Gerald R. Ford Foundation *NEWSLETTER*

Winter 1998

1948: A Year to Remember...

If 1997 was a year of renewal, between the new Museum in Grand Rapids, and a new Conference Series and Oral History Project in Ann Arbor, then 1998 promises more than its share of anniversaries. For it was 50 years ago this spring that a 34 year old lawyer, World War II veteran, and political novice named Gerald R. Ford shook up the Republican establishment in western Michigan by challenging isolationist Congressman Bartel J. Jonkman in the GOP primary. Behind Jonkman was the formidable organization commanded by Frank McKay, a stocky, sticky-fingered boss straight out of a Frank Capra movie.

Few thought the McKay-Jonkman combination vulnerable; even those who looked upon the incumbent as a mossbacked embarrassment to the 5th District questioned Ford's prospects. More optimistic was the challenger's law partner, Phil Buchen. So was Jack Stiles, a former University of Michigan classmate and young Grand Rapids businessman recruited to be campaign manager. For months, the Ford campaign was sub rosa, secrecy being essential to reinforcing Jonkman's natural complacency. Behind the scenes, the Ford team numbered at least two representatives from each of Grand Rapids' 99 precincts, many of them fellow veterans who shared the internationalist views espoused by Ford's youthful hero, Senator Arthur Vandenberg.

To contrast his own global outlook with Jonkman's isolationism, Ford installed a surplus Navy Quonset hut, painted red, white and blue, in the parking lot of a downtown Grand Rapids department store —a stone's

Newly-wed and newly-elected, Congressman and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford arrive at the Capitol for freshman orientation. November 19, 1948.

...1998: A Year to Celebrate!

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"...we have a contract for that space and we are not going to move that hut."

throw from Frank McKay's office. True to form, Boss McKay ordered the store to remove the hut. Since the store's lawyer happened to be Julius Amberg, Ford's senior law partner, McKay had every reason to feel confident that his pressure tactics would succeed.

He failed to reckon with Amberg, or with Ford. "Mr. Amberg," the candidate told his legal superior, "we have a contract for that space and we are not going move that hut."

"Excellent," said Amberg. "That's exactly what I was hoping you would say." Both men had in mind a very public confrontation with Frank McKay. Both got their wish.

Jonkman was more elusive. Predictably the incumbent dodged Ford's request for public debates. But he couldn't match his youthful rival in energy or sheer determination. Throughout the weeks leading up to the September primary, Ford scored points with his tireless campaigning at factory gates and on rural farms. Leonard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers threw his support behind the upstart. So did Lee Woodruff, editor of the *Grand Rapids Press*, who particularly resented Jonkman's bitter attacks on Vandenberg.

"...Ford scored points with his tireless campaigning at factory gates and on rural farms."

Several times each week, Ford rose at 5:00 a.m. to buttonhole farmers doing

"The wedding on October 15 was followed by a brief honeymoon..."

their milking and other sunrise chores. Typically, he promised one family that if successful, he would return after the election and milk their cows for two weeks. On September 14, 1948 Republican voters overwhelmingly held him to his promise.

A month later, Ford made another vow, to spend the rest of his life with Betty Bloomer Warren, fashion coordinator at Herpolsheimer's, the Grand Rapids store whose models not so coincidentally were spending their evenings addressing envelopes and ringing doorbells for Betty's fiancee. The wedding on October 15th was followed by a brief honeymoon, during which it became apparent to the new Mrs. Ford that she had not only married an aspiring politician, but the Republican Party and the Michigan Wolverines.

After attending the Michigan-Northwestern game in Ann Arbor, the newlyweds drove that evening to nearby Owosso, where they sat in a very chilly outdoor stadium and listened to GOP presidential candidate (and native son) Tom Dewey, who did little to warm up the

"On November 2nd voters in the 5th District resoundingly endorsed Gerald Ford's youthful brand of leadership."

crowd with his rhetoric. By Monday afternoon they were back in Grand Rapids. Explaining, "there's a meeting tonight that I just have to attend," Ford asked his bride if she could make him a sandwich in lieu of dinner. On November 2nd voters in the 5th District resoundingly endorsed Gerald Ford's youthful brand of leadership. It was the first of thirteen such victories that would, in time, lead him to the nation's highest offices. ■

by Richard Norton Smith
Museum/Library Director

Whatta Year!

By Jim Kratsas

It all started on January 6 when Ford Museum staff closed existing galleries and set about dismantling exhibits in place since 1981. Within three weeks, a 17,000 square foot space was stripped bare of old cases, carpet and walls and was made ready to receive some $5 million in state of the art exhibits representing nearly four years of hard work and stunning imagination. For the next three months, contractor crews and staff members worked around the clock to complete the most innovative and interactive exhibits in the entire presidential library system.

It was a close thing, but everything was finished in time for opening day, April 17. That morning President and Mrs. Ford, President and Mrs. Bush, President and Mrs. Carter, Lady Bird Johnson and Caroline Kennedy joined thousands of President Ford's friends and admirers to honor the 38th President and reflect upon his lifetime of public service. The preceding day Secretary of State Madeleine Albright keynoted a Ford Museum conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. In addition to Secretary Albright, a full house and a national C-Span audience heard from former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig, former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and former National Security Advisors Zbigniew Brzezinski and General Brent Scowcroft. President Ford himself used the occasion to pay tribute to Senator Arthur Vandenberg, father of bipartisan foreign policy, and to deliver his own Vandenberg-style endorsement of free trade and U.S. engagement in the post-Cold War world.

On top of everything else, April 17 also marked the opening of a blockbuster temporary display, *The Blue and The Gray*. Nearly 300 items for this, the largest Civil War exhibit in Michigan history, came from 45 different institutions and individual collectors. They included Clara Barton's trunkbed, John Brown's musket used at Harper's Ferry, U.S. Grant's saddle, Robert E. Lee's uniform sash, shells fired at Ft. Sumter, a surgeon's tent, and nearly twenty authentic uniforms.

At the end of June, capacity audiences at our *White House Weekend* enjoyed theatrical performances recounting Theodore Roosevelt, Abigail Adams and Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Throughout the summer the Museum remained open late each Tuesday for *Family Night*—another innovation that contributed to significantly higher attendance.

October brought *The Haunted White House*, and the chance for visitors to hear—and experience—ghost stories that have become the stuff of Executive Mansion legend.

The ghosts of Abe and Mary Lincoln (aka Tim Pietryga and Pamela Fortuin) atop the Museum's float in Grand Rapids' Celebration on the Grand parade, September 6. The Lincolns were joined by numerous presidential poltergeists at "The Haunted White House," a Halloween program that drew some 500 visitors.

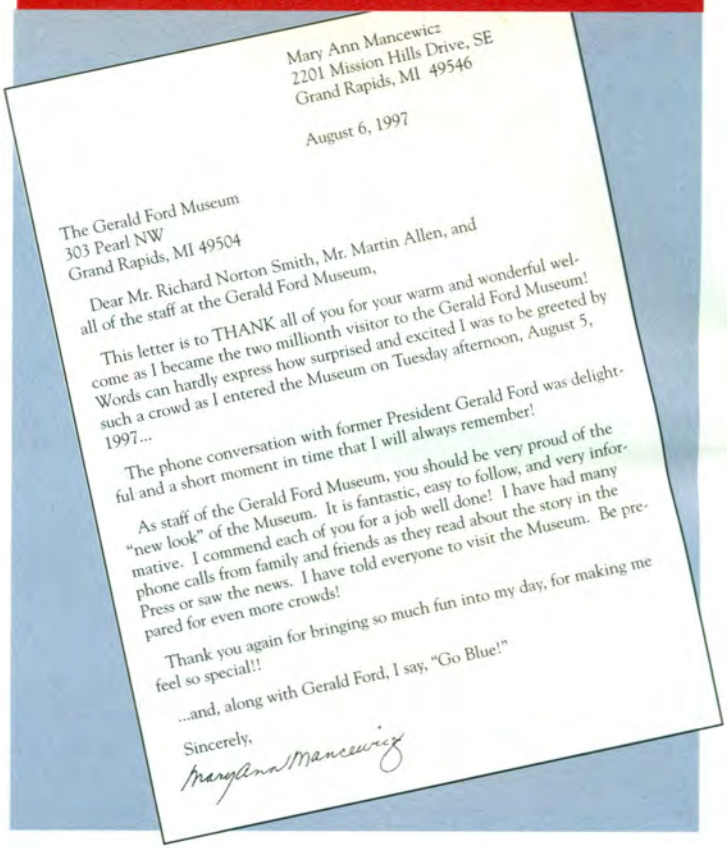
The New Museum is a Hit! Attendance for the year ending September 30 was nearly 117,000. That's a 30% increase over the previous year—thanks to the spectacular new exhibits dedicated in April, and a host of new programs and activities built around them.

November was another busy month as President Ford helped us open two new temporary displays. The President and Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie kicked off the holiday season in West Michigan by turning on some 50,000 lights before a large, if chilled, audience. Inside the crowd found trees decorated by twenty-six communities, along with various civic and cultural organizations, complemented by nearly two dozen Christmas quilts and spectacular decorations highlighting an Italian Renaissance theme.

Speaking of Italy...since November 17 *Presidents and Paisanos* has introduced visitors to the special U.S.-Italy relationship, as revealed through gifts to 18 American Presidents from no fewer than seven Popes and a host of other Italian leaders. A stunning portrait of Thomas Jefferson loaned by the White House, pre-war correspondence between Franklin Roosevelt and Benito Mussolini, a rosary given to Jacqueline Kennedy by Pope John XXIII, and a mosaic of the Coliseum presented to President Clinton by Pope John Paul II are just some of the treasures on display through March 1.

On November 18, a capacity audience turned out to hear and meet Pulitzer Prize winning historian David McCullough, this year's William Simon Lecturer. Mr. McCullough graciously signed dozens of copies of his work.

Our Two Millionth Visitor



Mary Ann Mancewicz
2201 Mission Hills Drive, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

August 6, 1997

The Gerald Ford Museum
303 Pearl NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Richard Norton Smith, Mr. Martin Allen, and all of the staff at the Gerald Ford Museum,

This letter is to THANK all of you for your warm and wonderful welcome as I became the two millionth visitor to the Gerald Ford Museum! Words can hardly express how surprised and excited I was to be greeted by such a crowd as I entered the Museum on Tuesday afternoon, August 5, 1997...

The phone conversation with former President Gerald Ford was delightful and a short moment in time that I will always remember!

As staff of the Gerald Ford Museum, you should be very proud of the "new look" of the Museum. It is fantastic, easy to follow, and very informative. I commend each of you for a job well done! I have had many phone calls from family and friends as they read about the story in the Press or saw the news. I have told everyone to visit the Museum. Be prepared for even more crowds!

Thank you again for bringing so much fun into my day, for making me feel so special!!

...and, along with Gerald Ford, I say, "Go Blue!"

Sincerely,

Maryann Mancewicz

On November 18 historian David McCullough delivered this year's William Simon Lecture. Introduced by President Ford, the famed historian-biographer offered an eloquent tribute to "History as a Source of Strength." Appropriately for one whose television program *The American Experience* has made him a household face, Mr. McCullough's remarks were nationally broadcast via C-Span. The same network took viewers behind the scenes of U.S. intelligence when it broadcast live coverage of a Ford Library conference on November 19. *Does America Need the C.I.A.?* Suffice it to say that the program capped what has indeed been a year to remember, in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. ■

It wouldn't be Christmas in Grand Rapids without "Christmas on the Grand."

Be Part of the Ford Legacy

by Martin J. Allen
Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation

The year 1997 was a very special year for the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library, as well as the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. The Foundation raised $5 million to update and renovate the Museum's permanent exhibit. The new exhibit was dedicated in April, in ceremonies attended by three Presidents, four First Ladies, plus hundreds of Ford friends, Cabinet officers, White House staffers and admirers. In the months since, the revamped museum has received extensive press coverage, and rave reviews from the public.

In addition to the new permanent exhibit, both the Museum and Library staged a wide variety of successful events, including lectures, conferences, educational outreach, holiday programs and temporary exhibits. The Foundation was pleased to provide support for these activities, which were made possible by the efforts of a small, but incredibly dedicated staff at both locations, led by Richard Norton Smith. We all share President and Mrs. Ford's feelings on how fortunate we are to have Richard as our Director.

Nineteen ninety-eight is a very special year for President and Mrs. Ford. The President will celebrate his 85th birthday and Mrs. Ford her 80th. They will also commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary. In addition, 1998 marks 50 years since President Ford's first election to Congress and the 25th anniversary of his selection as Vice President, the first to be chosen under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution.

Truly, 1998 will be a year to remember—and to celebrate. To help us do both, and to insure that the Ford legacy is secured for future generations, we have chosen this crossroad on the calendar to launch a Friends of the Ford Museum and Library program. By joining us now, you can pay tribute to two remarkable Americans of unquestionable integrity and courage. You can recognize all they have given our country over the years. And you can give a little of it back, by assuring that the Library and Museum which bear the Ford name remain lively, dynamic classrooms of American democracy.

In addition to supporting future programs, you will receive special membership privileges, described in the enclosed application. A legacy is a gift from one generation to the next. We hope you will want to be part of the Ford Legacy.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support. We wish you a Happy and Healthy 1998. ■

A Fantastic Gift for Presidential Collectors

Highlighting The Museum Gift Shop

A special collectible to celebrate a special year, this limited and numbered edition of the Fords' original 1974 White House Christmas card personally signed by President and Mrs. Ford, comes mounted in a handsome frame. A great keepsake and heirloom.

You can find out about the Museum Giftshop at http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/ford/

With best wishes from our family
for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

The President and Mrs. Ford

"Does America Need the CIA?"

By Richard Holzhausen

Among the thorniest issues of Gerald Ford's presidency was reform of the CIA. In conjunction with the agency's 50th anniversary, President Ford convened a conference at the Library in Ann Arbor to examine current and prospective U.S. intelligence capabilities. Thanks to C-Span, millions of viewers heard the President reflect upon his own involvement with the CIA and other intelligence organizations, both in Congress and the White House, before introducing the day's keynote speaker, CIA Director George Tenet.

Tenet said that while the Soviet Union and the communist threat may be history, the world remains a dangerous place. He described ethnic tensions in places like Bosnia and the Korean DMZ, along with groups and states whose sole purpose is to harm Americans or American interests. According to the Director, the CIA is changing to meet these new challenges. "This is not some rogue organization running around the world doing things that are inimical to the American way of life. The agency is serving the President and the Congress. I want the American people to know that the world is safer for them because of the CIA."

After Mr. Tenet's address, the distinguished journalist and Harvard dean Marvin Kalb moderated a group of CIA "Overseers," including Steven Aftergood from the Federation of American Scientists, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, former Senator Warren Rudman, who serves as Vice Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post*. As evidence of the CIA's successes, Senator Rudman pointed to recent prosecutions of a gunman who fatally shot two CIA employees outside its Langley headquarters and of the men accused of bombing the World Trade Center.

While Senator Levin and Steven Aftergood strongly urged the agency to declassify more information, Bob Woodward reminded the audience of the limits of electronic counterintelligence. "They can tell you where Saddam's weaponry is located, but what's in his head? The unfortunate response is they can't tell you very much. It's the hardest of hard targets." On a lighter note, Woodward respectfully declined to identify "Deep Throat," leading former Secretary of State Jim Baker to joke that whatever else they might disagree over, he, Tenet, and Woodward were of one mind when it came to protecting sources.

"They can tell you where Saddam's weaponry is located, but what's in his head?"

Following lunch the full house heard from a second panel, including John Marsh, formerly Counsellor to President

CIA Director George Tenet keynotes the conference. Besides one former President, a nationwide television audience was tuned in via C-Span.

Does America Need the CIA? A distinguished panel of "overseers" discuss the agency's past, present and future... (l-r: Steven Aftergood, Sen. Carl Levin, moderator Marvin Kalb, Bob Woodward, and former Sen. Warren Rudman)

Ford and Secretary of the Army in the Reagan administration, former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, and former CIA Directors Stansfield Turner and R. James Woolsey. Asked about assassination as an instrument of national policy, Turner ruled it out. "First it's not that easy. Second it would be difficult to tell whether the next person would be any better. Third, it would make the President's life the target of revenge killers." General Scowcroft, while not advocating assassination, also said that the issue is more complex than it appears. Who is to say that "...it's perfectly all right to go to war and kill thousands," he asked, "but not all right to kill the person who started it?"

"...it's perfectly all right to go to war and kill thousands...but not all right to kill the person who started it?"

Secretary Baker concluded the program with several concrete proposals to consolidate and streamline intelligence operations on the brink of a new century. Baker also scored the "fudge factor" now built into reports. As he put it, "they tend to produce studies in which all bets are hedged and all contingencies are covered." An even more contentious problem, the Secretary argued, involves the use of intelligence to discredit policy after the fact. "Foreign policy is, at root, about making choices. Those choices must often be made with incomplete, even contradictory data. To assign equal weight to all information is to surrender to paralysis. Yet today the decision-maker knows that, should a policy fail or prove contentious, even one piece of earlier intelligence challenging his decision will be dredged up to prove incompetence or worse."

All the day's panelists agreed that the CIA has pursued secrecy to excess, leading to public mistrust and the proliferation of conspiracy theories. Consequently, declassifying CIA documents from the agency's early years should be a top priority. There should also be less duplication of effort, closer coordination within the intelligence community, and a heightened emphasis on narcotics smuggling, terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Summing up, Secretary Baker predicted a future in which the CIA will be treated more like other agencies. "Their budget will be more closely scrutinized. Their performance will be more strictly assessed. And they will be held, within the continued constraints of the need for secrecy, to a higher level of public accountability." ■

Former Secretary of State Jim Baker and President Ford

George Tenet

Foundation Awards Journalism Prizes

by Richard Holzhausen

President Ford presented the two annual Prizes for Distinguished Reporting that bear his name at a National Press Club luncheon in Washington on June 2. The awards, in the amount of $5,000 each, recognize journalists whose high standards for accuracy and substance help foster a better public understanding of the presidency and national defense issues.

Eric Pooley, a White House correspondent for TIME magazine, received the prize for reporting on the presidency; Rick Newman, a military reporter for *U.S. News and World Report*, was recognized for his work in the defense field. Pooley was singled out by the judges for his "creativity in concept and commendable initiative. As a reporter covering the Clinton election campaign, he demonstrated resourcefulness, industry, and a sure touch of the politically significant." In honoring Newman, the judges cited his "resourcefulness in assembling information from a variety of sources, an ability to provide insight into the many issues involved and a writing style that engages the reader's attention and explains various technological, political and sociological issues." In particular, the judges praised Newman's extensive article, "Warfare 2020," on the U.S. military's efforts to prepare for warfare in the 21st century.

Many thanks to the distinguished judges of this year's contest who volunteered their efforts under the chairmanships of James Cannon (the presidency) and Ronald O'Rourke (defense). ■

President Ford with journalism prize recipients Rick Newman (left), of *U.S. News and World Report*, and Eric Pooley, of TIME magazine.

Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant Awards

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to $2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Geir Gundersen, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 or call (734) 741-2218 [Internet: geir.gundersen@fordlib.nara.gov]. Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the fall 1997 awards and their topics are:

Sharon Z. Alter
William Rainey Harper College
First Ladies as Activists and Leaders in the Contemporary Presidency: Betty Ford to Hillary Rodham Clinton

Larry Berman
University of California, Davis
Imperfect Peace: America's Disengagement from Vietnam

Barbara C. Burrell
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Wives in Presidential Campaigns

Kirsten E. Gardner
University of Cincinnati
Breast Cancer in Twentieth Century American Culture

E. Stanly Godbold, Jr.
Mississippi State University
A Biography of Jimmy Carter

Timothy M. Resh
Texas A&M University
The Evolution of Gerald R. Ford's Speechwriting Staff

James Spiller
University of Wisconsin, Madison
America at the Peripheries: U.S. Space and Antarctic Exploration and the Cultural Politics of Federal Big Science

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and Betty Ford
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Frank G. Zarb

Ex Officio
Richard Norton Smith

Technology Heightens Library Usage

by David Horrocks

While Gerald Ford was running for Congress in 1948, scientists in Pennsylvania were tweaking a room-sized calculator they called ENIAC. Today, National Archives staff are teaming up with ENIAC's descendants to place the Ford presidential materials on desktops around the globe. Consider the Ford Library and Museum website, it recorded nearly 10,000 visitor "hits" during a random test week in mid-1997. Reflecting our continuous

"...recorded nearly 10,000 visitor "hits" during a random test week in mid-1997."

efforts to expand content and improve ease of use, on-line visitors can now consult the issues fact book of the Ford presidential campaign, hear Mr. Ford taking the presidential oath of office, and search among the voluminous inventories to the archival research collections (18% of all "hits").

Library staff are poised to expand the website further in 1998, publishing digitized versions of Cabinet meeting minutes and declassified National Security Council meeting minutes, as well as memoranda of conversation and critical decision memoranda.

This is just one way we reach out to an increasingly computer-literate audi-

"...inquiries received by e-mail will almost certainly surpass traditional requests made by letter and telephone."

ence. E-mail is another. Before 1998 is over, inquiries received by e-mail will almost certainly surpass traditional requests made by letter and telephone. With this in mind, Library staff are designing digital response packets in place of old hardcopy packets. This is harder than it sounds, given the diversity of our customers. In recent months we have assisted a Norwegian researching Middle East terrorism, a *Jeopardy* television assistant seeking a photo for the Daily Double feature, a kid with a social studies paper due yesterday, and a former White House staff member curious about his papers at the Library. Meanwhile, as e-mail becomes an essential tool for local University of Michigan students, a new link from the U-M Libraries webpage will attract still more patrons.

Technology will also play a major role in the declassification of national security files, perhaps the Library's top program priority. The Ford and other presidential libraries are currently working with the CIA on a plan to digitize selected files so that policy experts in Washington can expedite the tougher declassification decisions. Meanwhile, the computer chip touches almost

"...working with the CIA on a plan to digitize selected files...[to] expedite the tougher declassification decisions."

everything, even wartime ship's newsletters edited by Lt. Commander Gerald Ford (USN), and donated by a professor at St. Vincent College in Pennsylvania. Brittle as confetti, the documents will survive with the help of a (digital-based) photocopier.

Finally, the past year has seen the launch of a digital database that will greatly expand and speed searches in the White House still photo collection. This in turn represents a big step toward the time when the photos themselves are digitized and made available online. Photos produced by official White House photographers are exceedingly popular with the public, publishers, and producers—not least because there are no copyright restrictions on them. ■

Contact Us

At the Library and Museum website:
http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/ford/

By Email:
library@fordlib.nara.gov
information.museum@fordmus.nara.gov

Please note the Library's new area code:
(734) 741-2218

New Library Collections

The Library wishes to thank all the donors who added historical materials to our holdings over the past year. Among the major collections donated were the papers of the late Ambassador Robert Anderson, former press spokesman for Henry Kissinger; and those of William Baroody, II, head of the Ford White House Office of Public Liaison and subsequently of the American Enterprise Institute. Carla Hills donated a complete set of her speeches as Secretary of HUD; Gerald Warren gave us papers detailing his work as deputy press secretary; Thomas Moran enriched our holdings from the President Ford Committee; White House Correspondent Philomena Jurey added her *Voice of America* papers; and Sidney Jones gave additional materials from his Treasury Department service.

The Great War Comes to Grand Rapids or Why Nothing is Quiet on *This* Western Front

by Don Holloway

Machine-guns raved everywhere; there was a crackling din of rifles, and the coughing roar of hand-grenades. Company and platoon commanders lost control—their men were committed to the fight—and so thick was the going that anything like formation was impossible. It was every man for himself, an irregular, broken line, clawing through the tangles, climbing over fallen trees, plunging heavily into Boche rifle-pits. Here and there a well-fought Maxim gun held its front until somebody—officer, non-com, or private—got a few men together and, crawling to left or right, gained a flank and silenced it. And some guns were silenced by blind, furious rushes that left a trail of writhing khaki figures, but always carried two or three frenzied Marines with bayonets into the emplacement; from whence would come shooting and screaming and other clotted unpleasant sounds, and then silence.

This passage from *Fix Bayonets*, Captain John Thomason, Jr.'s classic volume recalling Marine action in what was known, until 1939, as The Great War, is a vivid example of literary baptism. Certainly few people alive today can say they heard the whistle, went "over the top," or faced what Thomason described so memorably. Stories such as his paint panoramic scenes of horror and heroism alike. But, as with paintings, there is necessarily a distance between reader and subject, one that not even the best wordsmith can fully bridge

That is the challenge we museum folk confront when bringing something like World War I to the Ford Museum. Often discarded as the answer to the trivia question "How did World War II get its name?" The Great War represents a fork in the historical road. Amidst random slaughter, the Victorian era itself fell victim to modern mechanized warfare. Meanwhile, the seeds of American world leadership, watered by the wake of the Navy's Great White Fleet, began to sprout in Old World soil.

To make sense of so massive an event, we begin by asking ourselves, "Do we tell primarily the American side of the war or attempt to tackle the conflict in all its global dimension?" Do we emphasize heroic individuals, or faceless forces seemingly beyond the control of any one leader? Do we physically recreate a period setting or let the objects assembled tell their own story? Some artifacts recently exhibited have required little if any amplification: for instance, FDR's Yalta cape—many history books picture the former President wearing it in the company of Stalin and Churchill—or a Civil War surgeon's tent...again, who hasn't seen Brady's graphic photos of a wounded soldier's grim reward bestowed behind its flaps?

While some artifacts speak volumes, others need to find their voice. While we can show you a Maxim gun familiar to Captain Thomason, by itself such a weapon might have considerably less impact than if we recreated a machine gun nest, embellished with sounds of the battlefield.

Back to the imaginative (or narrative) drawing board. As Richard begins to write a story line (with an odd paragraph tossed in by Jim and I), we simultaneously turn our attention to ferreting out artifacts. For WWI this is not difficult. You start with the service museums: Army, Navy, Marines, then branch out to the specialty and general repositories (e.g., war memorials and the Smithsonian). Meanwhile, we keep an eye open for personal collections—those associated with major players as diverse as the Kaiser, Churchill, President Wilson, Sgt. York, Eddy Rickenbacker, and Harry Truman of Battery D, Second Battalion, 129th Field Artillery. Questions are asked and leads are followed, the prerequisite to assembling field guns, trench mortars, aeroplane insignia, helmets (what wonderful helmets that war produced!), trench art, and personal weaponry. Not to mention uniforms, canteens, mess kits, training manuals, gas masks, and other common pieces of soldiering. Finally, this great stew is flavored with the cultural spin-offs of war; with songs and paintings, drawings and diaries, plus intimate glimpses of life on the Home Front to match the agony in the trenches.

From there it is a matter of getting signatures on loan agreements, securing insurance, and arranging for transportation of artifacts and documents. Along the way graphics are selected and printed (e.g., the photographic enlargements of downtown Grand Rapids during a Liberty Bond rally, a life-size cutout of General Pershing, backdrops of naval and air battles). Sets are constructed, the artifacts arrive, text panels are printed, and the historical puzzle gradually takes shape.

An exhibition such as *The Great War* takes at least a year to plan and four to six months to implement (three to five years at other institutions—but Richard abhors staff meetings). The end result is anything but an ending. To be sure, we hope that it bridges the gap between literature and experience, between "I've read about it" and "Now I've seen it." Beyond that, we count ourselves successful if we ignite the curiosity of our visitors, if we inspire them to learn more about the world that went up in flames eighty years ago. Thus the war to end war is simultaneously the exhibit to kindle popular interest in that world and its continuing relevance to our own. ■

AT THE MUSEUM

Presidents and Paisanos: Italian Gifts to the United States, now through March 1, 1998. An extraordinary collection of nearly 70 Head of State gifts, Vatican paintings, mosaics, sculpture and historic documents drawn from the nation's presidential libraries and other museums. A stunning miniature portrait of Thomas Jefferson—who, among other things, introduced Americans to macaroni and Parmesan cheese—loaned by the White House. A silver and amber rosary presented to Jackie Kennedy by Pope John XXIII. Prewar correspondence between Franklin Roosevelt and Benito Mussolini concerning the plight of Europe's Jews. The exhibit coincides with the Grand Rapids Art Museum's spectacular once in a lifetime show of the works of the Italian Renaissance artist Perugino.

COMING IN 1998!

Grandma Moses: An American Original, April 4-June 21. Nearly two dozen original paintings by this beloved American artist, most never before seen in the Midwest.

The President's Garden, April 4-June 21. From Dolly Madison to Hillary Clinton, First Ladies and their families have enhanced and enjoyed the White House grounds. This major exhibit shows how.

The Great War, July 4-January, 1999. On the 80th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I, the Museum will remember the "war to end all wars" with an extraordinary collection of historic artifacts, ranging from Kaiser Wilhelm's naval clock and Woodrow Wilson's death mask to the original Versailles Treaty and items from Russia's doomed royal fami-

The Ford Museum is open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Admission is $3.00 for persons 16-62 years of age, $2.00 for ages over 62, and free to children under 16. Group rate is $2.00 per person for any group of 20 or more scheduling at least two weeks in advance.

Grandma Moses, House at the Bend of the Road (K.40).
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Grandma Moses: An American Original

Spring, 1998 brings to western Michigan a once in a lifetime exhibition featuring the beloved American folk artist Grandma Moses. Over two dozen paintings, along with yarn pictures, tiles, handmade dolls, clothing worn by the artist and the kitchen table she used as a painting table, complete with paints and brushes, will go on exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids from April 4 through June 21. *Grandma Moses: An American Original* will enable a whole new generation of Americans to rediscover the homespun values associated with the remarkable artist's life and career. Most of the Moses paintings, on loan from the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont, have never been seen in the Midwest.

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

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April 16-17, 1997 marked the rededication of the Ford Museum following a $5 million renovation made possible through the generosity of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. Three Presidents and four First Ladies, joined by thousands of distinguished guests and Ford family and friends, made for an unforgettable occasion.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by contributions and bequests in an effort to honor Mr. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service. The focus of the foundation is on community affairs and educational programs, conferences, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

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