

Kansas City Dazzles ^{W76} the Chic

NYTimes

AUG 15 1976

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Special to The New York Times

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 15—The resident diamond brigade spent the weekend before the Republican National Convention upgading the visiting metropolitan sophisticates' image of Kansas City, and they seem to have succeeded. Jerry Zipkin was happily surprised. Betsy Bloomingdale was impressed and Barbara Walters was downright dazzled.

"I wasn't sure what I was getting into," said Mr. Zipkin, the New York real estate heir. "I've been up at the Olympics with the (Mick) Jagers and out in Beverly Hills with Ronnie and Nancy (Reagan) just oozing charm out of every pore. I brought some cheese and that nice pita bread just in case."

With a dinner nearly every night of the convention, a secret list of the best fried chicken and barbecue places and a refrigerator in his hotel room for midnight snacks, Mr. Zipkin thought maybe he would survive.

"It's really quite civilized here," he said. "I'm sure I'm going to have a good time."

Miss Walters and such of her luminaries as Senator Howard . Baker Jr. of Tennessee, Secretary of Labor William J. Usery and Theodore H. White, the author, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles . Price 2d.

Mr. Price is chairman of the Price Candy Company and the American Bank and Trust. His wife is a Swanson frozen foods heiress and a fashion plate. And their spacious apartment with its twin terraces, its gigantic orchid trees and its exceptional coromandel screen was the setting for a buffet super that lasted all evening.

"It's not at all what we expected," Miss Walters said after the party and a tour of the rich suburbs. "We New Yorkers think we know everything. Well, we could learn from them."

AT the Country Club

At the Oakwood Country Club, Mr. and Mrs. Allen J. Block's dinner was for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bloomingdale. Mr. Bloomingdale is the Diners Club executive and a Reagan delegate from California. He and Mr. Block are joint investors in a real estate venture.

"We came here expecting six or eight for dinner," Mr. Bloomingdale said. "We had no idea there would be anything like this thing."

Anything like this thing was a formal dinner for nearly 60 people with ice sculpture holding up the shrimp, honey-fried chicken, chocolate souffle, matchbooks with "Alfred and Betsy" printed on them and

a pianist playing background music.

"We do things like this all the time," said Alfred Lipton, a member of the Woolf Brothers retailing family.

"Although I must say there are just too damn many invitations."

While Mr. Lipton tried to remember which of today's three country club luncheons for dignitaries he was supposed to attend, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rich were entertaining David and Susan Brinkley at a sitdown barbecue at tables set up on their rolling lawn. A Dixieland band in blue pants, white shirts and straw boaters played beside the terrace.

Rabbi Korff Entertained

R. Hugh (Pat) Uhlmann, the milling entrepreneur, gave his party for Rabbi Baruch Korff, the loyal supporter of former President Nixon. But he was nervous about it.

"I have never met the man," Mr. Uhlmann said.

"I'm doing this because he is here, he has a following and we want everybody to feel right at home."

Gov. Christopher S. Bond of Missouri served as host at a giant reception this evening among the Oriental treasureers at the Nelson Art Gallery. William E. Buckley Jr. had not claimed his reservations at both the Raphael and Radisson Muehlebach hotels.

And on it went through today with parties everywhere, limousines cluttering up Kansas City's usually quiet streets and lobbies jammed with ordinary citizens hoping to catch a glimpse of President Ford.

Hairdressers said bookings were much better than when the 30,000 Shriners were in town last month. The Samantha Woodward shop sold three evening dresses to women who had thought the city was an informal place. And the best rumor of the day was that John Wayne was either in town or about to arrive.