

LOG OF THE
PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO KEY WEST, FLORIDA
12-19 MARCH 1947

LOG NO. 2

Compiled and Edited
by
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United States Navy

CONTENTS

Roster of the Party	I, II
Log of the Visit	1 to 9
Some Interesting Facts About Key West	Appendix "A"
The U.S. Submarine Base, Key West	Appendix "B"

ROSTER OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

THE PRESIDENT

Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N.
Honorable William D. Hassett
Honorable Charles G. Ross
Honorable Clark M. Clifford
Honorable John R. Steelman
Major General Harry H. Vaughan, U.S.A.
Rear Admiral James H. Foskett, U.S.N.

Staff:

Lt.-Cdr. William M. Rigdon, U.S.N., Assistant to the Naval Aide
Mr. Dewey E. Long, White House Transportation Office
Mr. Russell J. McMullin, White House Transportation Office
Chief Pharmacist's Mate Preston C. Taylor, U.S.N.
Chief Photographer's Mate Cyril K. Ainsworth, U.S.N.
Chief Steward Sotero Abiba, U.S.N.
Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman, U.S.N.
Chief Steward Sylvestre Brazal, U.S.N.
Chief Steward Armando Custodio, U.S.N.
Chief Cook Jose Palamario, U.S.N.
Steward's Mate 3/c Caesar Lomibao, U.S.N.

Secret Service:

Mr. James J. Rowley, Supervising Agent, White House Secret Service Detail	
Mr. Howard S. Anderson, Asst. Supervising Agent, White House Secret Service Detail	
Mr. Floyd M. Boring	Mr. John T. Sherwood
Mr. Frank M. Barry	Mr. John A. Walters
Mr. William F. Shields	Mr. Andrew G. Daigle
Mr. Arthur R. Breor	Mr. Gerald B. McCann
Mr. Wilson A. Gilliam	Mr. J. Frank Blackstone
Mr. Elmer W. Moore	Mr. Paul T. Usher
Mr. John E. Campion	Mr. Gerald A. Behn
Mr. Richard G. Kauffman	Mr. William J. Urick

President's Plane:

Lt. Col. Henry T. Myers, U.S.A	Pilot
Major E. F. Smith, U.S.A.	Co-Pilot
Major T. Boselli, U.S.A.	Navigator
Master Sergeant F. Willard, U.S.A.	Engineer
Master Sergeant F. Winslow, U.S.A.	Asst. Engineer
Master Sergeant C. Horton, U.S.A.	Radio Operator
Staff Sergeant R. E. Hughes, U.S.A.	Steward

ROSTER OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY
(Continued)

Newspaper Correspondents and Photographers:

Mr. Ernest Vaccaro	The Associated Press
Mr. Robert G. Nixon	The International News Service
Mr. Merriman Smith	The United Press Association
Mr. Joseph Fox	The Washington Evening Star
Mr. Edward T. Folliard	The Washington Post
Mr. Harold B. Hinton	The New York Times
Mr. Joseph Short	The Baltimore Sun
Mr. Gene Davis	The Transradio Press Service
Mr. David Lu	The Central News Agency of China
Mr. Raymond Blair	The New York Herald-Tribune
Mr. Edward Lewis	The New York Daily News
Mr. Joseph Hearst	The Chicago Tribune
Mr. Walter Fitzmaurice	The Newsweek Magazine
Mr. William Hillman	The Mutual Broadcasting System
Mr. Bjorn Bjornsen	The National Broadcasting System
Mr. Bryson Rash	The American Broadcasting System
Mr. John B. Adams	The Columbia Broadcasting System
Mr. Johnny Thompson	The Acme Newspictures
Mr. William J. Smith	The Associated Press Photos
Mr. G. Bradford Kress	The International Newsphotos
Mr. Yale Joel	The Life Magazine
Mr. Thomas Craven	Paramount News (representing newsreel pool)
Mr. Alfred O'Eth	Paramount News (representing newsreel pool)
Mr. Carroll S. Linkins	Western Union Telegraph Company
Mr. Parker Waite	Eastern Airlines Company

Wednesday, 12 March

The President, accompanied by Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N., Honorable Charles G. Ross, Honorable William D. Hassett, Honorable Clark M. Clifford, Honorable John R. Steelman, Major General Harry H. Vaughan, U.S.A., and Rear Admiral James H. Foscett, U.S.N., departed from the Army Transport Command Terminal, Washington National Airport, in the Presidential plane at 1356 for Key West, Florida. The plane was piloted by Lt. Col. Henry T. Myers, U.S.A., with Major E. F. Smith, U.S.A. co-pilot, and Major Theodore Boselli, U.S.A., navigator. Other passengers in the Presidential plane were: Mr. James J. Rowley, Mr. John Campion, and Chief Steward Arthur S. Prettyman.

The President, Admiral Leahy, Mr. Ross, General Vaughan and Admiral Hoskett had proceeded direct to the airport from the Capitol, where the President had this afternoon personally addressed a joint session of the Congress on the economic situation in Greece and Turkey.

The original plan for the President and his party to depart Washington on March 8th, spend two days at Key West and continue on to the Caribbean to witness the final phases of the Atlantic Fleet maneuvers off Culebra Island on March 12-13 had to be altered because of the urgent problem the critical Greek situation presented. The U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG and escort (U.S.S. GREENWICH BAY (AV21) – Captain Crutchfield Adair, U.S.N.), enroute to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where the President had proposed to embark in the WILLIAMSBURG, were accordingly diverted to Key West.

At 1835 a four-motored Eastern Airlines plane bearing the following members of the Press and U.S. Secret Service landed at the U.S. Naval Airfield, Boca Chica, Florida: Messrs. Ernest Vacarro, Robert Nixon, Merriman Smith, Joseph Fox, Edward Folliard, Harold Hinton, Joseph Short, Gene Davis, David Lu, Raymond Blair, Edward Lewis, Joseph Hearst, Walter Fitzmaurice, William Hillman, Bjorn Bjornsen, Bryson Rash, John B. Adams, Johnny Thompson, William J. Smith, G. Bradford Kress, Yale Joel, Thomas Craven, Alfred O'Eth, Carroll S. Linkins, Parker Waite, Dewey Long, John A. Walters, Floyd M. Boring, Frank M. Barry, John T. Sherwood, William F. Shields, Andrew J. Daigle, Arthur R. Breor, Gerald B. McCann, Wilson A. Gilliam, Elmer W. Moore, Paul T. Usher, and William J. Urick.

The President's plane landed at Boca Chica at 1850. The President left the plane at 1853. He was met at the Airfield by Mayor William W. Demeritt of Key West, Sheriff Berlin Sawyer of Monroe County; Chief of Police B. Perez of Key West; Captain Henry M. Cooper, U.S.N., Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Key West (Senior Officer Present); Captain Willard A. Saunders, U.S.N., Commanding Officer, Submarine Base, Key West; Captain A. G. W. McFadden, U.S.N., Commanding Officer of the Fleet Sonar School; Captain E. S. Hutchinson, U.S.N., Commander Submarine Squadron Four; Captain W. D. Davis (MC), U.S.N., Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Key West; Captain J. R. Ruhsenberger, U.S.N., Commander Anti-Submarine Development Squadron One; Captain F. C. Sutton, U.S.N. Commander Night Composite Squadron Two; Lt. Col. C. E. Singleton, U.S.A., Commanding Officer, Harbor Defense of Key West; Mr. Neal W. Helm, personal friend from Caruthersville, Missouri; Mr. Howard S. Anderson, Mr. Gerald A. Behn, Mr. Richard Kaufman, Mr. J. Frank Blackistone, Mr. Rudolph McDavid of the Secret Service; Mr. Russell J. McMullin of the White House Transportation Office; Mr. Cecil Sewell of the 7th Naval District Office of Naval Intelligence; Captain Tobe Bass of the Florida Highway Patrol; and Lt. Cdr. William M. Rigdon, U.S.N. Assistant to the Naval Aide to the President.

On alighting from his plane the President was greeted by the dignitaries and high- ranking officers present; interviewed briefly by members of the Press; and photographed by the photographers.

At 1858 the President, accompanied by members of his party, departed Boca Chica for the Submarine Base at Key West. Riding in the automobile with the President were Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foscett, and Captain Cooper. The motorcade to Key West was led by Captain Bass and seven motorcycle patrolmen of the Florida Highway Patrol augmented by four members of the Key West Traffic Patrol.

The automobile used by the President was an olive green Lincoln convertible 2- door sedan. The car used by the other members of the party was a blue Lincoln 4-door sedan. Both cars had been sent down from Jacksonville by the Jacksonville Branch of the Ford Motor Company, and placed at the President's disposal during the period of his visit. This matter had been arranged by Mr. Rowley, Supervising Agent of the White House Secret Service, through Major Henry N. Cunningham, Lincoln-Mercury District Manager, Ford Motor Company, Washington, D.C.

The President waved his hat as he passed large clusters of people gathered along the Roosevelt Highway on the 8-½ mile drive to the Submarine Base. Every road intersection was filled with spectators. Within the city thousands stood on Division and Duval Streets, crowding to the curbing and cheering as the President passed. The President seemed greatly pleased at the reception and took position on top of the back of the rear seat and waved and smiled as he passed the largest groups.

As he entered the Submarine Base gate, at 1920, a bugler sounded attention, the Marine Guard rendered honors, and a 21-gun salute was commenced by a battery of the submarine tender HOWARD W. GILMORE. Bluejackets, spaced shoulder to shoulder, "manned the rail" from the gate to the Commandant's quarters, where the President and his party were to reside during their stay at Key West. The President's flag was broken at the Administration building at 1920.

Captain C. A. Johnson, U.S.N., Executive Officer of the Submarine Base, was at the main gate to welcome the President. Other station officers were lined up abreast the Commandant's quarters.

The party arrived at the Commandant's house at 1925, disembarked, entered the house, shifted to lighter clothing, and proceeded to settle down. Captain Cooper paid his respects and departed. The President's first act was to telephone Mrs. Truman to inform her of his safe arrival.

1940: Dinner. The President and his party had Mr. Helm as their dinner guest.

2030: Captain Saunders called on Admiral Foskett.

After dinner the party retired to the south porch where they relaxed and studied press reports of reaction to the President's speech. They retired about 2330. Mr. Helm left for his hotel, the Casa Marina.

The President found the house ready for his occupancy and dinner waiting for him on his arrival. Lt. Cdr. Rigdon had been in Key West for the past week completing the necessary arrangements to insure this. He had brought with him six messmen (Abiba, Brazal, Palomaria, Villacortes, Custodio, and Limibao), Chief Pharmacist's Mate Taylor and Chief Photographer's Mate Ainsworth. The party occupied the same quarters used during the President's previous visit to Key West – Quarters "A-B" (known as the Commandant's House). This house, currently unassigned due to the detachment without relief of the Flag Officer commanding the Naval Base at Key West, is a large two story frame dwelling – 10 rooms – built along the style of a West Indian dwelling. It is surrounded on the north, east and west by a beautiful tropical garden replete with palm trees and other tropical foliage. Mention must be made here of the invaluable service rendered by Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Johnson, wives of the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of the Submarine Base, who spent a great deal of time arranging furniture and flowers to add a homey touch to the quarters. Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Johnson also kept the house supplied with fresh flowers throughout the visit.

The President occupied the north second-floor bedroom; Admiral Foskett and General Vaughan the north center bedroom; Mr. Ross and Mr. Haskett the south center bedroom; Mr. Clifford and Mr. Steelman the south bedroom; and Admiral Leahy the north first-floor bedroom. Lt. Cdr. Rigdon, who acted as personal secretary for the President and his party, occupied the small bedroom on the east side, second floor.

Members of the Press and Secret Service were quartered at the Bachelor Officers' Quarters (Bldg. 128). They were subsisted at the Fleet Sonar School officers' mess directly across the street from the B.O.Q.

Except for a direct telephone wire from the Commandant's quarters to the White House, no special communication facilities were installed incident to the visit. This service proved ample and served to keep the President and members of his party in constant quick touch with Washington and the White House.

Thursday, 13 March

0740: THE WILLIAMSBURG AND GREENWICH BAY stood in. The WILLIAMSBURG tied up at the quay wall west of the administration building, about one block from the President's quarters. The GREENWICH BAY was moored at the north side of pier #2.

The President arose at 0800 and had breakfast at 0850 with the members of his mess. After breakfast Mr. Ross telephoned the members of the Press at the B.O.Q. and informed them of the President's plans of the day. He contacted the Press twice daily during the week we were at Key West, either by telephone or by a personal call at the Press Room in the B.O.Q.

Mr. Helm returned at 0930 and joined the party. He was quartered in the north first-floor bedroom with Admiral Leahy.

At 9050 the President, accompanied by Admiral Leahy, Mr. Helm, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Steelman, General Vaughan and Admiral Foskett, left the house and walked to the WILLIAMSBURG. They went aboard and spent 15 minutes looking the ship over. This was Mr. Helm's first visit to the President's yacht. They returned to the house at 1010.

1100: The President, Mr. Helm, Admiral Foskett, General Vaughan, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Ross and Mr. Clifford left the house and motored to the Enlisted Men's Beach (on the Submarine Base near Old Fort Taylor) where the party donned bathing trunks and spent an hour loafing in the warm sun. The surf was most inviting. No one went swimming, however, as the party had been advised not to because of a recent contamination of the waters around Key West. Mr. Clifford, Mr. Steelman, General Vaughan and Admiral Foskett played touch football on the beach. The only casualty of the stay occurred here when Mr. Steelman took a bad spill on the coarse coral sand and skinned his right shin rather thoroughly. Commander Emerson (WILLIAMSBURG medical officer) and Taylor (CPhM) were summoned and, performing before a most "distinguished gallery," dressed Mr. Steelman's wound. Mr. Steelman protested vehemently as the doctor administered to him and contended that the medic used the most torturous means at his disposal just for the amusement of the other members of the party. The party left the beach at 1205 and motored to the house, arriving there at 1210.

1300: Lunch. There were no guests.

After lunch the President took a long nap. Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Hassett and Captain Saunders embarked in the crash boat DOLPHIN and went fishing off Key West. Luck was not so good. All they got for their efforts was one 6- pound mackerel (caught by Admiral Leahy) and a soaking for the sea was quite choppy.

1900: Dinner. The party had as their guests Captain Henry M. Cooper, U.S.N., and Captain Crutchfield Adair, U.S.N. After dinner the group retired to the living room where Captain Adair entertained with some of his amazing card tricks and other feats of magic. The guests departed at 2130.

The weather at Key West today was sunny and warm. A brief thunderstorm broke late in the evening, about 2200.

Commander R. W. Wasson, U.S.N.R., Mess Officer of the WILLIAMSBURG, assumed supervision of the President's mess, relieving Lieut-Commander Rigdon of this detail. The force of messmen was augmented by Chief Steward Santiago and several other Filipinos from the WILLIAMSBURG.

Friday, 14 March

The President arose at 0715 and visited some time with Mr. Helm in the library before sitting down to breakfast at 0800.

At 0935 the President, accompanied by Admiral Foskett, General Vaughan, and Mr. Helm left the house for a brief walk about the base. During the walk, the President went aboard the submarine tender HOWARD W. GILMORE (Captain John B. Azer, U.S.N., Commanding) and made an informal inspection of its shops, foundries, and sick bay. The President was very favorably impressed with the general condition of the ship. The HOWARD W. GILMORE (flagship of Captain Hutchinson, Commander Submarine Squadron Four) was tied up at the Submarine Base quay wall astern of the WILLIAMSBURG. The party returned to the house at 1010.

At 1035 the President and members of his party assembled on the west lawn where they posed for still and motion pictures by the news and motion picture photographers accompanying the party.

At 1108 the President, General Vaughan, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Helm, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Ross and Mr. Clifford left the house and motored to the Enlisted Men's beach where they shifted to bathing trunks and spent an hour and a half basking in the warm sunshine. Honorable W. S. Symington, Assistant Secretary of War for Air, called on the President while he was at the beach. Mr. Symington had stopped off in Key West while on his way back to Washington from a vacation at Nassau. At the President's invitation, he donned bathing trunks and joined the party. The party returned to the house at 1235.

1300: Lunch. The party had as their guests Mr. Symington, Lt. Col. Myers, Major Smith and Major Boselli.

1400: Lt. Cdr. J. B. Casler, U.S.N. (Commanding Officer, ex-U-2513) called on Admiral Foskett.

The President Retired to take a nap.

1550: Judge Samuel I. Rosenman arrived from West Palm Beach to spend the weekend with the President. A Navy plane (Lieutenant (jg) McDaniels, pilot) had been sent to West Palm Beach to fetch him. Mr. Symington also accepted the President's invitation to remain overnight. As all sleeping space in the house was occupied, Mr. Symington and Judge Rosenman were quartered in the WILLIAMSBURG.

1900: Dinner. The President and his party had as their guests Mr. Symington, Judge Rosenman, Captain Saunders and Captain Freeman (Commanding Officer, WILLIAMSBURG).

1930: Lieutenant M. W. Reynolds, U.S.N. (courier) arrived from Washington with White House mail. He had been brought down by Navy aircraft.

After dinner, the party retired to the south porch where they spent the remainder of the evening.

Saturday, 15 March

The President awoke at 0700 but remained in his room until 0800 reading mail and newspapers that had been received in yesterday's pouch. He had breakfast at 0800.

Mail for the White House was dispatched at 0930 via Lieutenant Reynolds. He was returned to Washington via Navy plane.

At 1000 General Vaughan left for a visit to Sarasota. He traveled via Navy plane (Lieutenant (jg) McDaniels pilot).

At 1025 the President talked by telephone with Mrs. Truman and Miss Margaret Truman at the White House.

Mr. Symington left the house at 1030 for Boca Chica to continue his trip to Washington.

At 1100 the President and party left the house by motor for pier #5 where they embarked in Navy crash boats for a fishing trip off Key West. Embarked in the DOLPHIN with the President were Mr. Helm, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Ross, Admiral Leahy, Judge Rosenman, Captain Saunders, Bill Saunders (young son of Captain Saunders), Lt. Cdr. Rigdon, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Campion, and CPhM Taylor. In boat C-26590 were Mr. Clifford, Mr. Steelman, Captain Freeman, Mr. Barney Allis (Manager, Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri), Lt. Col. Myers, Mr. Hassett, and Mr. Shields. Members of the Press and the photographers were embarked in boat C-18345.

The Key West International Fishing Tournament had designated the period of the President's stay for the White House Sweepstakes. The sweepstakes was limited to the President and members of his party, including the White House Correspondents and the photographers and the Secret Service men. A prize was offered for the largest fish, another for the smallest fish and a third for the best catch – all fish to be caught on rod and reel.

In view of the prizes offered by the White House Sweepstakes Association – special event of the 1947 Key West International Fishing Tournament – numerous challenges were flung back and forth between the three boats before we left the dock at 1106. Wagers were also made between the President's team and Mr. Clifford's team for the largest fish, the longest fish and the most fish caught.

We proceeded to the fishing grounds (off American Shoal, about 25 miles from Key West by way of the buoyed channel) at high speed and arrived there at 1155, when fishing was commenced. We fished until 1545 when the return to port was started. During the course of the afternoon all sorts of exaggerated reports and claims were passed back and forth between the three boats by voice radio. Record books were broken out and most of the claims were refuted on the spot but they still kept coming to the DOLPHIN from Mr. Clifford's boat. What claims that were not so refuted were bashed when we reached the dock at pier #5 at 1629 and the catches of the three boats were laid out for weighing and comparison as to size and length. The largest catch of the day was made by Bjorn Bjornsen – a 28-pound amberjack. The honor for the smallest went to Mr. Hassett – a 2-pound mackerel. The line-up of big fish for the President's party was:

The President	1	4 ½ lb.	mackerel
Admiral Leahy	1	20 lb.	amberjack
Mr. Clifford	1	12 lb.	bonita
Mr. Steelman	1	10 lb.	barracuda
Captain Freeman	1	10 lb.	mutton snapper
Lt. Col. Myers	1	8 lb.	barracuda
Lt. Col. Myers	1	7 lb.	grouper
Mr. Hassett	1	7 lb.	grouper
Mr. Helm	1	6 lb.	snapper
Admiral Foskett	1	5 lb.	barracuda
Lt. Cdr. Rigdon	1	5 lb.	barracuda
Mr. Clifford's boat	9		Mackerel averaging about 2 ½ pounds each

The President's team won the money for the largest fish and the longest fish (Admiral Leahy's amberjack), while Mr. Clifford's gang took honors for the most fish caught.

The President, Admiral Leahy and Captain Saunders posed for the photographers, holding some of their fish, and then at 1647 we departed for the house. On our arrival at the quarters we found that General Vaughan had returned from Sarasota.

1730: Judge Rosenman left by Navy plane (Lieutenant McDaniels, pilot) to return to West Palm Beach.

1900: Dinner. No guests. Admiral Foskett dined with Captain and Mrs. Johnson at their quarters.

After dinner, the President and party retired to the south porch where they spent the remainder of the evening.

Sunday, 16 March

The President arose at 0750 and had breakfast at 0800. For breakfast he ate some of the mackerel caught yesterday. He remarked later that they were the best he had ever had.

At 0945 the President talked by telephone with Mrs. Truman.

At 1042 the President, accompanied by Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Clifford and Mr. Helm left the house by motor to attend divine services at the First Baptist Church in Key West. The services were conducted by the Reverend J. C. Yelton. The text of his sermon was "That Publisheth Peace." A heavy tropical rain broke just as the President and his party left the base for church. The President returned to the house immediately after conclusion of the services.

Lunch was at 1300. There were no guests.

General Vaughan received word during lunch from Mrs. Vaughan that their son, David, was quite ill. By 1330 the weather had cleared so at 1350 General Vaughan left the house for Boca Chica to enplane for Washington.

The President took a long nap after lunch.

At 1800 the President and members of his party assembled in the library where they listened attentively to a special local broadcast over station WKWF (Key West) by Mr. Hillman, Mr. Rash, Mr. Bjornsen and Mr. Adams, radio correspondents accompanying our party. Mr. Hillman outlined and endorsed the President's policy re Greece and Turkey; Mr. Rash devoted his time to a discussion of the radio debut of Miss Margaret Truman; and Mr. Bjornsen and Mr. Adams told some fancy fish stories.

At 1845 the President, Admiral Leahy, and Admiral Foskett left the house and walked to the WILLIAMSBURG where they attended a small reception given by Captain Freeman preceding his dinner for some service friends. Others present were Captain and Mrs. Saunders, Captain and Mrs. Johnson, Captain and Mrs. Hutchinson, Captain Adair, Commander J. B. Gay, Jr., U.S.N., Commander and Mrs. F. W. Scanland, Jr., Commander and Mrs. William Holman, and Mrs. C. L. Murphy (wife of Captain Murphy).

The President, Admiral Leahy and Admiral Foskett returned to the house at 1915.

Dinner was at 1920. There were no guests.

At 1950 the President and members of his party retired to the library where they listened to a broadcast from 2000 to 2100 by the Detroit Sunday Evening Hour Symphony Orchestra. It was during this broadcast that Miss Margaret Truman made her radio debut as a coloratura soprano. Present also was Mr. John M. Spottswood, owner and manager of radio station WKWF (Key West). Although his station is

affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting System, Mr. Spottswood went to considerable trouble to have this American Broadcasting Company program piped in to Key West from New York by wire. A direct wire, with special speaker, was run from his studio to the President's library in order to insure him the very best possible reception. The reception was perfect and the program was intently followed and thoroughly enjoyed by all hands.

Immediately after the broadcast the President talked by telephone with Mrs. Truman and Mrs. Wallace at the White House and then placed a call for Miss Truman, in Detroit, from where she had broadcast. Later, when she was reported ready, the President talked with Miss Truman and Mrs. Truman on a three-way telephone hookup.

Senator Maybank telephoned the President from Charleston, South Carolina, to congratulate him on Miss Truman's fine performance.

The President later telephoned Kansas City and talked with his brother, Mr. Vivian Truman, and his sister, Miss Mary Jane Truman.

Telegrams for the President began arriving very shortly after the broadcast offering congratulations and praise for Miss Truman's performance

We had another tropical downpour this afternoon and it was quite cool this evening – two blankets were in order.

Monday, 17 March

The President arose at 0720 but remained in his room until 0815 while working on his official papers and reading the morning newspapers. He came down at 0815 for breakfast.

It was cloudy and quite cool this forenoon so the President remained indoors. Lunch was at 1300. There were no guests.

The President telephoned Secretary Snyder at 1355.

At 1400 the President, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Ross, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Steelman and Admiral Foskett left the house by motor for the Enlisted Men's beach. The sun had appeared and the wind had died down, so that it was quite warm now. The party arrived at the beach at 1404 and spent the next hour and a quarter sunning and playing on the beach. The water had been pronounced O.K. so the President and Admiral Foskett took a short swim.

The party left the beach at 1522 and motored to the Base Theater. They arrived there at 1524, were joined by Admiral Leahy, Captain Cooper, Captain Saunders, Captain Johnson, and members of the Press and witnessed a showing of the Paramount newsreel of the President's address of last Wednesday before a joint session of Congress. The President and his party left the theater at 1539 and returned to the house, where he remained for the rest of the day.

Lt. Col. Myers returned to Key West this afternoon with the President's plane.

1800: Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Ross and Mr. Helm left the house by motor for the Casa Marina Hotel where they attended a dinner given by Mr. Helm in honor of the White House correspondents and photographers. The guest list, which totaled about 60, also included Mr. Elmer Davis, Captain Cooper, Captain Saunders, Captain Adair, Captain Hutchinson, Commander Wasson, Lt. Cdr. Rigdon, members of the Press, and the Secret Service.

1900: Dinner – no guests.

2000: Major F. H. Graham, U.S.A., arrived from Washington with White House mail. He had been brought down via Navy plane.

2030: Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Helm, and Mr. Ross returned to the house. Captain Saunders and Captain Freeman called on the President. The party joined up on the south porch where they spent the remainder of the evening.

2230: The President telephoned Mrs. Truman at the White House.

Tuesday, 18 March

The President slept in until 0805. He came down for breakfast at 0845.

At 1015 the President, accompanied by Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett and Captain Saunders, left the house for a walk about the base. At 1022 he stopped at the Base Galley and Mess Hall and made an informal inspection of the commissary activities – cold storage boxes, vegetable storage, galley, butcher shop, crew's mess hall and CPO mess hall. The President examined the menu for the day and commented that it was certainly sufficient in quantity. He found the commissary activities scrupulously clean and operating smoothly and complimented the Commissary Officer, Ensign A. Canalejo, U.S.N., and Chief Commissary Steward Darell Robinson.

The party left the mess hall at 1030 and continued the walk, the President leading the way and setting the pace. They arrived at the Enlisted Men's beach at 1039, spent several minutes there and then continued on to Fort Taylor. The President spent fifteen minutes looking the old fort over. He evidenced particular interest in the French 75 mm field pieces mounted on top of the battlements and posed beside one for a picture by Admiral Foskett. From Fort Taylor the party returned to the beach where they shifted to trunks and spent the next hour and a half sunning. The President and Admiral Foskett were the only ones to go swimming.

The party left the beach by motor at 1234 and returned to the house at 1239.

1315: Lunch. There were no guests.

Dr. Emerson called on Dr. Steelman shortly after lunch and ordered him to bed as his injured leg showed excessive swelling.

1402: The President, Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Ross, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Helm and Lt. Cdr. Rigdon left the house by motor for the Base Theater where they witnessed a special showing of the Paramount feature "My Favorite Brunette" starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. The special showing was arranged by Mr. Thomas Craven of the Paramount News. Members of the Press, Captain Cooper, Captain Saunders, Captain Johnson and several other base officers also were present. The President returned to the house at 1540 and turned in for a short nap.

At 1800, the President, Admiral Leahy, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Ross, Mr. Helm, Mr. Hassett and Mr. Clifford left the house and walked to Captain Saunders' quarters nearby where they attended a reception given by Captain and Mrs. Saunders in honor of the President. There were no other guests. They returned to the house at 1902.

1920: Dinner. There were no guests.

2000: Captain Saunders and Captain Freeman called and spent the evening with the President and his party.

Wednesday, 19 March

The President arose at 0755 and had breakfast at 0810.

0930: Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, called on the President. He departed at 0940. Admiral Blandy arrived in Key West yesterday afternoon via air from San Juan.

0955: The President, Admiral Foskett, Mr. Helm, Mr. Hassett and Mr. Clifford left the house and walked to the Base Ship's Service Store. They spent about 20 minutes at the store while making purchases of souvenirs and then continued on to the beach. They were joined there by Mr. Ross and Admiral Leahy. They spent an hour and a half lounging in the bright warm sun. The President and Admiral Foskett went for a short swim. The party left the beach by motor at 1200 and returned to the house. Reverend Yelton, who had been invited for lunch, was awaiting them on their arrival at 1205.

The President and members of his party shifted to traveling clothes and at 1230 lunch was served with J. C. Yelton as guest.

All preparations for departure had been completed during the forenoon, so shortly after finishing their lunch (at 1320) the President and his party bade Reverend Yelton goodbye and left the Commandant's Quarters by motor for Boca Chica where they enplaned for return to Washington. Admiral Leahy, Captain Saunders and Captain Cooper rode with the President. As the President departed from the house a 21-gun salute was commenced by the U.S.S. HOWARD W. GILMORE and his flag was lowered from the Administration Building as he passed through the main gate of the Base. His route through the streets of the Base was lined with white clad enlisted men "manning the rail" in traditional style.

There was a very nice turnout to greet the President as he passed through the city and the President was delighted to find that the majority of those on hand were school children. It seemed that every child in the city was on hand and they were all deliriously thrilled to have the President acknowledge their greetings by sitting up on the back of his seat and waving his hat.

The President arrived at the Boca Chica Airfield at 1340. Mayor Demeritt, Sheriff Sawyer, Chief of Police Perez, Captain McFadden, Captain Hutchinson, Captain Davis, Captain Ruhsenberger, Captain Sutton, Colonel O. W. Humphries, U.S.A., Lt. Col. Singleton, Captain Bass and Mr. Spottswood were on hand to see the President off. Just before the President enplaned Miss Virginia Kelly of Key West, Queen of the 1947 Key West International Fishing Tournament, was presented to him and he posed with her for pictures. Announcement of winners of the White House Sweepstakes was made at this time and it was confirmed that Mr. Hassett's 2 ½ pound mackerel had won the cup for the smallest fish caught. The President was awarded the cup for the best catch – 4 ½ pound mackerel.

The President, tanned and looking extremely fit, bade his adieus and embarked at 1355. Accompanying him were Admiral Leahy, Mr. Helm, Mr. Ross, Mr. Hassett, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Steelman, Admiral Foskett, Lt. Cdr. Rigdon, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Anderson, and CSt. Prettyman.

We were airborne at exactly 1400. The first hour of the return trip was a bit rough and Lt. Col. Myers took us up to 17,000 feet in an effort to find smoother flying. Otherwise our flight was uneventful. We landed at the Washington National Airport at 1820. The President left the plane at 1822 and was met by Honorable Matthew J. Connell, his Appointment Secretary. After welcomes and pleasantries had been exchanged, the President and members of his party embarked in waiting automobiles and returned to the White House.

Members of the Press and the Secret Service arrived Washington in the E.A.L. plane at 1850.

The WILLIAMSBURG and GREENWICH BAY were released prior to our departure from Key West and directed to return to Washington. The WILLIAMSBURG was authorized to visit Havana for four days while enroute back to Washington.

Some Interesting Facts About Key West

Key West is one of the oldest cities in Florida and contains many historical and interesting places. It lies at the southernmost point of the United States.

The land area of Key West is about four miles long by one mile in width. It was the Spanish explorers who gave Key West its name. Coming ashore for fresh water, they found the island strewn with whitened bones and called it Cayo Hueso, meaning Bone Key.

Key West is a corruption of the Spanish Cayo Hueso, pronounced "Ka-yo Way So." The bones the Spaniards found here were said to be those of Indian warriors of the tribes that engaged in a battle which resulted in almost complete extermination of two tribes.

Key West has some of the charm of old New Orleans and some of the foreign flavor of Havana, with a distinct atmosphere of its own. There is an intermingling of cultures from Cuba, Spanish and British West Indies, old English and American. There is a great deal of Spanish spoken here.

Key West weather is ideal, particularly from October to July. It is the only frostfree city in the United States where snow and fog are unknown.

Here one may swim almost every day of the year, in either the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

Gorgeous flowers abound everywhere. Purple and red bougainvillea climb to the roofs of quaint old houses that have never known paint and are over a hundred years old. Large colorful red and pink hibiscus and delicately tinted oleanders bloom perpetually. In December the poinsettia blooms profusely.

In these waters the first steam-propelled vessel ever used in the U.S. Navy saw service. This Vessel - an old New York steam ferryboat, the "Sea Gull" - was brought here to assist in a campaign to drive a band of pirates from the Florida straits.

During the Civil War Key West was closely held and guarded by the Union Navy, its ships successfully defeating any attempt by the Southern forces to enter the Gulf. More Navy ships were berthed here than any other United States port. In 1898 the battleship "MAINE" sailed from Key West to its rendezvous with disaster in Havana harbor.

Two months later, on April 23, the first shot of the Spanish-American War was fired from the U.S.S. NASHVILLE across the bow of the Spanish steamer Buena Ventura just a half mile off Key West.

THE U. S. NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, KEY WEST, FLORIDA

The U. S. Naval Submarine Base, Key West, Florida, was established on 20 March 1946. It was formerly a naval station. The Naval Station, Key West, was founded in 1822 – 125 years ago.

Captain Willard A. Saunders, U.S.N., the present Commanding Officer, reported as the first Commanding Officer of the Submarine Base.

With 41 officers and 323 enlisted men supplementing the 2120 civilian employees, the U. S. Naval Submarine Base began to function in lieu of the U. S. Naval Station and had as its prime mission to “provide complete support to the submarine force present, to render the maximum repair and logistic services to ships of other forces and to furnish a maximum of training, educational, recreational and rehabilitational facilities.”

Repairs at the Submarine Base have been made to an average of 30 vessels per month and vessels up to and including the size of submarines have been dry-docked.

The Supply Department is, for administrative purposes, a component of the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, but is virtually a Major Supply Depot for all Naval and Coast Guard activities in the Key West Area and further supplies a large percentage of general stores required by the Coast Guard activities in the Miami area. Logistic support is furnished directly by this Supply Department to the following Naval activities in addition to supplying the needs of the Submarine Base:

- Fleet Sonar School
- Radio Station, Key West
- Operational Development Center Annex
- Surface Anti Submarine Development Detachment
- Naval Ordnance Unit
- Naval Base Headquarters
- Naval Hospital, Key West
- Commissary Store, Key West
- Submarine Squadron Four
- Naval Air Station, Boca Chica

On 3 July 1946 the Radio Station became a separate component of the U. S. Naval Base, Key West, Florida. This was due to the fact that the Submarine Base Radio Station facilities were used to service all the Naval Activities in this area and it was only logical that this radio station should be maintained as a separate component of the Naval Base to handle all traffic for this area in one concentrated location.

The U. S. Naval Submarine Base as now organized is the parent activity in the Key West Area for providing logistic support to all the Naval Activities in this area both ashore and afloat. This Base is capable of effecting repairs to Naval Units operating in this area and plans to offer as complete service to other forces within the limits of its ability.

As another mission, this Base is also organized to lend assistance to the civilian population of Key West in case of major disaster by providing first aid, care, evacuation or housing of injured personnel.

