

# Where the Rich Are Roughing It

By Maxine Cheshire

Vacationing in Maine, Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller were invited by Mrs. Vincent Astor to picnic with her last week at the rustic little Cranberry Club, where the rich have been roughing it since 1894.

Rockefeller was born in Maine and can see Great Cranberry Island, where the club is located, from his Seal Harbor estate. But he had never before visited the Cranberry Club, a ladies-only lodge so socially desirable that Mrs. Astor's friends claim she moved there from Bar Harbor in the summers just so she could belong.

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## VIP

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Members still abide by rules that were drawn up in the Gay '90s and are still conspicuously posted. They are admonished never to rearrange the furniture, and above all, never to leave crumbs behind.

Members bring their own food and must wash up after themselves. It was Happy Rockefeller who volunteered to do the dishes, while her husband took a nap on a pillowed bench.

He probably needed the nap. It is a three-mile hike each way from the boat dock where his yacht is tied up.

In the group, which lunched on fish chowder and vegetables grown in Mrs. Astor's own garden, was 16-year-old Melinda Murphy, one of Mrs. Rockefeller's four children from her former marriage.

There was a lot of picture-taking. Melinda, like Susan Ford, is into photojournalism. And, like Susan, who learned from David Hume Kennerly, she has been getting pointers from a Time Inc. photographer. Melinda's mentor is Art Schatz, who worked for Life and now works for People magazine. Schatz is also the Rockefeller's personal photographer and keeps a photo record of all their children, updated every couple of months.

## Potpourri

Julie Nixon Eisenhower is doing a pilot for a syndicated talk show that will be packaged by Warner Communications, the parent company of the Warner Paperback Library that is paying former President Richard M. Nixon \$2.5 million for his memoirs . . . Former Washington radio announcer Abby Kendrick Broadus, who served as Joan Little's press spokesman during her recent trial in Raleigh, N.C., has been looking at farm houses in this area. She told one prospective landlord last week that she plans to take two years to write a book about Miss Little's defense team . . . First Lady Betty Ford is supposed to attend the Dominican Republic Embassy's party here next week for designer Oscar de la Renta. The party is so important from a promotional standpoint that la Renta's wife, Francoise, will be attending even though they are separated. "We'll just get them separate hotel rooms," a Lord & Taylor spokesman said last week.

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