Gerald R. Ford Foundation *Newsletter*

Fall 1987

Foundation Trustees Honor Cheney

The sixth annual meeting of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation was convened in Washington on June 10 at the Capitol Hill Club. Twenty-six trustees were on hand with President and Mrs. Ford to offer congratulations to Congressman Richard Cheney of Wyoming. The recipient of an achievement award, a piece of etched glass, Dick Cheney was honored for his special service to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. In further acknowledgement, a $5,000 education award in his name will be presented to a student selected by him.

The President recognized Omaha businessman and trustee James Paxon for his continuing interest in the park that stands on the site of the Ford birthplace house. A gabled Victorian mansion of fifteen rooms, the house was destroyed by fire in 1971. Several years later, the land was purchased by Mr. Paxon who turned the property into a now popular multilevel garden park with extensive plantings, fountain, and enclosed gazebo. A photographic exhibit of the President's career, condensed obviously, is being planned for display in the gazebo.

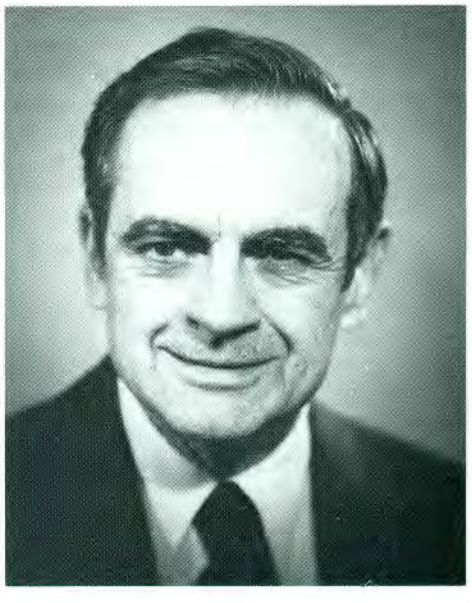
In other business, new members Terrence O'Donnell and Robert Warner were welcomed to the Board of Trustees. Mr. O'Donnell, former aide to President Ford, is a member of the Washington law firm of Williams and Connolly. A former archivist of the United States, Dr. Warner is dean of the School of Information and Library Studies of the University of Michigan. They replace Sarah Goddard Power, deceased, and Steven Uzelac, who served as trustee from 1981 to 1987.

Upon the recommendation of Philip Buchen, the Board by unanimous consent elected the following members to serve during the 1987-88 term: Martin J. Allen, Jr., as chairman; Steven M. Ford, vice president; Robert M. Warner, secretary; and Harold L. Davidson, treasurer. Don Wilson was appointed assistant secretary of the corporation.

Gerald Ford with Richard Cheney.

Robert Warner replaces George Grassmuck as secretary, a post he had held since incorporation. President Ford cited Professor Grassmuck for outstanding service and noted with appreciation that he would continue to serve as a trustee.

Following the meeting the Foundation hosted a dinner for former Ford administration associates and friends of the President now in Congress and the Reagan administration. Nationally prominent journalists Hugh Sidey and David Broder offered after dinner remarks and answered questions.



After six years of service, George Grassmuck has resigned as secretary of the Foundation. A professor of political science at the University of Michigan, George Grassmuck edited Before Nomination, *a compilation of papers and discussions at the Ford Library's 1985 Conference on Presidential Primaries.*

One Million Visit Museum

Like 15,000 other tourists, Julie Mortensen, her mother, and grandparents visited the Ford Museum during the month of July. But for Julie, a nine year old from Farmington Hills, Michigan, it turned out to be a very special day. She was the Museum's one millionth visitor and the staff was on hand to mark the occasion. Director Don Wilson presented her with a plaque, several books and some goodies from the sales desk, including a Ford Museum T-shirt which Julie immediately donned. Overwhemled but pleased at the attention, Julie had her mother to thank for her good fortune. *"I came here a couple of years ago and only had 45 minutes to go through it,"* said Karen Mortenson, *"I was so impressed with it I planned to come back."*

This summer daily attendance at the Museum averaged between 400 and 600 with overall visitation up 10% so far this year over the 1986 figure of 108,000. Don Wilson expects it will reach 125,000. *"School tours were up 23 percent this year. We've made a concerted effort to schedule school tours."*

Wilson said the Ford Museum is also cooperating with the Grand Rapids Convention Bureau and is planning special events for its local constituency, including a film festival and lecture series. *"Our intention is to have the Museum serve as a community resource as well as tourist attraction."*

Julie Mortensen receives plaque from Don Wilson.

Research Grants Awarded

Four scholars have been selected to receive grants in aid for research at the Library. Funds are made available twice each year through a program established with assistance from the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor. The screening committee will meet in October to evaluate applications.

Those receiving grants at the spring meeting and their project titles are:

Roger Caves (San Diego State), "Housing and Community Development";

John Maltese (Johns Hopkins), "The White House Office of Communications";

Priscilla Roberts (University of Hong Kong), "The Foreign Policy Tradition of the Twentieth Century American 'Eastern Establishment' ";

Patricia Witherspoon (Texas), "Organizational Communication in the White House."

New Trustees

Robert M. Warner

Terrence O'Donnell

Editor
William J. Stewart
Photography
Richard L. Holzhausen
Design, Staff Assistance
Paul Conway

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by public contributions and bequests. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

The U.S.S. Monterey and the Great Typhoon

The typhoon as it appeared on a radar screen aboard the carrier Wasp. *This photograph, the first to capture a typhoon on radar, shows the eye of the storm as a small dark circle six miles across.*

UNCLASSIFIED

U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
CINCPAC AND CINCPOA

OUTGOING

Date: **DECEMBER 17, 1944.**

From: CINCPAC	Info To:	Classification: REST	Originator: 40232
To: COMPHILSEAFRON		Precedence: DEF	Release: 001
		System	Show to: 4,40,402

C.W.O.	Crypto Grp.
PW	6-C

WITH ADMIRAL WILLIAM HALSEY'S THIRD FLEET IN THE EAST PHILIPPINE SEA, 600 MILES OFF LUZON.

AT FIRST, THE BAD WEATHER IS RULED A "TROPICAL DISTURBANCE" BUT THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF DECEMBER 17 THE SEA AND WIND CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY. WELL, MEN HAVE LIVED THROUGH WORSE AND THE FLEET AEROLOGIST EXPECTS THE NEXT DAY WILL BE BETTER IN THE PHILIPPINE SEA. EVENING BRINGS NO RESPITE, RATHER THE OPPOSITE. HEAVY RAIN FALLS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND THE SEA GROWS ROUGHER AND MORE CONFUSED.

On April 13, 1942 Gerald Ford is commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. From May 1943 to December 1944 he serves in the light aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey. *Aboard* Monterey *he is director of physical training with additional duties as gunnery officer and assistant navigator.*

In the final year of the war the Monterey *participates in almost every major naval action of the South Pacific and in support of landings on the Gilbert Islands, Truk, Saipan, and the Philippines. She is a lucky ship, weathering battles where other ships are sunk or badly damaged. Ironically,* Monterey's *most harrowing encounter comes not with the Japanese but with nature.*

By the early hours of December 18 the plunging barometer and the counterclockwise movement of the wind is evidence that a wicked typhoon has crept up on the fleet. Soon, Halsey's ships will be in the "dangerous semicircle" of the typhoon where no sailor should be.

As the day wears on, the log books run out of nautical superlatives. Fleet oiler *Nantahala,* near storm center, records an unbelievable 124 knots wind velocity. On the destroyer *Dewey,* the barometer needle goes off the glass and keeps dropping. Her captain reckons it reaches 26.60, possibly the lowest reading ever recorded at sea. *Dewey,* who barely survives in the eye of the storm, will acquire another unwanted record. Shortly after 1200 hours, she

A sister ship of the Monterey, *the light carrier* Langley, *taking a deep roll during the terrible typhoon of December 1944.*

"Pappy" Atwood's assistant, Gerald Ford, takes a sun sighting.

rolls 65° to starboard, recovers, then rolls 75° and, after a breathless eternity, struggles back. Twice more her inclinometer registers 75° and twice again she shudders back. According to the experts in the Bureau of Ships, *Dewey* has rolled beyond the limit of her capacity to recover!

The seas become so monstrous that some of the destroyers, rolled far on their sides, drift out of control, downwind, their 60,000 horsepower engines helpless. At times, visibility is reduced to three feet.

The light carriers and escort carriers fare little better as they wildly rise up on their fantails or plunge bow under. *San Jacinto, Cape Esperance,* and *Cowpens* all report serious fires and loose aircraft careening about their decks. But

Ford remembered the watch as "pure hell."

among the carriers it is *Monterey* who is most grievously injured that day. Her travail in the hours of the morning and forenoon watches bring her to the edge of disaster.

From the historical record — *Monterey's* log, the after action report, and eyewitness accounts — we are able to experience *Monterey's* ordeal.

On *Monterey's* bridge, those first hours of the 18th, the officer of the deck is Lieutenant G.R. Ford, Jr. He has the watch until 0400, the ominous time when storm changes to typhoon. He remembers that watch as "pure hell." Off the bridge at 4 o'clock, he goes below to get some sleep before

"The aircraft were darting around down there like trapped, terrified birds."

Though sheltered against weather and sea, a tethered plane tears loose on the hangar deck and soon a number of aircraft were, as Gerald Ford aptly put it, *"darting around down there like trapped, terrified birds."*

Hurtling aircraft crash into other aircraft, puncturing fuel tanks and causing explosions. Within minutes fire flashes across the hangar deck fed by the gasoline from other ruptured fuel tanks. The hangar deck becomes the scene of an ugly, roaring conflagration that turns planes into torches.

Almost instantly, flames are sucked through the air intakes to start fires in the engine spaces below. Explosions rupture the water mains and ventilating ducts. When the blaze menaces the ammunition lockers topside, crew and pilots, at great risk, manhandle the ammunition to the side and throw it overboard.

An observer on a nearby ship, seeing *Monterey* swept bow to stern by fire and heavy smoke, mournfully concludes: *"Well, check off the Monterey."* The task force commander, in melancholy agree-

Monterey's *hangar deck the day after.*

general quarters at 5:15 a.m. After securing from general quarters, Lieutenant Ford returns to his cabin only to be awakened again by a second general quarters. The chilling moments that follow are best told by Gerald Ford.

"Waking, I thought I could smell smoke. I went up the passageway and out to the catwalk on the starboard side which runs around the flight deck, where I started to climb the ladder. As I stepped on the flight deck, the ship suddenly rolled about 25 degrees. I lost my footing, fell to the deck flat on my face and started sliding toward the port side as if I were on a toboggan slide. Around the deck of every carrier is a steel ridge about two inches high. It's designed to keep the flight crews' tools from slipping overboard. Somehow the ridge was enough to slow me. I rolled and twisted into the catwalk below. I was lucky; I could have easily gone overboard." Then, more prudently this time, he makes his way to the bridge.

Monterey's skipper, Captain Stuart Ingersoll, has prepared his ship for heavy weather. All fighter aircraft on the flight and hangar decks are lashed down hard, their wheels deflated. As the winds increase and the rolls become more severe even half inch steel cable cannot hold. Four planes on the flight deck wrench free and tumble into the sea, carrying along everything in their path, 20 mm guns, gun mounts, and transmitting antennae. Her port catwalks scoop up green water. At one point, the flight deck itself, 60 feet above the waterline, dips into the churning sea.

Strangely enough, it is the planes on the hangar deck that cause the havoc, not the exposed fighters on the flight deck.

An old salt, Commander Atwood. A shipmaster in the merchant marines before the war, "Pappy" Atwood's expert seamanship helped keep the Monterey *afloat on December 18, 1944.*

ment, orders the cruiser *New Orleans* and three destroyers to stand by to pick up *Monterey's* crew. On *Monterey's* bridge, Lieutenant Ford remembers that the Admiral's message leaves it up to Captain Ingersoll: *"Abandon ship if you so order."*

An unflappable naval officer, Captain Ingersoll calmly asks for more time, then moves to save his ship. A naval aviator by training and experience, Ingersoll wisely seeks the counsel of his most experienced seaman, the ship's navigator, Commander Lewis "Pappy" Atwood. *"Monterey was most fortunate to have 'Pappy' Atwood on the bridge that morning,"* Gerald Ford reminisced recently. Twenty years at sea and a master mariner, Atwood knows better than to argue with a typhoon. Forget about maintaining formation, Atwood tells the captain, let *Monterey* lie dead in the water and find her own way in the sea. Heeding that advice, the captain orders the carrier to heave-to, putting the wind and sea on *Monterey's* quarter. Lying dead in the water reduces the vessel's motion and quiets the planes so the fire fighters can extinguish the blaze without being run over by burning aircraft. Gradually, the fearless well-trained crew gain control

Lieutenant Commander Gerald Ford remained in the active Naval Reserve until 1963.

"Monterey was most fortunate to have 'Pappy' Atwood on the bridge that morning."

and by late morning all fires are out.

Although *Monterey* is now ready to get underway, Ingersoll realizes any maneuvering will exaggerate the pitch and roll, thus aggravating the movement of hot wreckage. He decides to keep the ship dead in the water and ride it out. The moaning, violent winds beat for another seven hours but by early evening, wind and sea moderate enough to go ahead with the engines. Wearily, *Monterey* labors after the fleet.

A cool captain and a courageous crew have been a match for every crisis. Three men are dead and forty injured, ten critically.

All the carriers survive; the destroyers are not so fortunate. Destroyers *Monaghan, Spence* and *Hull* are swallowed by a wrathful sea. There are pitifully few survivors from the three ships. On *Monaghan,* 244 men of 250 go down with their ship. The 18th of December has been a disastrous day for the Third Fleet. Nearly 800 men lose their lives, more than 80 are injured and 146 aircraft are lost by fire or blown overboard, including all 34 aircraft on the *Monterey.*

Battered and spent, *Monterey* is unfit for service. The list of her damages covers nine closely typed legal pages. Three days after the typhoon, on December 21, the crippled carrier reaches Ulithi harbor, in the western Carolines. After taking on stores and fuel, *Monterey* limps across the Pacific to undergo extensive repairs in the Bremerton, Washington, Navy Yard. *Monterey's* assistant navigator does not sail with her. On Christmas Eve 1944, Lieutenant Ford is detached from the ship and ordered to duty training cadets at the Navy Pre Flight School, St. Mary's, California.

Three months later, in March 1945, Lieutenant Ford formally asks to return to sea duty. He is hoping for the *Coral Sea* or any of the other newly-constructed carriers going out to the Pacific war. No action is taken on his request and he remains ashore, being discharged in January 1946 in the grade of lieutenant commander.

Admiral and Mrs. Stuart Ingersoll with the President during a reunion of the Monterey *crew, 1975. Admiral Ingersoll rose to three star rank and fleet commander before retiring in 1960. From 1945-1947 he was commandant of midshipmen at the Naval Academy. One of his charges there was Midshipman Jimmy Carter.*

President Reagan Nominates Wilson Archivist of the U.S.

On August 14, the California White House announced that President Reagan would name Don W. Wilson, director of the Ford Library and Museum, as archivist of the United States. The nomination was formally submitted on September 9.

Should the Senate approve his nomination Don and Patsy would likely move to Washington before the end of the year. Not long ago he spoke of several matters he expects to address if confirmed as archivist of the United States.

First of all, Wilson wants "greater prominence" for the National Archives and Records Administration. To achieve this, he believes the National Archives must widen its institutional influence.

"The National Archives is more than that stone colossus that graces Pennsylvania Avenue. It is an organization with an annual budget of $100 million with 3,000 employees located in 30 facilities in 14 states. Yet the Archives' preeminent place as keeper and publicizer of the national history is generally under-appreciated. The reason for this low state of visibility appears to be rooted in the past.

"For most of its institutional life the National Archives was submerged in a larger Federal agency, an agency that showed only minimal interest in our mission. Finally, in 1985, under former Archivist Bob Warner (now Foundation secretary) the National Archives and Records Administration secured its independence.

"The time has come to exploit that independence. Across the board and across the country, we must strengthen, and, in some instances, establish ties with educational, cultural, and civic groups of every kind.

Don W. Wilson

"Traditionally our foremost concern has been the historical researcher. While the primacy of the researcher will remain undisturbed many of us recognize that we serve a larger audience — a history-minded public excited by their country's past. This is the constituency I want us to more fully accommodate, through exhibitions, public programs and special projects."

Another concern voiced by Don Wilson is the lack of a national archival collecting policy. There are several thousand archival respositories in the United States, he said, and *"I believe most would welcome guidance on this issue. We ought to get together and see where we are going and what we should preserve."*

Don closed the interview on a personal note. *"Patsy and I will always remember fondly the many wonderful people associated with the Library and Museum, especially the Foundation members. They have always been supportive and cooperative. I look forward to a continual association with Foundation members in my new role as archivist of the United States, both personally and professionally.*

Coming Events at the Museum

October 22:
Evening Lecture
William Seale, author of *The President's House: A History,* will speak at 7:30 p.m. (Auditorium) free.

November 12:
National Issues Forum
The Museum will again be the setting for the National Issues Forum discussions. Local cosponsors are the Museum and Grand Rapids Junior College. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., November 12 and 19 and December 3. Public is invited, free.

December 12 and 13:
Decorate President's Christmas Tree
Two workshops for children, ages 6 to 11, where they learn to craft Christmas ornaments. The decorations are patterned after those used by Mrs. Ford to trim the White House tree.

January 4 - February 25:
Temporary Exhibit
"Freedom to Travel" reveals the astonishing scope of passes, passports, and safe conduct documents created since colonial times to protect and speed Americans on their way. (Lobby).

January 7:
American Political Film Series
Offered for the sixth year. Begins consecutive Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $1.50 (Auditorium). Call 456-2675 for specific films.

March 4 - April 25:
Temporary Exhibit
"The Marshall Plan: Cooperating to Rebuild Europe" will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Marshall Plan.

March 7:
Great Decisions Lecture Series
The Museum and the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan will again sponsor the *"Great Decisions"* lecture program. All lectures are scheduled for Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The program is open to the public and free of charge.

For information on any listed program contact the Education Department at 456-2675.

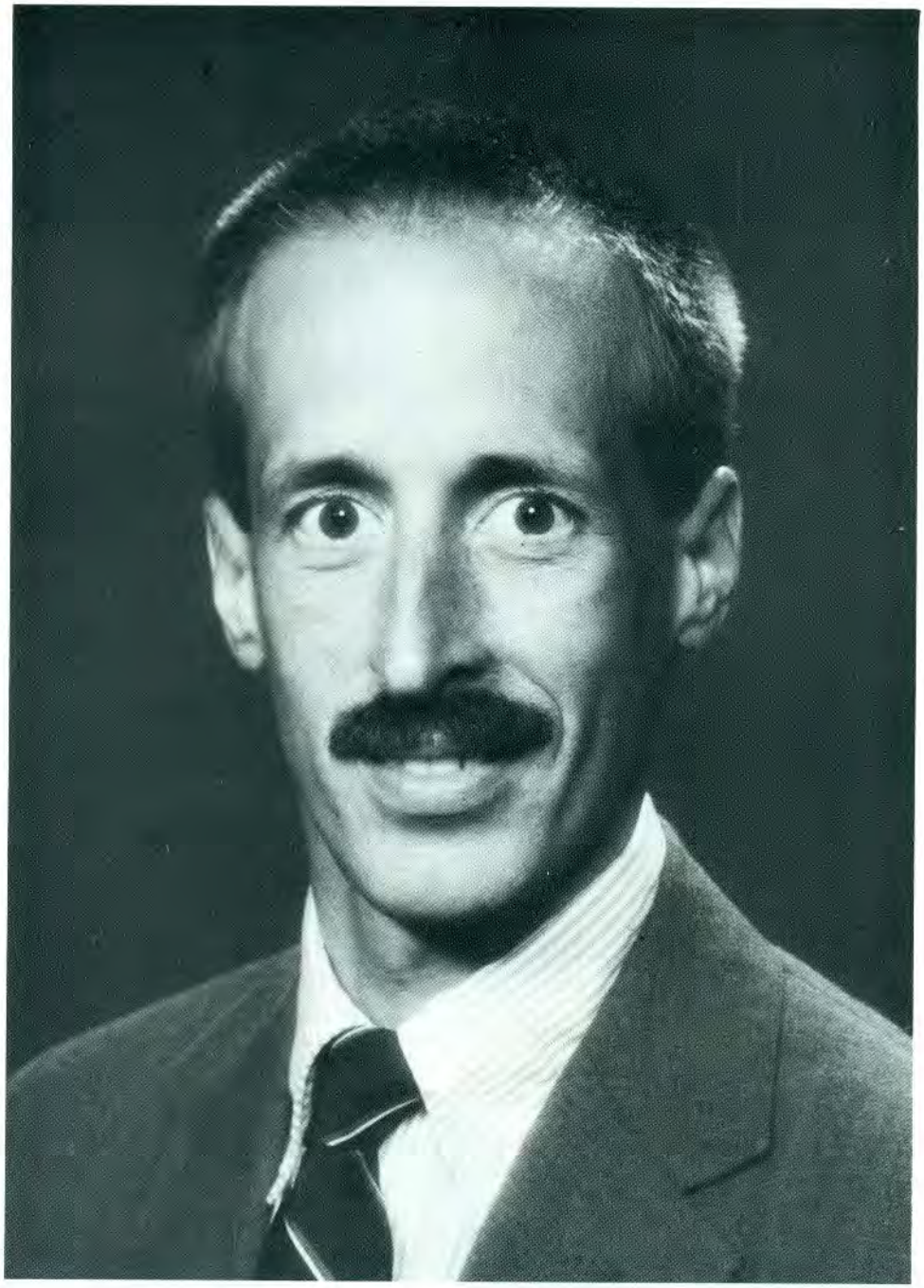
Ford Museum Curator Appointed

Frank H. Mackaman assumed duties as curator of the Ford Museum on September 14. He fills the vacancy created when Curator Will Jones accepted a position with the United States Information Agency.

For the past eleven years Dr. Mackaman has been associated with the Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin, Illinois, serving as executive director of that institution since 1978.

In announcing the appointment, Don Wilson said, *"Frank brings to the position a strong program background and a distinguished record of achievements. I am delighted that the National Archives and Records Administration could attract someone of his caliber and expertise. I am confident he will make major contributions to the Museum and be a great asset to the community."*

A 1971 graduate of Drake University in Iowa, Mackaman recieved his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. As curator he will direct the day by day operations of the Museum and be responsible for museum acquisitions, educational activities and exhibit design and installation.



Gerald R. Ford Foundation

1000 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 25
ANN ARBOR

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED