

FOLDER TITLE LIST and SERIES DESCRIPTION

Collection: White House Social Files, November 22, 1963–January 20, 1969

Series: Bess Abell Files [NAID 24329851]

SOCIAL FILES: Bess Abell Files

For list of folder titles, see page 2.

Scope and content note:

This series contains the working files of Bess Abell during her time as Lady Bird Johnson's White House Social Secretary. The material in this series includes correspondence, memorandums, handwritten notes, lists, reports, menus, programs, drafts, schedules, telegrams, and pamphlets related to the duties of Bess Abell, including planning for social events at the White House and the LBJ Ranch.

Some of the typical events reflected in the material include teas, receptions, State Dinners, luncheons, festivals, parties, celebrations, weddings, and award ceremonies. Among the luncheons are the "Women Doer's Luncheons" hosted by Mrs. Johnson and luncheons held for foreign visitors. In addition to the records related to the logistics of event planning, there is also material related to the entertainment at various events including theatrical, musical, and dance performances. There is also material related to events hosted by the Johnson's daughters, Luci Johnson and Lynda Johnson.

This series also contains material related to travel and campaigning done by Mrs. Johnson, including her Whistle Stop Campaign for the 1964 Presidential campaign, her trips to highlight beautification and conservation, and her trips to highlight the war on poverty.

- Date range of series: 1963-1968
- 13 linear feet
- **A small portion of this series is open and available to researchers; however, most of this series is unprocessed**

Digitization note: Some of these folders have been digitized and are available on DiscoverLBJ.org. See folder title list to identify scanned folders.

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Folder Title List

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Box #	Status	Folder Title
1		National Repertory Theatre, 12/9/63
		Visit to D. C. General Hospital, 12/11/63
	opened 1/20/84	Erhard (Texas Visit), 12/28/63
		Christmas Ballet for Children - Scapino Ballet, 12/64
		College Editors, 2/3/64
		Prime Minister Home (Great Britain), 2/13/64
		Italian Visit - Segni, 1/14/64
		Prime Minister Pearson (Canada), 1/22/64
		Mexican Visit, Palm Springs, 2/21/64
		Houston Symphony Tour and Lunch, 2/29/64
2		Cancer Society Photo, 3/27/64
		Boston Symphony Concert, 3/31/64
		Catholic University Performance, 4/1/64
		North Carolina Lost Colony, 4/7/64
		Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Luncheon, 4/9/64
		Lucy's Party, National Cathedral School, 4/11/64
		Reception - Women Appointees, 4/13/64
		King Hussein's Visit, 4/14/64
		ASNE Reception, 4/17/64
		Business Leaders Dinner, 4/28/64

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		Brandeis University, White House Tea, 4/29/64
		Shenandoah Apple Festival, 4/30/64
		Japanese Governors Reception, 4/30/64
		Summer Cultural Program, 5/1/64
		Reception for Democratic Women, 5/2/64
		Foreign Students Reception, 5/5/64
	opened 4/3/84	Senate Ladies Luncheon, 5/6/64
3	opened 2/20/24	Trip (New York), 5/7/64
		Brandt Luncheon, 5/18/64
	opened 3/19/84	King Mwambutsa IV of Burundi, 5/19/64
		Trip (Kentucky), 5/21/64
		Irish Visit - de Valera, 5/27/64
		"Articles of Belief" - J. Gottlieb
		Israel: Prime Minister Eshkol State Dinner, 6/1/64
4	opened 11/14/16	Prime Minister of Israel Visit, 6/1/64
		Reception for Adams Silver, 6/4/64
		Shah of Iran Luncheon , 6/5/64
		Denmark - Prime Minister Krag State Dinner, 6/9/64
		Presidential Scholars, 6/10/64
		Erhard Visit and Dinner, 6/12/64
		National Symphony Concert - Campaign Volunteers, 6/13/64
		Turkish Luncheon, 6/22/64
		Shakespearean Reception, 6/22/64
		Reception - Juvenile Judges, 6/23/64
		Australian Luncheon, 6/24/64
		Greek Luncheon, 6/25/64

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|---|------------------------|---|
| 5 | | <p>Reception - Heart, Stroke, Cancer, 6/29/64</p> <p>Costa Rica State Dinner, 6/30/64</p> <p>Latin American Receptions (3), 7/20/64</p> |
| | opened 3/19/84 | <p>Reception - African Chiefs Mission, 7/13/64</p> <p>Reception - White House Secretaries, 7/14/64</p> <p>Holyoake Luncheon, 7/20/64</p> <p>Foreign Ministers Reception, 7/21/64</p> <p>Luncheon, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 7/22/64</p> <p>Mormon Tabernacle Concert, 7/23/64</p> <p>Malagasy Dinner, 7/27/64</p> <p>White House Dinner (Malagasy), 7/27/64</p> <p>Ladies Luncheon, 7/29/64</p> |
| 6 | opened 2/20/24 | <p>Fashion Show</p> <p>Italian State Dinner, 8/3/64 (canceled)</p> <p>Plans for Progress Meeting, 8/5/64</p> <p>U Thant Dinner, 8/6/64</p> <p>County Officials Reception, 8/11/64</p> |
| | opened 11/14/83 | <p>Salute to Congress, 8/19/64</p> <p>Mrs. Hughes & Mrs. Bailey's Party, 8/27/64</p> <p>El Paso Ceremony, 9/4/64</p> <p>NATO Stag Luncheon, 9/29/64</p> |
| 7 | | <p>College Students Party, 10/3/64</p> <p>White House Dinner - Pres. Diosdado Macapagal
(Philippines), 10/5/64</p> <p>Philippine State Visit, 10/5/64</p> <p>Luncheon - John Loeb, 10/6/64</p> |

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		Tea - UPI Editors and Publishers' Ladies, 10/7/64
	opened 1/31/84	Ranch Visit - Diaz Ordaz, 11/12/64
		Stage Designs, 11/19/64
		Dinner for the Prime Minister of India
	open	SCANNED Olympic Medals Luncheon, 12/1/64
		Dinner for Prime Minister Wilson, 12/7/64
		Children's Christmas Party, 12/17/64
		Christmas Gifts - 1964 (2 folders)
		Christmas Cards - 1964
8		Christmas Decorations - 1964
		Diplomatic Children's Party (THIS Committee), 12/29/64
		Japanese Dinner, 1/12/65
		Dinner for Vice President, Speaker, and Chief Justice, 2/2/65
		Lincoln Day Luncheon, 2/12/65
		Movie Premiere and Supper, 3/10/65
		YWCA Reception, 3/18/65
		State Dinner for Upper Volta, 3/29/65
		Harrison Painting Presentation, 4/12/65
9		State Dinner for Italian Prime Minister, 4/20/65
		DAR Tour, 4/23/65
		Women Doers Luncheon, 4/28/65
		AH Wilderness Party, 4/29/65
		Library Tea, 5/3/65
		Trip (Virginia), 5/11/65
		River Trip - Beautification, 5/17/65
		Korean State Visit, 5/17/65

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		Conference on Natural Beauty, 5/24/65
		International Publishers' Wives, 5/31/65
		Trip (Kentucky), 6/2/65
		Princess Christina, 6/5/65
10		Presidential Scholars, 6/8/65
		Kermit Gordon Party, 6/9/65
11	opened 11/83	White House Festival of the Arts, 6/14/65 (4 folders)
		National Accessions Committee, 6/18/65
		American Symphony League, 6/19/65
		White House Fellows, 6/28/65
		Shriners' Wives, 7/9/65
		Children's Theatre Program for Head Start, 7/12/65
		Alaska
		Conference on Education, 7/20/65
		American Field Service, 7/20/65
	opened 11/16/83	Harkness Ballet (Stage Dedication), 9/29/65
12		Salute to Congress, 10/7/65 (3 folders)
		Colonial Dames of America Tour, 10/13/65
	opened 6/20/86	Princess Margaret's Visit, 11/17/65
		Cantata for the White House - Pres. of Pakistan, 12/14/65
		Dinner for Ayub Khan, 12/14/65
13		Prime Minister Harold Wilson, 12/17/65
		Christmas Staff Party, 12/17/65
	opened 9/23/16	Children's Party, Kabi Laretei, 12/18/65
		Dr. Ludwig Erhard (Germany), 12/20/65
		Staff Children's Christmas Party, 12/23/65

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		Christmas Gifts - 1965
		Christmas Cards - 1965
		THIS Committee - Children's Party, 12/29/65
		Vice President's Dinner, 1/26/66
		Tammy Grimes, 1/26/66
		E. Roosevelt Reception, 1/31/66
14		Chile (Dinner), 2/1/66
		National Gallery Ceremony, 3/17/66
		Ladies Luncheon, 3/22/66
		Judicial Reception, 3/23/66
		Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 3/28/66
		Beautification Luncheon, Mrs. Lasker, 4/13/66
		Democratic Ladies Reception, 4/19/66
		Volunteer Services (Tea & Tour), 4/20/66
15		Veterans Administration, 4/20/66
	opened 9/23/16	Lynda's Dinner, 4/23/66
		Krag Dinner-Dance, 4/27/66
		Texas Trip, 5/13/66
		Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Dinner, 5/16/66
		Military Reception, 5/16/66
		Honorable John A. Gronouski, 5/20/66
		Presidential Scholars, 6/7/66
		King Faisal Dinner, 6/21/66
16	opened 3/16/17	Youth Beauty Conference, 6/28/66
		Prime Minister Harold E. Holt, 6/29/66
		Connie Greeman's Party

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		Bolivian Luncheon, 7/20/66
		Prime Minister of Guyana, 7/21/66
		Israeli Dinner, 8/2/66
		Robert Twynam, 8/6/66
		Luci's Wedding, 8/6/66
		Tijuana Brass, 8/23/66
		Tchaikovsky Winners Reception, 9/7/66
		Burma Dinner, 9/8/66
17		Urban America Reception, 9/12/66
	opened 4/21/17	City Center, 9/14/66
		Philippine Dinner, 9/14/66
		Trip (California), 9/21/66
		Dr. Ludwig Erhard, 9/26/66
		World Bank Tea, 9/27/66
	open	SCANNED President of Senegal (Stag Luncheon), 9/28/66
		Veterans Organizations Reception, 10/4/66
		200,000,000th American
		Beautification Stamp Ceremony, 10/5/66
		Honorable George Ball, 10/19/66
18		Trip (Philippines), 10/23/66
		Coffee for Ambassador's Wives, 12/14&15/66
		Christmas Staff Party, 12/15/66
		Vietnam Veterans, 12/15/66
		Under-Privileged Children's Party, 12/16/66
		Christmas Gifts - 1966
		Staff Children's Party, 12/26/66

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19		THIS Committee Children's Party, 12/29/66
		Vice President Dinner, 1/17/67
		"Hello Dolly", 1/17/67
		Trip (New York), 1/24/67
		Brazilian Luncheon, 1/26/67
		Connor's Party, 1/27/67
		Space Treaty, 1/27/67
		Roosevelt Presentation Party, 1/31/67
		Morocco Dinner, 2/9/67
		Jose Limon, 2/9/67
20	opened 3/20/84	Ethiopia Dinner, 2/14/67
		Richard Tucker and Nedda Casei, 2/14/67
		Korean Luncheon, 3/14/67
		Governors, 3/18/67
		Afghanistan Luncheon, 3/28/67
	opened 1/19/84	Latin American Ambassadors (LBJ Ranch), 4/1/67
		LBJ Ranch Barbecue, 4/1/67
	opened 1/19/84	LBJ Ranch Barbecue - Latin American Ambassadors, 4/1/67
		Ambassadors (Reception and Movies), 4/1/67
		Boston Opera Company, 4/3/67
21		President of Turkey, 4/3/67
		House Administrative Assistants, 4/10/67
		Trip (South America), 4/12/67
		News Editors Reception, 4/21/67
		Justice Black Reception, 4/25/67
		Diplomatic Reception, 4/26/67

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	Beautification Luncheon, 4/27/67
	White House Fellows, 5/1/67
	China Luncheon, 5/9/67
	Judicial Reception, 5/11/67
	Lighting by Feder, 5/25/67
	Trip (Vermont), 6/9/67
	Country Fair, 9/12/67
	Mexico (Dinner), 10/26/67
22	Tijuana Brass, 10/26/67
	Charlie Byrd, 11/1/67
	King and Queen of Nepal, 11/1/67
	Crown Prince of Laos, 11/9/67
	Tony Bennett, 11/14/67
23	Prime Minister of Japan, 11/14/67
	Creche Presentation, 12/15/67
	Christmas Party (Press Ladies), 12/18/67
	Children's Party, 12/19/67
	Staff Children's Party, 12/21/67
	Staff Party, 12/22/67
	Christmas Tree, 12/25/67
	Christmas Gifts, 1967
	Creche - Christmas, 12/25/67
	Children's Party, 12/28/67
	Prime Minister of Israel, 1/7/68
	Vice President, Speaker, Chief Justice Dinner, 1/25/68
opened 11/23/83	Prime Minister Harold Wilson, 2/8/68

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	opened 11/22/83	Robert Merrill and Veronica Tyler, 2/8/68
	opened 3/29/16	Governor's Wives, 2/29/68
	opened 2/10/10 SCANNED	White House Fashion Show, 2/29/68
24		Prime Minister of Somalia, 3/14/68
		Anita Bryant, 3/14/68
		President of Paraguay, 3/20/68
		Paraguay Songs
	opened 12/14/88	Democratic Convention Work-Up
		Uruguay (canceled)
		Duke Ellington, 3/27/68
		President of Liberia, 3/27/68
25		Crossing Trails of Texas, 4/5/68 (2 folders)
		Chancellor of Austria, 4/10/68
		Reception (Cabinet Members), 4/11/68
		American Society of Newspaper Editors, 4/16/68
		Beautification Luncheon, 4/17/68
	opened 1/20/84	Ranch Weekend, 4/19-21/68
		Diplomatic Reception, 4/23/68
		Walter Hagan, 4/25/68
		King of Norway, 4/25/68
		Women Doer's Luncheon, 5/2/68
		Judicial Reception, 5/7/68
26		Prime Minister of Thailand, 5/8/68
		China Reception, 5/9/68
		Mrs. Imelda Marcos, 5/14/68
		Miss Carmen de Lavallade and Mr. Geoffrey Holder, 5/15/68

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		President of Tunisia, 5/15/68
		Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, 5/18/68
		Mexico (canceled)
		D. C. Youth Concert, 5/21/68
		Prime Minister of Australia, 5/27/68
		American Ballet Theatre, 5/27/68
27		Whitney Museum, 6/3/68
		President of Costa Rica, 6/4/68
		Patricia Brooks, 6/4/68
		Shah of Iran, 6/11/68
		President of Vietnam, 6/18/68
		Status of Women Conference, 6/21/68
		President of Bolivia, 7/6/68
		Trip (El Salvador), 7/6-8/68
	opened 3/20/84	Honorable Arthur Goldberg, 7/9/68
	opened 1/13/84	Ranch Weekend, 8/2-4/68
		Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, 8/15/67 (sic)
28	opened 05/2017	Prime Minister of Ceylon, 8/21/68
	opened 05/2017	Convention, 8/27/68
	opened 05/2017	White House Country Fair, 9/9/68 (2 folders)
	opened 05/2017	Prime Minister of Barbados, 9/11/68
	opened 05/2017	Prime Minister of Libya, 9/25/68
	opened 05/2017	President of Chad, 10/2/68
29		Prime Minister of New Zealand, 10/9/68
		Historic Preservation Lunch, 10/15/68
		Arts Council Reception, 10/17/68

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Naturalization Ceremony, 11/22/68
Dinner for Prime Minister of Iran and Mrs. Hoveyda, 12/5/68
Dinner for Webb and Astronauts, 12/9/68
Dinner for Amir of Kuwait, 12/11/68
Chamizal, 12/13/68
Christmas Party for Underprivileged Children, "Wizard of Oz",
12/18/68
Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party - Dr. Coppleius,
12/19/68
Christmas, 1968

SUBJECT FILE

30

opened 1/13/84

open

SCANNED

Actors Equity
Air Force Band
Army Band
Marine Band
Navy Band
Barbecues
Blair House
Capital Beautification
Carlyle Hotel
China - Insurance
Democratic National Committee (list of members)
DNC Movie Benefit
Dietary Restrictions for Religious Groups
Dinners - Charges for

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			Documentary Art Program
			Dogs
31	open	SCANNED	The Elms
			Entertainment [5 folders]
			Possible European Visit
			Foreign Visitors - Biographies
32			Guests - Suggestions
			Humphreys (biographical sketch)
			Hurd Painting - damaged (REA Express)
			Kennedy Gifts
	open	SCANNED	Luci's Parties
	open	SCANNED	Lynda (Parties)
			PACE
			Paintings - hanging in the Johnson apartment in Austin
	open	SCANNED	Personnel
	open	SCANNED	Stan [Clarke's] Personnel File
			Plan View - Project JWX
			Possible Portrait of Mrs. Johnson by Aaron Shikler
	opened 1/31/84		Ranch (dining room)
	opened 2/9/84		LBJ Ranch - remodeling and decorating
			Silver Trays for departing Cabinet Members
			Sound Equipment
33			Stage, Lights, Sound, etc.
			State Gifts
			Tents
			Texas Fine Arts Association

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		Theater Parties for Vietnam Veterans
		Vietnam Entertainers - possible reception
	opened 2/20/24	Weddings (Gifts given by the Johnsons)
		Miscellaneous Papers from the top of Bess' desk
	opened 9/26/85	1960 Campaign Press Kit
34	opened 9/25/85	Convention 1964
	opened 9/25/85 SCANNED	Railroad, details for 1964 Whistle Stop
	opened 9/24/85 SCANNED	Schedules and lists for 1964 Whistle Stop
	opened 9/25/85 SCANNED	Correspondence re Whistle Stop 1964
	opened 9/25/85 SCANNED	Gimmicks - 1964 Whistle Stop
	opened 9/25/85 SCANNED	Entertainment - Whistle Stop
	opened 8/12/87 SCANNED	Whistle Stop Bills
35	opened 8/12/87	Flying Whistle Stop 1964
	opened 8/12/87	Whistle Stop 1964
		Inauguration 1965 - 3 folders