



Associated Press

A couple strolling on beach at the Nixon estate in San Clemente, Calif., now open, but not very accessible

# Coast Beach, Once Nixon's Alone, Now Open to Public

**SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 14**—Former President Richard M. Nixon has been taking drives every day this week to a heavily guarded and deserted beach at the Camp Pendleton marine base 13 miles south of his San Clemente estate, while the general public is being welcomed back to the beach that, at times, he alone had been permitted to use.

After five years of exclusion, surfers who regard the waves breaking off the point at the former President's estate as the best in the area are being allowed back on the beach.

That change came yesterday morning and now those of the general public willing to walk nearly a mile south from the San Clemente state beach are allowed on the 500-yard sand strip.

Under California law beaches are open to public use. But because President Nixon liked to walk on the beach, relaxing and thinking, his security officials overrode state law. The beaches were open when he was not at the former Western White House.

Now that Mr. Nixon is no longer President, his private beach has been opened to public surfing.

So far, the offer of an open beach has had few takers, however. Access is difficult, because entry to the south is forbidden across Marine and Coast Guard reservations.

To the north a private residential colony next to Mr. Nixon's estate is patrolled by armed guards. Farther up the coast, there is a state park where visitors can leave their cars and then walk along the full bed of the Santa Fe Tracks, which lead along the beach.

### No More Than a Dozen

City lifeguards, who now patrol the former Nixon beach, said late yesterday that no more than a dozen persons at a time had been seen using the beach. Most of them are surfers, said one lifeguard.

Mr. Nixon has used that strand only for heavily guarded walks on the sand. Because of the rough waves, he abandoned swimming there soon after purchasing the old estate from the heirs of a millionaire oilman.

Instead, he discovered the calmer conditions at a strand known as Red Beach to Marine and security personnel. The secluded strand well south of the Nixon enclave is frequently used by Marines for

war games. The public has never been allowed to see that beach.

During the years he was President, Mr. Nixon would travel to Red Beach by helicopter, but that perkquisite has disappeared with his Administration. He now travels to the beach by car.

The opening of his once-private beach is the latest in a series of obvious changes at the former Western White House since Mr. Nixon resigned.

### Copter Service Ended

Helicopter shuttle flights have ended completely, and the security squad, which once averaged 30 agents during the years of the Presidency, has been pared to a dozen. As to the city of 20,000 residents former President Mr. Nixon no longer has military helicopter service.

Coast Guard cutters that once maintained constant patrols of waters off shore from his estate were ordered taken

off the detail permanently as of last Monday morning.

Mr. Nixon, however, remains heavily guarded by the Secret Service, and tourists who still drive near the entrance gate to the estate and adjacent Coast Guard station for a glimpse of the Nixon property are ordered not to stop along the narrow access roads.

As for the people of San Clemente, little mention is made of the former President. The embarrassment of his resignation as a result of the Watergate cover-up scandal, however, is still being felt.

City officials have conceded reluctantly that souvenir hunters have already stolen every municipal sign that referred to the city as "the home of the Western White House."

The City Manager, Kenneth Carr, observed, "We had planned to remove them anyway, but patrols of waters off shore from his estate were ordered taken appropriate."