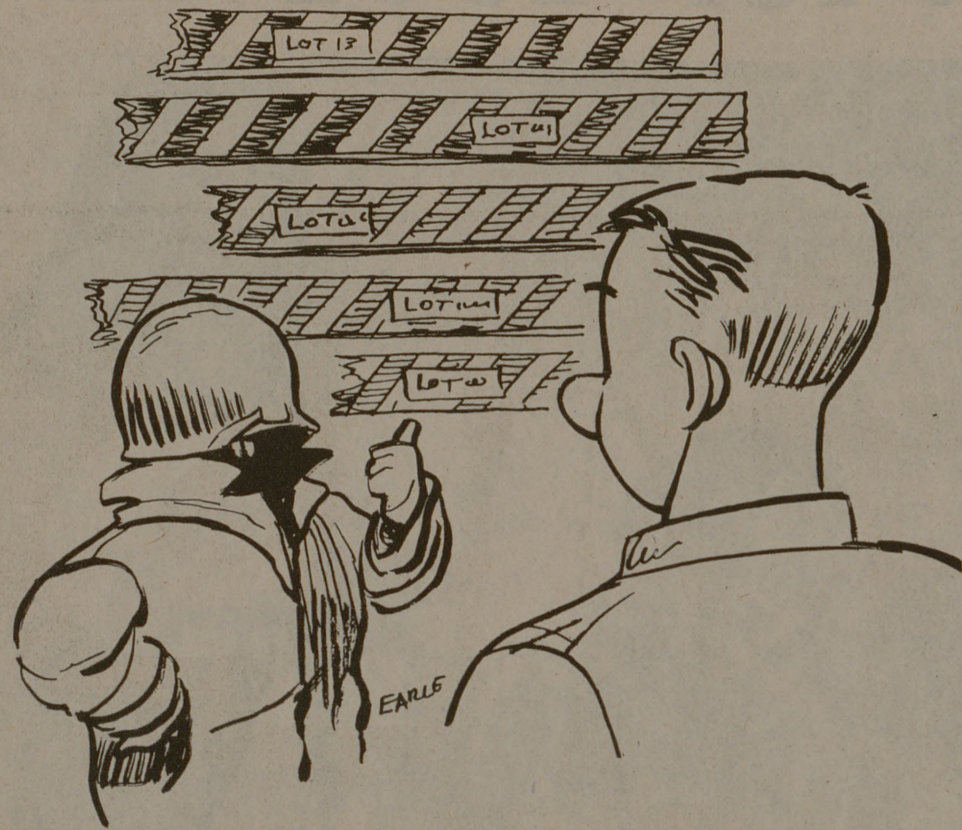


Slouch By Jim Earle



"My collection of parking lot barricade bars."

Regality is returned to the White House

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Many of the so-called "imperial trappings" have been restored to the White House after a major attack on the presidential perks during the Carter years.

President Jimmy Carter, a populist, came into office forswearing the goodies that came with the turf. He carried his own garment bag even after he became president, much to the surprise of some of the longtime butlers.

He also sold the presidential yacht Sequoia and eliminated chauffeured limousines intended for top aides, except for the one used by national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

About 200 television sets were removed from the White House offices by Hugh Carter Jr., a relative, who ran the administrative side of the White House with an iron hand. Carter's frugality was carried so far he even sent bills for rolls and coffee to congressmen who came to the White House for breakfast.

He was about to get rid of Camp David, once known as Shangri La, in the Maryland mountains, but when he visited the retreat for the first time, he rapidly changed his mind.

Hailing from the village of Plains, Ga., and elected in a backlash atmosphere against the ostentation and lavish use of government funds for personal comforts by some of his predecessors, Carter thought austerity and simplicity were what the people wanted.

At one point, it was decreed that the Marine Band should play Irving Berlin's "Always" instead of "Hail to the Chief."

Instead of applauding the sacrifices, polls showed that the public wanted more formality, more ceremony, more royal touches to set the president apart. In his last two years in office, some of the perks were restored and the Marine Band was striking up "Hail to the Chief" for Carter's arrivals and departures.

Before the Carters left the White House, longtime observers felt they had entertained as elegantly, as hospitably and as well as any of

their recent predecessors. And Rosalynn Carter was as impeccably groomed, with a better figure to boot, than some of the first ladies who lived in the White House before her.

Nevertheless, one well known columnist heralded the election of Ronald Reagan as a return to "class" in the White House, a remark that deeply hurt the Carters.

With the advent of the Reagans, so far there has been no perceptible criticism of the display of wealth, although the splash of jewelry, mink and sables during the inauguration caused a stir.

The president and Mrs. Reagan take the good life in their stride and their aides, if anything, seek to gild their surroundings with the extras.

The evidence is everywhere: Unarmed Marine guards in full regalia man the doors of the West Wing to welcome official visitors; and for the first time the presidential seal has been placed over the door.

Top White House aides also have access to chauffeured limousines to take them to and from work.

Fresh flowers are everywhere in the West Wing. Their are geranium plantings flanking the various entrances and orchid plants dominate the family quarters.

Although they are California western in their manner and dress when they are in residence at their mountaintop ranch near Santa Barbara, the Reagans have not transferred the look to the White House, and they do not hold barbecues on the south lawn.

They have kept the same friends, mostly the wealthy "kitchen cabinet" coterie, who have the money to live part time in the East and are often at the White House. And in many ways, except for formal functions, the Reagans are continuing their familiar lifestyle.

When a reporter who had been covering the Reagans' social outings in California and Washington for the past eight months asked an advance man whether they had any "poor" people, he smiled and wisecracked: "I think he knows my name."

It's your turn Don't send money, send a broom

Editor:

I was going to send this letter to my parents but I thought that a few Ags who live off campus would appreciate it more:

Dear Mom and Dad,

After living out of my car for a week we finally moved into our apartment. Our lease began the 28th but they let us move in the night of the 27th. It looked like the wrath of God. Let me give you a room by room description of the nightmare:

Living Room: wilted lettuce green carpeting accented by basketball sized stains; lots of dirt, fingernails, and hair that wasn't from any of our heads; walls with nail holes galore and in need of paint.

Kitchen: dingy floor, smashed bugs on the wall, filthy cabinets, someone's dirty Aggie cups in the dishwasher, a piece of salami behind the refrigerator (it matched the rug). Half of the stove doesn't work, cabinet under sink rotted, dirty refrigerator, air vent black as well as surrounding wallpaper, more dirty walls. P.S. Burnt, cracked counter tops.

Hall: recognizable as such, dirty carpet.

Bathroom: (Diane's and Donna's) we couldn't (wouldn't) open the door, the toilet had backed up and had had things swimming, floating and thriving in it for approximately 3 weeks. I guess we could have

opened it if we wanted to but why destroy a town?

Bedroom: (Diane's and Donna's) probably the best room in the apartment, water damage to ceiling and walls of the closet, more foreign matter in the carpet.

Bedroom: (Becky's and Mine) we have a worthless weed growing in our room, it is coming from the baseboard, we would complain but the management might charge extra for home accessories. Our closet also has water damage and a 2x4 supports one of our shelves.

Bathroom: (Becky's and Mine) rotten ceiling over our shower, I'm looking forward to meeting our upstairs neighbors "au naturale" when I least expect it, our tub was dirty with a hairball in the drain, more hair accent pieces lying in the corners, too short to be Beck's or mine.

Aside from the obvious everything is fine. Please send Spray 'n Vac.

Love,

Cathy

We have cleaned for days. The manager has made vague noncommittal comments as to when help will arrive. I wonder how many other apartment dwellers have the same quality apartments?

Cathy Smith
401 Anderson, CS

Committee says that

Editor:

On July 11, Sheri Ryman, then Texas A&M University, was crowned Texas for 1981. On August 7-8, a Homecoming was held in her honor on the A&M campus and in the Bryan-College Station Community.

MSC Hospitality organized the Homecoming with the overwhelming support of the campus and the community. We like to publicly express our thanks to businesses, organizations, and individuals who were so generous in contributing their time and resources. Their efforts made it possible to include some very special events during the Homecoming week. Sheri was presented with many gifts of appreciation. Also, through their efforts, Sheri's family will be able to travel to the City, at no cost, to watch Sheri compete for the title of Miss America.

On behalf of the University, Sheri and her family, thank you so very much!

MSC Hospitality Committee



Put bumper stickers on postmen

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Postal Service, via the Federal Register, has invited public comment on a proposal to sell advertising space on stamp books, delivery trucks and other mail facilities.

Very well. Here goes. My comment is: Why limit this form of revenue-raising to the Postal Service?

Many other governmental agencies are just as financially strapped as the Postal Service. In fact, the entire federal establishment is operating at a deficit. So why not sell advertising space to help reduce the national debt?

One selling opportunity is suggested by the planes that fly along ocean resort beaches pulling streamers that tout suntan lotions and cures for skin fungi.

Why not attach similar streamers to the tow lines trailing from military planes that pull targets for aerial gunnery practice? That type of exposure should bring in a pretty penny at standard commercial rates.

Right now there is talk of cutting defense spending by about \$30 billion to enable President Reagan to balance the budget in fiscal 1984.

Not building new ships, planes, tanks and missiles seems a rather drastic way to economize, compared to the alternative proposed by the Postal Service.

No doubt big defense contractors would pay handsomely to have their corporate names and trademarks displayed on the weapons they build. But I'm not sure this would accomplish anything.

Defense contractors have a way of lumping advertising expenses into the production costs for which they bill the government. Thus Uncle Sam would, in effect, wind up paying for advertising space it sold.

A more fiscally prudent method might be for the Army, Navy and Air Force to sell space on their ships, planes, tanks and missiles for civilian advertising.

Take, for example, the B-1 bomber project

that President Carter dropped to save money. For awhile it appeared Reagan would revive part of his military buildup. But lately there have been reports the resuscitation might be shelved for budgetary reasons.

I say go ahead and build the B-1, but space on its wing, tail and fuselage for beer, drink and cigarette ads.

There might be some complaining that bombers fly too high for their commercial messages to be seen from the ground, which is the great mass of beer, soft drink and cigarette consumers live. The Air Force could easily come that type of niggling, however.

For one thing, it could guarantee that the B-1 would break the sound barrier over urban centers every half-hour, thereby calling attention to themselves.

The revenue could make it possible to have the B-1 and a balanced budget, too. There might even be enough left over to pay part of the cost of the MX missile system.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.
Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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