

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992

# Landmarks Tell Lore of Watergate

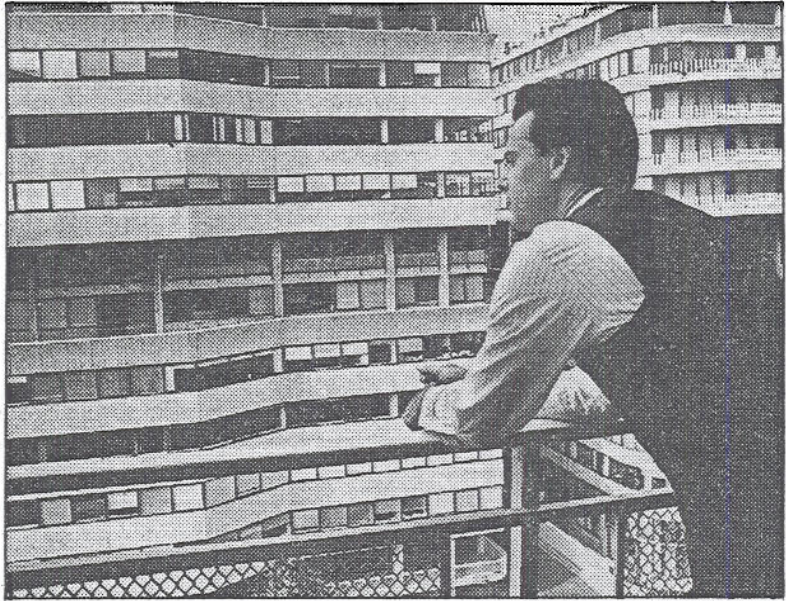
## Scandal Unfolded At Many Addresses

6/17/92

By Karlyn Barker  
and Vivien Lou Chen  
Washington Post Staff Writers

When Gary Lawrence pulled into Scenic Overlook No. 2 off the George Washington Parkway the other day, the Burke resident had no idea he was parked on a piece of Watergate history. It was the spot where burglar James W. McCord Jr. was promised executive clemency if he'd shut up and help take the fall for the break-in.

But Scott Greenhill, an unrepentant Watergate buff from San Francisco, knew all about Room 723 at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge and called a dozen times before landing a reservation this



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Scott Greenhill looks at the Watergate from Room 723 at Howard Johnson's.

week in what was the listening post for the "bugged" conversations of Democrats across the street.

From the offices where the break-in occurred 20 years ago today to the country clubs that had supporting roles to the apartment house where reporter Bob Woodward moved a potted plant to signal "Deep Throat," Washing-

ton and its suburbs are awash in notorious and little-known landmarks that tell the story of Watergate.

"We're aware that history was made in this suite," said Barbara Lentz, whose company occupies the portion of the Watergate complex where McCord and four other mysterious intruders were discov-

See LANDMARKS, A22, Col. 1

## LANDMARKS, From A1

ered under a secretary's desk inside the Democratic National Committee's sixth-floor headquarters.

Curious individuals and entire tour groups still show up and want to take pictures of the secretary's cubicle where the burglars were found and arrested. Lentz, treasurer and administrative manager for Urenco Inc., a nuclear energy marketing company, wants people to know that the offices were remodeled years ago and that the secretary's cubicle is now an open work space.

She wants people to know something else too: You can't just drop by for a look-see. "We do try to run a business here," she said.

For the people who work or reside at these landmark addresses, Watergate is living history. And some day, the buildings themselves may receive official recognition—and a plaque or two.

"Normally that doesn't happen for 50 years," said Barry Mackintosh, a historian for the National Park Service. "We're still a little early, but I suspect . . . the office building and the Howard Johnson would get the obvious first consideration."

Clifton E. McCann, whose law firm, Lane, Aitken & McCann, is in another part of the old DNC headquarters, said there used to be a plaque near the sixth-floor stairwell commemorating the event. But it was stolen years ago.

Scandal Tours already includes the Watergate complex and the Howard Johnson's motel on its bus tour of notorious landmarks in the nation's capital, right along with the spot where stripper Fanne Foxe jumped into the Tidal Basin and the Capitol Hill town house where presidential hopeful Gary Hart entertained Donna Rice.

Media attention surrounding the 20th anniversary of the break-in has put the spotlight on some lesser-known Watergate landmarks. At 9702 Montauk Ave. in Bethesda, for example, Cathy Woody was surprised when CBS producers asked her about using her tiny two-bedroom home to shoot a scene involving a previous owner: Judy Hoback.

It was Hoback, bookkeeper for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, who first told in-

vestigators—and later Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Woodward—about the campaign money dispersed to G. Gordon Liddy, the ex-FBI agent who planned the botched burglary.

"I was kind of thrilled when CBS called," said Woody, an oceanographer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "I said, 'Ooh, I have a star for a house.'"

Woody said she met Hoback when CBS flew the bookkeeper

from her home in Florida to Washington and used her former house as a backdrop for telling how a reluctant Hoback finally agreed to talk to the persistent Bernstein. As depicted in the "Woodstein" book, "All the President's Men," and later in a movie of the same name, she nervously answered his questions in her living room while Bernstein prolonged his stay by asking for more and more cups of coffee.

"When you live an ordinary life, it's exciting to have something like that walk through . . . to be a little part of history, even if it's a scandalous history," Woody said. She said she voted for Nixon, but then became "disgusted" with the lies he told to cover up the break-in and other illegal activities.

"If he had come out and said what he had done, I think the public would have accepted that more," Woody said.

Few remember that Frank Wills, the security guard who called police after finding tape on the stairwell doors at the Watergate, lived at 1315 22nd St. NW. It was a rooming house then, and Wills lived upstairs. Today it's a fashionable town house, rented by three friends who were children when the Watergate scandal unfolded and who had no idea of the house's link to Watergate history.

"I remember my parents and grandparents just glued to the TV," said Ed Ryan, 24, who was reared in Philadelphia and works for a painting franchise here.

Ryan, who studied Watergate in college, said he doesn't think what Nixon did was all that bad, especially compared with Ronald Reagan and the Iran-contra scandal. Nixon "just tried to cover up a few things," he said. "Look at Reagan. Every-

body liked him so much they overlooked it."

Perhaps the most obscure Watergate landmark is the parking lot at the Key Bridge Marriott, where White House aide Alexander Butterfield innocently turned over \$350,000 in excess campaign cash for safekeeping to one of his neighbors. The cash, all in \$50 and \$100 bills, was later retrieved on orders from the White House, and some of it was used to buy the silence of the burglars.

Butterfield later told Senate investigators about the White House taping system, an explosive disclosure that ultimately led to Nixon's resignation.

Better-known landmarks in Watergate lore: Room 214 at the Watergate Hotel, where police recovered address books linking the burglars to Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant who helped plan the burglary.

Also, the Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, where Liddy rushed to find Attorney General Richard Kleindeinst and tried to get him to

order the release of the burglars before McCord's connection to the reelection committee became known. Kleindeinst refused.

At the Webster House, 1718 P St. NW, Interior Department employee Renee Schwager and many other residents know that Woodward used to rent an efficiency there in the days before the building went condo. Except nobody—not even Woodward—remembers the exact apartment where he would put his potted plant, the one with the red flag stuck in it, out on the balcony whenever he needed to contact his famous source.

"606 or 608 or 612, something like that," Woodward said recently.

"I always felt that 'Deep Throat' may have lived in one of those buildings," said Schwager, pointing to the Boston House and Brunswick House Apartments that can be seen from the back of Woodward's former building.

Schwager always thought that Woodward lived in apartment 519 because, she said, that was the one used in filming the Watergate movie.

For the record, Bernstein lived on the top floor of the Biltmore apartments in Adams-Morgan.

But for Greenhill, in town on business, nothing matches the history of Room 723 at the Howard Johnson's, where Alfred C. Baldwin monitored the "bugged" phone of a DNC official and watched the burglars' arrests that night. Booking the \$72-to-\$80-a-night room wasn't easy, but Greenhill, 34, who watched every day of the Watergate hearings for his high school government class, is glad he got it when he did.

"I wanted the room on the anniversary," he said gleefully.

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*Staff writer Charles W. Hall contributed to this report.*

## A WATERGATE TOUR

**A** though few tourists ever see them, landmarks of the Watergate scandal are spread throughout the Washington area. Here's a look at a few well-known and virtually unknown spots that played roles in the scandal that toppled a presidency.

### 3 Burning Tree Club, Burdette and River roads, Bethesda

This is where G. Gordon Liddy, finance counsel of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, who had conceived the break-in, went on the afternoon of June 17, 1972, to find Attorney General Richard Kleindienst to pass along former attorney general and Nixon campaign manager John Mitchell's orders to release the five Watergate burglars before McCord's connection to the CRP became known. Kleindienst met Liddy in a locker room. The attorney general refused the request.

### 6 Judy Hoback's House, 9702 Montauk Ave., Bethesda

Hoback was the CRP bookkeeper who exposed a small piece of the puzzle — money disbursed to Liddy and destruction of committee ledgers — to the FBI and The Washington Post. She was portrayed by Jane Alexander — but not named — in "All the President's Men."

### 4 Bob Woodward's old apartment, 1718 P St NW

Post reporter Woodward signaled his secret source, known as "Deep Throat," using a flower pot on the balcony of his efficiency apartment. No one at the building, now a condominium, can remember which apartment was Woodward's, and Woodward says he can't recall either. Apartment 519 was used during the filming of "All the President's Men."

### 2 Frank Wills's old rooming house, 1315 22nd St. NW

Wills was the security guard who first saw the tape-covered door latches on the Watergate stairwell and called police. In 1972, he was making \$80 a week and living in a one-room apartment on 22nd Street NW.

### 5 Scenic overlook on the George Washington Memorial Parkway

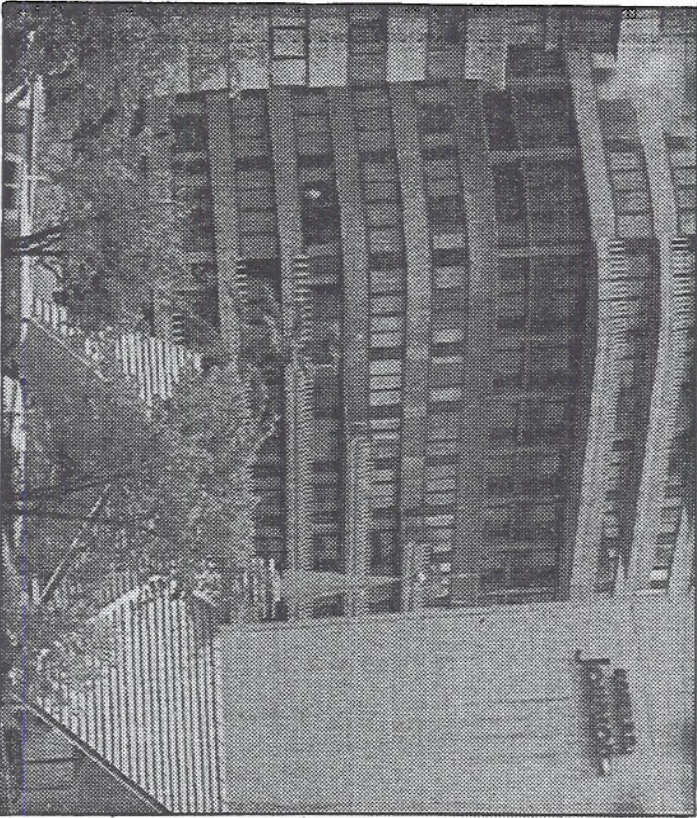
This is where one of the burglars, James W. McCord Jr.—who worked for the CRP—met three times with friend John J. Caulfield, who passed along a promise that McCord would be granted executive clemency if he took the fall along with the four other burglars.

### 7 Key Bridge Marriott parking lot, Rosslyn

In April 1972, before the break-in, White House aide Alexander Butterfield used this parking lot to give \$350,000 in cash (\$50 and \$100 bills) from a Nixon campaign "reserve fund" to Leonard Lilly, who was to make deliveries when directed.

### 1 Watergate complex, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW

Site of the June 17, 1972, break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee. Today, those offices have been subdivided and are occupied by a law firm, a nuclear energy marketing firm and three doctors. **Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, across from Watergate** in room 723, Alfred C. Baldwin was the lookout and ran a listening post during the break-in. Today, the hotel still gets many reservation requests for the "Watergate Room."



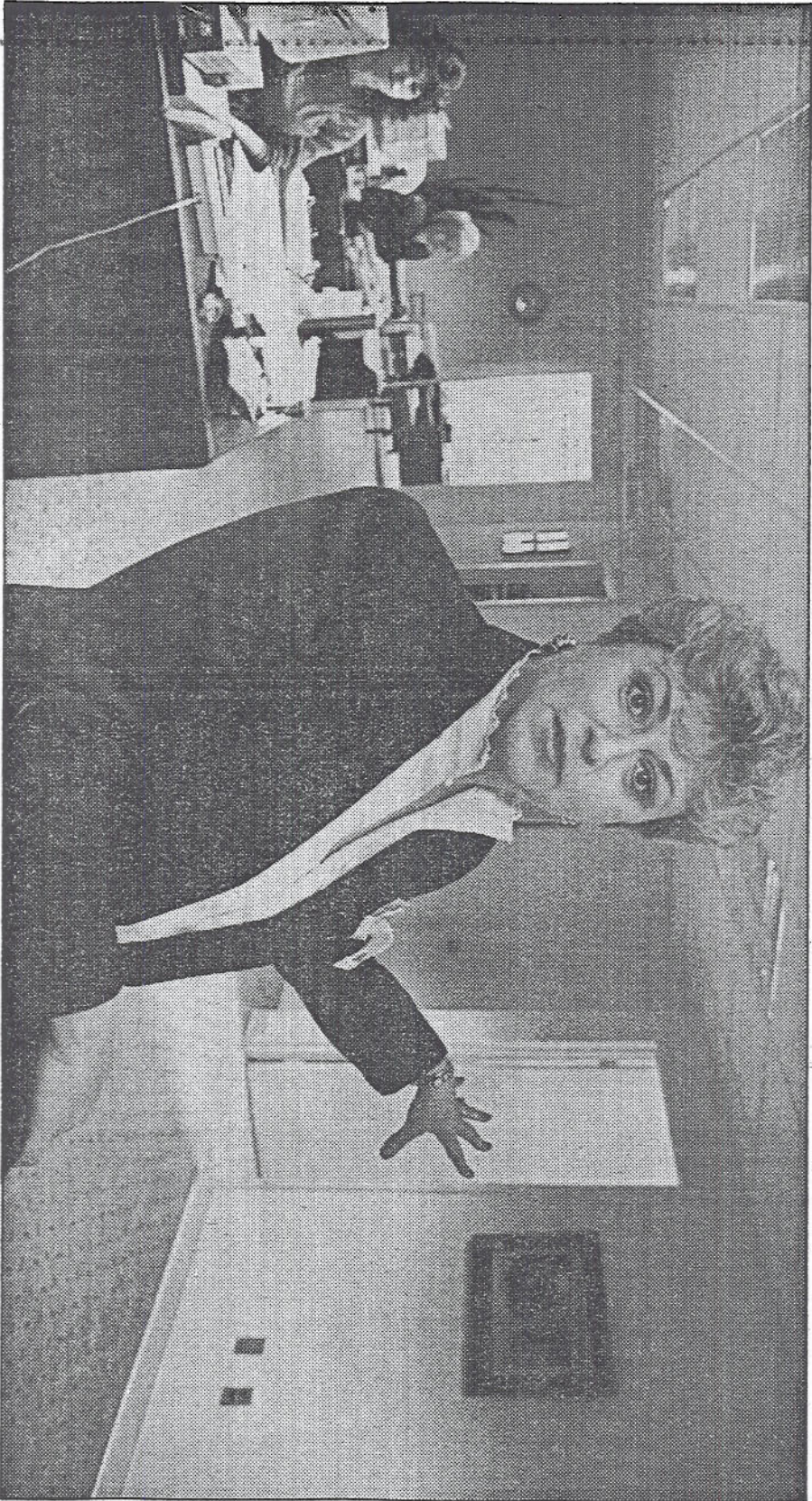
**Room 723 of this Howard Johnson Motor Lodge was the listening post for electronic bugs planted across the street in the Watergate office building.**

ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Cathy Woody's small house in Bethesda was once owned by bookkeeper Judy Hoback, who gave reporters and authorities some key early information.**

BY KETH JENKINS—THE WASHINGTON POST



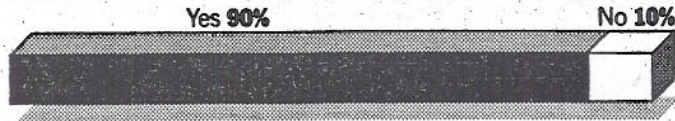
**Barbara Lantz shows where arrests were made in what is now Ureenco Inc.'s Watergate offices. The suite then was home to the Democratic National Committee.**

**BY CRAIG HERNDON—THE WASHINGTON POST**

## WATERGATE: 20 YEARS LATER

**T**wenty years after the burglary at the Watergate Hotel, a growing number of Americans believe that a Watergate-style scandal could easily occur again, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. The survey found that most adults recalled the Watergate affair, though a somewhat smaller majority of those younger than 25 had heard of it. Most still believe former president Richard Nixon was guilty of wrongdoing, though a growing majority also say what Nixon did in Watergate was no worse than what other presidents have done. Despite post-Watergate political reforms, few Americans believe government is more honest now than it was two decades ago. That cynicism toward politics remains one of Watergate's most enduring legacies, finding new voice this year in the outsider presidential campaign of Ross Perot and the growing call for an end to politics-as-usual.

**Q.** Have you ever read or heard anything about the Watergate affair, which occurred when Richard Nixon was president in the early 1970s?



■ The following questions were asked only of those who had read or heard about Watergate.

**Q.** I want to ask a few questions about Richard Nixon and the Watergate affair that started 20 years ago this June. First, do you think that Richard Nixon was guilty or innocent of wrongdoing in the Watergate affair?

	1992	1982
Guilty	78%	75%
Innocent	11	10
Don't know	11	15

**Q.** Which of these two statements do you tend to agree with more: a) Other presidents engaged in the same kind of activities that forced Nixon out of office, or b) What Nixon did in the Watergate affair and related matters was worse than what other presidents have done.

	1992	1982
Other presidents did the same	64%	50%
What Nixon did was worse	27	37
Don't know	9	13



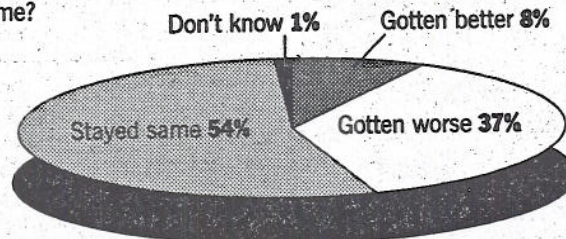
**Q.** How likely do you think it is that another Watergate-type scandal could happen in U.S. politics: very likely, somewhat likely or not likely at all?

	1992	1982
Very likely	50%	36%
Somewhat likely	38	39
Not likely at all	11	20
Don't know	1	5

**Q** ■ How important a role does Watergate play in government and public life today— very important, somewhat important, not important at all?

	1992	1979
Very important	29%	39%
Somewhat important	45	36
Not important	24	18
Don't know	2	7

**Q** ■ Since the Watergate affair, do you think the level of honesty and ethics in government has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?



Figures based on telephone interviews with 1,005 randomly selected adults, 916 of whom had heard or read of the Watergate affair. Margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points. Sampling error is, however, only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Interviewing was conducted June 3-7 by ICR Survey Research, Media, Pa.