

**LOG OF**  
**PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S FIFTH TRIP**  
**To**  
**KEY WEST, FLORIDA**

**November 7 – 21, 1948**

**LOG NO. 5**

**Compiled by**  
**Lt-Comdr. William M. Rigdon, U.S. Navy**

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## **The President's Party**

The President

Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N.

Honorable John R. Steelman

Honorable William D. Hassett

Honorable Clark M. Clifford

Honorable Stanley Woodward

Major General Harry H. Vaughan, U.S.A. (Res.)

Brigadier General Wallace H. Graham, U.S.A.F.

Colonel Robert B. Landry, U.S.A.F.

Captain Robert L. Dennison, U.S.N.

Mr. Eben a. Ayers

Mr. William J. Bray

Mr. Jonathan W. Daniels

Mr. Donald S. Dawson

Senator Alben W. Barkley, joined 11-9

Mr. Leslie Biffle, joined 11-9

Senator J. Howard McGrath, joined 11-11

Mr. William M. Boyle, Jr., joined 11-11

Mrs. Harry S. Truman, joined 11-12

Miss Margaret Truman, joined 11-12

Governor Mon C. Wallgren, joined 11-15

Honorable Mathew J. Connelly, joined 11-15

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Mr. David K. Niles, joined 11-15

Honorable Sam Rayburn, joined 11-18

Judge J. Caskie Collet, joined 11-18

Mr. Charles S. Murphy, joined 11-18

Mr. George M. Elsey, joined 11-18

Mr. David W. Stowe, joined 11-18

## **STAFF**

Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon, U.S.N.

Mr. Dewey E. Long

Chief Photographer's Mate J. T. McCrosson, U.S.N.

Yeoman first class Bernace L. Winkler, U.S.N.

Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman, U.S.N.

## SECRET SERVICE

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. James J. Rowley    | Mr. Roy H. Kellerman    |
| Mr. Howard S. Anderson | Mr. William F. Shields  |
| Mr. Henry J. Nicholson | Mr. Floyd M. Boring     |
| Mr. John H. Dorsey     | Mr. Richard G. Kauffman |
| Mr. Paul T. Usher      | Mr. John Campion        |
| Mr. Frank M. Barry     | Mr. John T. Gorham      |
| Mr. Emory P. Roberts   | Mr. Charles H. Patnode  |
| Mr. Gerald A. Behn     |                         |

## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS

### Newspaper Correspondents:

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Robert G. Nixon      | International News Service  |
| Mr. Ernest B. Vaccaro    | The Associated Press        |
| Mr. John L. Cutter       | United Press Association    |
| Mr. Joseph A. Fox        | The Washington Star         |
| Mr. William Mylander     | The Des Moines Register     |
| Mr. Anthony Leviero      | The New York Times          |
| Mr. Edward T. Folliard   | The Washington Post         |
| Mr. Carleton Kent        | The Chicago Sun-Times       |
| Mr. Bert Andrews         | The New York Herald Tribune |
| Mr. Jack Doherty         | The New York Daily News     |
| Mr. Jack Beal            | Time Magazine               |
| Mr. Phil Dodd            | The Chicago Tribune         |
| Mr. Earl Richert         | Scripps Howard Newspapers   |
| Mr. Joseph H. Short      | The Baltimore Sun           |
| Mr. John T. Carlton      | Cox Newspapers              |
| Mr. Ed Darby             | Transradio Press Service    |
| Mr. Charles Van Devander | The New York Post           |
| Mr. Windsor Booth        | The Boston Post             |
| Mr. Carl McCardle        | The Philadelphia Bulletin   |
| Mr. Thomas Reynolds      | The Chicago Sun-Times       |

### Radio Correspondents:

|                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. William Hillman    | Mutual Broadcasting System    |
| Mr. Frank Bourgholtzer | National Broadcasting Company |
| Mr. Bryson Rash        | American Broadcasting Company |
| Mr. John Adams         | Columbia Broadcasting System  |
| Mr. Charter Heslip     | Mutual Broadcasting System    |
| Mr. Keith Williams     | N. B. C. Engineer             |
| Mr. Ed Laker           | C. B. S. Engineer             |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS (CONTINUED)

**Photographers:**

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. Charles Corte     | Acme Newspictures         |
| Mr. William Allen     | Associated Press Photos   |
| Mr. Thomas McAvoy     | Life Magazine             |
| Mr. William Wallace   | New York News Photos      |
| Mr. Al Muto           | International News Photos |
| Mr. G. Bradford Kress | New York News Television  |
| Mr. Joseph Vadala     | N. B. C. Television       |

**Newsreels:**

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Charles Mack       | M. G. M. News of the Day |
| Mr. James Lyons        | Universal Newsreel       |
| Mr. Thomas Craven      | Paramount News           |
| Mr. Al Oeth            | Paramount News           |
| Mr. Al Simpson         | Fox Movietone News       |
| Mr. Malcolm McWilliams | Fox Movietone News       |
| Mr. Murray Alvey       | Warner Pathe News        |

**MISCELLANEOUS GROUP**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Major George J. McNally | Signal Corps, U.S.A.,<br>The White House     |
| Mr. Russell J. McMullin | The White House                              |
| Mr. Bernard Putterman   | The White House                              |
| Mr. James Long          | The White House                              |
| Mr. Samuel Mitchell     | The White House                              |
| Mr. John Boardley       | The White House                              |
| Mr. P. C. Darcy         | The Pullman Company                          |
| Mr. E. Chapman          | The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad              |
| Mr. Eugene Lapura       | The Pullman Company                          |
| Mr. Harry Knapp         | District Passenger Agent<br>Eastern Airlines |
| Mr. M. M. Frost         | Vice President, Eastern Airlines             |
| Mr. Carroll S. Linkins  | Western Union                                |

**U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG**

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Commander Donald J. MacDonald | U.S.N., Commanding Officer |
| Commander Jesse B. Gay, Jr.   | U.S.N., Executive Officer  |

**U.S.S. NOA**

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Commander Melvin H. Dry      | U.S.N. Commanding Officer |
| Lt. Cmdr. Kendall W. Simmons | U.S.N. Executive Officer  |

**THE "INDEPENDENCE" (AIR FORCE DC-6)**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Lieutenant Colonel Francis E. Williams | U.S.A.F., Pilot           |
| Major Elmer F. Smith                   | U.S.A.F., Co-pilot        |
| First Lieutenant E. P. Christiansen    | U.S.A.F., Navigator       |
| Mr. Gene Lucas (Douglas Aircraft Co.)  | Consultant                |
| Master Sergeant Fred A. Willard        | U.S.A.F., First Engineer  |
| Master Sergeant Frederick A. Winslow   | U.S.A.F., Second Engineer |
| Master Sergeant Charles A. Horton      | U.S.A.F., Radio Operator  |
| Technical Sergeant Robert E. Hughes    | U.S.A.F., Steward         |
| Four (4) enlisted plane guards         |                           |

**THE PRESS PLANE (E.A.L. CONSTELLATION)**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr. D. R. Greene   | Captain          |
| Mr. L. H. Dice     | Pilot            |
| Mr. A. M. Beverly  | Flight Engineer  |
| Mr. Carl Allen     | Flight Attendant |
| Miss Paula M. Reed | Flight Attendant |

## THE LOG

### Sunday, 7 November:

The President departed from the Military Air Transport Command terminal, Washington National Airport, at 9:10 a.m., for a fortnight's vacation at Key West, Florida. He had just completed a strenuous period of campaigning, culminating in his reelection to the Presidency. The President was accompanied by:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy   | U.S. N., Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief |
| Honorable John R. Steelman       | Special Assistant to the President                |
| Honorable William D. Hassett     | Secretary to the President                        |
| Honorable Clark M. Clifford      | Special Counsel to the President                  |
| Honorable Stanley Woodward       | Chief of Protocol, State Department               |
| Major General Harry H. Vaughan   | U.S.A. (Res.), Military Aide to the President     |
| Brigadier Gen. Wallace H. Graham | U.S.A.F., Personal Physician to the President     |
| Colonel Robert B. Landry         | U.S.A.F., Air Aide to the President               |
| Captain Robert L. Dennison       | U.S.N., Naval Aide to the President               |
| Mr. Eben A. Ayers                | Assistant Presidential Press Secretary            |
| Mr. Jonathan W. Daniels          | Publisher, Raleigh (N.C.) News-Observer           |
| Mr. Donald S. Dawson             | Administrative Assistant to the President         |
| Mr. William J. Bray              | Assistant to Mr. Steelman                         |

The trip was made in the aircraft "INDEPENDENCE" (Air Force DC-6) piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Francis E. Williams, U.S.A.F., with Major E. F. Smith, U.S.A.F., as co-pilot and First Lieutenant E. P. Christiansen, U.S.A.F., as navigator. Other passengers in the Presidential plane were Mr. James J. Rowley and Mr. Henry J. Nicholson of the White House Secret Service Detail and Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman, U.S.N., valet to the President.

An Eastern Airlines plane departed from the Military Air Transport Service terminal, Washington National Airport, at 9:15 a.m. Embarked were the White House newspaper correspondents, radio correspondents and photographers, and the following White House staff members and Secret Service agents who were to accompany the Presidential party to Key West:

#### **White House Staff**

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon | U.S.N., Assistant to the Naval Aide |
| Mr. Dewey E. Long                      | Transportation Officer              |

#### **Secret Service**

|                        |                         |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Paul T. Usher      | Mr. Emory P. Roberts    | Mr. Roy H. Kellerman |
| Mr. Floyd M. Boring    | Mr. Frank M. Barry      | Mr. Gerald A. Behn   |
| Mr. William F. Shields | Mr. Richard G. Kauffman |                      |

Enroute Key West, the President stopped at Cherry Point, North Carolina, to attend services at the First Baptist Church in New Bern, N. C. The pastor, Reverend Thomas W. Fryer, while on a visit to Washington this past summer, had called on the President; had told him of his historic pastorate (organized in 1809) and invited him to come down to New Bern and attend services.

The press plane arrived at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, at 10:20 a.m., and all passengers disembarked to await the President.

The "INDEPENDENCE" arrived at Cherry Point at 10:25 a.m. The President disembarked and was greeted by Major General Field Harris, U.S.M.C., Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic; Brigadier General Ivan W. Miller, U.S.M.C., Commanding, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point; and Honorable Graham A. Barden, Member of Congress (Third Congressional District of North Carolina). There was a crowd of more than 1000 assembled at the air station to see the President. After the greetings, the President received a group of approximately 20 senior officers from the air station and then, at 10:30 a.m., he and members of his party embarked in automobiles and departed Cherry Point for the 22-mile drive to New Bern. In the automobile with the President were Admiral Leahy, General Harris and Mr. Daniels. Because of space limitations within the church, only a pool of three newspapermen and one radio correspondent and one small group of photographers were permitted to make the trip to New Bern. The other newspapermen, radio correspondents and photographers were taken to the station officers' club where they were served refreshments.

The Presidential motorcade arrived in New Bern at 11 a.m. It seemed that all New Bern (population 18,000) had turned out to see the President. The street passing immediately in front of the church was roped off down the centerline for several blocks and the far side of the street was jammed with happy and eager people. The President arrived at the First Baptist Church at 11:05 a.m. He was greeted on the front steps by Reverend Fryer, Mrs. Fryer, Governor Gregg Cherry of North Carolina, and Mr. R. L. Pugh, Superintendent of Education, Craven County (and a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason). After the reception, the President and his party were ushered inside. The President sat in the fourth row (right side of the church) on the seat next to the center aisle. To his right sat Admiral Leahy, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Bray, General Graham and Colonel Landry, in that order. General Vaughan, Mr. Steelman, Captain Dennison, Mr. Ayers, Lieutenant Commander Rigdon, Mr. Vaccaro, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Cutter and Mr. Rash sat on a pew in the rear of the church. The church was packed to capacity, with standees in the rear.

The services commenced at 11:10 a.m., and concluded at 12 noon. The President moved out to the front steps where he spoke briefly with Reverend and Mrs. Fryer, Governor Cherry and Mr. Pugh. At 12:05 p.m., the Presidential party departed by automobile for Cherry Point. Reverend Fryer, Mrs. Fryer and their small son accompanied the party to the air station.



The Presidential party reached the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point at 12:38 p.m. At the President's invitation, the Fryer family was conducted through the INDEPENDENCE. The President thanked General Harris and General Miller for their courtesies, said goodbye to the local people, and then embarked in the INDEPENDENCE.

The press plane departed Cherry Point at 12:50 p.m. for Key West. Mr. John Campion, White House Secret Service detail, who had been at Cherry Point since Friday (November 5<sup>th</sup>), coordinating arrangements for the President's visit, joined the group in the press plane.

The INDEPENDENCE departed Cherry Point at 12:55 p.m. for Key West.

The press plane landed at the Naval Airfield, Boca Chica, Florida, at 3:35 p.m. and all passengers embarked to await the arrival of the President.

The INDEPENDENCE arrived at Boca Chica at 3:50 p.m., after a smooth and uneventful flight from Cherry Point. The President was the first to disembark and was greeted by Captain Cecil C. Adell, U.S.N., Commander of the Naval Base, Key West; the Honorable A. Maitland Adams, Mayor of Key West; and Mr. Ralph D. Spalding, City Manager of Key West. Captain Adell then presented to the President a group of civic officials (the Key West Citizens Welcoming Committee and a number of the senior naval officers on duty in the Key West area. These included:

**Citizens Committee:**

Mr. John M. Spottswood (owner and operator of radio station WKWF), chairman  
Mr. B. C. Papy, State Representative from Monroe County  
Mr. G. Okell, State Representative-elect from Dade County  
Judge William V. Albury  
Mr. Albert J. Mills  
Mr. Gerald Saunders  
Mr. Frank Bentley

**Naval Officers:**

Captain O. A. Smith, (MC), Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital  
Captain J. A. Farrell, Jr., Commanding Officer, Fleet Sonar School Squadron  
Captain A. G. W. McFadden, Commanding Officer, Fleet Sonar School Squadron  
Captain F. L. Busey, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station  
Captain W. A. Carruthers, Commanding Officer, Underway Training Unit  
Captain J. R. Lee, Commanding Officer Anti-Submarine Development Squadron  
One  
Captain A. B. Bannister, Commander Submarine Squadron Four  
Captain C. E. Weakly, Commanding Officer, Surface Anti-Submarine  
Development Detachment  
Captain T. A. Arrasmith, (MC), Executive Officer, Naval Hospital

A large sign on the operations building read, “Congratulations, Mr. President.”

After the greetings at the airfield, the President talked for a few minutes with the newspapermen and posed for the photographers. Then, at 4 p.m., he and the members of his party, the newspapermen, radio correspondents, photographers, White House staff and Secret Service embarked in automobiles and the motorcade left Boca Chica for the 8 ½ mile drive to the Naval Station, Key West. Captain Adell and Mayor Adams rode in the car with the President. A fleet of seven State Highway Patrol cars commanded by Captain Tobe Bass (F.S.H.P.) led the motorcade. Navy enlisted men and Key West police patrolled the route along which the President traveled.

The largest crowd ever assembled at Key West (estimated at 25,000) was out to welcome the President back for his fifth visit. The Mayor had decreed the day “Harry Truman Day” and the people of Key West gave the President a genuinely warm welcome. The local paper stated that many thousands of South Floridians journeyed to Key West to join in the reception and that not even when the first train rolled into Key West breaking the island’s years of isolation did Key Westers give way so wholeheartedly to their enthusiasm. The President sat atop the folded top of his Lincoln convertible sedan and waved his hat to the happy people waiting along his route to the Naval Station. There were generous and hearty exchanges of greetings, congratulations and pleasantries all along the route. Navy signal flags fluttered from overhead wires and there were welcome signs all along the way. One, just a few feet away from the entrance to the Naval Station read, “Welcome Back to the Winter White House.”

On arrival at the Caroline Street gate to the Naval Station, the motorcade stopped and the President and Captain Adell left their car. The President was met by Captain J. A. Farrell, Jr., Commanding Officer of the Naval Station and then accorded full military honors – ruffles and flourishes and “To the Colors” by a Marine Corps drum and bugle squad and “present arms” by the Marine Guard. His flag was simultaneously raised over the Naval Station administration building. As it was Sunday, no gun salute was fired. The President, then, in company with Major Harold A. Hayes, U.S.M.C., the Commander of the Guard, inspected the Guard. On completion of the inspection, the President and Captain Adell reentered their automobile and the motorcade continued on to the “Little White House” (Quarters “A-B”). Naval officers and men, clad in white uniforms, “manned the rail” along the one block drive from the Caroline Street gate to the Little White House, where the Presidential party arrived at 4:25 p.m. The President and all members of his party disembarked here and entered the quarters. They were greeted by Commander Donald J. MacDonald, U.S.N. (Commanding Officer, U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG), Commander Jesse B. Gay, Jr., U.S.N. (Executive Officer, U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG), and Lieutenant Hoye D. Moore, Supply Corps, U.S.N. (Presidential Mess Officer). The newspapermen, radio correspondents, photographers, members of the White House staff and Secret Service Detail continued on to the station bachelor officers’ quarters (Building #128) where they were quartered during the stay at Key West.

The President's first act on arriving at the Little White House was to telephone Mrs. Truman, in Washington, and report his safe arrival. Then, he and the other members of the party changed to sports clothing and proceeded to settle down to vacation routine.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. Admiral Leahy dined out. Following dinner, the motion picture "Julia Misbehaves," starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, was shown in the living room. The President did not attend. He spent the evening about the quarters and retired at 11 p.m.

The President occupied his usual rooms at the Little White House, the north second floor suite; Mr. Clifford and Mr. Ayers, the north center bedroom; Mr. Hassett, the south center bedroom; Mr. Woodward, the small bedroom on the second floor; Admiral Leahy and Mr. Steelman, the bedroom on the first floor. The south second floor bedroom was kept vacant for Senator Barkley. Mr. Dawson, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Bray were berthed at Quarters "L" (about two blocks distant), and General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry and Captain Dennison were quartered in the U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG, which arrived at Key West on Friday (November 5<sup>th</sup>) and was moored at the north quay wall at the Naval Station. The President's Mess was set up in the Little White House.

Lieutenant Moore, assisted by a crew of stewards from the WILLIAMSBURG, had readied Quarters "A-B" and "L."

Lieutenant Commander Rigdon acted as secretary for the Presidential party during the period of the visit at Key West.

Except for a special telephone circuit between Key West and Washington, which was reserved exclusively for the use of the Presidential party, communications between the Presidential party and the White House were handled through the regular facilities of the WILLIAMSBURG (duplex radio teletype). During the absence of the WILLIAMSBURG from Key West, all radio traffic was handled by the Naval Station. During this time encoding and decoding of classified traffic was handled by Lieutenant Commander Rigdon who had with him White House crypto aids.

Agent John T. Gorham of the White House Secret Service was in charge of advance security arrangements at Key West. He was assisted by Mr. Louis F. Padgett (Agent in Charge, Atlanta, Ga. office of the U. S. Secret Service) and Mr. R. M. McDavid (Agent in Charge, Miami office, United States Secret Service), who were in Key West. Mr. Gorham had come down from Washington on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, for this purpose. Accompanying him were Mr. Russell McMullin, Mr. Samuel Mitchell and Mr. John Boardley, all of the White House staff; Major George J. McNally, Mr. James Long and Mr. Bernard Putterman of the White House Signal Corps Detachment; Mr. E. Chapman, captain of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad police; and Mr. P. C.

Darcey and Mr. Eugene Lapura, Pullman Company employees. All of the foregoing had been with the Presidential train throughout the campaign travels and had been invited by Mr. Matthew J. Connelly, Secretary to the President, to vacation at Key West while the President was to be there. Also accompanying Mr. Gorham on this flight to Key West were Chief Stewards I. Esperancilla, R. Pascual, D. Olembario and M. Sepulchre, who rejoined the WILLIAMSBURG and reported to Lieutenant Moore for duty at the Little White House. Esperancilla, Pascual, Olembario and Sepulchre had also been with the Presidential train throughout the campaign travels.

Members of the White House staff, the Press and the Secret Service were subsisted at the Commissioned Officers' Mess located in Building #106, directly across the street from the Bachelor Officers' Quarters (Building #128). A pressroom was set up in Building #128.

Three automobiles, a Lincoln convertible and two Lincoln sedans, had been sent down to Key West from Jacksonville by the Ford Motor Company for the use of the Presidential party. This pool was augmented as necessary by automotive equipment from the Naval Base.

**Monday, 8 November:**

Admiral Leahy returned to Quarters "A-B" at 7:40 a.m., having spent the night in Key West with friends.

The President arose at 7:45 a.m. and breakfasted with several members of his party. Afterwards he retired to the south porch where he read the morning newspapers.

The INDEPENDENCE departed Key West at 8:08 a.m. for Los Angeles, where it was to undergo routine overhaul at the Douglas Aircraft factory.

At 9:50 a.m., the President, accompanied by his entire party except Admiral Leahy, left Quarters "A-B" and walked to the Enlisted Men's Beach at the Naval Station. This is the same beach used by the Presidential party on previous visits to Key West. All of the surplus equipment formerly stowed in that area had been removed and fences cleared away, so that the area presented a much more attractive appearance and afforded more space for recreation. The weather was ideal – bright sun with temperature of approximately 80 degrees. The party quickly changed to bathing trunks, and spent the next two hours loafing in the sun. Some exercised by tossing softballs and footballs for a while and the President and several others enjoyed a brief dip in the surf. This was pretty much the routine each morning when they visited the beach. The entire party left the beach at 11:40 a.m. and motored back to Quarters "A-B."

Lunch was served in the President's Mess at 1 p.m. There were no guests.

The Acting Secretary of State (Honorable Robert A. Lovett) telephoned from Washington at 2 p.m. and talked to the President over the direct telephone wire.

The President left Quarters "A-B" at 3 p.m. for a walk about the Naval Station. He was accompanied only by two Secret Service men. During the course of his walk he visited the press headquarters at Building #128. He walked in unannounced while a handful of newspapermen were watching a pool game between several of the photographers. The President explained that he had no news for them and that his unscheduled visit had been prompted by his desire to see if they (the newspapermen and photographers) were comfortably accommodated. He returned to Quarters "A-B" at 3:30 p.m.

The Honorable Robert Butler, American Ambassador to Cuba, called on the President at 4 p.m. He was accompanied to Key West by Captain T. F. Cullen, U.S.N., Naval Attaché and Colonel E. E. Glenn, U.S.A., Military and Air Attaché. The Ambassador and his aides left by automobile at 4:20 p.m. for Boca Chica where they enplaned for return flight to Havana.

Colonel Landry and Mr. Bray went deep sea fishing this afternoon. They used the "Big Wheel" – the station fishing boat (formerly called the "Dolphin") – and went out as far as West Rock Shoal. They reported a catch of six barracuda – four large ones and two medium sized.

The Secretary of Defense (Honorable James V. Forrestal) telephoned from Washington at 4:25 p.m. and talked to the President over the direct telephone wire.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. Admiral Leahy dined out.

The President retired to his suite at 8:15 pm., where he spent the remainder of the evening.

The motion picture "Southern Yankee," featuring Red Skelton, was shown at Quarters "A-B" this evening.

### **Tuesday, 9 November:**

The President arose at 7:15 a.m. He remained in his suite until 7:40 a.m., when he came downstairs and had breakfast in company with Mr. Steelman and other members of the party.

Mr. Louis S. Johnson telephoned from Charleston, West Virginia, at 9:40 a.m. and talked to the President.

The President, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison and Mr. Bray left the Little White House at 9:45 a.m. and walked to the beach. Mr. Steelman joined them there later. The entire party left the beach at 11:30 a.m. and motored back to their quarters.

At noon, an American Legion delegation (Mr. George A. Warren, Post Commander, Arthur Sawyer Post #28, Key West; Mr. Vance Stirrup, Commander 10<sup>th</sup> District of Florida; and Mr. Albert J. Mills, past national committeeman) called on the President. They were received in the north garden. The Committee extended the President an invitation to attend American Legion ceremonies to be held at Key West on Armistice Day and presented him with three guyaberas (Cuban made Irish linen sports shirts) and a gold medal commemorating the President's visit to the 1948 American Legion National Convention (Miami, October 18, 1948). Afterwards, the President, Mr. Warren, Mr. Stirrup and Mr. Mills posed for the photographers. The delegation departed at 12:20 p.m. The President remained in the garden, where he read until lunchtime.

Lunch was served at 1:15 p.m. There were no guests. Admiral Leahy dined out. After lunch, the President retired to his suite where he rested until 4 p.m.

Senator Alban W. Barkley (Vice President-Elect) and Mr. Leslie Biffle (Staff Director of the Minority Policy Committee of the Senate) arrived at 5:45 p.m. and joined the President's party. The President met them at the front door of the quarters, where they exchanged greetings and then posed for the photographers. Senator Barkley and Mr. Biffle were brought down from Washington in a Navy R-4-D aircraft, piloted by Commander R. L. Huffman, U.S.N. They were met at Boca Chica by Captain Dennison, Captain Adell, Captain Busey, Mayor Adams and City Manager Spalding. Captain Dennison accompanied them to the President's quarters. Chief Steward C. Bautista and Steward's Mate A. Paragas from the President's Camp, were passengers on this aircraft. They reported to Lieutenant Moore to assist at the Presidential quarters.

Senator Barkley was billeted at the Little White House (south second floor bedroom) and Mr. Biffle at Quarters "L."

At 6:50 p.m., Lieutenant (jg) L. M. Bush, U.S.N., arrived from Washington with White House mail. Bernace L. Winkler, yeoman first class, U.S.N., arrived to join the White House staff. Winkler served as stenographer for the President and his entire staff during the stay at Key West and very creditably handled a large volume of mail. Lieutenant Bush and Winkler were brought down from Washington in a second naval aircraft because of the large amount of mail and freight in their custody.

Dinner was served at 7:15 p.m. There were no guests.

Immediately after dinner the President retired to his desk in the living room and spent the next thirty minutes signing mail that had arrived from the White House. This

mail, as was all others received while at Key West, was an unusually large one. Much of it was in response to the thousands of congratulatory letters and telegrams he had received incident to his reelection. The President declared a "moratorium" on the mail at 8:30 p.m., and spent the remainder of the evening about the quarters visiting with members of his party.

The motion picture "A Date with Judy," starring Jane Powell and Wallace Beery, was shown in the living room after dinner. The President did not attend.

The President retired at 11:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, 10 November**

Mr. Steelman, General Vaughan, General Graham and Colonel Landry had early breakfast and left in the "Big Wheel" at 7 a.m. for deep sea fishing off Key West. Special radio bulletins were sent to the President to keep him informed of the fishing party's luck. According to latest report received, team "A" (General Graham and Colonel Landry) with 9 fish (63 lbs) won out over team "B" (Mr. Steelman and General Vaughan) – 3 fish (30 lbs). They returned to Quarters "A-B" in time for lunch.

The President arose at 7:30 a.m. and had breakfast at 7:45 a.m., together with Senator Barkley, Admiral Leahy and others in his party. After breakfast, he worked for nearly an hour while signing the remainder of the official mail that had been brought down from Washington yesterday. This mail included an executive order prescribing a new coat of arms, seal, and flag for the Vice President of the United States.

Lieutenant Bush left the Presidential quarters at 9:15 a.m. to take White House mail to Washington. He was transported from Boca Chica to Anacostia via Navy R-4-D (Commander Huffman, pilot).

At 10 a.m., the President, accompanied by Senator Barkley, Mr. Biffle and several other members of the party, left Quarters "A-B" and walked to the beach where they spent the remainder of the morning. While it had rained hard during the night, it had cleared early this morning and at 10 a.m. the sun was out in full force.

They left the beach at noon and motored back to their quarters.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. There were no guests.

Immediately after lunch the President and Captain Dennison, accompanied by two Secret Service agents, left the house for a walk around the Naval Station, which included a stop at the swimming pool where the President chided with the newspapermen and photographers about his three-day growth of beard. He returned to his quarters at 2:30 p.m. and retired to his suite where he rested until 5:30 p.m.

Captain Dennison attended, as the representative of the President, a ceremony held at the Marine barracks, Naval Base, Key West, at 3 p.m. commemorating the 173<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. Captain Dennison made a brief talk in which he extended the President's congratulations to the Corps. He was then handed an officer's sword which he used to cut their symbolic birthday cake. The ceremony was in charge of Major Harold A. Hayes, U.S.M.C. Captain Adell and Captain Farrell also attended.

The President left his quarters again at 6:45 p.m. for a walk about the Naval Station. He was accompanied only by two Secret Service agents. He dropped by the baseball field to watch the baseball game between the Secret Service men and the newspapermen but was a little late as the game had been concluded. Later he dropped in at the press headquarters and talked for a few minutes with the newspapermen and photographers. He returned to Quarters "A-B" at 6:15 p.m.

After dinner (8:15 p.m.) the President and all members of his party attended a showing of Paramount and Warner Pathe special election newsreels. The newsreels were followed by a feature "Meet Mr. Frankenstein," starring Abbott and Costello. The President did not remain for the feature picture. He spent the remainder of the evening on the south porch visiting with some other members of his party who left the movies after the newsreels. The President retired at midnight.

#### **Thursday, 11 November**

The President arose at 7:45 a.m. and had breakfast at 8 a.m. in company with Senator Barkley, Admiral Leahy and some other members of his party.

At 9:45 a.m., the President left the house for his morning visit to the beach. He was accompanied by Senator Barkley and most members of his party. Just outside Quarters "A-B," the Presidential party was joined by approximately fifty newspapermen and photographers whom the President had invited to go along for an "off the record" swim (san pencils, pads and cameras). They all walked to the beach where they remained until noon when they left by motor to return to their respective quarters.

General Vaughan, as the representative of the President, attended the American Legion Armistice Day ceremonies held this morning at the American Legion House on Stock Island in Key West. The General made a brief address in which he extended the President's greetings to the assembly.

The Honorable Mon C. Wallgren, Governor of the State of Washington, telephoned from New York City at 12:30 p.m. and talked with the President.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. There were no guests. After lunch the entire party moved out to the north garden where they posed for a group photograph. Afterwards, the President (at 2:20 p.m.) retired to his suite where he rested until 4 p.m.



The Honorable James E. Webb (Director of the Bureau of the Budget) telephoned from Washington at 4 p.m. and talked to the President over the direct telephone wire.

Senator J. Howard McGrath (Chairman of the Democratic National Committee) and Mr. William M. Boyle (Assistant to the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee) arrived from Washington at 4:30 p.m. and joined the President's party. The President met them at the front door, where they exchanged greetings and then posed for photographers. Senator McGrath and Mr. Boyle came down from Washington in a Navy R-4-D aircraft piloted by Lieutenant Commander C. A. Donaldson, U.S.N. They were met at Boca Chica by Captain Dennison, who accompanied them to the President's quarters.

Chief Ship's Clerk G. B. Prophet, U.S.N., arrived at Quarters "A-B" at 4:40 p.m. with five bags of White House mail. He came down from Washington in the same plane as Senator McGrath.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. There were no guests. Immediately after dinner the President retired to his desk in the living room where he worked until 9:20 p.m., signing part of the mail that had been delivered this afternoon. Afterwards he moved out to the south porch where he spent the remainder of the evening, visiting with members of his party.

Motion pictures were shown at 9:30 p.m. in the living room. The feature was "Mr. Blanding Builds His Dream House," starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy. The President did not attend.

The President retired at 11:20 p.m.

### **Friday, 12 November**

Captain Dennison and Mr. Boring (Secret Service) left Key West by automobile for Miami to meet Mrs. Truman and Miss Margaret Truman, who were due to arrive in Miami by train, at 1 p.m.

The President arose at 7:45 a.m. When he came downstairs a few minutes later, it was noted that his vacation stubble had disappeared. He had breakfast at 8:00 a.m. together with Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Admiral Leahy and several others of his party.

Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Mr. Biffle, General Vaughan, Mr. Boyle and Mr. Dawson left Quarters "A-B" at 8:50 a.m. by automobile for Boca Chica where they enplaned for Havana (Navy R-4-D), Lieutenant Commander Donaldson, pilot). They were accompanied by Mr. R. M. McDavid and Mr. Frank E. Jackson (Miami Office of Naval Intelligence). At Havana, Senator Barkley called unofficially on President Carlos

Prio Socorras of Cuba. The group spent the remainder of the day sightseeing and shopping. They returned to Key West at 6:50 p.m.

Chief Ship's Clerk Prophet left the Presidential quarters at 9:15 a.m. with official mail for the White House. He was transported from Boca Chica to Washington in a naval aircraft (SNB type) piloted by Lieutenant M. L. Miller of the Naval Air Station, Key West.

General Graham, Colonel Landry and Commander MacDonald attempted more deep sea fishing this morning. They found the sea too rough and returned empty handed.

The President left the house at 9:45 a.m. and walked to the beach for his daily outing. He was accompanied by Mr. Clifford, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Bray. They returned to Quarters "A-B" at 11:40 a.m. by automobile.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. There were no guests.

At 1:45 p.m., Lieutenant Helen Rickard, Nurse Corps, U. S. Navy, called on the President. She was accompanied by Captain O. A. Smith (Medical Corps), U.S.N., Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Key West. Miss Rickard accompanied the President's mother on her return trip to Grandview, following her last visit to Washington. When it was brought to the President's attention that Miss Rickard was on duty in Key West, he expressed the desire to see her.

Captain Smith and Lieutenant Rickard departed at 1:55 p.m.

The President signed mail from 1:45 p.m. to 2:20 p.m., when he retired to his suite where he rested until 3:30 p.m.

The President left his quarters at 3:30 p.m. for a walk about the Naval Station. He was accompanied only by two Secret Service agents. He returned at 4 p.m. to await the arrival of his family.

Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman arrived at the Naval Base to join the President. The President met them at the Caroline Street gate and escorted them to Quarters "A-B" where they were welcomed by other members of the President's party. The ladies had left Washington early yesterday afternoon and traveled to Miami by rail (Seaboard Air Line streamliner "Silver Star"). Captain Dennison met them at Miami and accompanied them on their motor trip down the Florida Keys. Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman were quartered in the WILLIAMSBURG. Except for breakfasts, which they had in their quarters, they dined with the President at Quarters "A-B."

Mr. Woodward attended a reception at the Officers' Club (Fort Taylor) this afternoon. Captain Adell (the President of the Club) and Mrs. Adell received. The President and all other members of his party were also invited.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. There were no guests. It was observed that Mr. Clifford's five-day growth of beard had disappeared.

After dinner (8 p.m.), movies were shown in the living room. The President, Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman all attended. The feature shown was "Apartment for Peggy," starring Jeanne Crain. At the conclusion of the movies, the President escorted the ladies to their quarters in the WILLIAMSBURG and then returned to his quarters. On his return he worked on his mail until midnight, when he retired. The mail acted on included a proclamation proclaiming Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> as Thanksgiving Day, and a telegram conveying his greetings to the delegates at the American Federation of Labor convention assembled at the Netherlands-Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Citizens Committee of Key West (Mr. Albert J. Mills, Chairman) entertained the newspaper correspondents, radio correspondents, photographers and Secret Service men at a "Key West" sea food dinner (conch chowder, stone crabs and turtle steak). The President and all members of his party were also invited but none could attend.

The volume of mail received at Key West had by this time reached such proportions that it was necessary to ask the Naval Base for the loan of a male stenographer. Chief Yeoman P. A. Tatro, U.S.N. (attached to the Fleet Sonar School) reported to the Naval Aide today to assist Winkler.

Mrs. William Hillman, wife of the Mutual Broadcasting System correspondent with the Presidential party, was admitted to the Naval Hospital (Key West) this evening on recommendation of General Graham.

### **Saturday, 13 November**

The "plan of the day" called for a 7 a.m. departure from Key West for a cruise to Dry Tortugas. Reveille was held at 6 a.m. in Quarters "A-B" and Quarters "L."

At 6:45 a.m., the President, Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Admiral Leahy, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Biffle, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Dawson left Quarters "A-B" and proceeded on foot to the WILLIAMSBURG where they were met by Captain Dennison and Commander MacDonald, and shown aboard. The WILLIAMSBURG got underway from Key West at 7:07 a.m. and set course for Dry Tortugas Island. Outside Key West harbor, the WILLIAMSBURG was joined by the destroyer NOA (DD-841) - (Commander M. H. Dry, U.S.N., commanding), which vessel acted as escort on the trip to Dry Tortugas and return.

The President and members of his party had breakfast at 7:15 a.m., and then spent most of the forenoon lounging in the sun on the main deck aft. The ladies joined the group on deck at 10:15 a.m. At noon a buffet lunch was served the party on the main deck aft.

The WILLIAMSBURG dropped anchor off Dry Tortugas Island at 12:50 p.m. and at 1 p.m., the President, Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and all members of the party except Senator McGrath and Mr. Boyle, transferred to a motor boat (that had been sent out from Key West) and departed for the island. Senator McGrath and Mr. Boyle remained on board and got in some fishing.

At the landing on Dry Tortugas, the President was greeted by Mr. H. D. Goodson, Historical Aide at Fort Jefferson National Park, who offered his services as guide for the President and his party for a lecture-tour of the fort and island. Mr. Goodson then conducted the party on a tour of the fort. The President, who had previously visited the island in November 1946, pointed out the dungeon where Dr. Samuel Mudd, the Maryland doctor who set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth, had been held prisoner.

The party returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at 2 p.m. and, at 2:05 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and NOA got underway for the return trip to Key West. The President retired to his quarters where he rested until 5 p.m. Mrs. Truman and Margaret spent most of the afternoon on the main deck aft, enjoying the warm sun.

The White House newspapermen and photographers left Key West this afternoon by commercial aircraft for Havana where they were to spend the weekend as guests of the Havana Tourist Commission.

The WILLIAMSBURG arrived at Key West at 7:30 p.m. and was moored to the north quay wall at the Naval Station. The President, Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and all others of the Presidential party left the WILLIAMSBURG at 7:35 p.m. and walked to Quarters "A-B."

Chief Ship's Clerk Prophet, courier, arrived from Washington with another large batch of White House mail. He was brought down from Washington in a naval aircraft (SNB) – Lieutenant Miller, pilot. Mr. C. Patnode, White House Secret Service Detail, was a passenger in this same plane.

Dinner was served in Quarters "A-B" at 8 p.m. There were no guests. After dinner the President worked on his mail from 9 to 9:30 p.m. Amongst the mail signed at this time was a letter to the Mayor of the City of Key West which read:

"My dear Mayor Adams:

Please accept from a grateful heart this assurance of my appreciation of the wonderful welcome accorded to me by yourself and the good people of Key West and community. It warmed my heart and will long be treasured among happy Key West memories.

May I also express to you and through you to the citizens of Key West my hearty appreciation of such a fine message of congratulations. I

read your thoughtful expressions and want all of you to know how much they mean to me.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

At 9:30 p.m., the President and the entire party assembled in the living room where they witnessed a showing of the NBC Television special election newsreel. The Paramount and Warner-Pathe newsreels shown Wednesday evening were repeated for the benefit of Senator McGrath and Mr. Boyle. On conclusion of the newsreels, at 9:50 p.m., the President escorted the ladies to the WILLIAMSBURG. He returned to Quarters "A-B" at 10 p.m. and went to his suite where he remained for the night.

### **Sunday, 14 November**

The President arose at 7:30 a.m. He remained in his suite until 8:10 a.m. working on his personal and official mail. He came downstairs at 8:15 a.m. and had breakfast in company with Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Admiral Leahy, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett and several others.

At 8:50 a.m., Senator McGrath, Mr. Boyle and Mr. Hassett left Quarters "A-B" and walked to the station chapel where they attended mass.

The President, accompanied by Senator Barkley and others of his party, left Quarters "A-B" at 10:45 a.m. and walked to the beach. The group also included Tommy Arrasmith, young son of Captain T. A. Arrasmith, who was along as the guest of Mr. Daniels. Miss Truman joined the group at the beach. Mr. Woodward attended Protestant services at the station chapel and afterwards he and Captain Adell walked to the beach where they joined the President's party. The entire group left the beach by motor at 1 p.m. and returned to their respective quarters.

Lunch was served at 1:30 p.m. After lunch the President retired to his quarters where he rested until 4 p.m.

The newspapermen and photographers returned from Havana this afternoon. All reported having a wonderful visit. They called on the President of Cuba, had luncheon at the palatial home of the President of the Aerovias Q Airline, spent Saturday afternoon at the races at Oriental Park (each race was named for some newspaperman of the group), and Saturday night was a round of dinner, nightclubs and supper.

Miss Truman, Mr. Clifford and General Graham engaged in a game of badminton (4:30 to 5:30 p.m.) on the court in the east garden while Mrs. Truman watched from the shade of the cocoanut palms.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. There were no guests. After dinner the motion picture "Red River," starring John Wayne, was shown. The President did not attend. He sat out on the south porch until 9 p.m., chatting with other members of his party. He retired to his suite at 9 p.m. where he spent the remainder of the evening. At the conclusion of the movies (9:30 p.m.), General Vaughan escorted the ladies to their quarters in the WILLIAMSBURG.

Mrs. William Hillman died early this morning at the Naval Hospital, Key West. The President and Senator Barkley sent letters of condolence to Mr. Hillman.

### **Monday, 15 November:**

The President arose at 6 a.m. and left Quarters "A-B" at 6:15 a.m. for a walk about the station. He was accompanied only by two Secret Service men. He returned to his quarters at 6:45 a.m. He had breakfast at 7:45 a.m.

Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Woodward, Commander MacDonald and Lieutenant Moore embarked in the station fishing boats "Big Wheel" and "Lady Bird" and departed the Naval Station at 8:55 a.m. for deep-sea fishing off Key West. The President saw them off and then returned to his quarters.

Mr. Ayers left at 9 a.m. for Boca Chica where he enplaned for return to Washington. He was accompanied by Chief Ship's Clerk Prophet who had several bags of White House mail, and Chief Yeoman D. L. Van Note, U.S.N., who was proceeding to Washington on leave of absence. They were transported to Washington in a SNB type aircraft piloted by Lieutenant C. P. Hoover, U.S.N., attached to the Naval Air Station, Key West.

Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Mr. Biffle and Mr. Boyle left by automobile at 9:50 a.m. for Miami on the first leg of their return trip to Washington. The trip to Miami was made by automobile as Senator Barkley and Senator McGrath particularly wanted to make the scenic drive up the Florida Keys. The Navy plane (Lieutenant Commander Donaldson) that had been standing by at Key West for them, was dispatched to the International Airport at Miami where it picked them up in the afternoon and took them on to West Palm Beach. Senator Barkley, Senator McGrath, Mr. Boyle and Mr. Biffle spent the night at West Palm Beach with friends and continued on to Washington on Tuesday, 16 November, via this same aircraft.

At 10 a.m., the President, accompanied by Mr. Steelman, General Vaughan, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Bray, left Quarters "A-B" and walked to the beach. After they had changed to bathing trunks and had a swim, the President took them all on a walking tour of nearby Fort Taylor. From there, they returned to the beach where they remained until noon, then returned by motor to Quarters "A-B."

At 1:05 p.m. the President talked by telephone with Congressman Sam Rayburn in Dennison, Texas.

The fishing party returned at 1:15 p.m. Captain Dennison reported a catch of one grouper, General Graham and Commander MacDonald each a barracuda and a grouper.

Lunch was served at 1:30 p.m. Afterwards, the President retired to his suite where he rested until 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman visited the Naval Station ship's service store where they made several purchases.

Governor Mon C. Wallgren (State of Washington), Mr. Matthew J. Connelly (Secretary to the President) and Mr. David K. Niles (Administrative Assistant to the President) arrived at 5 p.m. to join the President's party. They were brought down from Washington in a Navy R-4-D aircraft piloted by Lieutenant Commander T. W. Boyle, U.S.N. Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and Captain Dennison met them at Boca Chica. Governor Wallgren and Mr. Niles disembarked first and hurried on to the President's quarters. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Ross were accorded a somewhat different reception – all of which had been arranged for by a committee of White House news correspondents headed by "Tony" Vaccaro. As they left the plane at Boca Chica, they were greeted by the Key West High School band and an American Legion guard of honor. Then Mayor Adams, heading a group of city and county officials who joined in the merriment, told them the key to the city was theirs. Ceremonies at the field over, the two secretaries were whisked through Key West streets with a police escort leading the way, to the Naval Station. Their automobile was stopped just outside the Southard Street gate and they were required to disembark and walk through the gate. On entering the gate, they were greeted by a Negro band playing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." A procession was hastily formed. With Tony Vaccaro, wearing a flashy red and black checkered shirt and high top hat, leading the way, followed by 30 girls in green shirts from the Negro Douglas school cheering and swinging batons, and Mr. Connelly and Mr. Ross trailing behind, the procession moved on toward the President's quarters. City and county officials on foot brought up the rear. Under streamers of bath towels, bed clothing and miscellaneous paraphernalia strung across the street at intervals of about one hundred feet, the procession moved past press headquarters. There the White House correspondents "took the review" and then joined in the parade. The President, Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman, Governor Wallgren and all members of the President's party greeted the paraders just outside of the "Little White House" grounds.

Governor Wallgren occupied the south second floor bedroom, Mr. Ross the north center bedroom, Mr. Connelly the south center bedroom at Quarters "A-B," and Mr. Niles was billeted at Quarters "L."

Lieutenant Leonard M. Bush, White House courier, and Mr. Howard S. Anderson, White House Secret Service Detail, were passengers in the same plane that brought

Governor Wallgren to Key West. Lieutenant Bush delivered mail to the President's quarters at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. Miss Truman dined on board the WILLIAMSBURG as the guest of the wardroom officers. Afterwards, she attended the party at the chief petty officers club given by the club for the visiting newspapermen and photographers and the Secret Service. She was escorted by Lieutenant Moore.

After dinner the motion picture "Variety Time" was shown. The President and Mrs. Truman attended. The movies over, the President worked on his mail until 11:30 p.m., while Mrs. Truman read. Miss Truman returned shortly before 11:30 p.m., so at 11:35 p.m. the President escorted the ladies to their quarters in the WILLIAMSBURG. He then returned to Quarters "A-B" and at 11:45 p.m. he retired for the evening.

The following message was dispatched this evening to Princess Elizabeth: "Mrs. Truman and I are delighted at the news of the birth of a son and felicitate you and the Duke upon this happy occasion. Harry S. Truman."

### **Tuesday, 16 November**

Mr. Steelman had early breakfast and left the quarters at 5:40 a.m. to enplane for Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was scheduled to speak this afternoon before the convention of American Federation of Labor. He was transported in a naval aircraft (SNB type) piloted by Lieutenant Commander T. W. Seabrook, U.S.N.

The President arose at 7 a.m. He remained in his suite until 7:50 a.m. working on his mail. He came downstairs at 8 a.m. and breakfasted with Governor Wallgren, Admiral Leahy and several other members of his party.

The Secretary of the Air Force (Honorable W. Stuart Symington) telephoned from Miami and talked with the President at 9 a.m.

Mr. Daniels left the Little White House at 9:15 a.m. by automobile for Boca Chica where he emplaned for Raleigh, N. C. Also embarked in this plane (Navy R-4-D, Lieutenant Commander Boyle) were Lieutenant Bush, who had with him White house mail, Mr. Darcy, Mr. Boardley, Mr. Lapura, P. S. Patsos (Radioman third class, U.S.N.) and R. F. Prochaska (Seaman, U.S.N.). After stopping at Raleigh, where Mr. Daniels disembarked, the plane continued on to Washington with the other passengers.

The President, accompanied by most members of his party, left Quarters "A-B" at 9:40 a.m. and walked to the beach. They were joined there by Miss Truman. The party left the beach by motor at 11:30 a.m. and returned to their quarters.

Secretary Symington called on the President at 11:45 a.m. He was met on his



arrival at Boca Chica by Colonel Landry who accompanied him to the Little White House.

At noon, the President held a press conference. The conference was held outdoors, in the north garden, and was attended by Governor Wallgren, Secretary Symington, Miss Truman, Admiral Leahy, and several other members of the President's party. Afterwards, the President and Miss Truman posed for the photographers.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. Secretary Symington was a guest of the President. After lunch the President retired to his suite where he rested until 4 p.m. Mr. Symington visited with Mr. Clifford until 2:15 p.m. when he left for Boca Chica to enplane for Washington. He traveled in an Air Force aircraft. Colonel Landry accompanied the Secretary to Boca Chica. Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman went shopping in Key West. They were accompanied only by two Secret Service agents.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. After dinner, the President, Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and most other members of the party attended a showing of the motion picture "The Three Musketeers." After the movies (11:45 p.m.) the ladies left Quarters "A-B" for their quarters in the WILLIAMSBURG. They were accompanied by General Vaughan.

The President retired at midnight.

Mr. Robert E. Hannegan, former Postmaster General and Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, telephoned from St. Louis during the evening to explain that due to an illness he would be unable to accept the President's invitation to join him at Key West.

### **Wednesday, 17 November**

Mr. Steelman returned to the quarters at 3 a.m., from his business trip to Cincinnati.

The President arose at 7:15 a.m. He came downstairs at 7:30 a.m., talked for a few minutes with General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry and Mr. Dawson, and then, at 7:40 a.m., left the quarters for a walk about the station. He was accompanied only by two Secret Service men. He returned to his quarters at 8 a.m. and joined Governor Wallgren and Admiral Leahy at breakfast.

General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry and Mr. Dawson left Quarters "A-B" at 7:40 a.m., for Boca Chica where they enplaned for Miami (Navy SNB). They spent the day sightseeing, and returned to Key West in time for dinner.

Mr. Hassett and Captain Dennison left Quarters "A-B" at 8:40 a.m. for Boca

Chica where they embarked in the Navy blimp K-100. They made a two-hour flight over Key West and its vicinity.

At 9:45 a.m., the President, accompanied by Governor Wallgren and several other members of his party, left the house and walked to the beach. Miss Truman was awaiting them there. The President and Miss Truman exchanged greetings with Mr. Hassett and Captain Dennison as the blimp K-100 flew close over the beach. The beach party left by motor at 11:45 a.m. to return to their respective quarters.

At 12:30 p.m., the President, Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman sat in the living room for formal portrait photographs by Mr. Simon Glass (1000 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, Florida.).

Lunch was at 1 p.m. Afterwards, the President, Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman moved out to the southwest garden where they posed for informal pictures by the photographers. At 3 p.m., the President retired to his quarters where he rested until 4 p.m.

Dinner was served at 7:15 p.m. Miss Truman dined out.

At 8 p.m., four sacks of White House Mail were delivered to the President's quarters. This mail had been brought down from Washington by Lieutenant Hoover, pilot of the plane that took Mr. Ayers to Washington on Monday.

The motion picture "Station West," starring Dick Powell, was shown at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Truman and Governor Wallgren were among those who attended but the President was not. He remained on the south porch visiting with some of his party.

At 11:20 p.m., Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman, Governor Wallgren, Mr. Niles, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Woodward, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison and Mr. Bray left quarters "A-B" and walked to the WILLIAMSBURG. As soon as they had embarked (11:30 p.m.), Commander MacDonald got the WILLIAMSBURG underway and set course for Havana, Cuba. The President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Connelly and Mr. Dawson saw the party off and then returned to Quarters "A-B" where they sat around and chatted until 2 a.m. The President retired very shortly afterwards.

Miss Truman tonight declined an invitation to be Queen of the University of Florida's homecoming celebration, which was to be held in Tallahassee on Friday and Saturday of this week. The President and Mrs. Truman earlier had declined an invitation to visit the University during this same period.

#### **Thursday, 18 November**

The President did not arise until 8 a.m. this morning. He had breakfast at 8:15 a.m. in company with Mr. Steelman, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Ross and Mr. Dawson. This same

group left Quarters "A-B" at 9:45 a.m. and walked to the beach. They returned by motor at 11:50 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., Senator Claude Pepper (Florida); Honorable Fuller Warren, Governor-elect of Florida; Mr. Paul E. Fitzpatrick, Buffalo, New York – New York Democratic State Chairman; and Mr. C.V. Griffin, Howey, Florida, citrus grower, called on the President.

At 12:30 p.m., the Honorable James V. Forrestal, Secretary of Defense, called on the President. Secretary Forrestal had come down from Washington in a naval aircraft (R-5-D). He was accompanied to Key West by Major General A. M. Gruenther, U.S.A., Mr. Harold Hinton, Mr. Max Leva, and Colonel Robert J. Wood, U.S.A.

At 12:45 p.m., the Honorable George A. Smathers, Member of Congress (Fourth District of Florida, which includes Key West) called on the President.

Mr. Leonard Hicks, Chicago, Illinois (operator of the Casa Marina Hotel at Key West) called on the President at 12:50 p.m.

Lunch was served at 1 p.m. Secretary Forrestal, Senator Pepper and Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Warren, Hicks, Smathers and Griffin were guests of the President. After lunch, the President and his guests retired to the north garden where they posed for the photographers.

Senator Pepper, Mr. Warren and Mr. Griffin departed at 2:40 p.m.; Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Hicks left at 2:45 p.m. The President and Mr. Forrestal remained in the garden until 3:25 p.m., discussing official matters. Mr. Smathers talked with Mr. Connelly.

Secretary Forrestal departed at 3:25 p.m. for Boca Chica where he enplaned for Washington. He was accompanied by General Gruenther, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Leva and Colonel Wood. Congressman Smathers left at 3:30 p.m.

The Honorable Sam Rayburn, Member of Congress (Fourth District of Texas) arrived at 3:30 p.m. and joined the President's party. He was brought from his home in Sherman, Texas, in an Air Force B-17, Major Lanier pilot.

Judge J. Caskie Collet (United States Court of Appeals, Western District of Missouri), Mr. Charles S. Murphy (Administrative Assistant to the President), Mr. David W. Stowe (Assistant to Mr. Steelman) and Mr. George M. Elsey (Assistant to Mr. Clifford) arrived from Washington at 3:50 p.m. and joined the President's party. They traveled in a Navy R-5-D aircraft piloted by Captain L. N. Kelso, U.S.M.C. They were all billeted at Quarters "L."

At 4 p.m., the President left the house and held an informal inspection of the

detachment of Marines that guarded the Little White House while he was at Key West. He thanked the men for their fine work. Major Hayes had his men lined up on the concrete driveway running between the Naval Station administration building and the Little White House. Afterwards, the President returned to his quarters and worked on his mail until 5:20 p.m. From 5:20 to 6:45 p.m. the President rested in his suite.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. There were no guests.

There was no motion picture show this evening. The President spent the evening about the quarters visiting with various members of his party. He retired at midnight.

The WILLIAMSBURG arrived at Havana at 8:30 a.m. Ambassador Butler and Mrs. Butler called on Mrs. Truman at that time and at 9 a.m., Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and the other members of their party left the ship with the Ambassador and Mrs. Butler for a sightseeing tour of Havana. Mrs. Truman and her group returned to the ship at noon. At 1 p.m., the Ambassador and Mrs. Butler called again on Mrs. Truman. Mrs. Truman entertained the Ambassador and Mrs. Butler and her party at lunch at 1:15 p.m. Ambassador and Mrs. Butler left the ship at 3 p.m. Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and other members of the Havana group rested from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., when they left the ship for the American Embassy where they were entertained for tea. They returned to the WILLIAMSBURG at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Niles and Captain Dennison had dinner aboard the WILLIAMSBURG. The other members of the Havana group went ashore for dinner and further sightseeing.

By 11 p.m. all guests were aboard and the WILLIAMSBURG was underway for the return trip to Key West.

### **Friday, 19 November**

An early morning fire alarm sounded at the Naval Station. Sirens sounded about 3:30 a.m., but it turned out to be a false alarm. The noise and commotion apparently did not disturb the President but a number of the newspapermen and photographers were observed out in the street ready to chase the fire trucks.

The President arose at 7:40 a.m. and came downstairs to the south porch where he read the morning newspaper.

The WILLIAMSBURG was moored to the north quay wall at the Naval Station, Key West, at 8 a.m. She had been riding a moderate sea since about 3 a.m. and the guests reported a rough passage on the return voyage from Havana.

At 8:05 a.m., Governor Wallgren, Captain Dennison, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Niles, General Graham, Colonel Landry and Mr. Bray left the ship. They were joined on the dock by the President, who had watched the mooring, and the

group walked to Quarters "A-B" where they had breakfast. Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman and General Vaughan remained on board.

At 8:40 a.m., Mr. Murphy, Mr Stowe, and Mr. Elsey left by auto for Boca Chica where they enplaned (Navy SNB) for Havana. They spent the day in Havana, shopping and sightseeing, and returned to Key West in time for dinner.

At 9:30 a.m., General Graham left by auto for Boca Chica where he enplaned (Navy SNB) for Miami, where he spent the day. He returned to Key West at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. H.S. Anderson, White House Secret Service Detail, left the Little White House by auto at 9:45 a.m. for Boca Chica. He had with him five sacks of White House mail. At Boca Chica he enplaned (Navy SNB) for Washington, D.C. Congressman Smathers was a passenger as far as Daytona Beach, Florida in this same plane. Because of threatening weather, Mr. Anderson's plane landed at Charleston, S.C., and he continued his trip to Washington by Navy automobile.

At 9:50 a.m. the President left the Little White House and walked to the beach. He was accompanied by Mr. Rayburn and several other members of his party. Miss Truman joined them at the beach, but she left early to return to the WILLIAMSBURG. The President lost his eye glasses while swimming in the heavy surf that was running. They were recovered later, however, when he observed them on the beach at the water's edge. The President left the beach at 11:50 a.m. and motored to the WILLIAMSBURG where he stopped to greet Mrs. Truman and her luncheon guests (Mrs. W.C. Dunn, Jr., and Mrs. Henry Cavendish, both of Cocconut Grove, Florida). He returned to Quarters "A-B" at 12:45 p.m.

Lunch was served at the Little White House at 1 p.m. Mrs. Truman entertained at luncheon on board the WILLIAMSBURG. Her guests were Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Cavendish and Miss Truman. After lunch (1:45 p.m.), the President left the Little White House and walked to the WILLIAMSBURG where he joined Mrs. Truman and her guests. He returned to Quarters "A-B" at 2:10 p.m.

Mr. John A. Kennedy, editor of the San Diego (California) Journal, called on the President at 2:15 p.m. He spent the afternoon visiting with the members of the President's party.

The President retired to his suite at 2:30 p.m. where he rested until 4 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., Miss Truman, Mr. Steelman and Mr. Woodward motored to the beach for an afternoon swim. They returned to their respective quarters at 3:45 p.m.

The aircraft INDEPENDENCE returned to Key West this afternoon, having completed a routine check up at the Douglas Aircraft factory at Los Angeles.

Dinner was served at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Kennedy was a guest. The dinner tonight was highlighted by a gracious testimonial to the President by Speaker Rayburn and the President's response. After dinner the party moved to the living room where they witnessed a showing of the latest Warner- Pathe newsreel showing the reception accorded the President on his return to Washington after his reelection. The newsreel was followed by a screening of the feature "Luck of the Irish." The President did not remain for the feature. Together with several of his party, he retired to the south porch, where they visited until 11:25 p.m.

Speaker Rayburn left by auto at 10:40 p.m. for Boca Chica, where he enplaned (Air Force B-17) for a flight to Dallas, Texas. Mr. Bray accompanied him to Boca Chica. The ladies, accompanied by General Graham, left the Little White House at 10:45 p.m., for their quarters in the WILLIAMSBURG.

The President retired at 11:25 p.m.

Mr. Kennedy remained at the quarters after the President retired, visiting with members of the President's party. He then returned to his hotel in Key West.

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**Saturday, 20 November:**

The President arose at 7:15 a.m. He left the house at 7:25 a.m. in company with two Secret Service men, and took a walk about the Naval Station. He returned at 7:45 a.m., and had breakfast at 8:15 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., the President, accompanied by Governor Wallgren and Mr. Ross, left the Little White House and walked to the Marine's Reception Hall, where Governor Wallgren demonstrated some of his trick billiard shots.

Mr. Kennedy rejoined the President's party at 9:45 a.m. At 9:50 a.m., the President accompanied by Governor Wallgren and most other members of his party, left Quarters "A-B" and walked to the beach. They were joined there by Miss Truman. The group left the beach by motor at 11:45 a.m., to return to their respective quarters.

Mr. Frank Gervasi called on the President at noon. The President received him out in the southwest garden Mr. Gervasi departed at 12:30 pm

At 12:45 p.m., the President posed for Mr. Kyril Vassiler (151 Sunset Avenue, Palm Beach, Florida), a portrait artist. Mr. Vassiler was putting the finishing touches on a portrait showing the President as he delivered his address at the dedication of the Everglades National Park (December 6, 1947).

A picnic lunch was served the President's mess at 1:15 p.m., in the north garden. Captain Adell, Commander MacDonald, Commander Gay and Lieutenant Colonel F.E. Williams, U.S.A.F. (pilot of the INDEPENDENCE) were guests. After lunch (2:15 p.m.), the President retired to his suite where he rested. He left the house at 4 p.m. and walked to the WILLIAMSBURG where he joined Mrs. Truman.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Elsey visited the submarine MADRIGAL (SS-480) At 4 p.m. They were greeted by Captain Bannister, Commander Submarine Squadron FOUR, who conducted them on a tour of the boat. The MADRIGAL was moored to Pier 4 at the Naval Station.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Edwards, accompanied by their daughter, called on the President and Mrs. Truman at 4:10 p.m. Mrs. Edwards is Chairman of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee. The Edwards were received on board the WILLIAMSBURG. The President returned to the Little White House at 4:25 p.m.

Captain Dennison attended, as the representative of the President, ceremonies held at Bayview Park, Key West, this afternoon at which one of Key West's main streets (known for the past century as Division Street) was dedicated "Truman Avenue." The Dedication address was delivered by Mayor Adams. After the ceremonies at Bayview Park, there followed a parade down Truman Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard, where Mayor Adams cut the ribbon formally "opening" Truman Avenue. The American Legion color guard and the Key West High School band participated in the parade.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. There were no guests. After dinner, the President talked by telephone with Mr. Robert E. Hannegan (in St. Louis, Missouri).

Movies were shown at the Little White House at 8:15 p.m. The feature was "Easter Parade," starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. The President did not attend. He spent the evening visiting with some members of his party.

The President retired at 11 p.m.

Except for handling the unusually heavy volume of mail sent down by the White House, the President followed generally the same leisurely routine he observed on his previous vacations at Key West. Other than for a cruise to Dry Tortugas Island, he did not leave the naval base during the entire period of his stay at Key West. He declined all social invitations and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the informality afforded him at this retreat. Perhaps the routine was best described by Mr. Biffle, when he remarked, "ninety

percent of the time down here has been spent resting. The other ten percent has been just talking.”

The weather was particularly favorable for a vacation. The average day time temperature was in the low 80s – there was usually a bright sun for the sun worshippers, and always a cool breeze in the evenings.

The ladies spent their forenoons in their quarters on board the WILLIAMSBURG. The afternoons and evenings generally were spent visiting with the group at the Little White House.

Admiral Leahy spent most forenoons at the Little White House, working on his personal papers.

Mrs. Farrell, wife of the commanding officer of the Naval Station, was particularly thoughtful and helpful. She came in each morning while the vacationers were at the beach and kept the Little White house supplied with beautiful flowers.

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**Sunday, 21 November:**

The President arose at 7:50 a.m. He had breakfast at 8:15 a.m., in company with Governor Wallgren, Admiral Leahy and several other members of his party.

Party baggage was collected at 8:15 a.m. and dispatched to Washington via a special Air Force C-47 (Captain Smith, pilot).

The President’s party assembled at the Little White House and left there by motor caravan at 10:25 a.m. for Boca Chica. Captain Adell and Admiral Leahy rode in the car with the President. White-clad officers and enlisted men “lined the rail” to the Caroline Street gate. There, full military honors were accorded the President, and as he officially departed from the Naval Station, his flag was lowered in the administration building. No gun salute was fired. The route taken through the city was the reverse of that used on his arrival on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Captain Bass and his State Highway patrolmen led the procession. There was a goodly number of people out along the streets to bid the Trumans goodbye. It was noted that new street signs had been erected along Truman Avenue.

The Presidential motorcade arrived at the Naval Airfield, Boca Chica, at 10:45 a.m. As at the Naval Station, the streets inside the airfield along which we passed were lined with naval personnel dressed in white uniforms.



All hands disembarked at once. The President talked with the newspapermen, shook hands with senior officers assembled there, Captain Bass and his State Highway patrolmen, the crew of the press plane (E.A.L. Constellation), and then said his goodbyes to Captain Adell and Mayor Adams. The Key West High School band played martial music during these ceremonies. At 10:55 a.m., the President boarded the INDEPENDENCE and Lieutenant Colonel Williams taxied his ship to the runway for the take-off.

The INDEPENDENCE departed Boca Chica at 11 a.m. and set course for Washington. Passengers embarked were : The President, Mrs. Truman, Miss Truman, Governor Wallgren, Admiral Leahy, Judge Collet, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Ross, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Woodward, General Vaugan, General Graham, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Bray, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Dorsey and Chief Steward Prettyman.

The press plane got away five minutes later. In addition to the White House news correspondents, radio correspondents and photographers, this craft had on board Mr. D. Long (White House Transportation Officer) and Messrs. J.T. Gorham, F.A. Barry, P.T. Usher, F.M. Boring, G.A. Behn, R.H. Kauffman and E.P. Roberts (all of the White House Secret Service Detail).

The Navy R-5-D (Captain Kelso, pilot) departed Boca Chica at 11:10 a.m. for Washington. Embarked were: Mr. Niles, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Stowe, Mr. Elsey, Lieutenant Commander Rigdon, Chief Ship's Clerk Prophet, Mr. Patnode, Mr. Mitchell, Winkler, YN1, Esperancilla, SDC, Palomaria, SDC, Pascual, SDC, Bachiller SDC, and J.T. McCrosson, the Presidential party photographer, who had been sent to Key West in the WILLIAMSBURG. Captain J.A. Ferrell, Jr., U.S.N. was also a passenger in this plane. He was enroute to Annapolis to visit his son, a midshipman at the Naval Academy.

The Press plane landed at the Military Air Transport Service terminal, Washington National Airport, at 2:45 p.m. and all hands disembarked to await the President.

The INDEPENDENCE put down at Washington (MATS terminal) at 2:50 p.m. after a smooth and uneventful flight up from Key West. The Presidential party disembarked at once. Secretary Forrestal and Mr. Biffle were among the crowd of several hundred on hand to greet the President. After talking with friends for a few minutes, members of the party embarked in automobiles and departed for their respective homes. The President and his family went to the Blair House where they were to live while the White House was closed for rehabilitation.

The Navy R-5-D arrived at the MATS terminal, Washington, at 4:40 p.m., completing the movement out of Key West. Mr. J. Long, E. Chapman, B.

Putterman, C. Bautista, J. Campion, R.H. Kellerman and W.F. Shields had returned in the baggage plane. Major McNalley and Mr. McMullin had returned several days previously via private means.

Lieutenant Moore, with a crew of stewards from the WILLIAMSBURG, closed the Little White House after our departure, and the WILLIAMSBURG departed Key West Sunday afternoon (November 21<sup>st</sup>) and arrived at her regular base – the Naval Gun Factory – at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.