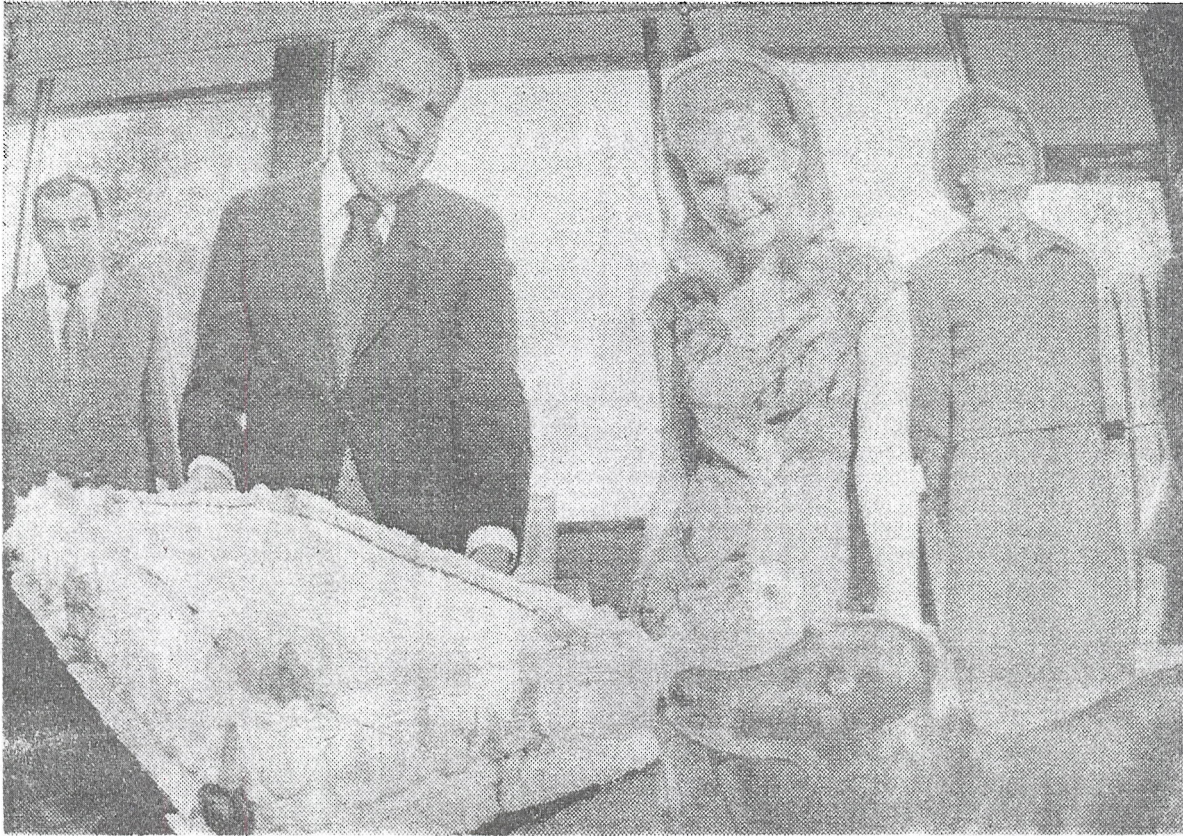


Dog Takes the Cake



AP Wirephoto

The Nixons and daughter Tricia had a laugh as King Timahoe nibbled on the President's cake

Nixon Celebrates 61st Birthday

San Clemente

President Nixon gave his Irish setter the first bite of his 61st birthday cake yesterday.

About 25 members of the President's staff came into his office here singing "Happy Birthday" and bearing a white cake with blue, red and yellow frosting.

Mr. Nixon was standing by his desk and he looked up and said, "I know that was spontaneous — no practice."

Also on hand for the festivities were Mr. Nixon's wife Pat, his daughter Tricia Cox, and his close friend Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

Mrs. Nixon recalled that the setter, King Timahoe, was given to the President as a birthday present from his staff five years ago.

"Hey, King," the President called to the dog, "Want a little lick?"

King came over and obediently began licking the red rose icing on a corner of the cake.

"Somebody likes it," press secretary Ronald Ziegler piped up.

In the celebration, Mr. Nixon rubbed up against the side of the cake and smeared his maroon sport jacket with the multicolored frosting. He tried to get King Timahoe to lick it off but that didn't work and a staff member brought him a towel to dab at it.

For the first time since Mr. Nixon arrived here December 26 for an extended Christmas and New Year

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AP Wirephoto

The Irish setter had another chance when Mr. Nixon got icing on his maroon sport coat.

BIRTHDAY

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Holiday, reporters and photographers were invited to his prefabricated office to witness the birthday celebration.

Mr. Nixon also told his staff good naturedly that he was going to give them a birthday present: "You can all take the next few days off — unless there is something essential."

"Go out and enjoy the sun, the swimming," he joked, pointing to the gray skies. It has been raining almost constantly since Mr. Nixon came here to escape the mid-winter dreariness of Washington.

His staff also gave the President 61 red roses and he distributed one to each woman in the room.

Later in the day, Mr. Nixon and his family slipped away and drove to Palm Springs, almost 100 miles away, to spend the night as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Annenberg, who had planned a birthday party at their estate. Annenberg is U.S. ambassador to Britain.

On the way, the President's party stopped off in Yorba Linda to visit Mr. Nixon's birthplace. For lunch, they drove into a McDonald's hamburger outlet for hamburgers, french fries and milk shakes.

Mr. Nixon's aides, who stayed behind, said that during the day many hundreds of telephone calls, cards and letters wishing him a happy birthday came in from all over the country.

Reuters & U.P.