

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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Collection: Osborne, Kathy: Files
Folder Title: William Thompson [Boyhood Home Letter]
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Note ~

Wm. Thompson
Dixon, Ill.

For Kathy Osborne ~

Dear Kathy -

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Without revealing any secrets, or verifying any stories regarding the President's visit to Dixon, we as a group with no one knowing exactly when the President would be coming to Dixon tried to lay ground work, and work towards such a time as the President & the First Lady will be coming to Dixon for the formal opening of the Reagan Home, and all the other activities that will no doubt take place at the same time.

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Naturally the times and sequence of events will need to be worked out between Carrie Redebanck, the curator — the Mayor & City officials — the Reagan Home Foundation — Reagan Home Volunteers the local Republicans — the visiting dignitaries, etc.

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I talked to Jim Hickey last night — nearly all of the furnishing & furniture for the home has been acquired, and will be shipped to Dixon shortly to be put in storage.

Jim & Betty will be in touch with Jean & I and starting around the first couple weeks in Jan we will get together and begin putting the house furnishing & furniture etc together.

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Time & sequence of events to be coordinated between the City of Dixon - Reagan Boyhood Home Volunteers - Carrie Redebaugh, Public School Officials - Park Board - Dixon Library Board - White House staff - scheduling & security, etc -

Mayor & City Officials

Formal Greetings by Mayor James Dixon - to President & First Lady -
Presentation of key to the City by Mayor to President Reagan
Introduction of Members of City Council & other visiting dignitaries

Location - in front of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home

Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home - Greetings to President & First Lady

Formal opening of the Home - with Ronald Reagan Home Volunteers, Foundation Board members - officers - city officials - Curator - Architect for the Home - visiting dignitaries, etc, in attendance.

Presentation of Plated Keys to Reagan Home to the President in the form of a plaque - to be presented to the President by Jean & Bill Thompson - vice pres. of the Home Volunteers, and the grandson of William C. Thompson the original owner, and builder of the Reagan Boyhood Home in 1890.

Introduction of President by Ann Knights - Honorary Curator of the Home & President of the Ronald Reagan Home Volunteers,
Recognition of Carrie Redebaugh & daughter Mary Knights, etc

Words of acknowledgment by the President & First Lady.

meeting and introductions of volunteers by Carrie Redebaugh to the President & First Lady.

Introductions to curator James T. Hickey & wife Betty - Architect Carl Fisher & wife Kay - Ken Blood etc

Tour and inspection of the home by Curator James Hickey, and architect Carl Fisher

meeting & greeting friends - photographs - signing autographs, etc.

President & First Lady to sign Ronald Reagan Home Visitors guest book - followed by other officials & dignitaries

Move north on same street (Hennebun Ave) approx. 4 blocks to South Central School.

South Central School

Grade school where President Reagan attended grade school when he first moved to Dixon in 1920.

Recognition of South Central School as the only school still standing that was attended by the President when he lived in Dixon

Introduction of President Ronald Reagan & First Lady to Dixon School officials etc and introduction of & to Esther Barton - retired Principal of E.C. Smith School in Dixon and Ronald Reagan's Principal during the time he attended school at E.C. Smith school. Esther Barton being the only living School Principal that had Ronald Reagan in school during this period.

Miss Esther Barton - Reagan's former school Principal & one of the volunteers of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home to present on behalf of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home volunteers a Bronze plaque to be placed on the wall of the building - plaque to designate the Ronald W. Reagan attended school here, etc Greetings - introductions - visiting with friends etc, Photographs - autographs etc

Move on north on same street (Hennepin Ave)
one block to the Dixon Public Library
where the President & his brother Neil both took out Library cards in Dec 1920, and where they continued to study - read & learn during the time they lived in Dixon

Dixon Public Library

Seat of Learning & the Hometown Library where the President and his brother first took out Library cards in Dec. 1920 - cards # 3694 & 3695, and where they continued to read & learn and acquire much of the knowledge which helped greatly as they ascended the ladder of life to the pinnacle of success in their respective fields of endeavor.

Formal opening of the Presidential Memorabilia Museum Room which will in the future become a living-learning experience for thousands of young area visitors to the wonderful room.

The Presidential Memorabilia Museum Room was brought about thru the generosity of Marguerite Mondlock a former Dixon girl and in school in Dixon at the same time as the President and recently retired after 32 years of service in the Postal Dept of the White House. Mrs. Mondlock donated all the pictures & prints - photo graphs - gifts etc received during her 32 years at the White House to the Dixon Public Library, and the Friends of the Dixon Public Library. Through her generosity and along with the help of Jean Thompson former Library Board member they have coordinated their efforts with the cooperation of the Library Board to make a wonderful museum room for past & present and future Presidential memorabilia for the benefit of the local area residents especially the students & youth the ages of the President & his brother Neil when they first started visiting the Dixon Public Library.

Presentation of a Desk to the Friends of the Dixon Public Library and the Dixon Library Board by President Reagan and Mrs B.S. Frazer in honor of former educator - teacher Principal and life long friend and advisor of President Reagan.

The desk given originally in 1928 to teacher - B.S. Frazer by Ronald Reagan's graduating class at Dixon North Side High School, retained all these years, and recently given to President Ronald Reagan, who graciously accepted the desk to be given in his name, and in the name of B.S. Frazer to the Friends of the Dixon Public Library, and the Dixon Public Library for display in the Presidential Memorabilia Museum Room.

Desk to be presented by President Reagan and Madeline Frazer wife of B.S. Frazer to the Dixon Public Library Board.

Dixon Public Library - cont.

Presidential Memorabilia from President Reagan - photographs autographed to the Friends of the Dixon Public Library, and other items of personal memorabilia sent to Jean & Bill Thompson for presentation to the Friends of the Dixon Public Library, will also be presented at this time.

Formal presentation of a Bronze Plaque to the Dixon Public Library - from the Volunteers of the Ronald Reagan Home.

Plaque designating that Ronald W. Reagan - 40th President of the United States studied at the Dixon Public Library during the years 1920-1932.

Plaque to be presented by Lynn Knights - Pres. of the Bayhood Home Volunteers to the President & in turn to the President of the Dixon Library Board for placement on the wall inside the entrance to the Library.

Presentation of a plated Library Card in the form of a plaque indicating the use of the Dixon Public Library for reading, studying & learning beginning in Dec 1920, (Library card #3695) and continuing on until such time as the President moved away from Dixon.

card & plaque to be presented by Jean Thompson, member of the Reagan Home Volunteers and a former member of the Dixon Library Board, and coordinator of the Presidential Memorabilia Museum Room at the Library.

Those in attendance:

Ronald Reagan Home - Board - officers - members - Volunteers, Mayor - officials - Library Board Members - Mrs. B. J. Fraser, & her family. Mr. Mondlock - Hickey - Fishers etc

Photographs - autographs - meeting & visiting with old friends etc

Move on one block north to
Christain Church

First Christian Church

Church where President Reagan attended Sunday School, and church with his mother during the years he lived in Dixon

A plaque in bronze indicating his attendance in Sunday School & Church at this Church is to be presented by the Reagan Boyhood Home Volunteers to the Minister and Mary Emmert. Life Long Friend of the President.

Plaque to be presented by Mary Emmert, old Dixon friend of the President, and a volunteer of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home.

Bronze Plaque to indicate that Ronald attended Sunday School & Church at this Church during the years 1920 - 1932.

Those to be in attendance:

Minister - church people - officials - Home Volunteers
Emmert Family etc

on to Loveland Community Bldg.
4 blocks west on Second Street.

Is ~ Ronald Reagan led the Easter Sunrise Prayer Meeting in this Church in 1926

Loveland Community Building

This is the site where the Bronze Plaque is displayed ~
The Plaque denoting Ronald Reagan as a Life Guard
at Lowell Park 1926 - 1932 saving 77 lives during
his time as Life Guard there. First Lady Nancy & the
President to meet & greet Mrs. Ruth Graybill former
employer of the President when he was Life Guard
at Lowell Park during those years.

Persons to be in attendance:

Mrs. Graybill - city officials - Loveland Comm. Bldg.
Board members - park district officials. etc

usual photographs - autographs - greeting of
friends - etc

on to the north side of the River
traveling over the Ronald Reagan Bridge
to Heritage Square Retirement Home
located on the site of the old North Dixon
High School where the President attended
High School graduating in 1928.

Heritage Square Retirement Home

Heritage Square Retirement Home on the site of the North Central High School where the President attended four years of High School, graduating in 1928.

Many old friends - classmates - former teachers and acquaintances have resided and are still residing there.

Heritage Square is a not-for profit Retirement Home which does not nor has never been funded by any governmental agency - local - state or Federal. It is fully supported through bequests - donations - trusts - endowments - rents and services.

This is a great institution on the site of Reagan's old High School that is doing a tremendous comm. service in a very caring way to the elderly people of the area and certainly is worthy of recognition by the President.

It was hoped the President and the First Lady might put in an appearance - greeting a few of the residents, some of whom, are old friends and former classmates, and acquaintances from the years past.

Those to be in attendance:

Heritage Square administrative staff, Board members, volunteers - Residents etc

on to Brandywine Restaurant & Motel
for Refreshing & Luncheon

Brandywine Restaurant & Motel

Luncheon with President & First Lady Nancy

The luncheon to include Ronald Reagan
Boyhood Home Volunteers - officers - board
members - staff -

Ronald Reagan Home Foundation - officers
members - board etc

City officials - Mayor -
Curator James T. Hickey & wife Betty
Architect Carl Fisher & wife Kay

Ken Blood - Carl Covert - Martin Munson etc
& wife

and various other dignitaries

? Banquet - Dinner party in
evening to be planned & coordinated
later ~

Ps ~

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was atrocious - atrocious - atrocious
very bad & to please
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For Kathy Osborne

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Luncheon with President & First Lady Nancy

The Luncheon to include Ronald Reagan
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members - staff -

Ronald Reagan Home Foundation - officers
members - board etc

City officials - Mayor -
Curator James T. Shiley & wife Betty

Architect Carl Fisher & wife Kay

Ken Blood - Carl Covert - Martin Mission etc
& wife

and various other dignitaries

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Banquet - Dinner party in
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