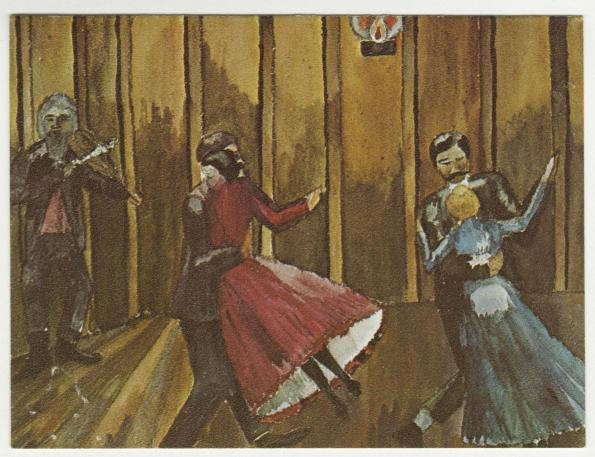
The original documents are located in Box C2, folder "Hansen, Julia Butler" of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Min Mr. President Same 11-29 Decause the enclosed Clipping reflects my feeling of gratitule, too, I am

of sending it along face you, too. wisher for the future and my dispert and Sinceret appreciation for your many Cauteries during my service in The Hause, 2 am, Most siverely Cathlanet, Washington november 25, 1976

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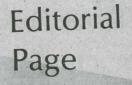
Watercolor by Maude Kimball Butler — A pioneer primitive from her recollection of the Lower Columbia River in the 1880's and 1890's.

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Debt of gratitude

THE FOCUS of the nation's attention these days is in Jimmy Carter and the administration he is beginning to put together, which is as it should be. He will lead the country for the next four years.

Pardon us, however, for taking a bit of time and space to say Jerry Ford deserves a heartfelt thank-you from every American for bringing the country through one of its most difficult periods of crisis.

Mr. Ford pulled the country together, got a rocky economy moving again and put both a painful war and a painful scandal behind us. He came to the presidency under the worst of circumstances and demonstrated that honesty and decency were qualities which still can be found in national leaders.

If he wasn't brilliant and inspiring, he was solid and reliable at a time when that is what the country needed.

America owes Jerry Ford a debt of gratitude for what he has done and how he did it. No one should begrudge him whatever benefits retired presidents receive—he has earned them all and the thanks of 220 million persons as well.

