

Jack Ford, journalist, enjoys new working freedom

United Press International
Former President Gerald R. Ford and wife, Betty, are busy writing books at their Vail, Colo., home. Photojournalist daughter, Susan, continues to pound the pavement with cameras slung over her shoulders and notebook in hand. And now son Jack, 25, is cranking out copy in a bare cubicle office in

Los Angeles for a new environmental magazine. "It's all very unglamorous," Jack Ford said. Hired as assistant to the publisher at a salary of about \$500 a week, the 25-year-old views the position as "a chance to get in on the ground floor."

What does an assistant to the publisher do? "Right now he learns," Ford said. "I'm very self-conscious about writing. I'm very hesitant about it. There are a lot of highly experienced people working on this project." Ford, a forestry and recreation graduate from Utah State University, has planned his first full-length feature on a year spent as a forest ranger in Yellowstone National Park.

Welfare agencies change office title

The State Department of Public Welfare became the Texas Department of Human Resources yesterday.

Although the 65th Legislature changed the name, DHR has essentially the same job as the old welfare department. The change was made more accurately reflect the nature of the Department's work.

The agency is still primarily concerned with helping poor people, especially children, mothers, the aged, blind and disabled. But the emphasis has gradually evolved away from "relief" type of assistance towards the development of human potential: free medical check-ups for children, job training and placement, parent education, family planning, licensing of child-caring institutions, community care for the aged and disabled, and medical care for the indigent.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children is the Department's only cash grant program. The Federal Government pays about 73% of the cost and the state pays the remainder. The Department traces its roots to the Great Depression of the 1930's. Earlier, almost all public assistance was a local responsibility. The depression showed that such assistance needs to be funded and administered at the national and state levels. The department was established in 1939 by the Legislature to coordinate federal relief programs, and to provide welfare services and old age assistance.

With headquarters in Austin, DHR is governed by a three-member board appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Texas Senate. It operates under a director named by the board and is divided into 12 geographic regions, each under a regional administrator. Until the agency exhausts its cur-

rent stock of printed materials, DHR publications and letterheads will continue to carry the DPW heading. But telephones will now be answered with "Department of Human Resources."

Lax teaching standards, TV blamed for low SAT scores

United Press International
NEW YORK — Relaxed teaching standards and television were blamed for lower Scholastic Aptitude Tests scores, according to a special panel set up two years ago to investigate the situation. The drop over 14 years shows the quality of American education is

slipping, the investigative panel said in a report released last week. The panel called the decline "serious business warranting careful attention by everybody interested in education." Also blamed for the drop were changes in the family's role and relaxed learning standards.

The panel, headed by former Secretary of State Willard Wirtz, said another contributing factor is the sharp changes during the 1960s in the composition of students going on to college, and therefore, taking the college entrance exams. The average scores on verbal sections of the SAT fell from 478 in

1963 to 429 in 1977. The average scores on mathematical sections dropped from 502 to 470. The tests are scored from 200 to 800, with the larger figure being a perfect score. The colleges with the most rigorous standards, on the average, mainly admit students who score from 700 up.

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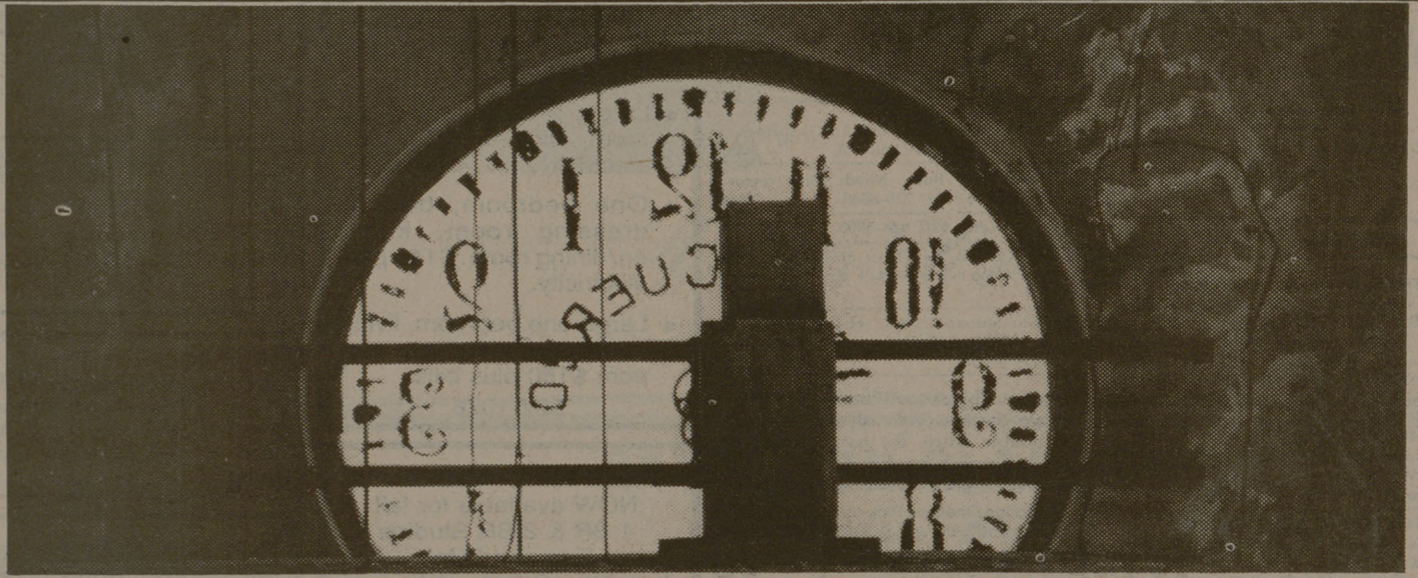
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