

WHITE HOUSE REALITIES

CRAZY PRESIDENTIAL PETS



THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SEEN ITS FAIR SHARE OF CATS AND DOGS, BUT IT'S ALSO HOUSED A NUMBER OF MORE UNUSUAL PETS. THE COOLIDGES WERE SENT A RACCOON TO COOK FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER BUT OPTED TO KEEP IT AS A PET, NAMING HER REBECCA. PRESIDENT HARRISON KEPT TWO OPOSSUMS NAMED MR. PROTECTION AND MR. RECIPROCITY. THE CRAZIEST PETS, THOUGH, WERE TWO ALLIGATORS AND A PAIR OF TIGER CUBS GIFTED TO PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.



DENTIST'S OFFICE IN THE BASEMENT

IF THE PRESIDENT LOSES A CROWN, HE WON'T HAVE TO GO FAR TO GET IT REPLACED. THERE'S A DENTIST'S OFFICE IN THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING. IN FACT, THE BASEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A MINI-MALL! WITH A CHOCOLATE SHOP, A FLORIST, A CARPENTER, AND MORE, THERE'S LITTLE NEED FOR THE RESIDENTS TO EVER LEAVE. THE BASEMENT LEVEL IS ALSO WHERE YOU'LL FIND NIXON'S BOWLING ALLEY AND DWIGHT EISENHOWER'S BROADCAST ROOM.



INSANE MOVING DAY

NOBODY LIKES MOVING DAY, BUT YOU CAN BET YOURS IS NOWHERE NEAR AS STRESSFUL AS MOVING DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE. IT ALL TAKES PLACE AS SOON AS THE SITTING PRESIDENT LEAVES THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY. FROM THEN, STAFFERS AND MOVERS HAVE FIVE HOURS TO MOVE OUT ALL OF THE SITTING PRESIDENT'S BELONGINGS AND MOVE IN THE BELONGINGS OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. NOT ONLY IS FURNITURE CHANGED AND ARTWORK SWAPPED, BUT THE WALLS ARE EVEN REPAINTED TOO, AS PER THE REQUESTS OF THE INCOMING FIRST FAMILY. ALL IN FIVE HOURS!

THE WHITE HOUSE IS SO BIG!

SIX-STORY RESIDENCE WITH 132 ROOMS AND 35 BATHROOMS

THAT MAKES FOR 412 DOORS, 28 FIREPLACES, EIGHT STAIRCASES, AND THREE ELEVATORS. WHAT PURPOSE COULD 132 DIFFERENT ROOMS POSSIBLY SERVE? HARRY TRUMAN COMMISSIONED THE WHITE HOUSE'S FIRST BOWLING ALLEY. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT OVERSAW THE TRANSFORMATION OF A CLOAKROOM INTO A 42-SEAT MOVIE THEATER. HILLARY CLINTON CONVERTED ONE SITTING ROOM INTO THE MUSIC ROOM SO THAT HER HUSBAND COULD PLAY THE SAXOPHONE. WHILE THE WHITE HOUSE STILL HAS AN EXTERIOR POOL, ITS INTERIOR POOL IS NOW HIDDEN BENEATH THE FLOORS. THE INDOOR POOL, WHICH OPENED IN 1933 FOR USE BY THEN-PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, IS UNDERNEATH THE CURRENT JAMES S. BRADY PRESS BRIEFING ROOM.



I SEE DEAD PEOPLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE

A TOTAL OF 10 PEOPLE HAVE DIED WITHIN THE WHITE HOUSE WALLS

SEPTEMBER 1842 - FIRST LADY LETITIA TYLER

OCTOBER 1892 - FIRST LADY CAROLINE HARRISON

FEBRUARY 1862 - WILLIE LINCOLN, SON OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

AUGUST 1914 - FIRST LADY ELLEN WILSON

DECEMBER 1873 - FREDRICK DENT, FIRST LADY JULIA GRANT'S FATHER

DECEMBER 1950 - CHARLES G. ROSS, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

JANUARY 1883 - ELISHA HUNT ALLEN, MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF HAWAII TO THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1952 - MARGARET WALLACE, FIRST LADY BESS TRUMAN'S MOTHER

JULY 1850 - PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR

ROOM IS FREE, BUT BOARD IS NOT

DESPITE MAKING A SIX-FIGURE SALARY, THE PRESIDENT IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR ALL MEALS, AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND ELSEWHERE, ALL EVENTS (AND THE WAGES FOR THOSE WORKING THE EVENTS), AND EVEN TRANSPORTATION. MANY PRESIDENTS HAVE LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE IN SERIOUS DEBT, SUCH AS BILL CLINTON, WHOSE DEBT TOTALED BETWEEN \$2.28 MILLION AND \$10.6 MILLION BY THE TIME HE LEFT OFFICE.

