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Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-11-08
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to FE008-01

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No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-11-08	dbarrie		Transferred to FE008-01

Ag

ID # 430379 CU

FE008

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Bill Thompson

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Reagan Country Museum

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>curroll</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/6/08/01</u>	<u>PW</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>8/20/08/12</u>
<u>curroll</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>8/6/08/12</u>	<u>PW</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>8/6/08/12</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>Aug 12 86 PJS note to Chris Cochran</u>			
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>Kathryn Osborne</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4690 _____

Prime Subject Code: FE 008 Secondary Subject Codes: PP 012-05 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
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 - n - 7 - Ronnie
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 - n - 0 - Unknown
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 - n - 2 - Nancy
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- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

8/12/86

TO: CHRIS COX
KATHY OSBORNE

FROM: PETER WALLISON

For your information.

THE WHITE HOUSE

PJW/CCC:jmy
PJWallison
CCCoX
Chron.

August 1, 1986

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President, dated July 12, 1986. The President appreciates the photographs you sent, and has asked me to convey his best wishes to you and Mrs. Thompson.

Because a question in your letter raises an issue of legal policy, your letter has been referred to this office for response. You asked whether there would be any objection to the use of the President's grade school, South Central, as a "Reagan Country Museum." Your letter asked for a response before you proceeded further with this project.

Establishment of memorials and museums to living Presidents is a matter of some sensitivity, and for this reason the President has proceeded with extreme caution in his participation with the only two authorized projects of this nature. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, which is dedicated to building the Presidential Library at Stanford University, and the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation, which as you know is responsible for the museum character of the President's boyhood home and has undertaken to build a visitors' center in connection therewith, are the focus of substantial attention on a variety of fronts. Of necessity, these have created demands on the President's time, become the subject of public scrutiny, and generated unwanted pressures for the President to become involved in fund raising. The President's extraordinary popularity has also generated plans for other, potentially competitive ventures, some charitable and others commercial, but all of which could ultimately dilute the success of the two authorized projects.

As you know, the President very much enjoys and appreciates your enthusiasm for collecting official and local memorabilia relating to events in his early life. However, we have advised the President that, for the reasons stated above, it would be unwise at this time to authorize a "Reagan Country Museum" in Dixon. Our concern about dilution of the efforts already undertaken is particularly heightened when, as would be the case with the proposed "Reagan Country Museum," two museums would be located in the same small town.

Nonetheless, much of the work that you have done could be of great value to the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation, and in particular the planned visitors' center. You

should also be aware that the Ronald Reagan Library at Stanford University will have an exhibit room. Your contribution to these projects, in lieu of establishing a new "Reagan Country Museum," would be welcome.

We hope you will understand the reasons that the President is following the course described above. Again, your work thus far and your enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PJW

Peter J. Wallison
Counsel to the President

Mr. Bill Thompson
517 Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: C. CHRISTOPHER COX *cc*

SUBJECT: Reagan Country Museum

As you may recall, Kathy Osborne requested that I phone Ambassador Terra to discuss Bill Thompson's plans for a Reagan Country Museum. I phoned Ambassador Terra repeatedly without success. Kathy asked me today to send Ambassador Terra a copy of your letter, which I have done. My letter, and my memo to Kathy Osborne, are attached.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 1, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHLEEN OSBORNE
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: C. CHRISTOPHER COX
SENIOR ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Reagan Country Museum

As you requested, I have sent to Ambassador Terra a copy of our letter to Bill Thompson, under cover of a short letter of explanation. A copy of the letter to Ambassador Terra is attached for your information.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

August 1, 1986

Dear Ambassador Terra:

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of a letter from this office to Bill Thompson concerning his proposed Reagan Country Museum. Because of your work on behalf of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation in Dixon, we wanted to be sure you were aware that a second museum in Dixon has not been authorized. I had tried to reach you by telephone several weeks ago for this purpose, but I believe the enclosed letter should now be self-explanatory. Nonetheless, if you have any questions, please feel free to call Peter Wallison, Counsel to the President, or me.

Sincerely,


C. Christopher Cox
Senior Associate Counsel
to the President

Enclosure

The Honorable Daniel J. Terra
United States Ambassador-at-Large
for Cultural Affairs
528 Roslyn Road
Kenilworth, Illinois 60043

9

The Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation is funded by voluntary contributions from interested donors.

It is a non-profit organization and receives no grant from any government agency. No tax dollars go to support the home.

All individuals involved in the management of the foundation and all interpreters or guides at the Reagan Home are volunteers and serve with no remuneration.

If you wish to help with a contribution, your donation can be given at the Reagan Home or send your check today to:

Ronald Reagan Home
Preservation Foundation
c/o City Bank and Trust Company
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Yes, I want to help

To learn more - With Best Wishes
"Ditch" Ronald Reagan



REAGAN HOME HOURS

January and February

Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Monday and Saturday
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Tuesday through Friday

March through December

Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Weekdays 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Tuesday

All Holidays

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

GROUPS INVITED

Telephone (815) 288-3404

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

THE THOMPSONS (JEAN & BILL)
617 BRINTON AVENUE
DIXON, ILLINOIS 61021
PH (815) 288-1878
"HOMETOWN OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN"



The Boyhood Home of RONALD WILSON REAGAN

1920 - 1923

His Formative Years

816 South Hennepin Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home

The Reagan family, Jack, Nelle and their two sons, Neil age 11 and Ronald age 9, moved to Dixon, and into this house at 816 S. Hennepin on December 6, 1920.

The house was conveniently located for the family. The boys attended school at South Side School, later known as South Central School, just 3½ blocks north on Hennepin.

Only three weeks after moving here, Ronald and Neil both took out library cards and Ronald checked out the first of several hundred books from the Dixon Public Library, only one block north of the South Side School.

The first Christian Church, where both Mrs. Reagan and Ronald attended church and later became Sunday School Teachers, is one block north of the library. Neil and Ronald were baptized here on June 21, 1922.

The Dixon YMCA where Ronald learned to swim was one block east of the library. Because of his training here, he secured the job of lifeguard at Lowell Park at the end of his sophomore year of high school. He was lifeguard for 7 years and put himself through college with his savings. He is credited with saving 77 lives during his time as lifeguard. A Bronze Plaque noting this fact is displayed at the Loveland Community Building. Ronald and Neil both worked as caddies at the Dixon Country Club in 1921 and 1923. Ronald was Drum Major for the YMCA Band. See photos on wall of bedroom and mantel over fireplace.

Ronald and Neil, or "Dutch" and "Moon" as they were known in Dixon, spent many hours playing football on the side yard with their friends.

Many hours were also spent in the barn where the Reagan boys raised rabbits, and Ronald had a collection of bird eggs and bird nests. Mr. Reagan used the barn as a garage for the family car. Just north of the barn the family had a large garden.

The house had 3 bedrooms upstairs. The boys shared one room, their parents had one room and the spare room was used as a sewing room by Mrs. Reagan. She did alterations and sewing to help with the family expenses. Nelle Reagan later worked in a local ladies dress shop selling apparel. Jack Reagan sold shoes in one of the local shoe stores.



This house is the only home in Dixon mentioned in Ronald Reagan's autobiography, "Where's the Rest of Me"; although the family lived in four other houses in Dixon. After achieving success in motion pictures, Ronald moved his parents to California in 1937, and bought them their first home.

A single family rental home in 1920, the house was later converted into a two apartment building.

In the summer of 1980, after the Republican National Convention, the local letter carrier noticed the house was for sale. To save the house for posterity, he went to the real estate office and put down \$250.00.

Donations were solicited for the down payment and a group of local businessmen signed a note to guarantee the mortgage. The house was purchased for \$31,500.00. Fund raising activities and donations enabled the mortgage to be paid off by the winter of 1981.

The house was opened to the public in the fall of 1980, although it had not been restored and no furniture was in the house. Thousands of people from all over the world visited the home in 1981 and 1982.

To re-roof the house with wood shingles, as it was in 1920, 50 cent donations per shingle were

solicited. The donor signed a shingle and a record was kept of each donor. Over 8,400 people donated shingles. All 50 states and over 50 countries were represented by the donors.

The restoration of the home and reconstruction of the barn to its 1920 condition was completed, and the house furnished with furniture typical of the period, in time for President Reagan's birthday visit, February 6, 1984. The house has been open to the public since that date.

Some of the furnishings were donated by members of the Reagan Home Volunteers.

The lot on which the house stands was originally owned by Father John Dixon, Founder of Dixon. The original owner of the house was William C. Thompson, who built the house in 1891 for approximately \$1,500.00.

Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home was approved for the National Register of Historic Places on March 28, 1982. The house is owned by the Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Over 100 volunteers serve as interpreters and tour guides at the Reagan Home. Without their help, the facility could not operate.

There is no admission to visit this historic home.



"President
Dutch"



Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home -

Reagan's
Roots ~
in
Dixon

From the desk of Jean and Bill Thompson
517 Brinton Ave - Dixon, Ill. 61021

August 7-86

To Mr. Peter J. Wallerstein
Counsel to the President
White House

Dear Mr. Wallerstein -

Thank you for your recent letter of Aug. 1st. regarding my "dream" project of establishing a Reagan Country Museum in the President's old South Central Grade School Building in Dixon, Ill. home town of the President.

This is the only school building standing in which the President attended school while living in Dixon, and it was my dream and desire to see it preserved, and possibly used as a museum to exhibit Ronald Reagan Memorabilia for future generations of visitors to Reagan Country to enjoy.

You see, it was my school too, and also because of the fact that my grandfather built the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home in 1891, and my father was born there Nov. 21, 1891, along with fact too that my wife Jean & I

② worked so hard towards its restoration for four or five years, winding up by the taking of hundreds of items from our own family home and collections to help re-furnish it the way it was when the Reagan family lived there in the early twenties - it kinda gives one a warm feeling to think that the Thompson family had a tiny part in the Heritage and "Roots" of our dear friend of some sixty years - President "Dutch" Reagan.

I won't pretend that I am not a little disappointed in your decision, because I am. You didn't exactly make my day. However I can see and fully understand the reasons behind your decision, and will certainly abide by it fully.

Being a charter member of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation at Stanford University, I will no doubt look into the possibility of some of my Reagan memorabilia going there, and will no doubt discuss it with my friend Ambassador Dan Terra when I see him on Sunday evening at a Reception in Evanston.

Also I have written to Mr. Norman Wymbs, Pres. of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Foundation offering to help in setting up Reagan memorabilia exhibits with some of my collections in the visitors center at the Reagan Boyhood Home, as I understand they are planning to use one room in the center for such an exhibit.

③ You may tell the President that Jean and I will be happy to do whatever we can to help see that all the wonderful Reagan memorabilia from our vast collections, are properly displayed for future generations of visitors to Reagan Country to enjoy.

I have enclosed a brochure of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon, and hope that sometime in the future you will visit us, and let us show you the President's Boyhood home.

Thank you for your promptness in replying to my questions to the President.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Thompson
Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

8/88/88
8

430379 CU

FE008

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- OUTGOING, INTERNAL, INCOMING, Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)

Name of Correspondent: Kathy Osborne

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) (B) (C)

Subject: Reagan Country Museum

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Table with columns: Office/Agency (Staff Name), Action Code, Tracking Date YY/MM/DD, Type of Response, Completion Date YY/MM/DD. Includes handwritten entries for CUIHoll, CUAT(26), and CUWall with various action and disposition codes.

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action, C - Comment/Recommendation, D - Draft Response, F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure, I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary, R - Direct Reply w/Copy, S - For Signature, X - Interim Reply

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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer, Code = "A", Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: Jul 23 86 PSW memo to Kathy Osborne and Jul 30, 86 Charley Shepherd memo for Kathy Osborne.

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 0 Individual Codes: 1110 _____

Prime Subject Code: FE 008 Secondary Subject Codes: PP 005-01
PR 014-02

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Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

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- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
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- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

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- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

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- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

PJW/CCC:jmy
PJWallison
CCCoX
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 1, 1986

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President, dated July 12, 1986. The President appreciates the photographs you sent, and has asked me to convey his best wishes to you and Mrs. Thompson.

Because a question in your letter raises an issue of legal policy, your letter has been referred to this office for response. You asked whether there would be any objection to the use of the President's grade school, South Central, as a "Reagan Country Museum." Your letter asked for a response before you proceeded further with this project.

Establishment of memorials and museums to living Presidents is a matter of some sensitivity, and for this reason the President has proceeded with extreme caution in his participation with the only two authorized projects of this nature. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, which is dedicated to building the Presidential Library at Stanford University, and the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation, which as you know is responsible for the museum character of the President's boyhood home and has undertaken to build a visitors' center in connection therewith, are the focus of substantial attention on a variety of fronts. Of necessity, these have created demands on the President's time, become the subject of public scrutiny, and generated unwanted pressures for the President to become involved in fund raising. The President's extraordinary popularity has also generated plans for other, potentially competitive ventures, some charitable and others commercial, but all of which could ultimately dilute the success of the two authorized projects.

As you know, the President very much enjoys and appreciates your enthusiasm for collecting official and local memorabilia relating to events in his early life. However, we have advised the President that, for the reasons stated above, it would be unwise at this time to authorize a "Reagan Country Museum" in Dixon. Our concern about dilution of the efforts already undertaken is particularly heightened when, as would be the case with the proposed "Reagan Country Museum," two museums would be located in the same small town.

Nonetheless, much of the work that you have done could be of great value to the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation, and in particular the planned visitors' center. You

should also be aware that the Ronald Reagan Library at Stanford University will have an exhibit room. Your contribution to these projects, in lieu of establishing a new "Reagan Country Museum," would be welcome.

We hope you will understand the reasons that the President is following the course described above. Again, your work thus far and your enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PJW

Peter J. Wallison
Counsel to the President

Mr. Bill Thompson
517 Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Peter Wallison

1986 JUL 31 PM 5:57

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

DATE: 7-31-86

As you can see, I ran your draft by Charley Shepherd who has worked on the Bill Thompson problem with me for sometime now.

We both agree your approach is the way to go. Please go ahead and send your letter to Bill Thompson. Thanks.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1986

TO: Kathy Osborne
FROM: Charley Shepherd *CS*
RE: Wallison Memo

In order to add an extra dose of "officialdom" to the decision, I would recommend that Bill Thompson be sent the letter which Peter Wallison has drafted and that it be signed by Wallison.

If Thompson pursues his project and comes to RR in the future for assistance, we can then resurrect the Wallison letter which clearly advises RR will not be involved.

Also, we must remember that there is the possibility that Bill Thompson could depart from this vale of tears in the midst of fund raising for the school -- then you can bet other folks involved would try to dump the baby on RR's doorstep!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHLEEN OSBORNE
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND PERSONAL SECRETARY

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON *PJW*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: "Reagan Country Museum"

As requested, this office has reviewed the recent correspondence addressed to the President from Bill Thompson regarding a proposed "Reagan Country Museum."

We agree with Charley Shepherd that the most recent letter from Mr. Thompson offers an opportunity to clarify for him our position on additional Presidential museums. We have therefore drafted a letter to Mr. Thompson from this office. If, in your judgment, the letter more properly would come from you, you may use this as the basis for your own letter.

Thank you for bringing this recent correspondence to our attention. Please let me know how you wish to proceed.

Attachment

*Hold - to see
if Kathy O.
wants to send
PW letter.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1986

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President, dated July 12, 1986. The President appreciates the photographs you sent, and has asked me to convey his best wishes to you and Mrs. Thompson.

Because a question in your letter raises an issue of legal policy, your letter has been referred to this office for response. You asked whether there would be any objection to the use of the President's grade school, South Central, as a "Reagan Country Museum." Your letter asked for a response before you proceeded further with this project.

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Nonetheless, much of the work that you have done could be of great value to the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation, and in particular the planned visitors' center. You

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We hope you will understand the reasons that the President is following the course described above. Again, your work thus far and your enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Wallison
Counsel to the President


Mr. Bill Thompson
517 Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR PETER J. WALLISON

FROM: C. CHRISTOPHER COX 

SUBJECT: Reagan Country Museum

On previous occasions, we have discussed with Kathy Osborne the problems posed by Bill Thompson's activities in Dixon, Illinois that may detract from the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation. As indicated in the attached memoranda, the most recent correspondence from Mr. Thompson presents an opportunity for formal advice from this office on the advisability of authorizing a "Reagan Country Museum."

To this end, attached for your signature is a memorandum to Kathy Osborne and a proposed letter, for your later signature, to be delivered to Kathy in draft form along with the memo.

For background information, I have attached at Tabs A and B selections from what is a most voluminous file of memoranda, correspondence and documents dealing with Mr. Thompson's activities.

Attachments

430379 CU

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 1986

MEMORANDUM TO PETER WALLISON

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE *KSO*

SUBJECT: BILL THOMPSON'S "REAGAN COUNTRY MUSEUM"

Please note the attached letter from Bill Thompson to the President. He and RR have corresponded since lifeguarding days in Dixon.

I am concerned about Mr. Thompson's constant references to the "Reagan Country Museum." Evidently he hopes to obtain the South Central School in Dixon with the plan of turning it into another Reagan Museum.

It has always been my understanding that the Hoover Institute area/Ronald Reagan Library will have an exhibit room, and the Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon will have a visitors center which could house Reagan memorabilia. Also, Eureka college is and will continue to display Reagan memorabilia.

My concern with this situation is that I am afraid that Mr. Thompson might be obtaining items for a museum which may never get off the ground, and is it legal for someone to simply decide he wants to do this with any President and go ahead and collect items and run it, etc?

In past correspondence Mr. Thompson mentions that Dan Terra is interested in his idea of a museum, however, I question that. I don't think Mr. Terra is aware that Mr. Thompson's collection is a "one-man-show" and feel sure he would not back something like this without White House approval.

Since Mr. Thompson is a longtime acquaintance of the President, we would certainly not like to offend him, but I strongly feel someone in your office should look into this situation.

Please advise. Thanks.

432 701 33 1115 12

1986 JUN 32 PM 12:15

THE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM TO FRED FIELDING

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE *RO*

SUBJECT: BILL AND JEAN THOMPSON, DIXON, ILLINOIS

Last June I wrote you a memorandum expressing some concerns I had about a longtime acquaintance of the President from Dixon, Illinois by the name of Bill Thompson (wife is Jean). At that time we decided not to pursue these concerns because of the upcoming election. However, the election is now over and I feel that recent circumstances and correspondence regarding Mr. Thompson merit you taking a very close look at this situation.

To summarize my memo of last summer to you, the President has been corresponding with Bill Thompson for a number of years. The President knew him in Dixon when the President was a lifeguard at Lowell Park. Bill Thompson assisted Jim Hickey, the curator of the Reagan Boyhood Home, in locating and placing items in the Reagan Home in Dixon before the Presidential visit in February of 1984. Mr. Thompson also actually donated various personal items (furniture, dishes, etc.) to the Reagan Boyhood Home.

Mr. Thompson continually writes to the President (sometimes up to four times a month), and sends packets of things to read and for the President to sign for him. I have started ghost writing for the President to Bill Thompson because he really shouldn't be bothered with his numerous requests. Although Mr. Thompson does try to keep the President informed about old friends from Dixon, the bulk of his correspondence usually contains a personal request for items to be signed, for more photos for his collection, or to come in and visit with the President.

I have spent several hours re-reading through most of Mr. Thompson's correspondence (there is so much more in Central Files, I don't have the time to go through it all), and I have made a list showing the approximate dates of the correspondence and the contents of the letters which I have in my files. I am also including a copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Thompson where I tried to discourage him from sending any more requests in, but he seems to have ignored it. I tried to enclose as little as possible for you to see an overview of Mr. Thompson and the problems we are encountering, so keep in mind when this looks a little overwhelming, there are a few hundred pieces I'm not sending to you.

The major problem I am concerned with regarding Mr. Thompson is that he claims to be a Ronald Reagan authority and has given himself the title of Vice President of the Reagan Home Volunteers. Mr. Norman Wymbs is the current Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation which is the official recognized organization which controls the volunteers, raises the money for the Home, etc. In essence, there is no longer a Reagan Home Volunteer organization. I have attached correspondence from Mr. Wymbs which will explain this in more detail.

Bill Thompson has spent a lot of time conversing with the media regarding Ronald Reagan's boyhood and has even given an interview to a Japanese television station, advising them (I have been told by more than one person) of the President's stand on nuclear weapons.

Mr. Thompson has also spent a lot of time with an author by the name of Anne Edwards (she wrote "Matriarch") who is doing an autobiography on the President. She has advised residents of Dixon that she has been authorized to do this book on the President and that she will be back from time to time to interview other residents. When I asked Mr. Wymbs how these media people would know how to contact Bill Thompson rather than someone at the Home, he advised me that a friend of Bill's (Lyn Knights) is a mailman in Dixon and they believe he sorts the Boyhood Home mail and gives some of it to Mr. Thompson. Mr. Wymbs has talked to the post office "boss" in Dixon and advised him of this so Mr. Knights has been taken off the run which delivers to the Home, however, he still works in the post office in Dixon. Mr. Knights is the man who put the \$350.00 down on the Home in the first place so it wouldn't be sold to someone else. He was paid back right away but, because of this, he calls himself the President of the Reagan Home Volunteers and wants to be named the Honorary Curator of the Home.

Mr. Thompson has requested and received more autographed photos and items from the President than anyone we know of (well over 100). He has a "Reagan Corner" in his house where he puts them and he has put together a traveling exhibit with photos we have sent him. He shows this exhibit and gives lectures on Ronald Reagan and receives an honorarium. He has told the President in a letter that he gets \$25.00 for this and that he turns it over to the home. However, Mr. Wymbs indicates that the Home has never received any of this money. We have also been advised that Bill Thompson reproduces photos which the President has signed and sells them in souvenir packages. As you can see from some attached, he marks the back of them "This print copy #00 from original autographed photograph." If Bill Thompson is making a profit on any of this, it seems it should be going to the Home.

Mr. Thompson continually mentions the "Reagan Country Museum" in his requests to the President to have items personally signed. Nobody in Dixon knows anything about this. Mr. Thompson does not appear to be a man of wealth, and I don't understand how he can personally decide to open a museum in the President's name and raise money for it, collect memorabilia, etc. without any authority from the President or the White House.

While Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were here during Inaugural week, he went on a White House tour and then spent three hours in the VIP Visitors Lounge, calling people on the White House phones and passing out Reagan Boyhood Home brochures (which ask for donations for the Home on the back of them). When he meets any new White House people, he starts writing to them and asks them to send him things from the White House (most recently to Fred Ryan who turned down his requests to meet with the President while he was here; and to the girls in the Visitors Office).

As Charley Shepherd said in correspondence which I sent you last summer, "Bill Thompson seems to have made a full time profession of being a friend of Ronald Reagan." He seems even more obsessed with Ronald Reagan and, unfortunately, he gives off such a bad impression of himself personally, we feel this could create a big negative regarding people's impressions of Ronald Reagan.

I know that the President would never want to embarrass or hurt Mr. Thompson, so anything we do in regards to him would have to be done with the President's full knowledge and approval. I would personally suggest we handle this by doing the following:

- 1) Have the President and/or the White House officially recognize Mr. Wymbs and his Board of Directors, such as through a White House reception or photo opportunity with them. Have someone from your office contact the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, the local post office and newspapers so they are all aware of the real organization taking care of the Reagan Boyhood Home.
- 2) Have you write to Mr. Thompson advising him:
 - a) That there is only one official Presidential Library for Ronald Reagan and that location has already been determined to be in California, and that he does not have White House or Presidential authority to open his own "Reagan Country Museum."
 - b) That when the Reagan Boyhood Home is completed with the inclusion of the Visitors Center, we will be more than happy to provide presidential memorabilia to the official Foundation in Dixon for this purpose,
 - c) In view of the fact that he has received over 100 personally autographed photos and items from the President, we feel it would be unfair and inappropriate to ask the President to sign anything in the future for him,
 - d) That he does not have authorization to lecture or collect honorariums in reference to Ronald Reagan.

Please advise your thoughts on this particular situation, and let me know if you need any more information and/or background on Bill Thompson.

SHORT SUMMARIZATION OF SOME OF BILL THOMPSON'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH
PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS STAFF

1982

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President. Mr. Thompson wants to send prints of Connie W. Wolfe painting of the President for the President to sign for Ralph Newman and Jim and Betty Hickey. He also wants autographed photos for friends and backers who have bought etchings of the Reagan home.

President Reagan wrote Mr. Thompson back, telling him to send the prints. The prints were received (plus 20 etchings) autographed and were returned to Mr. Thompson.

1983

2/83

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President. Mr. Thompson thanks the President for autographing photos for "Little Duchess's" birthday (Bill Thompson's granddaughter). The President also autographed photos for grandma, Marlin Misner, an aunt, and Mindy. Mr. Thompson included photos taken when the President was a caddy (1920's) and wanted him to autograph a couple, along with a photo of Senator Dirksen and the President to be signed for Bill Thompson. Mr. Thompson indicated he wanted to come to Washington, D.C. to see the President.

4/83

Outgoing from President to Mr. Thompson saying he would try to see him when he came to Washington, D.C.

Incoming from Bill Thompson asking the President to call friends to help raise \$250,000 for the Reagan Boyhood Home.

6/83

Outgoing from President to Bill Thompson giving him details on Reagan home.

7/83

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President thanking him for the birthday greeting and asking about a visit with him in Washington, D.C. Indicates he is going to send photos of a sketch of the President which his daughter-in-law drew for the President to sign for her and Bill Thompson. Also asks the President to sign a photo of his granddaughter, Tracy.

Outgoing from President to Bill Thompson indicating that Dan Terra will be looking into Reagan Home restoration project.

8/83

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President advising him of the passing of classmate, Carl Buchner. Asks the President if he can send magazine covers to him to be signed for he and his wife.

Outgoing from the President to Bill Thompson, returning newspapers. Mr. Thompson asked him to sign and also told him he could send the photos, etc. in to be signed.

9/83

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President reporting on Reagan Home meeting. Sent 3 photos of scale model of home and asked the President to sign for him and architect and curator. Also encloses many other photos and magazine covers. Indicates he is going to be in Wash., D.C. and wants to see the President.

Kathy Osborne returned signed photos and told Mr. Thompson that the Scheduling Director would be in touch with him regarding his visit here.

10/83

Bill Thompson wrote Kathy Osborne to thank for tour set up at W.H.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President thanking him for signing the friendship tablecloth, and the UN Day Proclamation which he brought to the Oval Office. Indicates he is accepting B. J. Frazer's desk on behalf of the President to donate to the Presidential Memorabilia corner of the Dixon Public Library. He also asks the President to send Oval office desk items for same.

Outgoing from Kathy Osborne to Mr. Thompson sending photographs taken during Oval Office visit. Thanked Mr. Thompson for sending copies of old photos and turned down request for the President to accept honorary membership in Heritage Foundation. Kathy Osborne later called Mr. Thompson to advise him that the President accepted (informed by Fred Ryan, through another request and source that this was happening).

12/83

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, indicating he wanted to send four photos of he and his wife taken in the Oval office for the President to sign for his family, for Christmas gifts.

Outgoing from Kathy to Bill Thompson, trying to discourage him from asking for and receiving so many autographed photos.

1984

1/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, asking him to sign photo for Suzanne Haney.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President telling him how anxious he is for him to come to Dixon in February. Tells him of progress at Home.

1/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, telling her of progress of Reagan Boyhood Home and how much work he has been doing on it. Complains because his wife and few others and children won't be included in Boyhood Home greeting with the President and Mrs. Reagan. Wanted Kathy to contact the Advance office and change the plans. Also asked Kathy to send photos for school teachers in Dixon.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, sending an old copy of Horatio Alger book and engraved facsimile of the President's old library card as birthday gifts. Included a letter from an old friend, Chan Sterling, and asked the President to autograph the photo of the President, Mrs. Reagan and the Pope to send to Chan (the President decided not to do this). Mr. Thompson asked the President to write a thank you note to a couple who donated an old stove to the Reagan Home.

Outgoing from the President to Bill Thompson thanking him for keeping him informed on the Home. Assures him that all the old friends in Dixon will be included in the activities in February.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, sending a list of volunteers at the home so they could be sent tie bars, stick pins, etc. (Kathy sent over 100 to Bill Thompson and Carrie Redebaugh to be distributed and later learned that very few received them)

2/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President telling him about his traveling photo display exhibit he made. Asks the President for an autographed copy of a Presidential speech, proclamations, etc. Brings up problem of no Bible in the Boyhood Home (Kathy later resolved). Mr. Thompson also asked the President to send him flags with the Presidential seal.

3/84

Outgoing from Kathy Osborne to Bill Thompson regarding the absent Bible situation.

Incoming from Mr. Thompson to the President asking him for photo (again) of the President, Mrs. Reagan and the Pope to be sent to Chan Sterling's wife (since Chan is now deceased). Also asks the President to send personally handwritten note to his new grandson (typed letter with autopen was sent).

Outgoing from the President to Bill Thompson congratulating him on becoming a grandfather.

4/84

Incoming from Mr. Thompson to the President sending a pen which he would like the President to sign something important with and then return.

6/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, indicating he wants to send photos of the four Presidents for the President to sign, along with Time magazine covers. Asked about photos he recently sent for the President to sign for St. Lukes Church (we sent directly to church), and also one for a grandchild, and four others of the President, Mrs. Reagan and Neil standing in front of the Reagan Home.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that he met Clement Stone (calls him Clement) after a college graduation and told him the Reagan Home needed more funding. Mr. Thompson asked the President for photos of the inside of the Reagan Home for the curator, Jim Hickey, and also a photo for the owner of an antique shop plus an extra one for he and Mrs. Thompson.

Incoming from Mr. Thompson to the President telling him how much work he did for the Reagan Home. Sends more items in to be signed and adds a "P.S.", saying he found about 10 Time magazine covers he wants the President to sign for him.

7/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, sending photos for him to sign (for Dixon Library, Presidential photo exhibit, and Reagan Country Museum). Also sent photos of July 4th Dixon parade for the President to see. Mr. Thompson asked the President to write to his granddaughter, "Miss Rock River Valley Area."

8/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President telling him he is sorry that he can't attend the Republican Convention in Dallas, and reminds the President to sign the photos of the four Presidents which he has already sent in.

10/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President asking him to send a congratulatory note to an Eagle Scout.

Two incoming from Mr. Thompson to the President of a general nature and congratulating him on the debate.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Carol Greenawalt (photo office), asking her if the President had a chance to ask her to send photos to him for the exhibit at the Dixon Library. He asked for interior Boyhood Home photos, photos of the President in Canada, Hawaii, meetings with Russians, Olympic event photos, etc. Advises Carol that he did an interview with Japanese TV on his friendship with the President (we were advised he discussed nuclear weapons).

11/84

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President regarding the acceptance of the honorary membership to the Heritage Foundation. Mr. Thompson referred to himself as the "Ambassador to Reagan Country."

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, thanking her for returning signed photos. Also asked when he could send in etchings, photos and Time magazine covers for the President to sign. Asked Kathy to help organize tickets for Inaugural Balls, parade, etc.

Outgoing from Kathy Osborne to Bill Thompson, writing on behalf of the President, thanking him for his congratulatory message and advised him that he and his wife were on the Inaugural invitation list and to send in photos after the Inaugural.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, asking to see the President when he is here during the Inaugural. Mentions his next project will be the "Reagan Country Museum" -- reason he wants to acquire so much memorabilia.

12/84

Outgoing from Kathy Osborne to Mr. Thompson advising him that his Inaugural invitations would be coming soon.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President telling him he wrote Carol Greenawalt (photo office) and asked her to send him more photos. Told the President he wanted to see him during the Inaugural time and wanted the President to mention to Mike Deaver or Ron Walker to send him tickets to Inaugural events. Said he wanted to send Time magazine covers, etchings and photos for the President to sign.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Dottie Dellinger asking for Inaugural tickets. He told her what an old friend of the President he was and that he and his wife put over 100 items in the Reagan Boyhood Home. Wanted Dottie to ask Mike Deaver or Ron Walker about Inaugural invitations.

Outgoing from the President to Mr. Thompson, personally signed a Christmas card to the Thompsons

Incoming from Mr. Thompson to the President advising him of the health of an old friend, Esther Barton.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, advising her that he received Inaugural invitations, but asked for invitations to swearing-in on Capitol Hill and to the National Prayer Service on Sunday. Also said he wanted to see the President while they are in Wash. D.C. (said it would soften the blow of the \$700.00 he and wife had to pay for all the tickets).

1/85

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne asking for a personal tour of the White House when they are here for the Inaugural. Mentions that he wants to see the President while he is here also. Indicates that he still hasn't received his tickets for the Monday swearing-in ceremony. NOTE: While the Thompsons were here on their White House tour, they spent 3 hours in the VIP Visitors Holding area, telling everyone of their friendship with the President, making phone calls on the White House lines, and passing out Reagan Boyhood Home brochures (with donation requests on the back).

Outgoing from Kathy Osborne to Bill Thompson, sending him a current desk diary to be put on the President's desk at the Dixon Public Library.

2/85

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, expressing happy birthday. Mentions that due to mishap with his tickets during the Vice President's Gala, someone put him right next to the Vice President's box so they met and chatted with them and passed out more Reagan Boyhood Home brochures. Mr. Thompson refers to Mrs. Bush as "Barbara". The Thompsons also met Ron Walker at the Hilton Ball, and after showing him the same brochure, Ron Walker put them directly in front of the stage where the Reagans would be dancing so the Thompsons could say hello to the President.

Outgoing from the President to Bill Thompson, thanking him for the Dixon souvenirs and saying he was glad they enjoyed the Inaugural events.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, sending notice on a memorial service for James Swann (artist). Mr. Thompson purchased five of his etchings of the Reagan home and wanted to send them to the President to sign for Dan Countryman, his cousin; the Presidential Memorabilia Exhibit at Dixon Library; one for the Reagan Country Museum; one for Marion Foster, head of the Reagan Home Volunteers; and one for Heritage Square Retirement Home. Also, he has some 1923 caddy photos he wants the President to sign for the Reagan Home, Dixon Library, Dixon Country Club, his Reagan Corner, Reagan Country Museum, and etc., and a couple of other oldies plus a few more Time magazine covers to complete his set for the Reagan Country Museum. He also wants to send invitations, programs, etc. from the Inaugural (Mr. Thompson suggests the President haul them all to Camp David with him some weekend to sign) Mr. Thompson encloses a letter from his wife, Jean to the President which tells him they had a great time here and says they want to come see him again during Cherry Blossom time.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, thanking her for all favors enjoyed meeting V.P. Bush and "Barbara" at the V.P. Gala. Said he wrote the President and told him to tell him when to send in all the items to be signed. Mr. Thompson sent Kathy Osborne photos taken at the Hilton Ball, and asks Kathy to also let him know when he can send in things for the President to sign.

2/85

Incoming from Bill Thompson to the President, asking about a visit during Cherry Blossom time. Says he still has all the Time covers, etchings of the Reagan home, caddie pictures from 1923 and photos and Inaugural invitations, programs, etc. to be signed for him and for the Reagan Country Museum. Advised the President of the death of Pug Manders.

3/85

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Melinda Andrews and Cindy Herrick in the Visitors Office, thanking them for being so nice when he went on a White House tour. He said that the security was so tight they didn't get a chance to visit with the President while they were here. He enclosed some old Reagan pins and photos for them and said his photo bill is beginning to amount to more than his grocery bill each month. Bill Thompson asked that if any of them run across any photos or memorabilia items of the Reagan years in the White House to please make them available to the Reagan Country Museum in Dixon. Also asks them to send a "CARE PACKAGE" to Reagan country.

Incoming from Bill Thompson to Kathy Osborne, asking her to send a birthday message from the President to someone in Dixon. Also asks Kathy Osborne to tell the President that his grandson, "Little Dutch" is going to be one year old on March 23rd, and includes his address. Mr. Thompson wants Kathy Osborne to tell the President that he entertained an author, Anne Edwards and her husband, Steve Citron, over one weekend, going over photos and information in connection with her forthcoming book on the President's life. She gave him an autographed copy of her latest book, "Matriarch." She plans on three years to write the book and says he'll be seeing a lot of her in the future. (We learned from another source that she is telling residents of Dixon that she has been authorized to write the Ronald Reagan autobiography).

Kathy Osborne called Norm Wymbs, the new Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Home Preservation Foundation to ask him to contact an old friend of the President who wants to help with the Home. Kathy also asked Mr. Wymbs why Mr. Thompson's name wasn't on the Board of Directors and if he knew what the Reagan Country Museum was. Mr. Wymbs explained various problems with Mr. Thompson's group of Reagan Home Volunteers who no longer have anything to do with the Reagan Home (Mr. Thompson calls himself the Vice President of the Reagan Home Volunteers). Mr. Wymbs mentioned that Mr. Thompson sets up interviews at the Reagan Boyhood home which include Mr. Thompson, without forwarning anyone at the home, and he said he has no knowledge of what the Reagan Country Museum is. Mr. Wymbs indicated that Mr. Thompson has not given any money he receives on honorariums or from selling reproduced photos of the President to the Boyhood Home.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1985

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I write to you as a friend of the President.

Following a recent review of the President's schedule and workload, his senior staff in consultation with the President have determined that it is necessary to establish a policy restricting the number of requests which personal friends may make on the President for memorabilia. While the President would prefer to be able to respond to every request, the total number of demands that have been made on him has reached an extraordinary level. No single individual is, of course, the cause for this workload. The President has over the years established friendships and personal relationships with hundreds of men and women across the country and around the world. When each of these friends make even one request, the collective sum of requests quickly skyrockets.

After reviewing the situation, we have determined that a two-part policy must be established. First, the President welcomes the letters of all his friends, and hopes that these letters will continue to arrive. He cannot, however, continue to respond to each and every one of these letters. This is not to say that he will not see items, but only deals with his ability to respond to each one of them. If you no longer receive replies from the President, to each letter, please do not be offended. It is simply the heavy requirements of the job that prevent him from responding.

Second, the President will no longer be able to respond to requests for memorabilia such as autographed pictures, autographed letters, requests for personal items, or requests for pens used in official acts. Additionally, as a matter of policy in most instances he cannot provide personal items or Presidential memorabilia which will be used for fund-raising purposes. I am aware that a number of the President's friends have established small exhibits of such memorabilia over the years. The demand for additional items has simply grown too large, and it is not fair to distinguish among those who make requests of the President. All of those who receive this letter will have already received many notes, autographs, and memorabilia from the President. I am certain that each of you will understand our need to lighten the President's paperwork and will refrain from making additional requests.

Should any of you have any questions regarding this new policy, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am also enclosing any unanswered requests from each of you that I have been able to locate. The volume has grown large, however, and it may take some time to return items to all of you.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to assist the President. Knowing of your affection and support, we trust you will understand.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

Mr. William Thompson
517 Brinton Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

July 26-'85

Mr. Fred J. Fielding
Counsel to President Reagan
White House

Dear Mr. Fielding ~

I received your letter yesterday regarding new policies restricting the number of requests upon the President from personal friends for autographs ~ memorabilia, etc.

I certainly can understand the reasoning behind these measures, and especially now, feel it is the correct way to go in this matter. I am sure that I was the worst violator in this regard, and told "Dutch" so several years ago ~ to cut me off if I bothered him too much.

Dutch and I have been friends for nearly 60 years, starting back in 1926 when he was a Life Guard at Lowell Park, and we have been good friends ever since ~ my parents and the Reagans were friends even before this.

My Grandfather built the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home here

② in Dixon, and my father was born there, Nov 21, 1891. My wife Jean and I have worked very hard the past four years, working with James T. Hickey the Historian in restoring and in furnishing the home the way it was when the Reagans lived there.

Jean made all the curtains (40 pair) scrubbed the floors - windows & put the house together to look like a home.

We put over 100 pieces into the home from our own home - family things such as the leather Morris chair - old oak kitchen cupboard - Seth Thomas shelf clock - all the pastel paintings - pictures - all the books - vases - cups & saucer sets - bowls - kitchen utensils - cook ware - photo albums - Reverse paintings on glass circa 1917 of White House - the silver ware - table cloth - table scarfs - dresser scarfs - pennants, pictures etc. in Dutch's room - also all the things on the dressers in all bedrooms - all items etc in bath-room etc, etc

So you see why we feel we are a part of Reagan's heritage & roots in Dixon

2) Dutch knows that I have been planning all along & working towards a Reagan Country Museum here in Dixon & have been trying to accumulate memorabilia for such a museum in the future, and he has been very gracious to send me many photos etc. and autograph many items, which will someday be housed in such a museum.

Jean and I have many wonderful memorabilia items from our two Inaugural visits and our personal visit with the President in the oval office in 1983 as well as all the wonderful autographed photos, letters etc over the years.

I sent one final packet of items to be autographed & signed by the President. I sent this on March 26th. I think as the President & Kathy Osborne told me to hold it up until after the Inauguration & then send it & Dutch would sign them.

(4) I have mentioned these to the Pres. in my last couple notes & asked him to check with Kathy on it. I am in no hurry, but I had insured them for \$200⁰⁰, and merely wanted to make sure that they had been received, otherwise I would have to make a claim with the Postal Dept.

This packet included 3 original etchings of the Reagan Home by artist James Swann - his last work - he has since passed away - one was for another grandson of the builder of the home, Don Countryman & one for the Presidential Memorabilia Exhibit at the Dixon Public Library (the President was very interested in this project, and has sent many wonderful memorabilia items from the White House for permanent display in the museum.

The packet also included photos of Dutch as a caddy in 1921 & 1923 which are to be hung in the Library Dixon Country Club - Boyhood Home, etc. It also included six Time covers which are part of

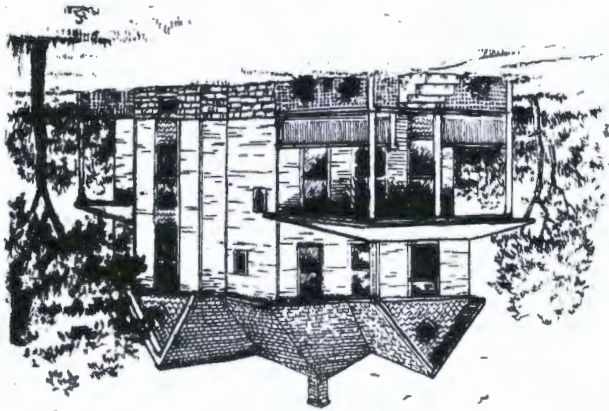
⑤ a collection dating back to 1965, Dutch has already signed twenty-one & they will eventually all be framed, and hung in the Reagan Museum.

The other 8x10 color photos received from the White House include taking the oath - First Family - 74th Birthday - President's visit to the Reagan Boyhood Home on his 73rd Birthday, etc. which were all to be framed & hung in the Presidential Memorabilia Exhibit at the DODM Public Library & the Reagan Museum.

You might want to hold this particular packet until the President has completely read and then approach him on it.

Tell him who it is from, and what is to be done with the various items, such as for the Reagan Home - the Museum and the Presidential Memorabilia Exhibit at the Library -

To Joan & Bill - With affection &
Warm regards
Bill Thompson



You can use your own judgement
regarding this & I will understand.
I have enclosed a brochure of the
Reagan Bayhood Home & some rather
unusual photo prints which I
thought you might enjoy receiving
for your own collection, if you have
one, if not you can pass them on to a friend.
Please come & visit Reagan Country,
the Reagan Bayhood Home, & the
Thompson's
Best Regards
Bill Thompson

PRINT - Etching No. 5 D; James Swann, Chicago, Ill. 1981
COVER - "The Reagan Home" Diller, Ill. (816 S. HANDEBIN AVE.)
"Bayhood Home of Pres. Ronald W. Reagan 1920-1923"
Home originally built by William C. Thompson in 1891
Dedicated to Thompson Bayhood Home Nov. 21, 1991
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
JOAN OR BILL THOMPSON, 577 BOWTIE AV.
DUPON, ILL. 62521, PH. 1-815-285-1878
WHEN IN DUN - VISIT THE REAGAN HOME -

Dear Dutch ~

Just a quick note to say hello, and to enclose a note of thanks, and appreciation for your kind, and caring gestures, and the beautiful floral arrangement for Esther's Memorial Service from the Barton family. The family certainly was thrilled, and happy with your kindness.

Jean and I are busy, she with her "Hat Exhibit" in Evanston during the months of June and July. Big Reception Today PM, 6-9, ~ "350" hats & accessories ~ Wow!, and I am busy scouring the countryside, pinning up and collecting Reagan memorabilia

for a Reagan Country Museum in the future, in the South Central School ~ the only building still standing that you attended school. This is my latest project ~ wish me luck!

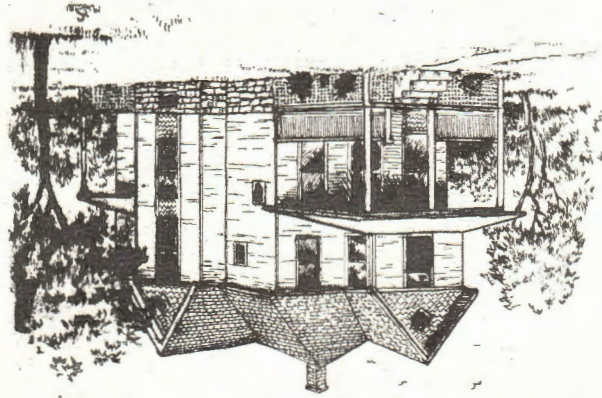
Congratulations on the Contra Aid bill vote in the House, and also on the new Tax Bill passed by the senate. You are still the "Great Communicator." Keep it up!

Jean joins me in sending our Love and Best Wishes to both you and Nancy.

And Regards ~

Ps ~ So happy about your good! Bill Report on last medical check up!

Johnson & Rice - With appreciation to
Wm. Rogers
Ronald Reagan



FRONT - Etching No. 5 by James Swann, Chicago, Ill., 1901
COVER - Etching No. 5 by James Swann, Chicago, Ill., 1901
"The Reagan House", Dixon, Ill. (816 S. Hennepin Ave.)
"Barbed House of Pres. Ronald W. Reagan 1920-1923"
Home originally built by William C. Thompson in 1891
Dedicated to Mrs. DORIS BARN NOV. 21, 1951
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
JEAN OR BILL THOMPSON, 517 BRIGHTON AV.
DIXON, ILL. 61821 PH. 1-815-386-1878
When in Dixon - 41217 Toll Free Phone Number -

for a Dutch and Nancy,

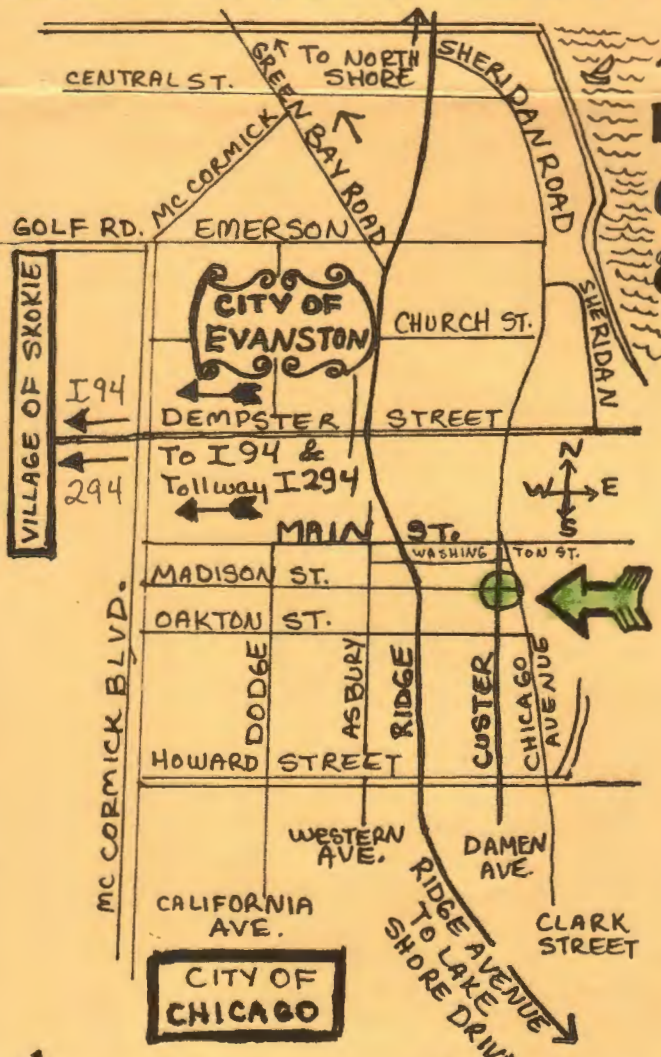
You are cordially invited to a reception honoring Jean & Thompson, "The Hat Lady", on Friday June 27, 1986, from 6 to 9 P.M. at Evanston's Finest Antique Mall, 625 Madison Street, Evanston, Illinois. Featured will be a comprehensive exhibition of her extraordinary collection of antique and vintage hats, clothing, and accessories, and the fine quality antiques displayed by the exhibitors of The Mall.

Sean & Bill



*Jean Thompson
"The Hat Lady"*

THE COLLECTOR'S GALLERY OF EVANSTON'S
FINEST ANTIQUE MALL PRESENTS AN EXHIBIT
OF OVER 350 ANTIQUE & VINTAGE HATS, CIRCA
1800-1960, ACCOMPANIED BY PERIOD
ACCESSORIES, WONDER-
FUL CLOTHING AND
ORIGINAL CATALOGS
& PERIODICALS OF THE ERA
(THRU JULY.)



*Evanston's Finest
625 Madison
Evanston, Illinois
(312) 475-12*

*Dutch -
Jill Nancy that Sean still
needs one of her old hats
to make her collection
complete.
Regards, Bill*

**OPEN TUESDAY
THRU SUNDAY
11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
ADMISSION FREE**
*Reception - Friday
June 27th 6-9 P.M.*



Dutch ~

That you might get a
look out of some of the
pictures of some of your
old friends, taken
in our yard during our
15th Annual 4th of July
Branch ~

We always play Real King
music & this year
honored the Statue of Liberty
& you as our 40th
President.

Great day & had lots
of fun ~

Bill

8 58 - Kruger

Dutch ~

That you might get a
hook out of some of the
pictures of some of your
old friends, taken
in our yard during our
15th Annual 4th of July
Branch ~

We always play Rudi King
music & this year
honored the Statue of Liberty
& you as our 40th
President.

Great day & had lots
of fun ~

Bill



ONE OF YOUR OLD FRIENDS ↑
MARY EMMERT Age 95?



SIVILA PALMER ↑ the lady who
donated her mother's BIBLE FOR
the Reagan Boyhood Home

15th Annual
4th of July Brunch
July 4th 1986
at
Sean and Bill Thompsons
Dixon, Illinois,
Hometown of President Ronald Reagan



← Susan Shaw
WIFE OF BOB SHAW
DIXON EVEN TELE
Age 85

↑ ALICE MERRIN
of Vaile & O'MALLEY
CLOTHING STORE
with Age 92
hostess
Sean Thompson

WELLE
REAGAN'S
2ND COUSIN
REX WAYNE
GERDES
Age 96



THEME & DECORATIONS
HONORING Statue of Liberty
and President RONALD REAGAN!



LOUIS SINDLINGER ↑
NORTH DIXON High School CLASS 28