

April 15, 2011

Memo for the Record:

Re: Researcher Inquiry about "Beagle" and LBJ's Alleged Meeting with Arab Ambassadors

From: Regina Greenwell

A researcher wrote me asking about the following story:

Sorry to bother again with another question. Mohammad Heikal, President Nasser's confidant, argues in one of his books (in Arabic) that shortly after the 1967 war President Johnson invited a number of Arab ambassadors to a meeting at the State Department. According to Heikal's story, the president arrived with his dog Beagle and instead of addressing the ambassadors he talked to the dog:

Listen, Beagle, to a story about a bad man who got into a fight with his good neighbour, believing that the good neighbour was unable to answer back. But the good neighbour, Beagle, gathered all his strength, hit the bad man with a strong fisticuff and knocked him down.

He was right to do so, don't you think, Beagle?

Why are the bad person's friends now making complaints to others?

What's your opinion, Beagle?

This crude allegory of "bad man" Egypt, "good neighbour Israel and the Arab states as "the bad person's friends" is not corroborated by any recorded evidence I've come across. In addition, I can't imagine why the president would hold a meeting at the State Department instead of the White House. I also know that Johnson had a number of beagles but none of them was called Beagle. Having said all that I'd be very grateful for your learned opinion on Heikal's tale.

Here is my response to the researcher:

I have done some investigating and can find nothing that substantiates this story. LBJ did have a dog named Beagle (actually his name was "Little Beagle Johnson"--another "LBJ"--but he was referred to as "Beagle"), but he died before LBJ was president so he could not have been the dog that allegedly went to the State Department. You can find information about LBJ's pets while he was president on our web site at <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/FAQs/dog/doghouse.asp>

We now have the President's Daily Diary on our web site, and it contains a wealth of information about the President's daily activities. It is at

<http://www.lbjlibrary.org/collections/daily-diary.html>. I searched under the term "Arab Ambassadors" for the post-1967 war period, and LBJ did meet with a group of Arab ambassadors for lunch on October 4, 1967, but at the White House, not the State Department. Here is that Diary entry: <http://www.lbjlibrary.org/collections/daily-diary.html>. It doesn't mention anything about one of the dogs being at the luncheon, and that kind of detail was often included in the Diary.

I also searched under the term "State Department" but all of the visits by LBJ to the State Department post-1967 war were for receptions, not meetings like the one you have asked about.

Finally, a man named Traphes Bryant was the "dog handler" at the White House during the Johnson years, and he wrote a book called Dog Days at the White House. I did not see any mention of LBJ taking one of his dogs to the State Department or to any meeting with Arab ambassadors.

These kinds of stories are very hard to refute because they are often based on one person's memories of events, not a written record, but, again, I cannot find anything to substantiate it in our records.

Allen Fisher - Re: White House pets

From: Tina Houston
To: Bess & Tyler Abell
Date: 2/19/2011 11:24 AM
Subject: Re: White House pets

Thank you!

We'll put this in our Reference File.

>>> Bess & Tyler Abell [REDACTED] 2/18/2011 9:24 PM >>>

Jennifer -

Congratulations on the expanded family. No one will ever suggest you're bored!

About your sources for the LBJ pets -- I'm sure you've delved into many references for the book -- I'm not asking for all your sources, just those you footnote (do you footnote?) or reference for the items you have included about Johnson White House pets.

Again, If you called to discuss, I didn't get the message. Or receive any expanded email.

Trust all continues to go well for you, twins and your writing adventures.

Bess

On Feb 17, 2011, at 11:02 AM, Jennifer B. Pickens wrote:

Hi Bess,

Sorry for the slow response I just had twins a few weeks ago so I am not in the office everyday. I am not sure why the email did not go through..... it may have been too large of a file. I will have it resized and resend it to you.

many of the other sources included Time Life magazine from those years, and the books *First Dogs*, *Presidential Pets* and Margaret Trumans *White House Pets*.

On Feb 15, 2011, at 3:41 PM, Bess & Tyler Abell wrote:

Jennifer -

You said in an email you were going to call -- perhaps you did and I didn't get the message.

Luci has more first hand knowledge of the dogs than Lynda or I or others I've run down for info--

Here's what she sent me -

Bess

Following are my answers to the questions about dogs in the White House to the best of my knowledge. If you have any questions and I will do my best to clarify.

I remember the photo, but didn't think this was something he did with Him and Her or other pups on a regular basis, or often. Was it?

Answer:

The only time I saw him do this was in the photo. Daddy was so sad anyone felt was mistreating his dogs. He loved them dearly and was just trying to balance their "standing on two feet".

What about:

"Not many dogs have been privileged to shoo birds off the WH lawn, get under foot at a Cabinet meeting or mingle with dignitaries at a State Ball."

Answer: No LBJ pet ever went to a state ball to my knowledge ~

Mother would not have ever been comfortable with that.

Don't know about Cabinet meetings, sure lots of pups have chased birds, but no memory of LBJ pups at a State Ball. Do you?

Answer: Yuki certainly was often in President Johnson's office.

Did the pups continue swimming with the Pres in the WH pool?

Answer: Not to my knowledge.

Assume pups did make trips to Camp David -- correct?

Answer: Yes.

but were they included in parties with visiting heads of state? Do you remember any?

Answer: No.

Perhaps they were around for an arrival ceremony -- Mr. Bryant probably thought they should attend. This certainly could have happened ~ but not by my parents invitation. Answer: My mother felt their presence at official events was not comfortable with dogs attending.

Did Him ever leave "a souvenir puddle in a chair during a tea party..." Did this happen?

Answer: No.

What about dog houses? "Pres. J also showed his affections toward the pups by way of their housing. The Pres., as a true Texan, reportedly sought bigger and better doghouses for them, the doghouses growing in size throughout his presidency."

no answer here - will inquire again

and about Blanco --- "a bit of a biter. He once bit his beagle companion Him, causing quite a scare, and later sunk his teeth into Edgar* (another of the President's beagles acquired a bit later), injuring his nose so badly that it required stitches. Despite these outbursts, Johnson's love for Blanco never wavered.

Answer: Blanco was a gift and not a dog that any member of our family was close to.

*- Edgar was named after J. Edgar Hoover who had given the pup to LBJ after Him was killed while chasing after a squirrel...he ran into a car and died instantly.

I didn't know, or don't remember about Edgar. Is this true?

Answer: Yes.

Yuki was around for Lynda's wedding which I remember vividly as Mr. Bryant had made a bridesmaid's outfit for him, but don't believe he was around when Luci and Pat married.

Answer: Right. I found Yuki abandoned at a Johnson City filling station at Thanksgiving 1966.

Charmed by this tale?....

when Candidate Nixon flew to the LBJ Ranch for a briefing on the war....When RMN was departing, Yuki boarded the helicopter and crawled under N's seat. Pres J. came aboard the chopper to get Yuki and reportedly said to Nixon "Look, you've got my helicopter, you're after my job, and now you want my dog!" On the day of Nixon's Inauguration, during the transfer of power, the 2 Presidents laughed about the incident and Nixon told the President, "I told you I wanted your job, not your dog."

Cute story. True as you know it?

Answer: True as I know it.

The Dog Who Came to Dinner

Arancher born in rural Texas, Lyndon Baines Johnson considered himself a consummate dog man. The 36th president was especially proud of his AKC-registered Beagles. But like any true dog lover, LBJ was a pushover for anything with a wet nose and four legs.

Among his canine family was a mix named Yuki. In the White House pressure-cooker, Yuki provided comic relief for the beleaguered president. LBJ was especially fond of treating visitors to demonstrations of Yuki's singing voice: The leader of the free world and his little dog would howl together at the top of their lungs.

After Johnson left the White House in 1968, Yuki—"the friendliest and the smartest and the most constant in his attention than all the dogs I've known"—retired to the LBJ Ranch with his doting master.

In his retirement the former president recorded *Dogs Have Always Been My Friends: Lyndon Johnson Reminiscences*.

On this truly odd but endearing album, LBJ talks about dogs he has known. He tells how, at age 4, he explained to his stern father why one day he and his dog Rover had wandered off for hours. ("I just said, Rover wanted to see the country, and I wanted him to see it.") And there's the story of how Yuki, a stray LBJ's daughter found near a gas station, came into his life:

Luci picked him up—she has a love for dogs too—and brought him to me when she came for Thanksgiving dinner. And Yuki's been here ever since. We left word that if the owner ever asked



In the Oval Office: Yuki and LBJ serenade U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain David Bruce. Meanwhile, back at the ranch: A 1967 portrait, and the workaholic LBJ with Yuki and grandson Patrick. It was Patrick's mother, Luci, who suggested the name Yuki, the Japanese word for "snow."

about him, to direct him here. But I'm glad the owner never missed him, because I surely would if he left me.

The album's highlight is one of Yuki and

LBJ's unforgettable "duets."

Johnson died in 1973. Yuki went to live with Luci Johnson Nugent and her family and lived to a ripe old age. 🐾

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AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB



From: Michael MacDonald
To: Alsobrook, Adam; Claudia Anderson; Cunningham, Sarah; Gary Phelps; Harmon, Laura; Renee Gravois
Date: 1/20/06 9:34AM
Subject: Him & Her

To follow up from yesterday's conversation about the beagles, I popped the top on the cremation urns for Him and Her and found that both urns are full. YUK!!!! Oh the things I do for historical accuracy! Anyway, I told you that you could be here when it open the urns, but I needed to verify the existence of the ashes before I talked to the Park Service. Sorry. The first time was soooooo creepy, I don't think I can handle opening up the urns again.

Oh well another mystery solved. I'll keep you updated as this thing progresses.

Mike

silver or silver alloy. Gold does not corrode, though gold-coated disks are expensive. Silver corrodes when exposed to air pollutants such as sulfur. Most silver-coated disks use alloys to inhibit corrosion.

Rewritable CDs and DVDs have a shorter life span of about 25 years, so Byers said he does not recommend them for archiving. A rewritable disk's metal-alloy data layer is less stable than that in write-once disks. And rewritable disks are affected by light, so they also have a limited number of reads—a number that's still uncertain.

Surprisingly, premanufactured CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs may not last as long as recordable disks, Byers said. Surprisingly, premanufactured CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs may not last as long as recordable disks, Byers said.

Most industry estimates place the life span of professionally produced optical disks somewhere between 20 and 100 years. But the weakness of the ROM disks stems largely from their aluminum reflective layer, Byers said.

When exposed to humidity and atmospheric oxygen through scratches, cracks or delaminated areas in the label, the aluminum breaks down.

Byers warned that all the life spans are rough estimates. A hurried burn or a change in manufacturing technique could cause premature failure.

He advised agencies to consider the longevity of their current storage media and always be developing migration strategies to a new one.

"These days, the rate of change in technology is so much faster," Byers said. "I'm convinced there will be a new storage technology within 10 years."

White House Web team hones president's e-message
By Carl M. Cannon, National Journal
GovExec.com
March 8, 2004

Saturday, Feb. 21, was to be a quiet day at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., and with the president taking the day off, most of the White House staff did, too. Even the ubiquitous White House Web site was taking a break -- or did, until the death of Spot, the female English springer spaniel belonging to George and Laura Bush.

Suddenly, the site was humming. First, it relayed the news of Spot's passing, with expressions of grief from the Bushes and a photograph of Spot with a tennis ball in her mouth. Next, Spot's bio was posted on the site, accompanied by an archival video stream of Spot and her sidekick, Barney, romping in the snow earlier this winter. "It is an affectionate piece," says Christopher J. (Jimmy) Orr, the aide who directs the official White House Web page. "I'm really glad we did it."

Spot -- the president called her "Spotty" -- has always been big news on whitehouse.gov, along with Barney, the diminutive, black Scottish terrier who follows the president around, well, like a dog. Sometime in the distant future, it will fall to social scientists to fathom and then explain how, amid the turmoil of war and political fallout after the dastardly attacks of 9/11, one response from a wartime White House was -- BarneyCam.

In the meantime, let it be noted that when the White House Web site features Barney tearing around with a camera (metaphorically) strapped to his head, the number of hits soars. But we're getting ahead of our story, which begins in the mid-1990s, when Orr went to work for Jim Geringer, then-governor of Wyoming.

Cheyenne isn't the town that immediately springs to mind when one thinks of political innovation, but Geringer had been an engineering whiz in the Air Force, assigned to projects relating to space exploration, including NASA's Mars Viking lander and the Pentagon's Global Positioning Satellite system. So he had

an appreciation of the possibilities of cyber-communication earlier than did any politician this side of Al Gore. Geringer may have been the first politician to Webcast his speeches. This was 1996, so it was audio only, but it seemed exciting -- at least to Geringer and his staff. "I was expecting hundreds, or maybe thousands, of hits," recalls Orr, who was then Geringer's press assistant. "We had -- 12."

Nonetheless, when the 2000 election finally ended, Bush media-affairs chief Tucker Eskew was looking for a young, enthusiastic GOP press aide who knew technology. Orr was an obvious choice. Bill Clinton had initiated the first White House Web site, and though the domain name remains the same, the Clinton material is gone from whitehouse.gov, shipped to the National Archives under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act. So the Bushies had to build the new White House site from the ground up. They weren't really starting from scratch, though. Their 2000 campaign Web site had connected with many voters and raised a lot of money at a time when Howard Dean was still a figment of Joe Trippi's imagination. One example of how effectively the Bush-Cheney campaign used the Net: When visitors to the site typed in their income, they could immediately find out how much money the proposed Bush tax cut might save them in taxes.

But even in cyberspace, a president needs a different tone than a candidate does, and the new White House site was primitive for months while Bush aides hashed out basic philosophical issues. "Getting the right design took a long time," recalled one participant in the planning sessions. "We asked questions as basic as, 'What should we use the Internet for? What kind of tool is it?' We ultimately decided that the focus should not be internal; it should be external. There was a lot of talk on this, and the consensus was: It's for the citizens, not us."

Orr says that Bush communications officials studied the most successful sites -- naming Google, Yahoo, and Washingtonpost.com as examples -- and noticed that their designers were continually making them easier to use. The Bush aides have tried to emulate such user-friendliness. They also discerned that the best sites were making heavy use of video, even before broadband was widespread.

Of course, this is the government, so the Bush Web team is trying to follow suit on a shoestring. Two people, Orr and press aide Megan Mollmann, direct the "coverage," while the site is produced and maintained by 10 programmers and designers who work in an administration office at 18th and G streets NW. Another Orr assistant, Maria Tamburri, translates selected Bush pieces and puts them on the page in Spanish -- but this is hit or miss. "You can go to any section of the site and see it needs work," Orr says. "The photo page is archaic; it's not indexed or searchable.... There's always more we can do."

There are occasional glitches, too, such as on Jan. 26, when the military aides from the White House communications office turned on the cameras a few minutes early for Scott McClellan's briefing in the James Brady Briefing Room, thereby treating anyone tuning in to the video stream to the sight of reporters gassing with each other about how much money they lost on the Super Bowl and whether they glimpsed Janet Jackson's breast.

At the other end of the scale is the hit feature "Ask the White House," where top Bush administration officials sit down for online chats, answering questions -- most of them respectful, some hostile -- from ordinary Americans. The approval for this went as high as White House counselor Karen Hughes, who lined up Bush himself to launch it. "Once we got the president's involvement, getting everybody else was pretty easy," Orr says. "It was huge."

The Web site averaged around a million hits a day in Bush's first year in office. Usage of the site jumped exponentially after 9/11, when Americans turned to the president with a new intensity. "Ask the White House," begun in 2002, increased the numbers further. Then BarneyCam made its debut, boosting the site's popularity to where it is now, averaging between 10 million and 20 million hits -- clicks on individual pages on the site -- a day.

It must have been quite a moment when Orr pitched BarneyCam at a meeting of the White House communications office in late 2002. With his computer-nerd enthusiasm, Dave-Barry haircut, and Dennis-the-Menace smile, Orr doesn't fit the mold of your average buttoned-down Bushie. But what he

was saying made sense: Because of the threat of terrorism, the traditional Christmas tours of the White House had been canceled. Too bad, considering that the decorative theme that year was "All Creatures Great and Small." Orr got to musing about the president's dog. "We're thinking of strapping a video camera to Barney's head and following him around," he told his colleagues and bosses. "Kids can see the White House Christmas decorations from Barney's perspective."

This suggestion met with a few seconds of dead silence; Orr's colleagues looked at him as though he'd grown a tail. Suddenly, then-press secretary Ari Fleischer, doing his best imitation of Jeff Spicoli (Sean Penn) in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, blurted out, "That is awesome!"

"He saved me," Orr recalls. "He saved the idea."

BarneyCam was born. But after Orr procured a camera no larger than a lipstick to put on Barney's collar, there was a hitch: Barney doesn't wear a collar. When Orr put one on him, the dog lay down on the ground and started moaning, crying, and making all kinds of racket. It was at this point that Dale Haney, the White House horticulturist who has doubled as a pet wrangler since the Nixon administration, came walking by.

"Jimmy, that's the president's dog," Haney drawled. "I'm not sure that if he walked by here right now, he'd like to see you standing there, his dog howling and unhappy."

The solution was to give Barney his own little camera crew, which proceeded to get down close to the floor and follow the first canine around the White House, his nails clip-clopping across the floor in the East Room, and the Red Room, and the State Dining Room. The public loved it. Bush himself describes the little Scottie, tongue-in-cheek, as "the son I never had." Bush can get away with that kind of talk because the first lady is an enduring sort, and the first daughters are away at college, but mostly because, even in these polarized political times, Americans are charmed by first pets and are still receptive to presidents who dabble in new communications technologies.

Sixty years ago, Franklin D. Roosevelt went on the radio to discuss his Scottie, Fala, by way of answering a rumor that the president had misplaced his dog on the Aleutian Islands and sent a Navy destroyer to retrieve him. "These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me, or my wife, or on my sons," Roosevelt deadpanned in a September 23, 1944, campaign speech to the Teamsters. "No, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala. Well, of course, I don't resent attacks, and my family doesn't resent attacks. But Fala does resent them."

Eight years later to the day, while delivering one of history's first major televised political speeches, Richard Nixon used a dog as a prop. Nixon was Dwight Eisenhower's vice presidential running mate, and the speech -- unofficially named after the dog -- saved his spot on the ticket. In rebutting allegations that a group of supporters had created a slush fund for him, Nixon conceded that he had received one gift.

"It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he'd sent all the way from Texas," Nixon said. "Black-and-white spotted. And our little girl, Tricia, the 6-year-old, named it Checkers. And you know, the kids, like all kids, love the dog, and I just want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're gonna keep it!"

It was great theater from the half of the presidential ticket that virtually invented the use of TV in a presidential campaign. Eisenhower was working with a famed New York ad man named Rosser Reeves, known for his hard-sell approach to everything from M&Ms ("melt in your mouth, not in your hand") to Anacin (anvil-pounding audio giving headaches a sound). Reeves's operational theory was that the key to a successful ad campaign was identifying the product's "unique selling position." Reeves realized that Eisenhower -- a five-star general who managed to be plain old "Ike" to millions of Americans -- was his own unique selling position.

So Reeves put the general on television, answering planted questions from ordinary Americans, in a campaign called "Eisenhower Answers America." Ike had his doubts about the plan ("To think an old soldier should come to this," he said), but the impact of the new technology was unmistakable. And that

was just the beginning, as Eisenhower's 1952 running mate found out eight years later. It turned out that, sans Tricia's puppy, Nixon wasn't so good on TV -- especially when he had to go head-to-head. The 1960 contrast between Nixon and John F. Kennedy illustrated Marshall McLuhan's dictum about the risks "hot" personalities face on television when confronting "cool" personalities. And, under the klieg lights, JFK was definitely cool.

"Kennedy was just perfect in that setting," says David Bushman, television curator at the Museum of Television & Radio in New York City. As president, JFK was the first to televise regularly scheduled press conferences. He was also the first president to aim foreign-policy addresses at two distinct audiences: Kennedy understood that TV coverage meant that when he talked to the American people, foreign leaders were also listening.

"During the Cuban missile crisis, Kennedy used television, in part, to negotiate with the Soviets," notes Bushman. "Today, this is common practice -- heads of state use CNN to talk to each other."

Thus, technology that seems daring to one generation of political professionals is unremarkable to the next. A recent study by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press on how voters obtain political news showed that the number of Americans who "regularly learn something" from local television, nightly news, news magazines, and daily newspapers is declining, while the number who get such information from the Internet is exploding. "Young people really use the Internet in ways that speak to the future of political communication," says Pew Research Center Director Andrew Kohut. "Every year, it goes up."

It's true that some of that Web-based information comes from newspapers' and TV networks' Web sites, but much of it comes directly -- unfiltered, as politicians like to say -- from interactive blogs, advocacy groups, or the candidates themselves. This trend suggests that the Internet has discrete uses.

"I think this medium is being used in very different ways than television," says Alexander Keyssar, a history professor at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. "Presidents and presidential candidates speak in general terms themselves but then put very detailed information on their sites. It's an ideal place to rally your own troops and cement your bond with them."

But Keyssar believes the Net is less ideal for spreading a message of general appeal, because not that many Democrats peruse the White House site for fun -- and few Texas Republicans idly call up John Kerry's site with their cornflakes. David Bushman concurs. "There's kind of an understanding that you're communicating with the faithful," he said. "That's why the Bush campaign put out its first attack ad on the Internet."

Yet this is precisely why BarneyCam is so ingenious. Even yellow-dog Democrats, to say nothing of swing voters, can appreciate the president's pets. The script for Barney's "Easter Egg Roll Adventure" is currently in production. BarneyCam harks back to less-polarized times -- or, at least, times that Americans want to remember as less-polarized. Nostalgia should not be underestimated. Nor should the back-to-the-future quality of technological advances in presidential communications. "Ask the White House" is an inadvertent tribute to "Eisenhower Answers America." A deliberate tribute to FDR is the Saturday presidential radio address, which dates to March 12, 1933, when Franklin Roosevelt delivered the first of 30 "fireside chats" over the new medium.

Radio made FDR's voice, style of prose, and methods of motivation intimately familiar to Americans in a way that had not been possible before. The chats made such an impression on one future president, a young man from Dixon, Ill., that when he became president nearly half a century later, he brought back the radio address and made it a weekly Saturday staple. It was natural for Ronald Reagan to reach into the past this way -- he had made his own professional start in radio -- even though television had long eclipsed radio as a way to reach the people. But Reagan's three successors in office have continued his retro tradition. And now, in a fusing of technologies that merges the past and the present, George W. Bush's weekly radio addresses can be heard on the White House Web site. The site's newest feature, installed this week, is White House Radio.

From: Tina Houston
To: NLJA
Date: 11/19/01 4:32PM
Subject: Him and Her

Did anyone ask me to find out where Him and Her were buried?

If you still need to know, they are in the Children's Garden at the White House.

Also, if anyone is interested, LBJ **never** worked in a funeral home or worked with cadavers.

April 13, 1994

	Dog Information	
<u>Dog's Name</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Dog Type</u>
Laddie Boy	Harding	Airedale
Liberty	Ford	Golden Retriever
Rex	Reagan	King Charles Cavalier
Lucky	Reagan	Bouvier des Flandres
Mike	Truman	Irish Setter
King Timahoe	Nixon	Irish Setter
Him/Her/ Blanco	LBJ	Beagles
Yuki	LBJ	Collie
	LBJ	Mixed
Fala	FDR	Scottie
Millie	Bush	Springer Spaniel
Ranger (Millie's pup) (Died--cancer)	Bush	Springer Spaniel

January 28, 1997

Dog Information		
<u>Dog's Name</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Dog Type</u>
Laddie Boy	Harding	Airedale
Liberty	Ford	Golden Retriever
Rex	Reagan	King Charles Cavalier
Lucky	Reagan	Bouvier des Flandres
Mike	Truman	Irish Setter
King Timahoe	Nixon	Irish Setter
Him/Her	LBJ	Beagles
Edgar*	LBJ	Beagle
Freckles (Pecosa)**	LBJ (Luci)	Beagle
Kim**	LBJ (Luci)	Beagle
Blanco	LBJ	Collie
Yuki	LBJ	Mixed
Fala	FDR	Scottie
Millie	Bush	Springer Spaniel
Ranger (Millie's pup) (Died--cancer)	Bush	Springer Spaniel

*After Him died, J. E. Hoover gave LBJ another beagle which LBJ named "J.Edgar" according to Traphes Bryant,s book, p. 185. On page 186, Bryant says LBJ had to drop the "J" and just call him Edgar.

**Freckles and Kim were from the same litter of Him's puppies. Luci named Freckles the spanish word for Freckle (Pecosa) because she had a single freckle on her nose. Luci also named Kim, because LBJ never remembered the "perfect" name he had thought of for Kim who had been known as Freckles' Friend until that time (Bryant, p. 166).

LBJ's BEST FRIEND

THE LOVE STORY OF A MAN & HIS DOG

BY LUCI JOHNSON NUGENT

While my father was still in the White House, I thought a great deal about having a book written about a small white mongrel dog and his master, the President of the United States. Somehow I never got around to it.

One afternoon in 1968, several months after my father announced his plans to leave the Presidency, I came to a decision. I was reading, stretched out on my mother's bed at the LBJ Ranch, when my father's dog, Yuki, jumped up in my face and greeted me with a zealous slurp.

I put down my book and said to myself, "Luci, why don't you try to tell this dog's story? After all, you found him, you've loved him and you know his story better than anyone."

This is not simply the story of a man and his dog. The man was President of the United States. The dog is a mixed-breed individualist. Together, dog and master lived at the White House. Together, they retired to a Texas ranch. The love they share is the same as that of countless masters and their dogs. But the unique circumstances make the story a special one.



On Thanksgiving evening, November 1966, my husband Pat, our beagle Kim and I left our home in Austin, Texas, to drive to my parents' ranch home outside Johnson City. I remember my father's mood that year. It was a hopeful one, lit with the excitement of his accomplishments in the White House, but sobered by his consciousness of difficult days ahead. He had been President for three years, but as always, he preferred to return to the Texas ranch to celebrate the Thanksgiving holidays with family and friends.

As we approached Johnson City, the Secret Service agent who was our mandatory traveling companion, and in whose car we happened to be riding, asked if he could stop for gas. We agreed, though we were concerned that the delay might make us late for Thanksgiving dinner. As we turned into the filling station, Kim started to bark ferociously. I looked outside, seeking the unknown enemy, and found a pathetic sight. There in the shadow of the gas station was a small, dirty, white dog, shivering with fright. Genuine tears flowed from his big brown eyes.

I got out of the car to investigate. The station attendant, an old friend named Eddie Miller, told me that someone had come into the station about 11:00 that morning and let the dog out—either for an airing or for good. In either case, after the car had gassed up and left, the attendant had turned around to find the abandoned dog on the pavement, crying.

"Who'll take care of it now?" I asked. "He'll get killed on the highway."

He shrugged. I guess that to many people a lost dog is not a monumental problem.

I turned to my husband for approval. He smiled, as did the agent. I told the attendant, "We'll take him with us. You know our number. If the owner comes looking for him, just call."

The little dog was shaking with fear, *(continued on page 126)*

but he did not resist as we picked him up and took him to the car.

By this time, we knew we couldn't be on time for dinner. But we decided that if we were going to arrive late, with an uninvited guest, the guest had better have a name. So we had a hurry-up naming session. I thought that since under all those layers of dirt and grime, the dog was undoubtedly white, "Snow" might be appropriate. The men felt that was a better name for a cat. I offered a few other suggestions, which they equally rejected, and then I pleaded for a constructive alternative from the male side.

"Why don't you name him Yukimas?" suggested the agent.

"Yuki what?" Pat and I replied in unison. The agent, who had been in service in Japan, explained that *yukimas* is a Japanese word for "snow" or "white."

We were now driving past the gate to the Ranch, and there was no time to be choosy. "Yuki," the shortened form, was adopted.

Pathetic pup

I only became apprehensive as we approached the front door, and the apprehension was merited. The family was already at the Thanksgiving table, but the look on their faces wasn't one of thanksgiving. I can't say that I blamed them. I wasn't exactly the picture of daughterly distinction, standing there, late for dinner, with a grubby, pathetic pup in my arms.

I looked at Mother. I felt I could read her mind. There I stood: married, pregnant, and still bringing home—to her home yet—stray animals. I'd done this all my life—mice, ducks, cats, dogs, birds, you name it. And all my life, my father had conspired with me, while my mother held her tongue and merely stocked up on rug shampoo.

As I remember Daddy's and Yuki's first meeting, my father barely noticed the pup. This was odd. Both

Daddy and I are big on dogs and always have been. I remember begging my parents for a dog when I was five.

Mother tried earnestly to avoid the subject, for after 14 years of marriage she had finally gotten wall-to-wall carpeting, and the thought of housebreaking a puppy was devastating.

Daddy, however, sided with my childhood desires. One March evening in 1952, when he was a U.S. Senator, he returned from Virginia with a large box. He called me into the living room to open it, and as I tugged at the flaps, I knew what I was going to find. Mother started to protest, but then, as she says, she saw the look on my face. As for me, it was as if Daddy had given me a piece of Heaven.

Daddy said the dog was a beagle, and that was exactly what I named him: Beagle. A month later, my uncle came up with a proper name for a Southern dog, Jefferson (which also delivered that "J" initial), but the dog resisted all efforts to call him Jeff. He was registered as Jefferson, but everyone called him Beagle. Eventually, his name was changed to Little Beagle Johnson, and he brought our family great happiness until his death in 1963.

My mother cried as hard as I did when he died. For Beagle had won all our hearts. When Daddy had his heart attack in 1955, Beagle lay at the foot of his bed almost 24 hours a day. Daddy found it comforting, and for the dog, it seemed the place to be—close to a master who needed him.

Before Beagle died, he sired several litters of puppies, which we happily distributed. From his last litter, we kept two: Him and Her. They helped to fill the vacuum, but they never seemed to replace Beagle, especially for my father.

Him and Her moved to the White House with our family on December 7, 1963. They romped over the White House grounds and became part of the scene. They were also part of the famous car-pulling incident of 1966. As a witness to this press-recorded event, I can testify that the car-holding was more a case of Daddy balancing the upright dog than torturing Him. For me, there was a touch of irony in this whole affair. My father, who had loved his beagles with such rare devotion, was pictured as mistreating Him—the last thing an animal-lover would do. The irony with the beagles continued. Both dogs met tragic deaths on what one would imagine to be the safest yard in the world: the White House lawn. Her died in 1965 after swallowing a stone. Him was killed by a car in a driveway. Again, my father lost two companions who had helped him through tense and busy times.

Fortunately for our family, Him had also sired a litter of puppies before his death, and we kept two from the litter, Kim and Freckles. Freckles was eventually given away as a gift, and Kim came to live with Pat and me after we were married. Daddy played with them, and sometimes with Blanco, the collie, but they were never his dogs in the same way that Beagle, Him and Her had been.

This, then, had been Daddy's relationship to our dogs in the past. Little did we know that on this Thanksgiving Day of 1966, a small dog named Yuki was to enter the life of Lyndon B. Johnson and become perhaps his best friend of all.

During dinner, I took Yuki into the kitchen and fed him—although he mostly drank water. Back at the dinner table, as I gave my thanks, I felt proud of the man at the head of the table. Though the problems of the Presidency beset him, he was always sensitive to the needs of Lynda and myself. Possibly the realization that Pat and I would soon be parents made me all the more appreciative of how lucky I was to call him Daddy.

Mixed breed

The next morning, we returned to Yuki. First we bathed him. When he was clean and white, we were able to see his true physical characteristics for the first time. He stood less than a foot high and was only a little longer than that. We had no idea of his age, but he appeared to be about a year old, and my estimation of his breed included a trace of border collie and perhaps some Pekingese or Pomeranian. His nose was three-toned—pink, black and white—and his tail had an oriental fringe of long hair extending from its end. He was, and is, a slight dog, but an extremely agile one, and we often wondered if he had some circus dog in him.

His personality was more complex. To put it simply, Yuki-dog had problems. For one, he was very high-strung. He was housebroken when we found him, but his nervousness made him forget himself when he was reprimanded, and Mother would reach again, wearily, for the rug shampoo.

Secondly, he shed his fur profusely. After several days, our house was covered with dog hairs. He also had halitosis and a habit of jumping all over people.

As the months passed, there was considerable discussion in the Nugent home on what to do with Yuki. We contemplated giving him away, but that brought us guilt feelings. Besides, who would want him and his problems? Obedience school was impractical, because we'd have to go, too. The dog pound? Unthinkable. So Yuki stayed.

After several months of family living, Yuki's more admirable traits started to shine through. Pat taught him to "sing," and he would jump in our laps and echo the exact notes we sounded. Later a duet was to be one of Daddy's great acts with Yuki, and one has to see—and hear—the two of them yodeling together to believe it.

Yuki also learned to obey commands, to climb trees, and to accommodate to peoples' needs. He also learned to demonstrate his love, with enthusiastic kisses, adoring looks in his soft brown eyes, and a constant attitude of loyal attention. We had become Yuki fans. Now the problem was to convince his many detractors.

My mother, of course, was still skept-

tical. Most of Yuki's accidents still occurred at the Ranch—on her rugs. My father shared my mother's lack of enthusiasm, because Yuki had once been caught running after his sheep. Daddy, as a rancher, knows that sheep-chasing dogs are up for capital punishment, because once a dog tastes sheep blood, he supposedly is a sheep-killer for life. I didn't see my marshmallow dog as Dracula, but to keep peace, I got him off the ranch as much as possible.

Then came the birth of our son, Lyn, and when he was six weeks old, we asked if we could leave him with his grandparents at the White House and take a short vacation. We sent our dogs along, too—as a bonus.

Greatest politician

The first morning, when we arrived in New York City, the newspapers gave us a hint of how things were developing. They showed a picture of General John Throckmorton, who had been sent into Detroit during the disturbances there, with my father in a serious pose. Who else had been included in the picture? Yuki. The next morning, we picked up the papers again. There was Daddy, in his office, with Lyn in his arms. At his feet: Yuki. Pat and I looked at each other in amazement. Had the White House turned Yuki into the greatest politician of all? Had he cased the place, decided which side his dog biscuits were buttered on, and made friends with the man on top? Upon arriving in Washington, we went directly down to the pier to meet the boat on which Daddy was taking a Sunday afternoon ride. Who was the first to scamper off the gangplank, looking as if he owned the boat, the dock and the occasion? Yuki.

Then Pat, Lyn and I left Washington for Austin. We planned to make a stopover at Patrick's parents' newly decorated house, where our dogs were temporarily *personae non gratae*, so we left them in the White House kennel. "When do you want me to send the dogs home?" asked Daddy, wistfully, when we called him on his birthday, August 27. I loved Yuki, but I knew that the dog belonged with my father. He *was* a friend.

I replied, "Daddy, you can keep Yuki as long as you like. You can send him home tonight, tomorrow or never. We'll always take him if you tire of him. But if you want him, keep him."

There was a brief silence. Then Daddy said gruffly, "Great. I'll send the beagles home this weekend." And Yuki never spent another night in the Nugent home.

As it turned out, Yuki became my father's constant companion during his last year and a half in the White House—offering him the loyalty, solace, devotion and amusement that no other close associate could. When Daddy retired from public life to the Ranch, so did Yuki.

"Not since my mother died has anyone or anything been as devoted to me as this dog," I once heard my father say. "He even is a substitute for my wife when she runs all over the country now," he added with a loving look at my mother, who was signing copies of her book.

"Yuki seems to be conscious of what's going on, and he wants to be part of what's going on," says Daddy. "He adjusts his activities to the situation. He's a dog for any mood."

Or, as I once put it myself, "Yuki doesn't offer any flak. That's what makes him a good Presidential dog."

And that's what made Yuki's White House days so memorable. He and Daddy were together much of the time. In the Presidential limousine, Yuki rode on the package shelf behind the President's head. Yuki had the run of the White House; he even felt he could sit in the President's chair in the Oval Room. One night when Yuki got sick, the President himself took him downstairs to put him into a car for a trip to the vet. On Yuki's return, Traphes Bryant, a White House engineer and dog-lover who became the unofficial kennel master, took him into Daddy's outer office, where one of the secretaries was faced with the dilemma of whether or not to interrupt a cabinet meeting. She sent in a note, and Daddy jumped up immediately and said, "Bring him in." Yuki bounded in, jumped on the table, skidded past several cabinet members and landed in the lap of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. The President quickly apologized for Yuki, but Secretary Rusk laughed and simply welcomed Yuki back.

A day in Yuki's White House schedule was a crowded one. He arose about six, when his master awakened. While Daddy read the morning papers and piles of memoranda about the world situation, Yuki would occupy a spot in the nook of his arm. He was usually coaxed from the room while Daddy had breakfast, but waited patiently at his door until someone let him back in.

Sometimes there would be a conference that took hours, but Yuki had fortitude.

Special visitors

Whenever Daddy left the private upstairs quarters, Yuki was only a step behind. He would scamper into the elevator and prance behind his master as they walked together through the arcade, past the Rose Garden and over to the outer offices of the President of the United States. Routinely, he didn't enter the big Oval Room that is the President's official office, but sat attentively behind the great door. But whenever Daddy had a special visitor, or a spare moment, he was invited in. The result: Yuki met several Heads of State, Ambassadors, Senators, Congressmen, Governors, and all manner of celebrities. All informally, of course.

Once when my father had an African Ambassador in his office, Yuki slipped in unnoticed. After the meeting started, the Ambassador realized the dog had gotten into the folds of his colorful native costume. There was a slight problem of extrication, but the Ambassador took it all good naturedly.

There was probably much wisdom to this kind of nonsense. For sympathy for animals is a common denominator of men from all parts of the globe, no matter how close or far apart their political views may be. In a way, the light touch of Yuki may have been a genius bit of Presidential diplomacy.

If Yuki didn't make it into the President's office, he was usually invited out to the south lawn for morning exercise. Afterward, he sometimes went to the White House dog run to play with Blanco, the white collie, and the family's beagles. But

when Daddy returned to the Mansion for lunch at midafternoon, Yuki would be ready to follow him on call. There he would sit at the feet of the President, his eyes pleading for a morsel. After lunch, if Daddy took a nap, Yuki would curl up at his feet. Then it was a walk back to the office, and a reluctant return to the kennels until much later.

For Daddy usually returned at 10 P.M. for dinner. After that, Yuki would rejoin him, wiggling under the covers while my father read the nightly reports before turning out the light.

Yuki also traveled with my father. He adjusted well to flying (*continued*)

and logged more than 100 hours in Air Force One and in helicopters. He was on at least 20 of my father's most significant trips. He also visited the Capitol, Camp David and Fort Benning, Georgia. He sailed on all the Presidential boats and spent a day on the U.S.S. *Constitution*, off California.

Even now, whenever Daddy has to make a trip and Mother can't accompany him, he jokingly says, "Well, Yuki will want to go with me." No truer words could be spoken. For Yuki doesn't ever tire of the fantastic pace Daddy sets. He never even tires of riding around the Ranch.

Sensitive intelligence

Yuki's sensitive intelligence is reflected by his reaction to air travel. When he flew in Air Force One with Daddy, he always seemed to know whether they were going to land at one of his homes: Washington or Texas. Approximately five minutes before landing, Yuki would rush around, vigorously wagging his tail and looking out the window to see how close the plane was to home. If the destination was someplace other than Texas or Washington, his mood was more complacent, as if to say, "Just another city."

When Daddy leaves the Ranch by plane or helicopter, Yuki sits docilely in the office, snuggling up to the staff—as if to recapture Daddy by association. At the first sound of the returning chopper, Yuki's ears prick up and he runs from door to door. He always picks the right one, as if there were some sort of extrasensory perception between master and dog. When Daddy opens the door, Yuki leaps into his arms.

Yuki has been present at all kinds of official moments, solemn and otherwise. In 1968, when the personnel at Fort Benning first heard that the President might be coming to survey troops about to be deployed to the War Zone, they began to prepare for his arrival. They

polished everything and everyone, and a hush overtook the area as the great Air Force One set its wheels down; thousands of military men stood silent and at attention. The troops saluted, the drums started to roll, the band struck up "Hail to the Chief." The door of Air Force One opened—and who appeared at the grand doorway of the Presidential jet, standing at attention, casting his head side to side to review the troops? Yuki-dog! And though his appearance was accidental, Yuki took the edge off the moment and turned it into a very human occasion.

Yuki also managed to get himself involved in the summer graduating ceremonies at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. He rode out to Daddy's helicopter in the golf cart, jumped off, scampered up the helicopter steps and looked wistful. He won; he went. When the car arrived at the auditorium where Daddy was to speak, Yuki jumped out and visited with each of the school officials. Finally someone cried, "Get that dog out of here; he's bothering the President."

"That dog is the President's," came the pained explanation.

On August 17, 1968, Richard Nixon, then the newly nominated Republican candidate for President, paid a visit to the Ranch with his Vice Presidential running mate, Spiro Agnew. After meetings and lunch with the President, Mr. Nixon and Governor Agnew climbed aboard a Presidential helicopter to leave. Yuki automatically scampered after them, and as Daddy rushed to retrieve him, he said to Mr. Nixon, "You've got my helicopter; you want my job. Are you going to take my dog, too?" Everybody laughed but Yuki, as he was carried off the chopper.

On the Ranch these days, Yuki does not wear any of the fancy outfits he wore in the White House. There, Traphes Bryant's wife went to the unsolicited effort of making special ceremonial clothes for Yuki. For Christmas, there was a little red coat with green trimmings. For my sister Lynda's wedding, Yuki also had a special outfit, which he thought entitled him to pose in the official wedding portrait. Mother put the kibosh on that one.

Perhaps Yuki's only rival for my father's affections was my son, Lyn, who was born in June 1967. Daddy was ripe for grandfatherhood and was captivated by Lyn from the moment he first laid eyes on him. (On the wall of Lyn's bedroom is a first birthday present: a picture of my father signed: "For Patrick Lyndon Nugent—the joy of 1968—the hope of 1998.") The relationship between grandfather and grandson has been a rewarding one for the whole family, with possibly

one exception: Yuki. Time for Lyn means less time for Yuki. But Yuki is no fool. He knows he dare not show his jealousy, so he treats his rival with polite avoidance.

The day before we moved out of the White House, the Nixon dogs moved in, and both Yuki and Kim had a chance to meet the poodle and the Yorkshire terrier that were to take their places. Mr. Bryant managed a smooth transition of canine administration, marred only by the fact that Lyn tried to ride on the Nixon poodle.

I wouldn't attempt to conjecture what passed through my father's mind ... or Yuki's ... as they bade farewell to Washington and took that last official flight on Air Force One. But I am sure that man and dog echoed each other's mood as they entered this new phase of their life at the Ranch.

Now Yuki is a Ranch dog. His official residence is still Daddy's bedroom, although his habit of rolling in the cow pasture often makes him socially unacceptable on the bedcovers. For that reason, he is sometimes banished to the kitchen for a laundering, after which he returns to bunk with Daddy and Mother.

Yuki has adopted many of my father's ranch habits. He, too, likes to rise early, and he is the one soul who never tires of riding the ranch with Daddy and seeing how things are going. He visits the LBJ birthplace; he stops to look at the old well; he stands patiently as my father says hello to tourists.

Devoted companion

Has the camaraderie these two had in the White House remained? Sometimes I feel it is not as intense, simply because the need is not as acute. As my father lives at a different pace, Yuki seems to sense that the demands on him are not as great. And he, in his own way, has found a new life of release and freedom in retirement.

But the quality of the relationship has not changed. The devoted companion still idolizes his master and follows his every step—while my father's eyes still sparkle when Yuki enters the room. In a world where there is so much talk of communications breakdown, here is a remarkable understanding. Here, for a man who has literally borne the weight of the world and who has known the great and the mighty, one small dog means unquestioning friendship and devotion.

We who love Yuki are glad he has my father.

We who love my father are glad he has Yuki. END

from the
LADIES HOME JOURNAL
April, 1971



LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIVING WITH HIM AND HER, 1963-69

After the shock and grief of Kennedy's assassination, Lyndon Baines Johnson brought a touch of wry humor to the national stage. Before becoming president, the outspoken Texan had owned a dog he called Little Beagle Johnson—"It's cheaper if we all have the same monogram," he explained. Little Beagle grew up to become Old Beagle, and when he died Johnson had him cremated. For a while the dog's ashes were stored on top of the refrigerator until finally Johnson gave in to his cook's objections and sent the remains to be buried at his Texas ranch.

When LBJ moved into the White House he brought along two new beagles known as Him and Her. In a typically Texan move, the new President took one look at the White House doghouse and immediately ordered that a bigger one be built. Every time Johnson showed the design to a friend, however, the doghouse grew more ambitious and elaborate until finally something of a dog palace was built suitable for a true Texan dog.

During his first few months as president, Johnson scored highly in the popularity polls, but in April 1964 an incident involving Him and Her sent his ratings plummeting. At a meeting with bankers Johnson casually picked up both beagles by the ears while cameras clicked away, and the next day the photos were splashed across the front pages of almost every newspaper in the country. Dog lovers were up in arms and demanded an explanation. But Johnson's answer was typically curt: "To make

Opposite, when LBJ picked up his beagles by the ears, dog-lovers were enraged.



Above, the Johnson beagles Him and Her were often in the news, even making it onto the cover of Life.

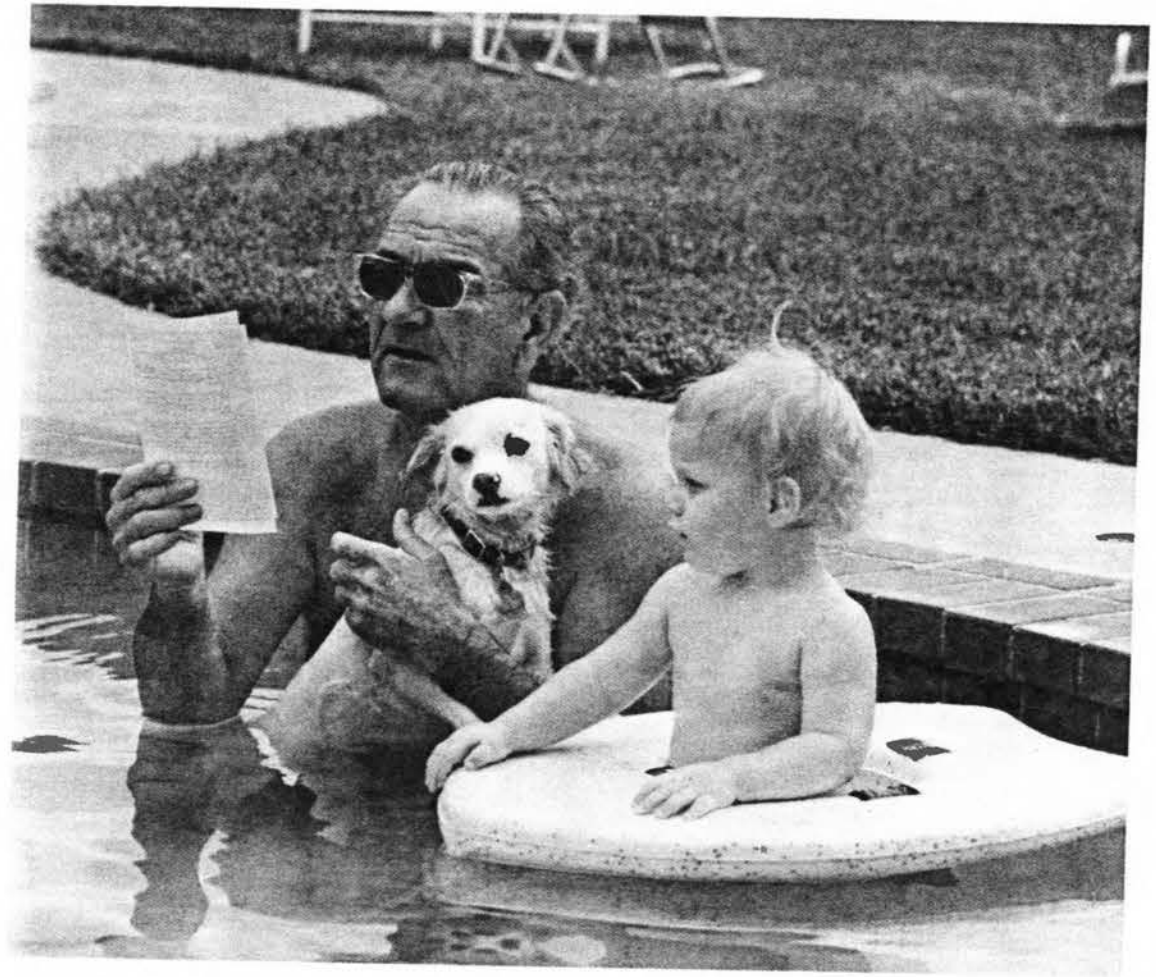


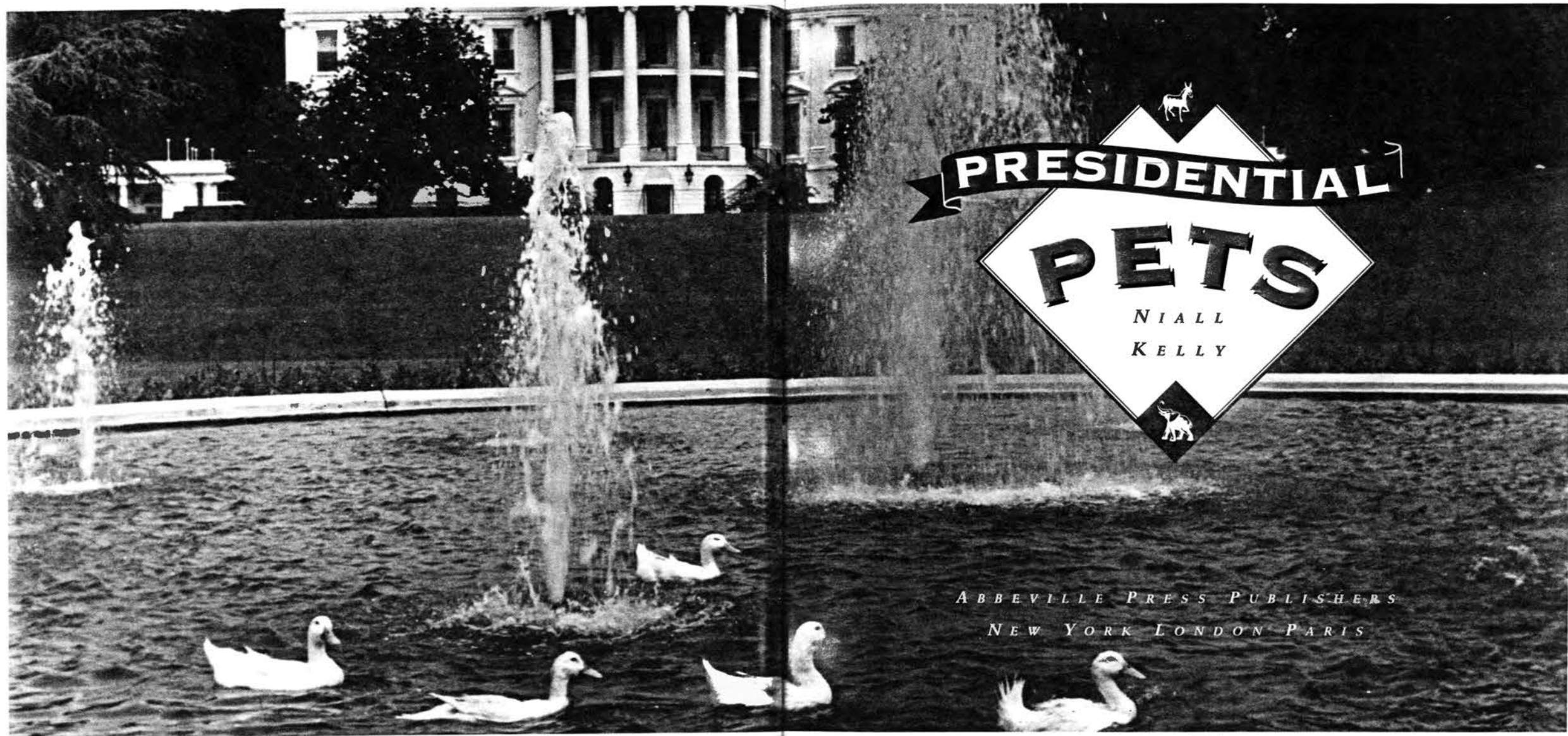
Opposite, President Johnson takes a dip with Yuki and grandchild Patrick Lyndon Nugent.

Yuki in the picture," President Johnson insisted, reaching for the dog. "We can't have a family portrait without him." But Lady Bird didn't agree. Drawing herself up to her full height and looking Johnson straight in the eye, she declared, "That dog is not going in the wedding picture." When the president started to argue, the First Lady commanded the dog keeper, "Mr. Bryant, get the dog out of here right now. He will not be photographed," and Yuki was finally removed. Later while waiting for her husband to finish his tour of duty in Viet Nam, Luci wrote Yuki's biography. "I don't know when it will get published," she admitted, "but I just had to write it. The story of Yuki is part of history."

As the war in Viet Nam played havoc with President Johnson's popularity, he took solace in his standing among his canine supporters. To be on the safe side, however, he kept a box of candy-coated vitamin pills in his desk drawer and doled them out to the eager hounds. Whenever he returned by helicopter to the White House, Johnson also liked to have the unquestioningly supportive dogs on hand to greet him, and as he prepared to land he would eagerly peer out the window to see if the family canines were at the landing pad.

Yuki, a mongrel found in a Texas gas station, was one of President Johnson's favorite dogs.





PRESIDENTIAL
PETS
N I A L L
K E L L Y

ABBEVILLE PRESS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK LONDON PARIS

1992



By Ellen Elias, USA TODAY
Tara Lipinski: New U.S.
skating champ is 14, 1C

LIPINSKI'S SPARKLE GIVES FANS A SPARK 1,11C

WATCHING HER: ON ICE
IS BEST PART OF UPSET

ROGER CLEMENS
MAKES OFFERING ON
1ST DAY AS JAY 11C

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1997

LBJ had a bone to pick

By Richard Benedetto
USA TODAY

The barrage of criticism that hit Lyndon Johnson after news photos showed him holding his new beagle up by the ears stung the president more deeply than many knew.

Newly released taped conversations Johnson had in 1964 depict a man worrying about how it would affect his image.

To press secretary George Reedy, Johnson expresses concern after meeting reporters.

Johnson: "I was hoping they'd bring up the dog thing. I wanted to say I did this every day. Nothing unusual and nothing cruel."

Reedy: "They've forgotten it, sir... A one-day sensation."

Johnson: "I hope so."

But Johnson continued to smart. A few days later, he explains to Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., "All I was doing in holding the beagle up was so he could get the front of his picture instead of his ass."

And finally, Johnson tells Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield that Senate GOP leader Everett Dirksen is



AP file

All ears: President Johnson grabs beagle for photographers.

rubbing salt in his wounds.

"He said he wouldn't treat his dog like I treated mine," Johnson says. "It's none of his damn business how I treat my dog. I'm a lot better to dogs, and humans too, than he is... But they got every dog lover in the country thinking I'm burning 'em at the stake."

► The manipulator, 5A

NO. 1 IN THE USA... FIRST IN DAILY READERS

USA TODAY

SA-0001

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10-21

ORAL REFERENCE REQUEST

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Phone Number

REQUEST

She would like to be called today or tomorrow with the answer to a question:

did LBJ give J. Edgar Hoover a dog?

if so, what its name Edgar?

if so, what breed was it?

RESPONSE

Hoover gave LBJ a beagle 8-7-66
named "Edgar" after
"Him" died

"HIM" AND "HER"
(Beagles)

"Her" died from swallowing a stone from the White House driveway. "Him" was killed when he ran between the wheels of a car while chasing a squirrel on the White House lawn.

Info Luci Nugent - they are both buried in the family cemetery - (Him near President Johnson's grave and she wasn't sure of the location of "Her").

dog

Blanco was given to a doctor and his family in Kentucky before the Johnsons left the White House. He had nearly five years with this family who lived near some woods. The family kept in touch with President and Mrs. Johnson, sending periodic reports about him, the last one in September 1974 when Blanco had a heart attack and died.

Yuki After President Johnson died, Yuki went to live with Luci Nugent and her children, receiving many years of tender loving care until his death in Feb. 1979

Her died in Dec. 1964 after she swallowed a foreign object.

Him died in June 1966 - he was chasing squirrels, and was run over by a car. *at WH*

Kim and Freckles were sired by Him

Dog Days at the White House

*The Outrageous Memoirs of
the Presidential Kennel Keeper*

Traphes Bryant
with
Frances Spatz Leighton



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LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

"That bum," the Secret Service man told me, "went to an art display and tried to get the price down. He wanted the stuff for the LBJ Library. And by God, he did get the price down. And then he was so anxious to get his bargains home he bypassed the crowds waiting for him by using a viaduct that took him right to the airport. I tell you he was a demon that day."

About the time LBJ announced he wasn't going to run again he really got testy. Once I came into the room just as he exploded: "They shot me down. The only difference between the Kennedy assassination and mine is that I am still alive and feeling it." He was talking about Vietnam and how nobody was rallying round him to support his position.

I remember when the papers were giving Johnson unmitigated hell every time he turned around. George Christian, his top PR man, said to the press, "Okay, you guys, you just go ahead and pour it on. But one of these days you're going to miss him."

And I'll bet they do.

I hated to see LBJ lose his popularity, going from cock of the walk to bottom of the barnyard well. Strangely enough, the decline had begun with his beagles, Him and Her, in an incident that ended the new President's honeymoon with the press and with a lot of the dog-loving public. He'd been hailed for his tax cuts, great new civil rights legislation, and countless other achievements. He'd even settled a railroad strike and gotten the Chamber of Commerce on his side.

And then in a flash everything changed. Or as one reporter—Mary McGrory—put it, "A yelp ended a winning streak."

The incident I'm talking about was the ear-pulling, and many people asked me about it. "You're the dogkeeper, why didn't you stop him?" they'd wonder. As long as I was at the White House, I kept still. I figured LBJ had \$30,000-a-year advisors to tell him what he should or shouldn't do if he cared about his image.

But that's all over now—LBJ is gone, I'm retired, and I can finally say what I had the bad luck to see. Yes, I was there the day the President picked up his little beagle Him by the ears. I cringed to hear the dog yelping. It all happened April 27, 1964, at C-9 Post, right outside the President's office. He had been meeting there with some balance of payments experts, and as a relief from financial talk, he took them for a walk around the yard. A swarm of reporters and photographers followed, as usual.

What the President was trying to do was please the photographers by getting the dogs to do a trick. Lyndon Johnson was such a tall man he had to bend way over even to get near a beagle. So he was bending over and just took hold of Him by the most convenient handle, his ears, probably thinking of some Texas story about a farmer lifting his dog that way. Even when he heard the yelps, the President didn't seem to realize that anything was wrong. He just matter-of-factly explained that pulling their ears was good for the dogs, and that everyone who knew dogs liked to hear them yelp.

What the President didn't remember, or know, is that you can only try this lift-'em-by-the-ears trick with a puppy. Old-time farmers and hunters start to pick up a pup by the ears and if it yelps, they stop and pick up one that doesn't. Puppies are light, but grown dogs have more weight than their ears can comfortably support.

Even as the episode unfolded—with the dog yelping and the flash bulbs popping—I knew the fat was in the fire. Or to quote a favorite expression of Lyndon's, "the ox was in the ditch," and it was going to make news. I had just gotten some good stories in the papers about the presidential dogs, and now this! I felt sorry for both the President and the dog.

Johnson probably never knew that Nixon, as soon as he entered office, used the ear-pulling incident for a gag to amuse his Republican friends. You will read about it later in my diary.

After LBJ's goof, the White House was flooded with mail. Some defended the President; most condemned

him. Reporters around the world were going to dog experts to poll their opinion on beagle ear-pulling. Veterinarians were anti-President on the matter. So were the National Beagle Club, the American Kennel Club, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

But Bernard Workman, the chairman of the Canine Defense League in London, defended him. A clipping quoted him as saying, "I don't believe that a beagle comes to any harm by picking it up by the ears. Their ears are particularly strong."

When I showed it to the President he still didn't ask me, his dogkeeper, whether I thought he'd done right, which was a tipoff to me he really knew it had been a mistake. And since he didn't ask, I didn't volunteer. I just listened as he defended himself some more. "You know, Bryant, it's good for these dogs to bark. They have things too soft around here; they've got to exercise those lungs in case I take them hunting. Where else does a dog get such treatment as I give them? They lead a better life than I do. Hell, they even have their teeth cleaned for them."

I said, "Why don't you call a press conference and tell the reporters?"

"Oh, hell," he said, "I can't teach those guys anything. Half of them don't know their ass from their elbow. They're too ignorant. You can't teach anything to a shut mind. But I never thought a dog would do me in."

Then he got his second wind and decided to use the incident to his own advantage. "The only thing that saves my sanity is humor," he had told me. So I wasn't surprised that when he spoke to a group of Jewish clothing workers in New York City, he said, "I've been warned that you are mad at me because I pulled the ears of a bagel." He came back beaming and said, "They loved it. I went from *beagle* to *bagel* and let the bagel share the blame."

Now it can be told that the much-publicized April 27 ear-pulling wasn't the only time he pulled the dogs' ears. A few days later he went to the trouble of showing some tourists how he had lifted his dog by the ears, and again

Him yelped. A tourist laughed and called out, "That was off the record."

My diary shows another item about a year later:

3/15/65 The President called for the dogs in front of his office. He twisted Him's ear and Him yelped. President petted Him before going to the Capitol to make a civil rights speech. I took Blanco to the second floor. Lynda took Him. The President told me to bring them both out in fifteen minutes.

To the end of his term he still persisted in pulling the dogs' ears just to prove they really "liked it." The Prez hated to be wrong.

LBJ wove a lot of fun and games into his days as President but life wasn't all beer and skittles or dogs and shower nozzles, even in his early years in the White House. Some terrible moments passed in the President's official life. One of the worst involved Walter Jenkins, an aide I had often seen around. He was a hard worker and LBJ's closest friend and assistant, and his daughter, Beth, was sixteen-year-old Luci's best friend. Sometimes the two families ate together on the Truman Balcony.

But on October 7, 1964, everything changed within a short half-hour. Jenkins was attending an opening of *Newsweek's* new Washington office. Suddenly, about seven o'clock, according to the story that circulated the White House, he ducked out. Half an hour later he was arrested at the YMCA men's room for disorderly conduct of the type associated with homosexuals. It turned out the police had peepholes in the Y john and picked up a lot of homosexuals that way.

Lyndon Johnson and the whole White House staff were in shock. Jenkins was out, and LBJ explained to a startled public that he was sorely grieved and that all he could say was that Jenkins had lately been under great stress.

A different scandal, this one involving Bobby Baker, the Senate Majority Secretary and LBJ's old protégé from his days on the Hill, threatened the President much more

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A Krock on how Johnson has cost Presidency in own image in short space of time, Ap 14,36:4

J Reston on Johnson's energy and ceaseless activity, Ap 26,IV,10:3; Baker humorous article on Johnson's pace and wide-ranging activities, on pub preoccupation with him, Ap 30,34:3; examples of Johnson's humor taken from ss and statements, My 3,IV,11:3; picture article on Johnson and the people, My 3,VI,pp12,13; B H Bagdikian article on politicians' reactions to criticism cites Johnson's refusal to pretend he enjoys it; quotes S Alsop comments, Ag 9,VI,p10; article on how Pres keeps informed notes that he is man of perpetual motion and uses every possible means to absorb information; differences between him and late Pres Kennedy noted, Ag 30,VI,p15; A Shuster on Johnson humor; examples, S 13,VI,p100; T Wicker article on Johnson's campaign tactics stresses his talent for self-dramatization; examples, O 4,VI,p14; Prof Toynebee on Johnson as politician, int, Denver, D 27,4:2

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Ja 2,2:3; Ja 4,12:2; Ja 7,14:2; Ja 9,1:5; Ja 9,16:2; Ja 12,IV,1:3; Ja 15,10:1; Ja 16,34:4; Ja 17,11:2; Ja 18,11:2; Ja 19,1:2; Ja 21,1:6; Ja 23,1:2; Ja 25,18:2; Ja 26,54:2; Ja 26,IV,1:2; Ja 28,16:5; Ja 29,1:5; Ja 29,17:2
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Press Relations. See cross-refs from start of Johnson heading (for subjects discussed at press confs)

Johnson attends New Yr's Eve party given by White House press corps, Austin, Ja 1,12:2; holds brief press conf on front porch of LBJ Ranch, Ja 4,9:8; Johnson briefs newsmen on State of Union Message, White House Rose Garden, Ja 9,17:3; illus; text, Ja 9,16:4,7; Johnson to s at AP meeting, NYC, Apr 20, Ja 10,14:8; Repr Horton queries why Johnson has held no TV press confs, Ja 15,18:7

Johnson to open some press confs to live radio-TV coverage; asks newsmen to suggest ways for more effective use of medium, reply to Radio-TV News Dir's Assn request, Ja 19,79:3

Johnson, in press briefing, explains receipt of stereo photograph from ex-Dem Sen Majority sec Baker and purchase of life ins, Ja 24,1:8; text, Ja 24,14:6

Johnson calls newsmen into his office without advance notice for another press conf, Ja 26,1:1; transcript; illus; discusses his relations with newsmen, Ja 26,p54

Tribute to M Weinberg on 50th anniv as publisher of Day-Jewish Morning Journal, Ja 26,67:4

TV networks CBS, NBC, ABC, caught unprepared by Johnson's impromptu press confs, propose bldg permanent broadcasting studio in White House; studio would be in Fish Room near Pres office; he is seen approving, Ja 26,17:1

Natl Newspaper Publishers Assn, representing wkly and semi-wkly Negro newspapers, confs with Johnson, White House, Ja 31,11:3

Press conf, F 2,16:8; transcript, F 2,p62; conf held in White House theater; newsmen for 1st time are given advance notice; conf taped by radio and TV networks; illus; Johnson comments on choice of theater; transcript, F 2,62:2,4

Article on Johnson's handling of press thus far; sharp contrast with Pres Kennedy's policies noted; Johnson seen still seeking press conf format that suits him best, F 9,IV,8:1

Johnson, at diplomatic reception, dances with nearly every newswoman present, F 12,19:3

Televised press conf from State Dept conf room; illus, Mr 1,18; transcript; illus, Mr 1,p44; Johnson discusses plans for dealing with press, press conf; says he will vary press conf format; says Salinger will meet press twice daily; says he will meet individual newsmen and some 'old friends'; transcript, Mr 1,44:5,8; J Reston notes press conf was televised live for 1st time; revs Johnson's performance, Mr 1,44:6; televised press conf from White House East Room; illus, Mr 8,1:8; transcript; illus, Mr 8,p54; article on Johnson's performance; conf is 7th held, 2d to be televised live; seen best thus far stylistically; friendlier and more relaxed atmosphere contrasted with previous conf; conf in East Room is 1st to be held there, Mr 8,55:2

Pres s, Women's Natl Press Club dinner, Mr 5,1:8

Johnson discusses accession to Pres and 1st 100 days in 1-hr taped TV int carried by CBS, NBC, ABC; int originally ran 20 mins but was ed by networks; interviewers are E Seavard, W H Lawrence, D Brinkley, Mr 16,1:8; transcript; illus, Mr 16,pp18,19; J Reston on Johnson's effective performance; sees him growing in confidence in use of TV, Mr 16,19:7; ed, Mr 16,30:1; J Gould on int and networks' editing, Mr 17,71:1; Mr 22,II,15:1

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House office, Mr 22,1:1; text; illus, Mr 22,p44; unscheduled press conf, LBJ Ranch office, Mr 29,1:2; transcript, Mr 30,20:1

Press conf, White House Cabinet Room; conf, called without notice, not covered by live TV and radio, Ap 5,1:1; Ap 5,1:5; transcript; illus, Ap 5,p82; press conf; held in Cabinet Room; called without advance notice, Ap 12,1:2 transcript, Ap 12,64:2

Reston on how Johnson likes to have newsmen around him but dislikes their criticism, Ap 8,42:3

Press conf, Ap 17,1:1; transcript; highlights, Ap 17,p14; he welcomes ASNE members present; transcript, Ap 17,14:1; conf is 14th; Johnson calls it 'regular scheduled, televised, notified-well-in-advance' conf; 502 newsmen, including 200 from ASNE attend; conf held in State Dept auditorium where Kennedy held all his confs; Johnson's light-hearted ref to auto-driving incident and to other subjects noted, Ap 17,15:1; Reston on Johnson's performance, Ap 17,34:3; White House reception for ASNE members and wives; Johnson s, Ap 18,14:2; press conf, White House, called without warning, Ap 19,15:6; A Krock on control Johnson demonstrated over mass televised press conf; says previous confs gave him time for experiment and for preparation for comparison with Kennedy; cartoon, Ap 19,IV,9:1; Johnson s at AP execs luncheon attended by 1,700, NYC; illus, Ap 21,1:8; text; illus, Ap 21,p14; used latest type of speech prompter, Ap 21,14:7; newsmen M Smith says press should not try to impose press conf format on Johnson that will make him uncomfortable s, UPI meeting, Ap 21,21:5; Johnson speaks to and holds impromptu press conf with eds and broadcasters, White House Rose Garden; calls working relations with press good, Ap 22,1:2; excerpts; illus, Ap 22,18:1,3; Johnson gives 30 mins notice for press conf, White House Flower Garden, Ap 24,1:6; transcript; illus, Ap 24,14:2; press conf, White House office; sitting with Johnson are H S Truman and Prof J F Dobie, White House guests; conf is 4th full-dress one in 9 days and runs 16 mins over usual 1/2 hr; Johnson, Truman illus, Ap 26,1:8; transcript; illus, Ap 26,p64; USSR news agency Tass carries complete acct, Ap 27,4:3

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Johnson praises press and pokes fun at it, s, W R Hearst Foundation awards dinner; says he was ed of coll paper; presents awards, My 12,24:5

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Press conf, LBJ Ranch, JI 19,18; transcript; illus, JI 19,p56; press conf, Washington; illus, JI 25,1:8; transcript; illus; highlights, JI 25,p5; press conf, White House; later makes brief statement to newsmen, eliminating any Cabinet member or person who meets regularly with Cabinet as possible Vice-Pres candidate, JI 31,1:8; statement text, JI 31,8:7; press conf transcript; highlights, JI 31,8:1; press conf was held in Johnson's office, not televised, JI 31,9:1

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S DOGS

Blanco - born July 19, 1963 - white collie

- registered as Leader Blair Jamie of Edlen
- given to President and Mrs. Johnson in December 1963
- given to doctor and his wife in Kentucky before President left the White House
- died September 1974 of a heart attack

Him and Her - born June 27, 1963 - beagles

- registered
- Her died in December 1964 after she swallowed a foreign object
- Him sired Kim and Freckles born in October 1965
- Him died in June 1966. Run over by car while chasing squirrels

Yuki - born 1966? - white mixed breed

- name is Japanese for "white as snow"
- after death of President Johnson, Yuki went to live with Luci Johnson Nugent and her family
- died 1979

PRE-PRESIDENTIAL

It is known that, as a child, Lyndon Johnson had a dog named "Bigham Young" (correct spelling), and rode a horse named "Kussie" which belonged to his cousin, Ava Johnson Cox.

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Tina

* Johnson

2

F

Luci on Yuki

12/15/88

* Yuki is an "only in America" story where a dog goes from being abandoned in a country filling station to being one of the President of the United States' best friend. Let me assure you that it was not love at first sight. Yuki had some personal hygiene problems which did not endear him to my father, but help was sought and these problems were corrected. Yuki was as attentive and loving as you could ever hope for. My father liked to see things happen. If he called Yuki, he came; if he asked Yuki to jump, Yuki asked "how high?"; and if he asked Yuki to sing the "Star Spangled Banner", Yuki would oblige..not caring if it was on key. ^{IN} It those times of conflict and difficult decisions, Yuki offered unqualified love which is rare in anyone's life regardless of their station.

46
29
PP-6
ACK 6/2/64
Tuesday, April 28th.

10946-80. 60th.
FRANKLIN, WIS.

Mr Johnson —

Stupid... absolutely stupid!
and the laughing apes in the background
look just as stupid as the thing you are
doing.

You sir, have just lost 2 votes
that you most certainly would have had
until this incident. It's just too,
damned bad that poor dog couldn't
have got his teeth into your butt.
But then that would be against the
rules; only you can hurt the dog.

Mr & Mrs Don Keith

June 3, 1964

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keith:

Thank you for writing the President about his beagles -- I know he will appreciate both your interest in him and your concern for them. The puppies are close by the President's office and his moments of play with them are a great joy for the President.

I can assure you from seeing them together often that the President and his beagles are the very best of good friends, and I am very sorry that a biased and distorted news report about the President's very fine and warm relations with his dogs should have misled anyone.

Sincerely,

Juanita D. Roberts
Personal Secretary
to the President

Mr. and Mrs. Don Keith
10946 South 60th
Franklin, Wisconsin

pap
J



President Johnson lifted one of his pet beagles by the ears on the White House lawn Monday.

Yelping Beagles Put Johnson in Doghouse

Journal Wire Services

President Johnson brought down on his head the wrath of the Chicago Humane society Monday when he decided to have some fun with the family beagles, Him and Her.

Mr. Johnson pulled each of the animals up by its ears to arouse yelps.

The pups were frisking on the White House lawn when Mr. Johnson went out to the rose garden to greet a group organized to promote increased foreign investment in securities of United States firms.

He called the dogs over, fed them some of their sugar coated vitamin pills from a bottle, played with them a bit, rolled them over, then hoisted them by the ears.

"It's Good for Them"

"You see what a dog will do when he gets in a crowd of bankers?" The president remarked with a smile after the yelps subsided.

He told his guests that "if you ever follow dogs, you

like to hear them yelp," and that was why he had encouraged Him and Her to do so.

"It's good for them," he said. "It does them good to let them bark."

J. J. Shaffer, managing director of the Chicago Humane society, said that Mr. Johnson's ear pulling "is far and away the wrong way" to treat animals.

President Told How

"They have certainly caught the president in a display which contradicts everything that we as humane societies try to teach," Shaffer said.

"There are right ways and wrongs to do anything. In the case of picking up a dog, it has a front end and a back end and appreciates support at both ends.

"The question is not how painful this is to beagles, but how painful it is to any living creatures to be lifted by the ears. In our experience, this is the wrong way to do it."

LIFE



HE AND HIM

President's dogs
on the lawn
at the White House

JUNE 9, 1960

LIFE visits
those White House
beagles,

HIM and HER

Here in exclusive LIFE pictures are those beagles, Him and Her, snooping around the White House as though they owned it, which they probably think they do. Thanks to all the furor over ear-pulling (LIFE, May 8), Him and Her, who will be a year old next week, are the most talked-about canines since F.D.R.'s Fala took office. Whether or not they approve of the President's way of demonstrating his affection, they probably wouldn't swap places with any other dogs in the world. Not many dogs have been privileged to shoo birds off the White House lawn, get underfoot at a Cabinet meeting or mingle with the dignitaries at a State Ball. Certainly no dogs in all the world have the Bouquet Room for a private boudoir.

Actually Him and Her belong to Luci, the President's 16-year-old daughter. But they know who is really their Chief Executive, and are always on hand when he is in the mood for a romp. They also make it a point of canine protocol to turn out, with much frisking about and tail wagging, when he comes or goes in the presidential helicopter. Says a Texas lawyer who is an old friend of the Johnson family: "I'd sure like to lead the life those two dogs lead."

CONTINUED



Status symbols and fun facilities for two frisky dogs of state



From their low-slung perspective, it must seem to Him and Her that the White House and its staff and fittings exist solely for their benefit and edification. Pools and fountains are there to be cooled off in or lapped at. The Rose Garden furniture obviously was

intended to accommodate a midday rest. As befits their status as dogs of state, Him and Her have this friendly fellow, Thrappes Bryant, who functions as their all-purpose aide—and it's just an irrelevancy that he happens also to be the White House electrician.

CONTINUED

NTINUED



Like all beagles, Him and Her have a built-in yen for rabbit, which hasn't been seen on the hoof around 1600

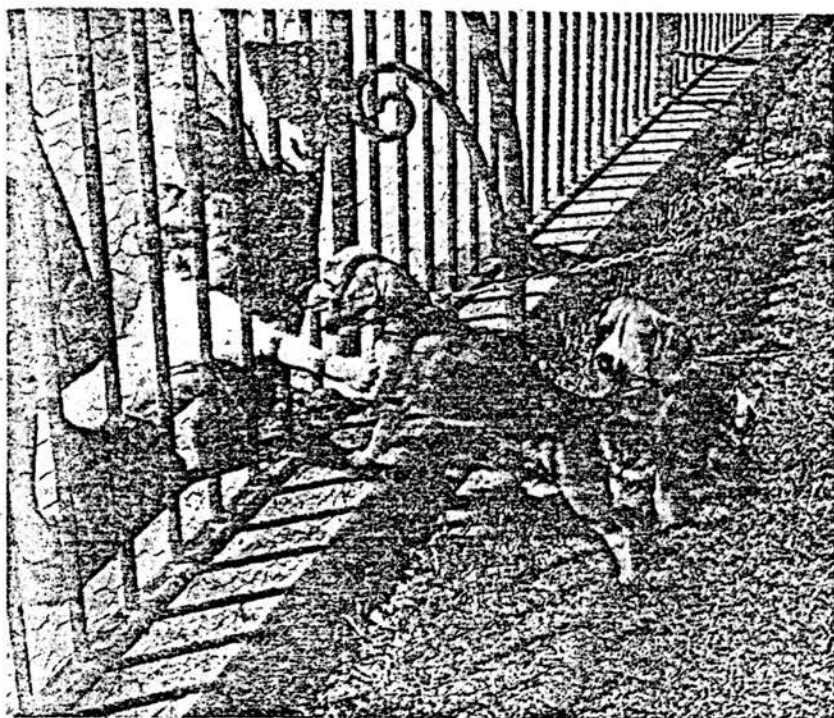
Pennsylvania Avenue in many years. So they take out their frustrations on an old overshoe in the Johnsons' second-

floor living room. The famous White House squirrels have made it their business to stay safely close to the trees.

CONTINUED

BEAGLES CONTINUED

Politicking at the fence, then an encore ear-lift



Out for their constitutional on the south lawn of the White House, Him and Her stand in for their master and extend a friendly paw to tourist Bill Murphy Jr., 3.

It's ear-pulling time again as Him and Her join Luci (left) and her friend, Warri Lynn Smith of Texas, to see President Johnson off from the White House on a trip.



"The b glue in th join



That's why Elmer's Glue-All is the best in America—the best glue for ever. And it's a pleasure to work with. The exc to use and can't clog or get lost. exactly what you need from the un There's no waste. And Elmer's Glue-A minutes. Washes off in a jiffy. What Well, you could ask for these "Party & Home Decorations," "Paper Handbook." To get your free copies, ju and a stamped, self-addressed envelope

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Please send me free copies of "Party &
Fun," and "Wood-Gluing Handbook."

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VISIT OUR EXHIBIT—WORLD'S FAIR "E

October 25, 1989

Dear Mr. [Name]

In response to your request for information on President Johnson's pets, I am enclosing a chronology of his dogs during the presidential years. Also, it is known that, as a child, he had a dog named "Bigham Young" and rode a horse named "Kussie" which belonged to his cousin, Ava Johnson Cox.

A variety of photographs of the "presidential" dogs is available from the Library. I have enclosed a price list for photographs. You should advise us what type of photograph you are seeking, i.e., the dog alone, with the President, with others; black and white or color, etc. We can then make a selection for you.

Should you decide to place an order for prints, please allow several weeks for the processing of your order.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Yours truly,

Katherine H. Frankum
Librarian

Austin, TX

TEXAS MONTHLY
JUN 1990

61



ANIMAL

ATTRACTIONS

**A TRIBUTE TO TEXAS'
TOP-BILLED BEASTS AND CRITICALLY
ACCLAIMED CRITTERS.**

AT SAN JACINTO, SAM Houston rode into battle on a massive white stallion whose name—as every good Texan knows—was Saracen. Within minutes Saracen had died a hero's death on the battlefield, thus becoming Texas' first celebrity animal. Although Houston had ridden him only a short time and owned other horses, Saracen's name has ever since been inextricably linked with General Sam's.

The state's history and mythology owe much to critters, domestic and wild. The Spanish introduced the cattle and horses whose hybrid descendants became Texas' famous Longhorns and mustangs. Seas of buffalo offered a livelihood for the Plains Indian and sport and wealth for the white man. So amazing were those animals that when Buffalo Bill Cody took his Wild West Show to Europe in 1887, they excited as great a stir there as P. T. Barnum's huge elephant Jumbo had in the U.S. a few years before.

Texans never limited their affections to native species. When the U.S. War Department tried importing camels into the state in the 1850's for use as cavalry pack animals, the beasts drew crowds of gawkers at every stop. A few nameless escapees roamed wild in West Texas for years. Gainesville cowman Frank Buck turned his skill at handling livestock into a career as a big-game netter; he detailed his captures in *Bring 'Em Back Alive*.

Since Saracen, dozens of celebrity animals have provided Texans with creature comfort. Dogs lead the pack. The most famous is Reveille, Texas A&M University's mascot since the thirties. So venerated is the collie that when Reveille III died in 1975 after the spring semester, she lay in state in a veterinary school freezer until the students returned in the fall. Nine thousand Aggies attended her funeral. Other famous dogs were Him and Her, the beagles that LBJ was wont to hoist by the ears (provoking one of animal activism's earliest flaps); the late president's favorite pooch, Yuki, whom Liz Carpenter termed a "terrible publicity hound"; and our current First Dog, the Bushes' English

springer spaniel Millie.

Equine celebs include Assault, the 1946 Triple Crown winner, who hailed from the King Ranch's stables, and Cass-Olé, the San Antonio who starred in the 1979 movie *The Black Stallion*. The King Ranch also produced Monkey, who fathered the first Santa Gertrudis calves. Nevertheless, Monkey's

fame is cowed by that of another great bovine hero, Old Blue, Charles Goodnight's lead steer, who was so tame that he wore a bell. Colonel Goodnight, the first to attempt crossbreeding of buffalo and cattle, liked the moniker "Old" for all his pets: Old Sikes was the buffalo who sired his short-lived "cattalo" line.

Some of the four-footed famous were more unusual animals—Old Rip, for example, was a horny toad who, legend has it, survived 34 years of burial in the Eastland County courthouse cornerstone—and others were purely fictitious, like Fred Gipson's hound Old Yeller and Pecos Bill's steed, Widow-Maker. Texans found some critters—like the rattler and the tarantula—a little hard to warm up to, so few of those have ever made a name for themselves; there were too many lovable varmints around. No wonder the Legislature, which at various times decided on vital symbols like the state grass and state stone, has never settled on an official state animal.

Texas' eminent animals fall into three categories: those famous by species, like the golden-cheeked warbler and the Texas blind salamander, both of which breed only in Central Texas; those whose owners are famous, like Bruno, Judge Roy Bean's pet bear, and Bob Wills's horse Punkin; and those famous in their own right. The seven animals pictured here belong to the last. They command instant name recognition. All but one are native Texans, and most share the classic Texas characteristics of friendliness and size. But whether creatures great or small, they are near and dear to Texans' hearts. Be they pig or pachyderm, billy goat or beef, we're mighty fauna them all. ANNE DINGUS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHIP SIMONS

90 / DOG DAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE ^{by} ~~Traphes~~

ing the door to the main ground-floor kitchen because Yuki wanted to go in. Frankie Blair, a clean-up man, didn't realize what was going on and chased Yuki out. President Johnson then went into the kitchen and asked Frankie, "Has Yuki eaten his dinner?"

Frankie said, "Yes, Mr. President."

President Johnson said, "Well, Yuki says he hasn't eaten. Are you trying to call my dog a liar?"

During the Johnson administration I continued to record the birth dates of the White House dogs, their trips to and from the vet's, and their medical problems, just as I'd done for President Kennedy's pack.

How far away it all seems now, looking at some of those Kennedy records.

BORN:		
Charlie		1958
Pushinka	(Russia)	1960
Clipper	June 9,	1962
Wolf	May 19,	1963
Shannon	June 15,	1963
Pups	June 15,	1963

Other charts bear witness that at the time of the Kennedy assassination, dog life was going on as usual—Pushinka in heat again; Wolf and Shannon having rabies shots; Charlie acting snappish.

And then the LBJ dog records begin:

BORN:
Him and Her June 27, 1963
Blanco September, 1963
 Him's pups: 1 male and 5 females, born in Austin, Texas, 10/21/65
 Him and Her sired from Jackson 11th ("Little Beagle"), and Fsurdies Clementine (mother).

Few people, including President Johnson, knew Blanco's real name:

Blanco—Registered as Leader Blair Jamie of Edlin.

Yuki

Lyndon Baines Johnson / 9

In spite of his fancy moniker, and maybe because of his fancy breeding, Blanco kept the vets hopping.

Rabies vaccination: 11-29-63
 Tag number: 5840
 Named: Blanco
 12-13-63 Distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis vaccine.
 12-13-63 Stool sample to vet.
 Diagnosis: Worms.
 12-16-63 Blanco has round- and hookworms.
 12-17-63 Blanco sent to Friendship Hospital and treated for round- and hookworms and bathed.
 Blanco due for Booster shot on the first week in 1964.
 12-17-63 President autographed picture of Blanco and myself.
 12-18-63 Blanco had loose tooth pulled, returned to the White House.
 1-3-64 Blanco treated for worms. Vet says was caught in time.
 1-3-64 Distemper and hepatitis and leptospirosis.
 1-7-64 Bathed.
 1-8-64 Stool sample taken.
 1-9-64 Sample okay—no worms. Dogs moved to same room.
 1-15-64 Stool sample for worms check sent to vet.
 1-18-64 No worms.
 2-4-64 Sample stool.
 2-5-64 No worms.
 2-7-64 Sent to vets for bath.
 2-12-64 Bought a collar and traffic leader.
 2-12-64 Rabies certificate tag: #153.
 Vet checkup and shots.
 City dog tag: #20.
 3-4-64 Stool sample.
 3-9-64 Blanco has coccidiosis.
 3-10-64 Colonel Chadwick, Fort Myer, in charge of White House dogs.
 3-18-64 Blanco to Fort Myer for checkup. Stool to be checked.
 3-18-64 Colonel Chadwick sent a letter with instru

Kept
 Freckles
 Kim

LBJ'S DOGS

YUKI

original of name: Japanese word for "white as
snow"

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON



February 28, 1972

Dear Rex:

Thank you so much for sending me the material you discovered about Blanco in the files--I will turn it right over to Dorothy Territo!

We had a surprise visit at the LBJ Library a few weeks ago from Julie Eisenhower and I especially enjoyed getting to know her. Let us know if you ever get down this way!

Sincerely,

Helene Lindow
Personal Secretary to
Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

*
Mr. Rex Scouten
Chief Usher
The White House
Washington, D.C.

originals filed
in White House
--- J. Fawcett

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


February 24, 1972

Dear Helene:

I discovered the enclosed material on Blanco while going through some old files and thought you should have it in your Library.

Say "hello" to everyone from the Ushers Office.

Sincerely,



Rex Scouten
Chief Usher

Miss Helene Lindow
Johnson Library
Austin, Texas

December 1, 1963
Edlen Kennels
409 Raffel Road
Woodstock, Ill.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President,

We wish to congratulate you on the magnificent way you have assumed the tremendous responsibilities that have been loaded upon you by the terrible act of violence of November 22. In token of our personal appreciation for the great service you are performing for our nation, we have decided to give you our best and most lovable puppy. We hope he will become a faithful companion to you, and that he will stay by your side to bring you some measure of comfort and joy during some of your darkest and loneliest hours.

Enclosed is a letter from our young daughter who joins us and millions of other Americans in wishing you a most successful career in The White House.

This dog, one of four, has survived against tremendous odds. He was born at night by caesarian section during a tornado and entered this world two weeks early. Without a mother to care for them or electricity, we brought them home with orders to keep them warm. Without a heating pad or any means of giving them heat, we lit a fire in the fireplace even though it was mid-July. The pups did not open their eyes for one month, and during this time little hope was had for their survival. After they were one month old they progressed rapidly, in good health, into strong and active pups.

We are enclosing the American Kennel Club form necessary for registering "Leader". It is completely filled out, and all you need do is sign it and mail it in the enclosed addressed envelope. Also enclosed are "Leader's" pedigree, health certificate, and rabies certificate. We hope you like him.

Very respectfully,

Lloyd E. Nelson

Lloyd E. Nelson

encls.

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. President,
I am a nine year
old girl. I want to give
you an all-white collie.
We are sure you will like
this dog. All-white
collies are hard to find.
You will think that at
first this dog will be
noisy but he will not
be. Of course he will bark
if a burglar comes near.
We are reading this dog
by air. I feel so sorry
about the drastic death of
President John F. Kennedy.
I think that this dog will
cheer your lonely job up.

Very respectfully,
Lois Nelson
409 Raffel Road
Woodstock, Illinois

SIRE AND DAM OF LEADER BLAIR JAMIE OF EDLEN



BONNIE LASSIE OF EDLEN



ANTHONY SNODEN OF EDLEN

Worming:

September, 1963 (Negative)

Vaccinations:

Hepatitis)
Distemper) --Nov. 29, 1963
Leptospirosis) 1 shot - Massive
dose

Rabies Nov. 29, 1963

BREED Collie

NAME LEADER BLAIR JAMIE OF EDLEN

SEX Male

WHELPED July 19, 1963

COLOR White

OWNER Lyndon B. Johnson

ADDRESS White House

CITY AND STATE Washington, D.C.

BREEDER Edlen Kennels

ADDRESS 409 Raffel Road

CITY AND STATE Woodstock, Illinois

PEDIGREE

COMPLIMENTS OF

EDLEN KENNELS
COLLIES

WE FEED AND RECOMMEND KASCO

EDDIE & LLOYD NELSON

409 RAFFEL ROAD
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

<u>The White King</u> Grand Sire of <u>Shomont</u>	<u>Bwana of Bonde</u> <u>LaMeno</u>	<u>Parader's Pepper</u>	<u>Parader's Bold Venture</u>
			<u>Pathfinder's Paraderette</u>
	<u>Bonnie Lady of</u> <u>Shomont</u>	<u>Paula's Pepe</u>	<u>Jane's Sable Lad</u>
			<u>Jane's Sable Lady</u>
<u>thony Snoden of Edlen</u> No. <u>WA-351880</u>		<u>Shomont White</u> <u>Attainment</u>	<u>Lex of Lodestone</u>
			<u>Lodestone LaFontaine</u>
		<u>Shomont White</u> <u>Orchid</u>	<u>White Frederick</u>
			<u>White Evelyn</u>
<u>Stacey of Shomont</u> Grand Dam	<u>Shomont White</u> <u>Invasion</u>	<u>Laddie White</u> <u>Captain</u>	<u>Langenberg's White Captain</u>
			<u>Peerless Flash</u>
	<u>Shomont Morning</u> <u>Sun</u>	<u>Archie's</u> <u>Prominader</u>	<u>White Bow</u>
			<u>Lady Prominader</u>
<u>LEADER BLAIR JAMIE OF EDLEN</u> Reg. No. <u>WL-412745</u> No. _____		<u>Ardwick Duke</u> <u>William</u>	<u>Lochland Prince Ardwick</u>
			<u>Ardwick's Silver Lady</u>
	<u>Cliffhaven Silver</u> <u>O'Shomont</u>	<u>Shomont Michelin</u> <u>Cheire</u>	<u>Laddie Boy</u>
			<u>Dana III</u>
<u>King George of</u> Grand Sire <u>Shomont</u>		<u>Cliffhaven</u> <u>Thunderhead</u>	<u>Cliffhaven Buff</u>
			<u>Cliffhaven Parading Lady</u>
	<u>Stacey of Shomont</u>	<u>Cliffhaven Lay</u> <u>Desire</u>	<u>Lex of Lodestone</u>
			<u>Cliffhaven Lady Levitry</u>
<u>Bonnie Lassie of Edlen</u> No. <u>WA-235409</u>		<u>Shomont White</u> <u>Invasion</u>	<u>Laddie White Captain</u>
			<u>Archie's Prominader</u>
	<u>White King XII</u>	<u>Ardwick Duke William</u>	<u>Ardwick Duke William</u>
		<u>Shomont Morning</u> <u>Sun</u>	<u>Shomont Michelin Cheire</u>
<u>Jack's White</u> Grand Dam <u>Innocence</u>		<u>Snow King O'Lone</u> <u>Elm</u>	<u>White King II</u>
			<u>Renfroe's Queen</u>
		<u>Lone Elm White</u> <u>Narcissus</u>	<u>Shomont Skyline Triane</u>
			<u>Shomont Lassie Lon</u>
		<u>Shomont White</u> <u>Tanager</u>	<u>The White Challenge of</u> <u>Shomont</u> <u>Shomont White</u>

The White King Grand Sire of Shomont	Bwana of Bonde LaMeno	Parader's Pepper	Pathfinder's Paraderette
		Paula's Pepe	Jane's Sable Lad
	Bonnie Lady of Shomont	Shomont White Attainment	Jane's Sable Lady
		Shomont White Orchid	Lex of Lodestone
Anthony Snoden of Edlen WA-351880	Shomont White Invasion	Laddie White Captain	Lodestone LaFontaine
Stacey of Shomont Grand Dam		Archie's Prominader	White Frederick
		Ardwick Duke William	White Evelyn
		Shomont Michelin Cheire	Langenberg's White Captain
LEADER BLAIR JAMIE OF EDLEN Reg. No. WL-412745 No.	Cliffhaven Silver O'Shomont	Cliffhaven Thunderhead	Peerless Flash
King George of Grand Sire Shomont		Cliffhaven Lay Desire	White Bow
		Shomont White Invasion	Lady Prominader
		Shomont Morning Sun	Lochland Prince Ardwick
Bonnie Lassie of Edlen WA-235409	White King XII	Snow King O'Lone Elm	Ardwick's Silver Lady
		Lone Elm White Narcissus	Laddie Boy
		Shomont White Tanager	Dana III
		Tink's White Mischief	Cliffhaven Buff
Jack's White Grand Dam Innocence	Tink's White Mischief	Judy's Princess	Cliffhaven Parading Lady
			Lex of Lodestone
			Cliffhaven Lady Levitry
			Laddie White Captain
			Archie's Prominader
			Ardwick Duke William
			Shomont Michelin Cheire
			White King II
			Renfro's Queen
			Shomont Skyline Triane
			Shomont Lassie Lon
			The White Challenge of Shomont
			Shomont White Suzanne
			Ardwick Duke William

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 DIVISION OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY
 Official Health Certificate for Dogs and Cats

Owner William L. Johnson Consignee Harry L. Johnson
 Address Woodstock, Illinois Destination Washington, D.C.

Registry name and number, or description	Breed	Sex	Age	Weight	Temperature
<u>Chihuahua</u>	<u>Chihuahua</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>3 yrs</u>	<u>26 lb</u>	<u>102.0</u>

The above dog received 5 cc. single injection of W. Moore anti-rabies vaccine, Serial No. 171844 Rabies Vacc. Cert. No. 5845 Date 11-29-63

The Veterinarian signing this certificate is licensed by the State of Illinois, and has the approval of the Illinois Department of Agriculture for the issuance of health certificates for the interstate shipment of dogs and cats.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above described dog and find same to be free from symptoms of contagious or infectious disease, and to the best of my knowledge and belief not to have been exposed to distemper or to rabies.

Place Issued Woodstock, Ill.

Signed W. Moore
 Licensed Veterinarian

Date Issued 11-29-63

Approved
 Superintendent, Division of Livestock Industry

SEC. 1 Person making Application to register dog has right to name it.

Application may be rejected if only one name choice is made. Do NOT use a number as part of a name. American Kennel Club reserves right to assign a number suffix.

If you use a registered kennel name, have owner sign authorization in left margin.

Name of registered dog may not be changed.

NAME OF DOG—PLEASE PRINT— (LIMIT NAME TO 25 LETTERS)

1st CHOICE **LEADER BLAIR JAMIE OF EDLEN**2nd CHOICE **EDLEN'S LEADER BLAIR JAMIE**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

KN NAME OK

IN NAMING

SIGNATURE OF OWNER OF KENNEL NAME

BREED

COLLIE

WHEPLED

JULY 19, 1963**SEC. 2**

MUST BE
COMPLETED
BY OWNER OF
LITTER AT BIRTH

SEX **Male**COLOR AND MARKINGS **White**

SIRE

ANTHONY SNODEN OF EDLEN WA-351880 (12-63)

DAM

BONNIE LASSIE OF EDLEN WA-235409 (12-62)

BREEDER

LLOYD E. & EDITHA H. NELSON.**OCT. 29, 1963**

ISSUED

LITTER
OWNER**LLOYD E. & EDITHA H. NELSON
409 RAFFEL RD.
WOODSTOCK, ILL. 60098**LITTER
No. **WL-412745****APPLICATION****FOR REGISTRATION OF DOG
OF THIS REGISTERED LITTER.****READ BOTH SIDES****NOTICE**

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB RE-
SERVES THE RIGHT TO CORRECT
OR REVOKE ANY REGISTRATION
CERTIFICATE ISSUED AS A RESULT
OF THIS APPLICATION.

WARNING

BE SURE ALL STATEMENTS IN THIS
APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND AC-
CURATE. ANY ATTEMPT TO REGIS-
TER WITH THIS APPLICATION A
DOG THAT IS NOT OF THIS LITTER
MAY RESULT IN PROCEEDINGS TO
DEPRIVE THE OFFENDER OF ALL
AKC PRIVILEGES.

I hereby give permission to use my Kennel Name

THIS DOG

IF THIS FORM IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER A DOG FROM THIS LITTER, DUE TO DEATH OR OTHER REASON,
IT MUST BE RETURNED TO **A. K. C.** BY LITTER OWNER, WITH APPROPRIATE NOTATION AND DATE.

Copyright, 1955
American Kennel Club

INSTRUCTIONS: — TYPE — OR USE PEN. NO PENCIL, PLEASE. Personal Signatures must be signed with Pen. Erasures or Corrections may cause Rejection.
INVALID IF SEC. 3 IS SIGNED IN BLANK FOR A TRANSFER OR IF COMPLETE CHAIN OF TRANSFERS IS NOT SHOWN.

SEC. 3 MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED PERSONALLY BY OWNER (AND CO-OWNER, IF ANY) SHOWN ON REVERSE SIDE.

ONE box MUST BE checked ☐ I have NOT transferred ownership of this dog, and I apply to American Kennel Club to register it and have ownership recorded in my/our name(s).
☒ I transferred this dog on (month) December (day) 1 (year) 1963 DIRECTLY to:

PRINT NAME(S) Lyndon B. Johnson

ADDRESS The White House, Washington, D.C.

SIGNED Lloyd E. Nelson OWNER OF LITTER AT BIRTH SIGNED E. Carter Nelson CO-OWNER (IF ANY) OF LITTER AT BIRTH

SEC. 4 TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED PERSONALLY BY NEW OWNER(S) NAMED IN SEC. 3 ABOVE, PROVIDED he still owns the dog and wants registration certificate issued in his name. If the dog has again been transferred, DO NOT USE THIS SEC. 4, but write American Kennel Club for Supplemental Transfer Statement forms.

I apply to American Kennel Club to have Registration Certificate for this dog issued in my/our name(s), and certify that I/we acquired it DIRECTLY from the person(s) who Signed Sec. 3 above, and that I/we still own this dog. I agree to abide by American Kennel Club rules and regulations.

New Owner's Personal Signature	Co-Owners Signature If Jointly Owned
PRINT { Address	PRINT { Address
City, State	City, State

➔ REGISTRATION FEE MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION. MAKE CHECKS, MONEY.
ORDERS PAYABLE TO AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB. DO NOT SEND STAMPS OR CURRENCY.

FEES: \$2.00—plus \$1.00 For each additional transfer of dog,
for each of which a gray supplemental form must be attached.

When completed and submitted, this Application becomes the property of American Kennel Club

FEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

u Mail to: AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, 221 Park Avenue South, New York 3, N. Y.

QUIZ

Presidential Pooches

by Victor Nash

Virtual menageries have resided at the White House over the years—ponies, goats, snakes, cats, at least one kangaroo, even an alligator—but in the lonely job at the top, a President's best friend is often still his dog. Discover some tidbits about the furry first canines in this quiz. Answers are on page 66.



Gerald Ford and Liberty



LBJ frolics with beagle Him

- Which breed of dog belonged to the first child in the White House? a. Airedale b. collie c. spaniel d. beagle
- Which one of Lyndon Johnson's dogs achieved worldwide notoriety and put the President "in the doghouse"? a. King Timahoe, an Irish setter b. Him, a beagle c. Spunky, a Scottie
- Of the following Coolidge dogs, which was given away because of his aggressiveness toward White House workmen? a. Rob Roy, a sheepdog b. Prudence Prim, a collie c. Peter Pan, a wirehaired terrier
- What pampered White House dog was given a special birthday party to which neighborhood dogs were invited? a. the Hardings' airedale, Laddie Boy b. Yuki, LBJ's white mutt c. Charlie, the Kennedys' terrier
- Herbert Hoover's German shepherd, Pat, was noted for a. ballet dancing b. singing a duet with the President c. opening doors unassisted.
- During World War II, President Roosevelt's little dog, Murray of Fallahill (Fala), became an honorary Army private by a. enlisting in the K-9 Corps b. appearing in USO shows for the troops c. contributing \$1 to the war effort
- The Eisenhowers' Weimaraner, Heidi, was known for a. her good manners b. her possessiveness c. her strange eating habits
- President Ford came to the Oval Office dogless. Who gave him Liberty, a golden retriever? a. his daughter, Susan b. his Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller c. his wife, Betty
- What was Pushinka, a gift to the Kennedys from Nikita Khrushchev, subjected to before being given to the family? a. decontamination for foreign viruses b. rigorous obedience training c. an examination for eavesdropping devices
- Richard Nixon's most famous dog was Checkers. After he was elected President, his staff presented him with a new dog. Which was it? a. King Timahoe, an Irish setter b. Rex, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel c. Prince Kiley, a Labrador



FDR, Fala, and friend

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P.O. Box 1263, Dept. A
Haddonfield, N.J. 08033

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Colonial Coverlets



Seamless overshot and double-weave patterns. All wool and cotton yarns. Turn-of-the-Century Looms and Technique.

Catalog w/three swatches \$3. (include color preference and bed size.)

P.O. Box 786, Dept. A • Abingdon, Virginia 24210

Solution to the puzzle on page 17

W	A	A	F	S	O	U	P	S	I	M	P	R	A	T	E
A	L	U	I	P	A	L	O	A	R	E	A	E	R	O	S
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January 24, 1980

Dear Mr. Bearss,

Alas, the crush of holiday mail and festivities have prevented me from responding until now to the two questions you asked in your letter of last month.

The first was in regard to "Him" and "Her." As you no doubt know, "Her" swallowed a stone on the White House grounds and died, and "Him" was killed by a car coming up the White House driveway. Their remains were cremated, and as the Beagles themselves were so much a part of our family, their ashes were buried in the southeast section of the family cemetery here at the Ranch. I regret that I cannot say exactly where.

As for any 19th century ironwork from the Frank Cook property, I have no recollection that any was given to Lyndon and me. Would you please tell me how you came across this information? It would be interesting to pursue it. The cemetery was tended to by the family of Aunt Ava Johnson Bright and her husband, John Harvey Bright. Mr. Bright built the wall. I cannot recall whether he installed one of the gates or not. I have a vague recollection that it was bought as an antique. I do remember that I had a duplicate made by the Weigh Iron Works in Austin when we put in the second entrance way.

With my hopes this will be helpful and all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Supervisory Historian
* National Park Service
100 L Street, N.W., Room 4314
Washington, D. C. 20240

CTT:BT

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n's performance,
White House
pt; illus, Mr 8,
ce; conf is 7th

hearted ref to auto-driving incident and to other
subjects noted, Ap 17,15:1; Reston on Johnson's
performance, Ap 17,34:3; White House reception for
ASNE members and wives; Johnson s, Ap 18,14:2;
press conf, White House, called without warning,
Ap 19,1:5,6; A Krock on control Johnson demon-
strated over mass televised press conf; says previ-
ous confs gave him time for experiment and for
preparation for comparison with Kennedy; cartoon,
Ap 19,IV,9:1; Johnson s at AP execs luncheon at-
tended by 1,700, NYC; illus, Ap 21,1:8; text; illus,
Ap 21,p14; used latest type of speech prompter,
Ap 21,14:7; newsman M Smith says press should
not try to impose press conf format on Johnson that
will make him uncomfortable, s, UPI meeting, Ap 21,
21:5; Johnson speaks to and holds impromptu **press**
conf with eds and broadcasters, White House Rose
Garden; calls working relations with press good,
Ap 22,1:2; **excerpts**; illus, Ap 22,18:1,3; Johnson
gives 30 mins notice for **press conf**, White House
Flower Garden, Ap 24,1:6; **transcript**; illus, Ap 24,
14:2; **press conf**, White House office; sitting with
Johnson are H S Truman and Prof J F Dobie, White
House guests; conf is 4th full-dress one in 9 days
and runs 16 mins over usual ½ hr; Johnson, Truman
illus, Ap 26,1:8; **transcript**; illus, Ap 26,p64; USSR
news agency Tass carries complete acct, Ap 27,4:3

Johnson is hon guest at Gridiron Club annual
dinner; lampooned, Ap 26,63:3

Johnson int pub in Munich wkly Quick, Ap 29,3:5

Johnson disturbed by reptg of his handling of his
dogs, Ap 29,43:5

Johnson holds light-hearted 45-min **walking**
'press conf' on White House grounds; no official
transcript; plays with dogs, greets tourists, My 3,
56:4; takes newsmen for 7 laps round White House
lawn, lifts beagles by ears again to show that they
~~do not object~~, illus, My 5,1:5; invites newsmen's
families to next press conf, My 6,52:5; **press conf**,
White House S Lawn, My 7,1:8; described; illus;
over 1,000 newsmen and families attend; Mrs John-
son, Lynda attend, My 7,1:4; **transcript**; **highlights**;
illus My 7,p18; **Johnson, during visit to World's**
Fair, NYC, holds press conf in Fed Pavilion; conf
is 18th since accession and 1st outside Washington
except 2 at LBJ Ranch, My 10,72:7

Johnson praises press and pokes fun at it, s, W R
Hearst Foundation awards dinner; says he was ed
of coll paper; presents awards, My 12,24:5

A Krock on Johnson's use of word 'we' in press
confs, My 12,36:4

Johnson meets with Newspaper Farm Eds Assn,
White House, My 13,25:1

Johnson hon at White House Correspondents Assn
dinner; gets silver spurs and book ends, My 23,10:2

Press conf, Je 3,1:7; **transcript**; illus, Je 3,p25;
press conf, Je 24,1:1; **transcript**; **highlights**, Je 24,
p12; **press conf**, Jl 11,1:4; **transcript**, Jl 11,6:2

Press invites about 20 reporters to impromptu

May 27, 1964

Dear Dorris:


Thank you for writing the President about his beagles -- I know he will appreciate both your interest in him and your concern for them. The puppies are close by the President's office and his moments of play with them are a great joy for the President.

I can assure you from seeing them together often that the President and his beagles are the very best of good friends, and I am very sorry that a biased and distorted news report about the President's very fine and warm relations with his dogs should have misled anyone.

Sincerely,

Juanita D. Roberts
Personal Secretary
to the President

Dorris Ritchie
Post Office Box 655
Newtown, North Dakota 58763



mjh

7

72 CPP-6
5/27/64
ack
mgH

5/4

P.O. Box 655
New town, No. Dak. 58763
May 1, 1964

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Johnson,

I read in the newspaper that you picked up your two Beagle dogs by their ears. I am 11 years old and I love dogs. It hurts me to think that someone would pick a dog up by its ears. My Mother and Father have told me ever since I can remember not to do anything like that because it would hurt any animal.

Please don't do it again because it makes me feel so bad. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Dorris Ritchie

Best Friends for the Chief



Tony Korody Sygma

President and Nancy Reagan with executive pooches.



Francis Miller/Life Magazine © 1964 Time, Inc.

President Johnson was much criticized for holding up his Beagles by the ears.



LBJ Library



JFK with good pal, Clipper.



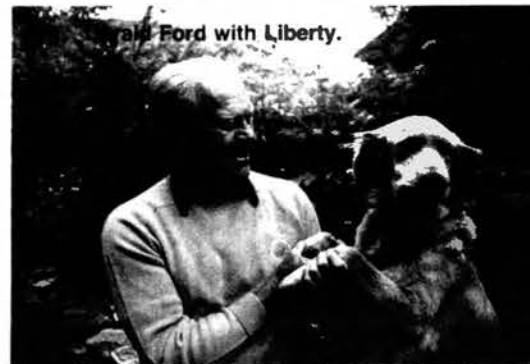
Wide World

Jimmy Carter stops to salute his unofficial greeter: Grifts.

From George Washington down the line, U.S. Presidents have been dog lovers. French Briards were Jefferson's favorites. A mutt named Fido waited for Abe Lincoln in Springfield. Teddy Roosevelt loved dogs and kept seven of his own; his cousin Franklin had six, including a Scotty, Fala, who figured in his reelection campaigns. Nixon immortalized his Cocker Spaniel in his Checkers

Speech, and Ford's Golden Retriever, Liberty, made headlines when she had puppies in 1976. Reagan's count is four: Taca, a Husky; Victory, a Golden Retriever; Millie, a Setter-Labrador; Free Bo, a mutt.

NEXT WEEK: Miss Guinea Piggy!



Gerald R. Ford with Liberty.



Nixon with Vickie and Checkers, at right.

Bob Gomel/Life Magazine © 1964 Time, Inc.



Jimmy Carter stops to salute his unofficial greeter: Grits.

Time, U.S. Presidents have been dog lovers. French Briards were Jefferson's favorites. A mutt named Fido waited for Abe Lincoln in Springfield. Teddy Roosevelt loved dogs and kept seven of his own; his cousin Franklin had six, including a Scotty, Fala, who figured in his reelection campaigns. Nixon immortalized his Cocker Spaniel in his Checkers

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NEXT WEEK: Miss Guinea Piggy!



JFK with good pal, Clipper.



Gerald Ford with Liberty.

Jim Pozarik/Gamma-Liaison



Nixon with Vickie and Checkers, at right.

Bob Gomell/Life Magazine © 1964 Time, Inc.



Derek Fell

Northern Fire

by J.B. Brimer

The Norse Fire Plant is a spectacular hanging or basket houseplant. Noted for long, trailing stems and tubular flowers (some as long as 3"), it makes a colorful display. Blossoms grow upwards, and in full bloom look a little bit like bright

flames licking over the green-leaved plant. Flowering continues for several months and is followed by ornamental white-tinged berries. Grow in a 4" pot filled with an equal mixture of peat moss and potting soil. In winter, night temperatures of no lower than 50°F and days at 60° to 65° suit it well. Keep it in strong light but out of direct sun; an east or west window is the best location.



Derek Fell

NEXT WEEK: Golden Shrimp Plants

Stand. Pers. Dec.

280-569-0006

not Women's World

Women's World
Women's World

499-458-202
202-223-6247
202-223-6247

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With best wishes



Him



Her

and the Master of the Pups,

Richard B. Johnson

Territo Extras



Blanco

Him

... and their Master.

Eugene McCarthy

Giveaways



Blanco

Him

... and their Master.

Lyndon B. Johnson



From Giveaways



With our best wishes

from Yuki

and his master,

Ryphah J. [Signature]



Giveaways

29 DEB/C-8116-13



With best wishes



Him



Her

and the Master of the Pups,

Richard B. Johnson

Territo Extras