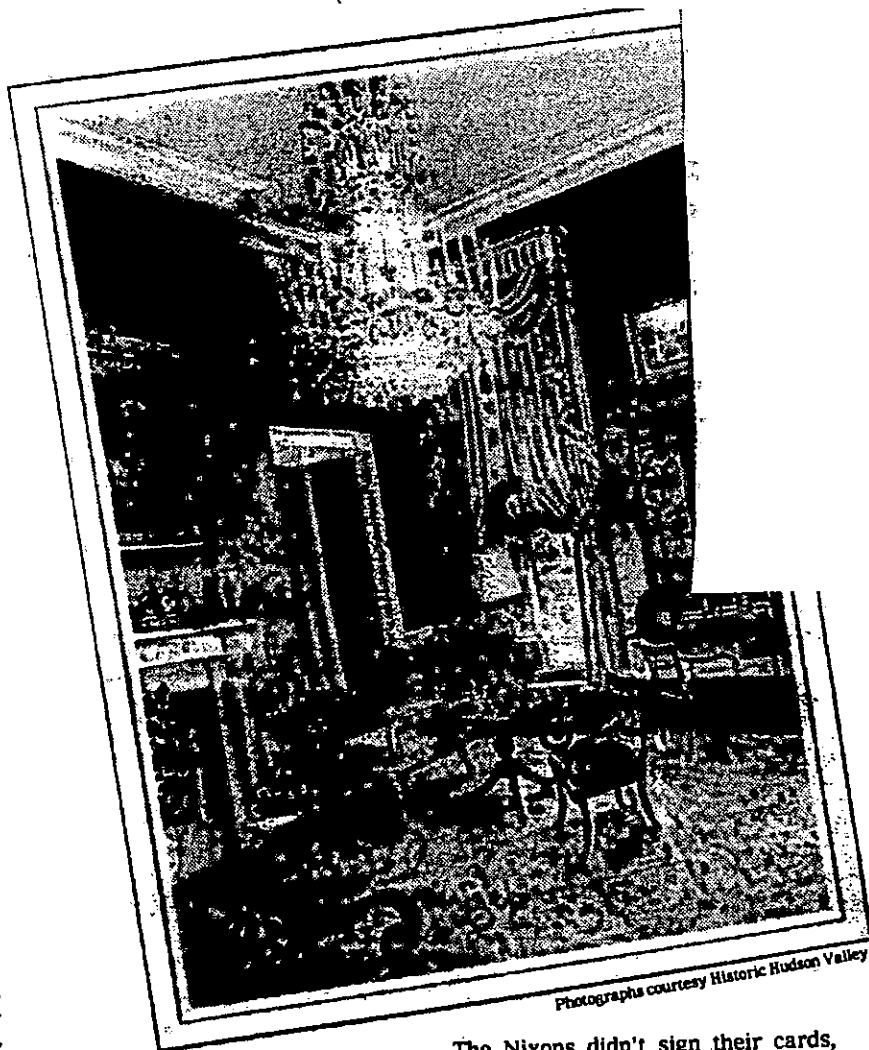
In other years, Mrs. Reagan emulated Mrs. Kennedy's choice of cards showing White House rooms that illustrated the Administration's restoration efforts.

Mrs. Kennedy's influence on Mrs. Reagan extended beyond her choice in Christmas cards, Mr. Abbott said. "When Mrs. Reagan asked who did this or who bought that piece of furniture, if the answer was Mrs. Kennedy, she always wanted to do it the same way," he said.

As much as the Reagans paid homage to the Kennedy style, the Nixons did not. "The Nixons were responsible for dismantling most of what Mrs. Kennedy had done with the White House," Mr. Abbott said. "All they needed was to be told that something was done by Mrs. Kennedy and they did just the opposite."

The Christmas cards of Richard and Pat Nixon were also a departure from those of previous Democratic

BELOW The Reagans' 1983 card included the re-decorated Green Room.



Photographs courtesy Historic Hudson Valley

Administrations. They sent what might have been the most austere cards in White House history. Instead of using the snow scenes tranquil landscapes favored by the preceding Johnson Administration, the Nixons used Presidential portraits from the White House art collection, grandly presented with engraved gold overlays, in a cardboard folder.

"It seems odd to have a somber-looking Lincoln wishing you a very merry Christmas," Mr. Abbott said.

The Nixons didn't sign their cards, but used a gold seal that read, "The President and Mrs. Nixon, Christmas, 1970." The three Republican Presidents since the Nixons followed that style; Democratic Presidents and wives used full names cards.

President Nixon also broke with tradition by mailing his cards in faux-velvet envelopes; the standard envelope had been plain white with a gold Presidential seal. "The velvet envelopes disappeared along with Mr. Nixon," Mr. Abbott said.



-ABOVE The Kennedys' 1963 card also showed the Green Room.

RIGHT Washington was the Nixons' choice.



Throughout history, all Presidents sent out informal Christmas greetings of some kind. It wasn't until the Eisenhower Administration that the official White House Christmas card appeared. The cards were originally intended to be sent to White House staff members but are now sent to more 9,000 people. A smaller card goes to more than 160,000 friends and supporters of the President.

At first, Dwight D. Eisenhower included an informal photograph of himself and his wife, Mamie, sitting

on the South Lawn of the White House. Later, President Eisenhower, who painted as a hobby, started to send reproductions of his own watercolors depicting favorite scenes in Europe and Colorado.

The first card sent by President John F. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy showed ducks swimming across the White House pond, symbolizing that for the first time in 50 years, young children were in the White House. The

ducks belonged to their daughter, Caroline.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's cards were reflective of their informal style. Their first Christmas card was a simple pen-and-ink drawing of the White House.

Later Carter cards focused on nostalgic 19th-century scenes, which were also popular with Gerald and Betty Ford. "This was no doubt an attempt to take people's minds off the recession and difficult economic times during that period," Mr. Abbott said.

The cards sent by Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson were usually scenes with two little girls — representing their daughters, Lynda and Luci — frolicking in the snow with their dogs. One card was a night scene of the White House decked in holiday greenery as guests arrived for a Christmas party. "They represented the Johnson White House as the center of Texas hospitality, which was the case not only at Christmas but during their entire Administration," Mr. Abbott said.

On their cards, the Johnsons also wrote a long greeting, effusive with warm wishes for the holiday season. Their last card included a postscript on their Administration and their regret over its conclusion. "It expressed their sadness about leaving the White House," said Mr. Abbott. "They wanted people to know that they did their best and joined the rest of the country in wishing for a peaceful new year. It was a nice way to go out."

George and Barbara Bush's cards have all been upbeat in tone. Their 1991 card features the most festive room in the White House, the Yellow Oval Room. This jewel-like room, with gilded furnishings and bright yellow wallpaper, is in the family's living area and is reserved for the most celebratory occasions. The Bushes' previous cards included a view of the decorated South Portico of the White House in 1989 and the Oval Office complete with Christmas tree and presents in 1990.

The Christmas card exhibit will be on display at Sunnyside, on West Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown, through Dec. 31. Admission is \$3. The cards come from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Nash Castro. Mr. Castro is a director of the White House Historical Association and a trustee of Historic Hudson Valley.

A real card

If you received a White House Christmas card this year, Barb and George may not have sent it. Some of their special greeting cards with a painting of the family tree in the upstairs Yellow Oval Room found their way out of the fenced compound — sans addresses and stamps — and into a Northwest Washington card shop, which offered them as expensive curios.

Nobody at the White House was discussing the situation yesterday, but it was learned that Secret Service investigators determined there had not been a theft and no crime was committed.

The cards were gone but not stolen.

The answer to the riddle apparently lay with staff members who got more cards than needed to mail on official business and found they could make a buck selling the leftovers.

The large, special 12-by-16 cards go to people with whom the Bushes have "a real relationship," as in a few thousand close friends. Another smaller, less snazzy version is sent to political donors and others who warrant some notice at this time of year. There may, in fact, be a third variety of cards that the Bushes send to their closest of friends and relatives, but that is speculative, and besides, we digress.

Joe Levine, owner of the Presidential Coin and Antique Co. in Alexandria, which specializes in political memorabilia, said \$75 "would be about the right price" for the large, special card. "These are not your ordinary Christmas cards. We're talking about the large gift cards."

He said the special cards are a tradition dating "back to Harry Truman's time." It's an "art card done by Hallmark that's fit for

INSIDE THE BELTWAY



If you didn't get one of these from George and Barbara, you may be able to pick one up at a local shop.

framing." The cards tend to increase in value as the years go by. "I sell the Reagan cards for \$55 to \$80. The Johnson cards go for about \$75 to \$95. . . . Then you get back to the Eisenhowers and the Kennedys, and they sell for over a hundred apiece. The cheapest cards are the Fords' and the Carters," which sell for \$40 to \$50."

In addition to the large cards, Mr. Levine estimated that 160,000 small cards are manufactured each year. The small cards are not so much in demand. "The small ones sell for about \$10 to \$12 . . . from Ford on up [to the present]," Mr. Levine said.

Names of those recommended to receive the smaller cards are submitted by White House staffers to a

central office and punched into a computer. They are "merge-purged," a checking process that ensures that no one on the list receives two cards.

We had heard that the cards appeared on the shelves of a card shop near the White House, but a few calls failed to locate any. At the Trover Shop on 15th Street we were offered a card picturing George and Barbara and offering greetings, but it was produced by a company called Recycle and sold for only \$1.75. Not the one we were hunting.

Upon hearing that the White House was not talking and apparently would not be pushing the matter further, our source declared the situation a scandal in the making and proposed that it "deserves the attention of a special prosecutor." So perhaps you've not heard the last of the great Christmas Card Caper Cover-up of 1991!

Keep on rockin'

In the latest issue of *Chronicles* magazine, Bill Kauffman offers some unique political insights when he compares the style and persona of various contenders for the presidency with the gutsy theme songs they have chosen. Mr. Kauffman reminds us also of the dying weeks of the Dukakis campaign when Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" became the theme. "Some folks are born, silver spoon in hand / Lord don't they help themselves," the song observes, and then turns to the la-

ment: "It ain't me, it ain't me, I ain't no millionaire's son."

Mr. Kauffman comments: "The fact that Dukakis, his parents and his running mate were all millionaires vitiated the tune's effect somewhat."

In terms of current affairs, Mr. Kauffman discusses Tom Harkin's choice of Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA," about a jobless, womanless Vietnam vet with "nowhere to run, I got nowhere to go."

Unlike the fellow in the song, Mr. Kauffman notes, Mr. Harkin is "a pure counterfeit" and a "faux populist," as well as "a statist liberal, awash in PAC money, whose wife is a rich lawyer at Akin, Gump." In your face, Tommy.

Which brings us to Bob Kerrey, who stumps to the accompaniment of another Springsteen rocker, "Born to Run." Mr. Kauffman invites us to compare the character in that song with what we get with Mr. Kerrey:

"Baby this town rips the bones from your back / It's a death trap, it's a suicide rap / We gotta get out while we're young / 'Cause tramps like us, baby, we were born to run." That's ol' Bob right down to the hobnails, right?

The author leaves us wondering who of those who seek the presidency this time around might select as a theme song one of the trash tunes of Axl Rose, singer for Guns 'n Roses, who reigns at the pinnacle of popularity despite efforts of the politically correct East Coast establishment music critics to bring him down.

Mr. Rose's top-of-the-heap popularity with working- and middle-class kids suggests "the enormous gulf between those who live in America and those who run it."

Now there's a thought.

Merry Christmas.

— John Elvin



Barbara Bush with the White House Christmas tree in the Blue Room. AP

White House tour

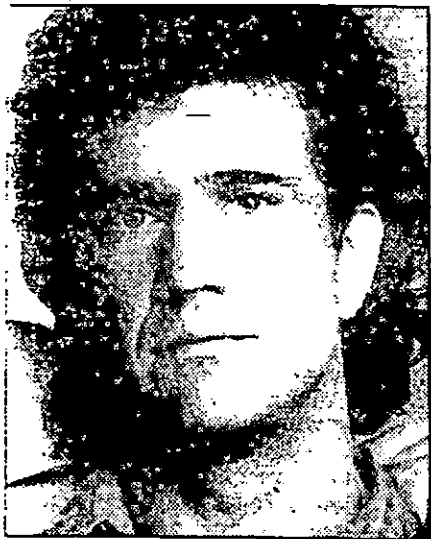
Christmas candlelight tours of the White House are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 26-28, featuring a close look at the 18½-foot Christmas tree and more. Open free to the public, the tours take visitors through the public rooms of the historic house. The tree is located in the Blue Room. It is

decorated with some 1,300 ornaments and 5,000 miniature lights. The ornaments are needlepoint decorations, handmade by both White House executive residence staff members and volunteers from across the country. Tour line begins at the East Gate in East Executive Park, E Street between 15th and 17th streets NW. 202/472-3669 or 202/619-7222.

A reading rainbow



Barbara Bush: Star of weekly show.



Mel Gibson will read on Saturday.



Mickey Mouse has participated.



Peter Jennings will read.

What do Barbara Bush, Mel Gibson and Mickey Mouse have in common? They're all voices that can be heard reading children's stories on a radio program that is the brainchild of two Philadelphia women.

By Michael Vitez
Inquirer Staff Writer

Marcia Moon and Linda Katz flew out to Los Angeles the other day, to the set of *Lethal Weapon III*. They went to Mel Gibson's trailer, where the movie star, instead of eating lunch, read *Rumpelstiltskin* to them.

"He was throwing each page over his shoulder as he read it," Katz said. "He changed his voice. He became a dwarf, he became a weeping princess."

"It was like hearing a new version of *Hamlet*," gushed Moon. "You didn't even have to listen to the words. Just hearing his voice was enough for me."

Which came as sort of a surprise. "Most people when they watch his movies," Katz said, "aren't concentrating on his voice."

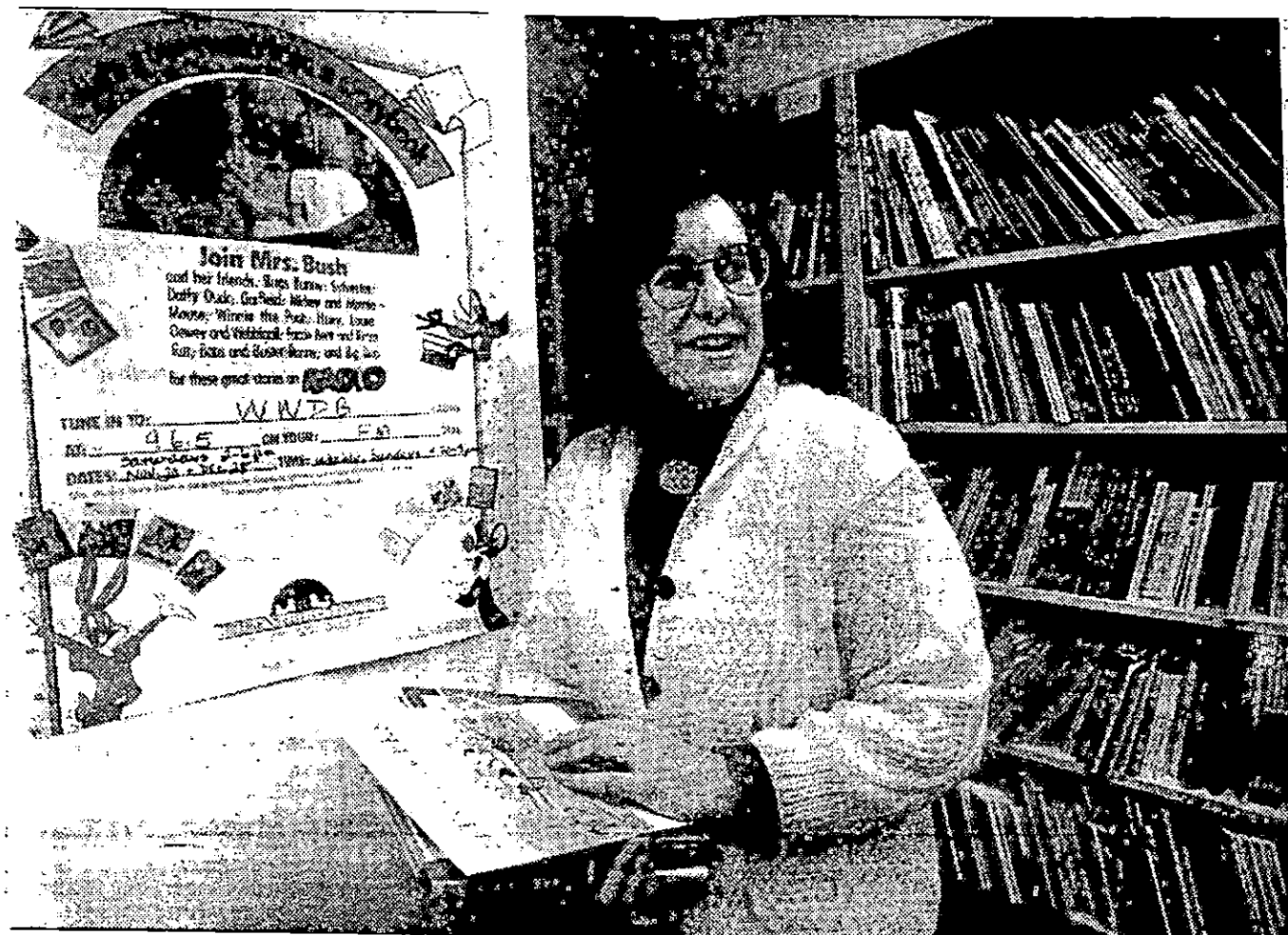
These two Philadelphia women, enjoying a few heart palpitations along the way, have recruited a bevy of famous Americans to read stories to children over the radio — luminaries ranging from first lady Barbara Bush, retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, quarterback Joe Montana and country singer Reba McEntire to Mickey, Minnie, Garfield and Big Bird. They hope next year to land Dustin Hoffman and Bullwinkle.

Moon, a former Massachusetts elementary school teacher, and Katz, once a librarian, run a nonprofit organization called Children's Literacy Initiative, which encourages parents to read to youngsters and youngsters to read quality books.

The centerpiece of their efforts is Mrs. Bush's *Story Time* — a series of 10 weekly half-hour radio shows in which the first lady and a variety of famous Americans and cartoon characters read new literature and old classics to an estimated one million listeners.

The program is carried by 200 ABC Radio affiliates. In the Philadelphia area, the show runs every Sunday through Feb. 10, from 4:30 to 5 p.m., on WWDB-FM (96.5). A four-hour Christmas special is scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday and will include the President and first lady reciting *A Visit From St. Nicholas* ("Twas the Night Before Christmas.")

The women have come a long way in (See READING on 4-D)



Linda Katz is co-creator of "Mrs. Bush's Story Time," a weekly radio show that will air a four-hour special Saturday. The Philadelphia Inquirer / RICK BOWMER



Moon is Katz's partner in radio show and the Children's Literacy Initiative.

READING, from 1-D
 eight years, when they started selling children's books, a la Tupperware, in the Philadelphia area. Katz, who has an MBA from Wharton, dreamed up the business, thinking it would be the perfect mix of entrepreneurship and children's literature, her two loves. But the pair barely broke even.

So they went on to another venture — the Children's Literacy Initiative, targeted primarily at low-income communities and supported by both state funds and donations from such companies as Chase Manhattan Bank, Time Warner and U.S. Healthcare.

Much of the time, Moon and Katz train preschool teachers and providers of low-income day care on how to recognize good books, how to display them in class, how to read aloud, and how to expand on the book in classroom activities, from plays to art projects. They also give away thousands of new books to programs in poorer communities.

Moon and Katz say they are frustrated that so many children don't

They are passionate about their mission. Moon, for instance, will grab a book out of a stranger's hand at a bookstore and replace it with three others that she believes are much better. "The bookstores," she says with a grin, "hate me."

Mrs. Bush's *Story Time* was born of necessity. Katz and Moon wanted to solicit major grants for their literacy efforts, but all the big foundations and corporations told them that their programs had to be national, not just regional. So last year, they wrote to Barbara Bush about reading stories over the radio. A news director at ABC Radio had suggested that they do a series of 10 half-hour shows.

The first lady loved the idea, according to Katz and Moon, and did 10 segments between September and December 1990. This winter, she re-enlisted.

"We've worked hard trying to recruit celebrities," Moon said. "We get turned down a lot. We persist. We keep trying to woo them."

The holiday lineup for Saturday includes: Schwarzkopf reading *Fables* by Arnold Lobel; ABC anchorman Peter Jennings doing *The Cremation of Sam McGee* by Robert W. Service; Jaleel White, better known as Steve Erkel from TV's *Family Matters*, telling a Kwanzaa story; Mel Gibson reading *Rumpelstiltskin*; former *Today Show* host Deborah Norville reciting *Wake Up Bear!* It's Christmas, by Stephen Gammel; Dom DeLuise telling his own story, *Charlie the Caterpillar*; Judd Hirsch reading *Dreidel the Parakeet* by Isaac Bashevis Singer; Whitney Houston reading *Wolf's Chicken Stew* by Keiko Kasza, and Marvin Young (better known as Young MC) reciting *The Christmas Cookie Sprinkler Snitcher* by VIP.

Moon and Katz have had plenty of rejection, too. Billy Crystal turned them down flat — they couldn't get past his agent. Dustin Hoffman and Richard Dreyfuss said maybe next year. To get Schwarzkopf, they had to fly to his home in Florida. They gave him one fable to read, but he asked politely if he could read three. "He was so cute," Moon said.

During the coming year, actor Tony Danza will read *The Cut-Ups*. Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have already recorded a version of *Flossie and the Fox*; Gloria Estefan has done *Dial-a-Croc* by Mike Dumbleton.

Moon also tracked down Susan Butcher, winner of the Alaskan Iditarod dog sled race, finally reaching her on a cellular phone as she was "out in the tundra training dogs," Moon said.

Moon and Katz picked the perfect book for her, which she agreed to record: *The Race of the Golden Apples* by Claire Martin. It's a story of a great woman racer who always beats her male challengers. She makes a deal with her father that she doesn't have to get married unless she loses. Finally, she does lose to a man — but only because she wants to marry him.

By soliciting celebrities to read stories, the two women believe they are sending a message that "reading is important and fun," Katz said. "Parents are getting a subliminal message, too: 'Gen. Schwarzkopf took time to read this. It must be important. Mel Gibson did this. It must be glamorous.'"

In addition to reading stories each week, Barbara Bush talks about the importance of reading, the advantages of reading aloud, the benefits of quality literature as opposed to what Katz calls "the junk you find in grocery stores and toy stores." She also passes along obvious but oft-overlooked tips, such as taking a book with you when you go to the doctor's office.

"We know kids don't learn words from television," Katz said. "They don't learn words from a dictionary. You learn them from context. From using them. From reading. From being read to." And she adds that the research is clear: "Children who do best in school were read to the most."

Katz and Moon co-founded Children's Expo, now an annual event in which the Civic Center is turned into a giant bookstore and children can meet authors and buy books. They also recently were named to head Pennsylvania's new State Children's Literacy Council and received a \$150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Their mission is to foster an appreciation of reading where it is most needed — in subsidized day care centers and lower-income communities.

Moon decries Pennsylvania's day-care regulations: "Under Item 163, inside a parenthesis, between the words *games* and *puzzles* is the word *books*. It's mentioned as something you might want to have in your class," Moon said. "There's nothing about reading aloud, about literacy training. And Pennsylvania is typical."

Katz stresses that parents and teachers should not just read stories to kids. "Stop in the middle and ask questions: 'What would the child do next?' Get their wheels turning. Get them to predict what will happen."

"Get your money's worth out of the book."



Jaleel White

To read a Kwanzaa story Saturday

read and don't enjoy reading. They think that most teachers know about as much about quality children's books as the average parent — and that isn't nearly enough.

What's in a fame? These days, not much

By Joe Pisani
GREENWICH TIME

When Donald Trump and Marla Maples, his fiancée or ex-fiancée depending on the day of the week, got into a shouting match in a hotel lobby, she flung her high heels and \$250,000 7.5-carat engagement ring at him and screeched, "I'll never marry you - I don't care how much money you make!"

Here was a woman with high ideals. Here was a role model. Here was fresh material for a celebrity, tell-all autobiography, something along the lines of Katharine Hepburn's "Me" and "Scarlett."

After all, The Donald has penned two books, so why shouldn't The Marla share her secrets of success? The Donald makes money. The Marla spends money. That's all it takes to be a celebrity in America. (Of course, it helps if you have a name that ends in a vowel like Ivana, Madonna, Bianca, Noriega and Imelda.)

We're a nation obsessed with movie stars, sports heroes and political tyrants. If there's a shortage, we invent them, and the number of celebrities in America seems to double each year, depending on the latest Hollywood sex scandal or Wall Street investment scandal or Washington political scandal.

At one time, the rules were simple: To become a celebrity you had to get Andy Warhol's permission and have your mug on the cover of Rolling Stone or People magazine, but that's no longer enough - even if your name is Demi Moore, even if you're nine months pregnant, even if you're on the cover of Vanity Fair.

Now, you have to publish your life story, chronicling your rise from poverty, followed by your dark night of the soul and a fateful encounter with Annie Leibovitz. It's the myth of the hero. The John Wayne, Mickey Rooney, Cary Grant story all rolled into one.

While I was browsing through the bookstore's biography section, which is almost as large as the love-relationships-sex-abstinence section, I was horrified to find the life story of Anne Rice, best-selling author of the 40-volume "Vampire Chronicles" and other books about ghouls and blood-suckers. Why does she warrant a biography? Can't we learn everything we need to know by reading her dust jackets? I'd much rather curl up with something serious like Zsa Zsa Gabor's "One Lifetime Is Not Enough."

Nearby were two unauthorized biographies (the best kind) of Madonna, detailing her sexploits during her early, middle and later years. If you don't like to read, you can buy the videocassette of her autobiographical film, "Truth or Dare."

Once upon a time, biographers wrote about people who "were" somebody in a historical sense, like

Attila the Hun, not Pee-wee Herman, whom nobody will remember in 25 years, except patrons of a certain Florida movie theater.

We've gone from Woodrow Wilson to Brian Wilson. You can find a biography of Mike Tyson, but not Herman Melville.

This is clearly a job for ... Kitty Kelley, the woman who harpooned Nancy Reagan and Frank Sinatra. But the big question is whether Hollywood will buy the Melville story, which is unlikely when you consider the reader appeal of "Moby Dick."

From Hendrix to Halston, popular biographies offer little more than fluff and sex and name-dropping. They are intimate portraits of pop icons like Stephen King, Sonny Bono and Roseanne Barr, not to mention Eartha Kitt, whose "Confessions of a Sex Kitten" will titillate and inspire you.

But it's not all sex. There's religion, too. Shirley MacLaine has written her sixth, or seventh, volume about her spiritual experiences in this life and her previous lives.

For the politically minded, the Jimmy Carter story offers a personal account of the former president's heroic years in the White House, some preaching about the national malaise and fresh-water fishing tips.

Equally inspiring is the George Bush story, which offers a personal account of his heroic years in the White House, some broccoli recipes and fresh-water fishing tips. Is it any surprise that a book by Barbara Bush's dog Millie outsold them both?

If you had doubts about truth being stranger than fiction, pick up a copy of "A View From Above" in which Wilt Chamberlain says he had sex with 200,000 women before the age of 60. (Or maybe it was 20,000 women before the age of 40.)

Intellectuals will want to be seen reading Ronald Reagan's unauthorized autobiography and Clark Clifford's memoir, "Counsel to the President" - not President Reagan, the president of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Gossip lovers will surely enjoy "Exposing Myself" by Geraldo Rivera in collaboration with Pee-wee Herman, and "Still Talking" by Joan Rivers in collaboration with her Dictaphone. "Tarnished Angel" is the sex memoir of a "female Henry Miller" aka Jennifer Lee, who is the former wife of Wilt Chamberlain - I mean Richard Pryor - and who had affairs with everyone from Warren Beatty to Roman Polanski and Boris N. Yeltsin.

For rock-music lovers, there are the life stories of the Jackson family, all nine of them, from Michael to LaToya to Janet to Jermaine. And soon to be released for the holidays and destined to become a major motion picture is "My Life" by William Kennedy Smith (in collaboration with Millie Bush).

THE BOSTON GLOBE • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1991



Millie Bush (left) outsold her owner's memoirs in the bookstore celebrity-bio sweepstakes.

William Raspberry

Gift of Understanding

Maybe you're feeling a little cynical because Christmas has been commercialized into meaninglessness, a little depressed because you can't recapture the Christmas of your childhood, a little frustrated because you can't figure out what to do to give the holiday meaning, or even a little sorry for yourself because you don't have all the things you think you deserve.

If so, maybe the following letter will help. It was written as part of a fund-raising appeal for the Washington Literacy Council, and under ordinary circumstances that would be enough to put it off limits for this column.

But this particular letter struck me with such force and directness that, once I ascertained its authenticity, I thought I'd share it with my cynical, depressed, frustrated and self-pitying peers as a reminder of what Christmas ought to be, and could be again.

Maybe it will be for you what it was for me: a reminder of the possibilities for personal action in addressing problems, rather than simply complaining about them; of the blessedness both of giving and receiving; of the fact that "need" covers far more than food, clothing and shelter; of goodwill—and good works—more prevalent than we dream; of the value of small gifts and the priceless of simple gratitude.

Here, with my own "Merry Christmas," is the letter:

My name is Mrs. Cleo Kenney. This Christmas I will receive the greatest present of all. For the first time in my life, I'll be able to read the story of Jesus's birth.

When I was 54 years old, I decided I wanted to learn how to read, and two years later I can write this letter. I was able to sit down and put into words exactly what I feel in my heart. I am proud that I can now give something of my own to the Washington Literacy Council.

The holidays are a busy time for all of

us. But isn't this season about giving of ourselves to others? I found out that 75,000 District people can't read. My own life has been turned around, and now I want to help others. Two years ago, I was

unable to read. But I was able to fool all my friends because my grandmother taught me the correct words to say and how to behave. Even my best friend of 40 years, she didn't know I couldn't read.



BY MARIAN KRAITH

I have common sense, a husband and four children. My grandmother died, and I was responsible for the funeral arrangements. I was ashamed that I had to ask my son to fill out the forms. She was a remarkable woman who loved me very much and would have wanted me to go to college. But it wasn't until my father died that I listened to my mother who urged me to call the Washington Literacy Council and ask for help.

I have a brain and wanted to learn to read and write my thoughts. Three weeks ago, I went to church and in front of 200 people I told them about meeting First Lady Barbara Bush, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and council member Harold Brazil. I voted for the first time last year. My grandmother would have been so proud.

The Washington Literacy Council gave me my tutor, Bob Levine, who just won the 1991 Pepco Humanitarian Award. Bob bought me a dictionary and my own Bible. But if it hadn't been for Bob's patience and the council, I wouldn't know how to read.

Money is important, but your time is also important. Bob spends one hour a week tutoring me. How many things do we do that only take one hour a week that can change a life forever?

This holiday season, I am filled with the joy of someone who can read and write. This is a miracle, and I am asking you to help bring this joy to thousands of our neighbors. I am now on the Washington Literacy Council Board and am proud of myself for writing this letter.

P.S. I am not going to stop until I get my high school diploma. Maybe I can even go to college?

Santa Claus wouldn't dare give some people what they wanted

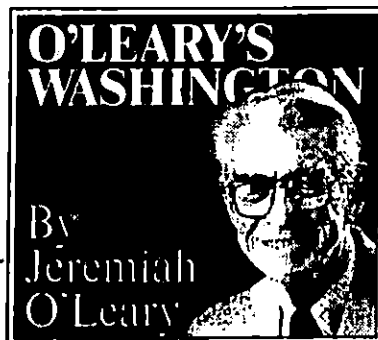
Santa Claus wearily dragged himself into his North Pole workshop at the crack of dawn yesterday and prepared for the annual scolding from Mrs. Claus.

"It's about time you were getting back! Wipe your feet, get inside and shut that door! Where have you been all night long?" she demanded, chubby arms akimbo.

"I was just doing my job, dear heart," said Santa, sinking into his easy chair by the fire, "but it gets harder and harder every year."

"What's so hard about making deliveries once a year?" she asked. "And then you go to that awful saloon, Harrigan's, and whoop it up with the elves. I can tell when you've had too much eggnog because your nose turns red. It's a dead giveaway."

"That's not my nose, sweet thing, that's Rudolph the Reindeer's proboscis," Santa said. "I could strangle that Gene Autry for foisting him off on me."



"Well, tell me all about Christmas now that it's over. Are the kids and their parents all happy? Did you give everybody what they wanted?"

Santa Claus shook his head sadly and stroked his beard.

"You know I couldn't do that. Half the kids in Washington wanted Uzis or 9mm pistols. And when I was unable to bring them what they asked for, lots of them started fighting with their fists, just like the old days.

"And the grown-ups are no better. I didn't meet one man who liked the ties he got for Christmas or a woman who liked their perfume or those whatchamacallits from Victoria's Secret."

"What did you give to George Bush?" Mrs. Claus wanted to know.

"He got a trip to Camp David with his family after six nights in a row of giving Christmas parties in the White House," said the once-jolly old elf. "But I couldn't give him an end to the recession because he doesn't seem to remember his history."

"No memory for history?" said Mrs. Claus.

"No," Santa replied, "the only way Franklin D. Roosevelt ended the Depression from 1929 to 1941 was by mobilizing the whole nation for a war against the Axis. Overnight, we had full employment and prosperity came around the corner at last. That won't work this time

see SANTA, page B6

SANTA

From page B1

because there's no body worth fighting since the Soviet empire fell apart.

"I got to him when he was half asleep and whispered, 'Read my lips. Neither Pat Buchanan, David Duke nor any of those Democrats are going to beat you next year. They're all really running for 1996 because none of them has an answer to the recession either,'" said Santa. "You think the Democrats

want to take over the White House and be the ones to raise taxes?"

"No," said Mrs. Claus. "But what did you give the other politicians?"

Santa consulted his list. "Bill Clinton got an automatic cutoff on any speech he makes longer than three minutes. I gave Mario Cuomo a picture of Hamlet. I advised Bob Kerrey to stop running around with Debra Winger just as I did a few years ago when Jerry Brown was dating Linda Ronstadt. I gave Doug Wilder a one-way ticket back to Richmond. Tom Harkin got a book on how to try to stop looking like Abe Lincoln and Paul Tsongas a

guide on how to pretend he's not from Massachusetts."

"What about Duke and Buchanan?" Mrs. Claus asked. Santa chuckled, "I slipped Duke one of Martin Luther King's old nightgowns. Looks just like a sheet. And I had a pair of boxing gloves for Pat, but he said he'd rather have his old job back on the McLaughlin show."

"What did you get for McLaughlin?"

"Heh. Heh. By popular demand of Fred, Morton, Eleanor and Jack, I got him a pit bull muzzle. Fits him like a glove."

TV tonight

By David Bianculli

Surprise, surprise: Even though it's still the networks' "dead week," there actually is a new show worth watching tonight. It's the 1991 edition of *The Kennedy Center Honors*, in which you can see David Carra-dine sing, Gregory Hines dance and Gregory Peck cry.

Entertainers '91 (8-9 p.m., Ch. 6) — Here's another pair of strange bedfellows in the network-TV game, '90s-style: This special is premiering on ABC, but it actually comes from E! Entertainment Television. Why is ABC messing with that outfit in this manner? Because it's C! Cheap, that's why, ABC.

Cheers (9-9:30 p.m., Ch. 3) — Holiday weekends often bring out unexpected clashes between fathers and their grown-up sons, but this is bizarre. Woody Harrelson, co-star of *Cheers*, finds himself competing tonight with his father ... NBC repeat.

FBI: The Untold Stories (9-9:30 p.m., Ch. 6) — ... contract killer Charles Harrelson, who is one of the central figures profiled in this repeat of *FBI: The Untold Stories*. Like father, unlike son. ABC repeat.

The Kennedy Center Honors: A Celebration of the Performing Arts (9-11 p.m., Ch. 10) — Patti LuPone, Isaac Stern and Keith Carradine are some of the performers for this annual salute to people in the performing arts. Honorees this year are Roy Acuff, Gregory Peck, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, conductor Robert Shaw and the Nicholas Brothers. What this particular program does best is honor its recipients in unusual and often touching ways. Peck, for example, has already been honored quite effectively by an American Film Institute TV special — and in a way similar to that used tonight, but only at first. Peck is suave and controlled, Audrey Hepburn — his novice co-star in "Roman Holiday" — is affectionate and witty, and the clips from Peck's career, especially from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, justify the standing ovation he so politely and gratefully receives. But then, rather than moving on to the next guest, the show has a surprise for the audience, and for Peck. Isaac Stern steps out from behind the curtain, describes Peck as "an American's American," and describes the actor's Irish heritage and proud grandparents and parents. Close-ups of Peck, at that point, betray as much emotion as he ever showed on film. Then Stern, accompanied by a pianist, plays a resonant rendition of the tune popularly known as "Danny Boy." If there was a dry eye in the house that night, it didn't belong to Peck.



Gregory Peck is saluted in "The Kennedy Center Honors," 9 p.m., Ch. 10.

Love that Bushspeak

Why is it that whenever George Bush talks, he sounds just like his chief mimic, Dana Carvey? Bush was asked if he ever takes a day off in a chat with C-SPAN's Brian Lamb earlier this week. "No — too — too hyper." Well, does he read? "Play horseshoes." No reading? "I read, I read a bunch of books. . . . I've read, oh, I think, 12 books since March. . . . But easy reading — Dan Jenkins and other relaxed treatises, you know, detective stories or something like that." Any tube? "Watch quite a bit. I watch the news, and I don't like to tell you this because you'll think I'm into some weird TV freak here, but I have a set upstairs that has five screens on it. . . . Barbara accuses me of being too much — not too much — but plugged into TV too often, I put it that way."

Chronicle

•
FREDERICK McCLURE, President Bush's Congressional liaison, has announced that he is leaving the Administration to join an investment banking firm in Texas.

Mr. McClure, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, is to leave the White House Feb. 1 to become managing director of the First Southwest Company in Dallas. "It will be fun, a different kind of fun, but nevertheless fun," he said in a telephone interview this week.

"This is my second time working here," Mr. McClure went on, explaining that he had held the same post under President Reagan in 1985 and 1986, proving, he said, that "you can come back and you can also leave." Mr. McClure is the only black on the White House senior staff and was one of the advisers to Clarence Thomas during the hearings in October on the judge's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Mr. McClure's departure will deprive the White House of a strong singing voice. He has sung in campaigns and at fund-raising events. His most recent appearance was at the Congressional Christmas ball at the White House this month. He did it, he said, "for the people that I deal with all the time," adding, "I do Christmas stuff and things like 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' and 'The Star Spangled Banner.' "

NADINE BROZAN

December 25, 91

George Bush Presidential Library Transfer Sheet

COLLECTION:

Bush Presidential Records
Office of the President

ACCESSION NUMBER:

1993.0001

FOIA/SYSTEMATIC
PROCESSING CASE
NUMBER (if app.):

☐ Transferred During Accessioning

☒ Transferred During Processing

2009-0166-S

The following material was transferred to:

☒ **Audiovisual Collection**

☐ **Book Collection**

☐ **Museum Collection**

☐ **Other**

Other (Specify):

DESCRIPTION:

White House Photographs: P27475-20A [Dec 25 Address to nation Re: end of the Soviet Union]; [David Demarest and Sam Skinner]

When transferring
material to the
museum
collection,
complete the
following.

Donor:

Donor Org.:

Address:

Telephone:

Book Location:

Row:

Section:

Shelf:

Position:

Map Case Location:**Series:**

Daily Files

Box Number:

143

Folder Title:

Wednesday, December 25, 1991

OA/ID Number:

90642-007

Transferred by:

Deborah Wheeler

Date of Transfer:

5/13/2014

Received by:

Mary Finch

Date Received:

5/13/2014

Go to Database
Navigator

Go to Accession
Register

Go to Withdrawal Sheet

Print Record



Dec 25 address to Nation
re: end of Soviet Union

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPH 25 DEC 91 P27475-200 DV

