

The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Get Well Cards and Letters (1974)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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October 25, 1974

Dear Dick:

Thanks so much for the book "The Prophet" you sent to me during my hospital stay. I really felt bad making all of you stay at Bethesda just because I had to get sick. I hope we can all be out in the fresh air and doing lots of things in the very near future.

It was a real comfort knowing that you were there at the hospital if I needed something.

The President joins me in sending warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

Mr. W. Richard Hartwig
6580 Yaddin Court
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

BF:NMH:ncc



Ni!
This book is one of
my favorites. If
you haven't yet read
it, be my guest.

Chip, John, Franz +
my thoughts are with
you.

Dick
Hartwick

How do you like
my (stolen + borrowed)
wrapping materials?

The Prophet
Kahlil Gibran



November 4, 1974

Dear Howard,

Thank you ever so much for the book which you sent to the hospital. It was so sweet of you and Patricia to think of me. All of the prayers and kind remembrances during my stay in the hospital has made this experience much easier for me.

Although I am looking forward to resuming a full, active schedule soon, it is great to have time to curl up and enjoy a good book occasionally.

Jerry and I appreciate your concern and send our very best to you and your family.

Fondly,

Commander Howard J. Kerr
1820 St. Roman Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22180

NMH/cp



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Ford -

When Patricia and
I saw your picture in
the paper this morning
we felt good all over.
You looked so wonderful.

Come home soon - we
all miss you.

Our prayers and love
have been with you all
week.

Howard



H. KERR
THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Mrs. Ford

October 17, 1974

Dear Friends:

How very kind you were to send your thoughtful message of encouragement and good wishes during my recent stay at the hospital.

I have been feeling better every day, and all of the remembrances by so many wonderful people have given me a real lift as well as the spirit and determination to recover rapidly from the surgery which I unfortunately had to undergo.

The President joins with me in thanking you for your friendship, compassionate concern and prayers. We are also very grateful for all of your help in thanking our dear friends for their flowers and kind remembrances.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

The Gift Unit
Executive Office Building
Room 484

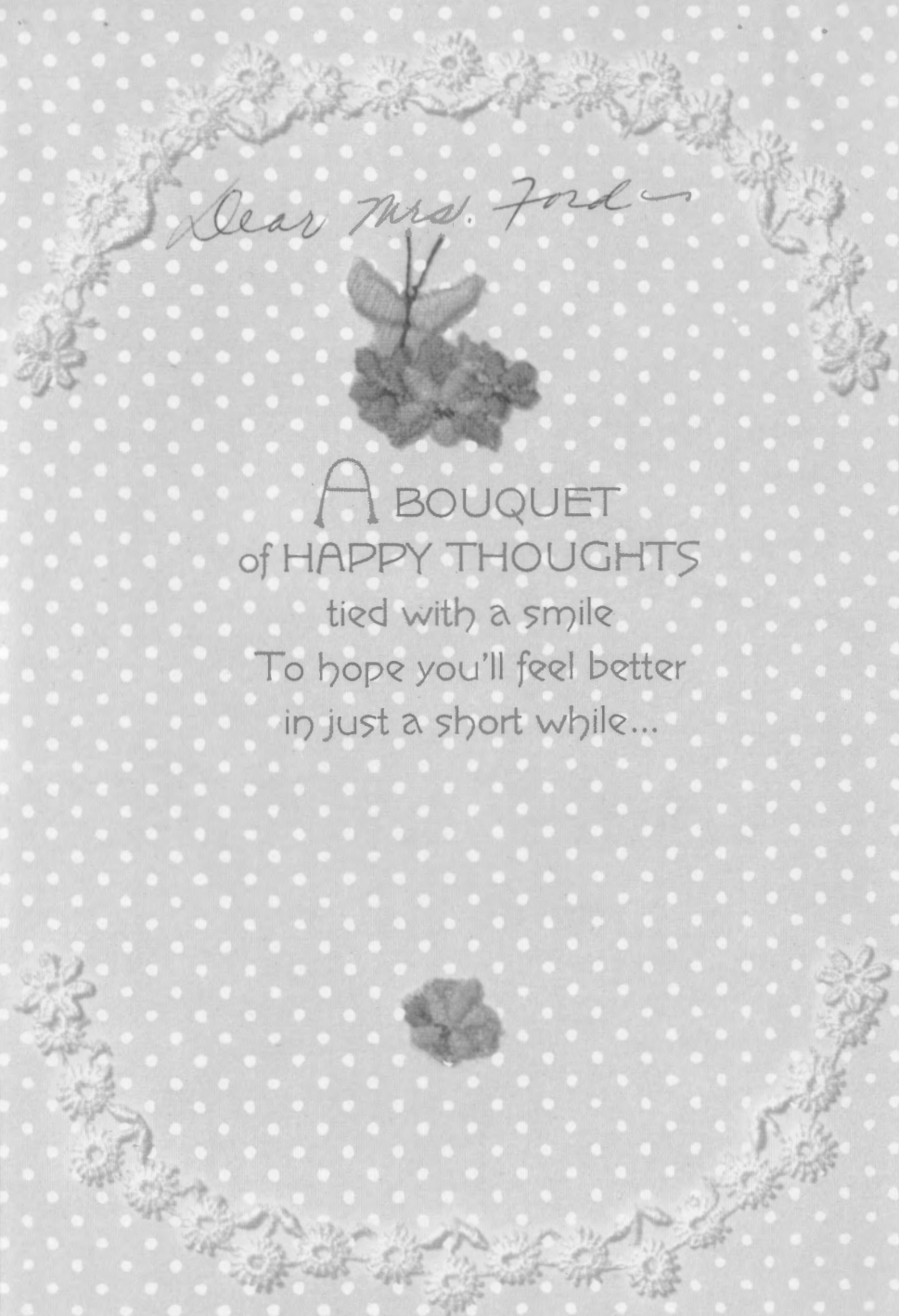
NMH/cp



ESPECIALLY FOR YOU
Special Get-Well Wishes



A BASKET of CHEER
that's coming your way
To lighten your heart
and brighten your day...



Dear Mrs. Ford

A BOUQUET
of HAPPY THOUGHTS
tied with a smile
To hope you'll feel better
in just a short while...



A BOX
of GOOD WISHES
to hope you'll soon be
Well on the road
to recovery...





You are in our
thoughts and prayers.

Here is a clipping
vacationing Marie Hallion
sent from Amsterdam.

A BOWL
full of HAPPINESS
for the day when
You're feeling
completely well again!

HOPE IT'S SOON!

The Gift Unit
Marge Wickless
Deanie Arrington
Jan Holtgrave
Marie Hallion
Charles Free
Dorothy Knott
Rose Todice
Marge Wellcome

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October 17, 1974

Dear Friends:

How very kind you were to send your thoughtful message of encouragement and good wishes during my recent stay at the hospital.

I have been feeling better every day, and all of the remembrances by so many wonderful people have given me a real lift as well as the spirit and determination to recover rapidly.

The President joins with me in thanking you for your friendship, compassionate concern and prayers. We are also very grateful for all of your help in thanking the many wonderful people who called during my illness. You are just great.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

White House Telephone Operators
Executive Office Building
Room 09



Dear Mrs. Ford,
while you're
not feeling well...



... special thoughts
are there with you.

your friends
The
White House
Telephone Operators

PARACHROME
images



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr President

My Thoughts and prayers
have been with you & Mrs Ford.

I know that your faith in
God will strengthen your
courage during this difficult
Time.


I have asked The Lord to
Bless you both —

Frank Ryan



Don't get too comfy...





...We want you out soon!

Always,
All of us

The remainder of our collection
will be sent to the
American Cancer Society

a
Norcross
Informal Card
®





Get Well Soon

Missing you and hoping
you know how much
we're thinking of you.
We're tired of reading
about you in the papers -
we want you back
here with us in person.

Patti Matson



Pawprints

HANCOCK, N.H.



Mrs Ford -

my crazy
mother - thought
you might
enjoy.

Patti



Patti Matson



—World-Herald Photo by Rudy Smith.

Andrea Stranglen, 5511 South 105th Street, and Steve Rosenberg, 3122 Woolworth Avenue . . . look at site.

'They're Nutty'

'Who Looks at a Vacant Lot?'

By John Taylor

That's the way it is — you get a new President and right away his birthplace becomes a tourist attraction.

J. H. Rosenberg, who lives at 3122 Woolworth Avenue, just across the street from the birthplace of President Ford, said Friday he has already noticed some strange things happening in the neighborhood.

"They are nutty, said Rosenberg, a resident of the area for 20 years. "A party from Virginia visiting in the neighborhood drove up, dug up some dirt and took it with them."

Vacant Lot

President Ford's birthplace now is nothing but a vacant lot. The old three-story apartment building where he was born was torn down following a fire several years ago.

The lot now has nothing but waist-high weeds and some steps leading from the sidewalk

— and a home-made sign that proclaims: "Birthplace of Pres. Ford."

Rosenberg said that two men and two women drove up to the lot Friday and put the sign on the east side of the lot. He said he doesn't know who the people

were. Later, someone moved the sign to the south side of the lot.

Posing

Now, he said, people not only are driving past to look, but some are stopping and posing for pictures behind the sign.

"Four women drove up in a car and first one and then the other would stand behind the sign," he said. Some persons pose their children behind the sign.

"I don't understand it," he said. "There's nothing there but a vacant lot. They ought to get Ford back here again. Maybe they would clean it up."

Patti -

I thought you
might enjoy this
clipping & picture

The four women
were, naturally, Carolyn,
me, Mrs. Ickowitz &
her sister visiting from
~~2~~ Vienna.

Love
Mom



This was in the paper the
day after Ford was inaugurated.

SMILE!





It makes
the nurses wonder
what you're up to!


GET WELL SOON!

Love,
Susan



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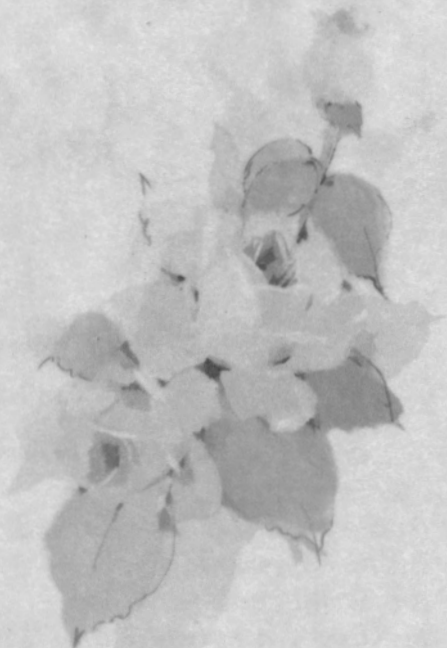
May You
Soon Be Well

THINK HAPPINESS

by Lucille Boesken

Think of the wonderful blessings
you've had
And not of the ones denied
Think of your reasons
for being glad—
Look on the sunny side...





Think of the days of pleasure
and health
And not of the moments of pain
Think of the times when the
sun was shining
Not when the clouds held rain
Think of the dreams that lie
before you —
The joys that will come by and by
Think "happiness" only and soon
you will see
That the sun has returned to the sky

Thoughts and prayers are with you

Every hour of the day —

And they will be — till you're comfortable

And well again to stay!

The Men and Women
of the
Presidential Protective
Division,
U.S. Secret Service
"Your Agents"



American Greetings®

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1974

Dear Mrs. Ford:

At Christ Episcopal Church in Rockville, Maryland our Intercessors pray around the clock for you and special prayers, are said at all services. We pray that each day will be better for you than the one just past.

In my own regular thirty prayer minutes each day, I too ask for all of the best for you. Perhaps the following prayer poem will illustrate my feelings for you and your recovery:

My eyes, I raise petitioning Lord,
That Thou will bless, dear Betty Ford.
Bring her to health and make her whole,
Assist her doctors in their goal.

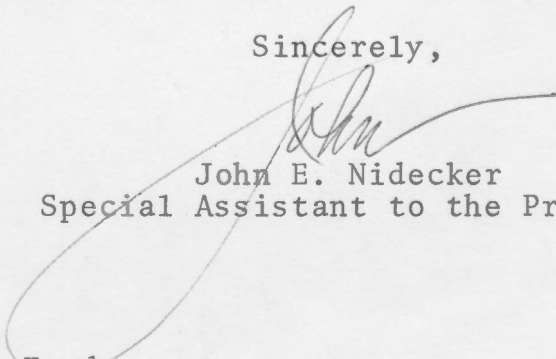
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To us, dear Lord, she is beloved,
All others in our land, above.
We, many times, throughout each day,
Stop and for her cure we pray.

- 0 -

Now, Lord, I beg that soon she'll be,
From all her ailments truly free.
For these gifts, Lord, my thanks I make,
And pray this, Lord, for Betty's sake.

Sincerely,



John E. Nidecker
Special Assistant to the President

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
Bethesda Naval Medical Center
Washington, D.C.