

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “1976/04/21 - Gladys City Park, Beaumont, Texas” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Gladys City, Wednesday, April 21, 1976

What an honor ^{it is} to become a citizen of Beaumont---a city with people of such great imagination and pride in the past. It seems so much like what I've heard about Texas and Texans---that you built a whole town to celebrate the Bicentennial.

What a town! And what a Bicentennial gift to the Nation! Everyone---young and old---will be entranced by Gladys City, because it really is fun to relive such an exciting time. America loves the West---memories of the cowboy and the "boom town" are favorites in our folklore *and many our works of art-*

But Gladys City is more than a place to let the imagination wander. As I walked down these streets, I thought about the contrast between life at the turn of the century and today. We've made such tremendous progress. *And the development of the oil industry has played a major role in this progress* ~~The Lucas gusher and the flow of oil has changed the way we live.~~

Gladys City brings to life a time of great adventure and reminds us to seize the opportunities of our day.

On behalf of the Nation, thank you for a very exciting birthday present. I'll always be proud to be a citizen of Beaumont---a "boom town" grown into a dynamic city.

MRS FORD'S REMARKS

GLADYS CITY

April 21, 1976

WHAT AN HONOR IT IS

I.

TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF BEAUMONT---

A CITY WITH PEOPLE

OF SUCH GREAT IMAGINATION AND PRIDE

IN THE PAST.

IT SEEMS SO MUCH

2.

LIKE WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT TEXAS AND TEXANS---

THAT YOU BUILT A WHOLE TOWN

TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL.

WHAT A TOWN!

3.

AND WHAT A BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO THE NATION!

EVERYONE---YOUNG AND OLD---

WILL BE ENTRANCED BY GLADYS CITY.

BECAUSE IT REALLY IS FUN

TO RELIVE SUCH AN EXCITING TIME.

AMERICA LOVES THE WEST---

4.

MEMORIES OF THE COWBOY AND THE "BOOM TOWN"
ARE FAVORITES IN OUR FOLKLORE
AND MANY OF OUR WORKS OF ART.

BUT GLADYS CITY IS MORE THAN A PLACE

5.

TO LET THE IMAGINATION WANDER.

AS I WALKED DOWN THESE STREETS,

I THOUGHT ABOUT THE CONTRAST

BETWEEN LIFE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

AND TODAY.

WE'VE MADE SUCH TREMENDOUS PROGRESS,
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OIL INDUSTRY
HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE
IN THIS PROGRESS.

6.

GLADYS CITY BRINGS TO LIFE
A TIME OF GREAT ADVENTURE
AND REMINDS US
TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR DAY.

7.

ON BEHALF OF ~~THE~~ NATION

OUR

Bicentennial

8.

THANK YOU FOR A VERY EXCITING BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

I'LL ALWAYS BE PROUD

TO BE A CITIZEN OF BEAUMONT---

A "BOOM TOWN" GROWN INTO A DYNAMIC CITY.

#

Gladys City, Wednesday, April 21, 1976

I am so delighted to become an honorary citizen of Beaumont.

strong
The people of this city must be full of imagination and pride in the past to build a town to celebrate the Bicentennial. *It seems so much like what I've heard about Texas*

What a town a Bic. gift to the
What a ~~wonderful~~ birthday present Gladys City is for the

All Everyone
Nation! ~~I'm sure many Americans~~---young and old---will be charmed

by Gladys City because it is really an
as I have been today, with this excursion into the past. America

loves the West---the memory of the cowboy and the boom town are part of our folklore.

Gladys City is more than a place to let our imaginations

wander. (This town also shows what tremendous progress we have

made in this century.) *As it was* We can walk down these streets and see the contrast between life at the turn of the century and today. *I thought*

about how The Lucas gusher *helped* launched the oil industry, and *oil* (the development of this vital industry) has changed the way we live.

from the Gladys City symbolizes one of the many exciting moments *brings to life a very* of our past and *symbolizes* reminds us of the opportunities and challenges of the present.

On behalf of the Nation, thank you for an exciting birth-
day present. I'll always be proud to be a citizen of Beaumont---
a "boom town" grown into a proud and vital city. *a very*

Gladys City---April 21, 1976 Wednesday

What a wonderful birthday present!

Gladys City really is a splendid way to celebrate the Bicentennial, and I'm sure many people from this Nation and others will be intrigued to visit a frontier boom town.

I really can imagine the excitement and the ~~xx~~ hardships of ~~those~~ those days from visiting today, ~~and~~ ~~how~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ Our long National fascination with the frontier makes this town seem like a part of our memories. the movies...and the books..

10 San Antonio

Fabulous time
thanks to volunteers

Gladys City, Wednesday, April 21, 1976

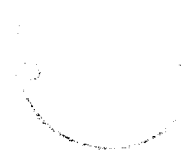
I am so delighted to become an honorary citizen of
Beaumont, ~~which has chosen such a special way to celebrate the~~
which has chosen such a special way to celebrate the
Bicentennial.

What a wonderful birthday present Gladys City is
for the Nation! ~~the West---the~~
America loves ~~the West---the~~ the West---the
memory of the cowboy and the boom town are a part of our
beloved folklore. ~~the West---the~~ Gladys City
will charm many Americans---young and ~~old~~ old---just
as I have been with my excursion
~~into the past.~~ into the past.

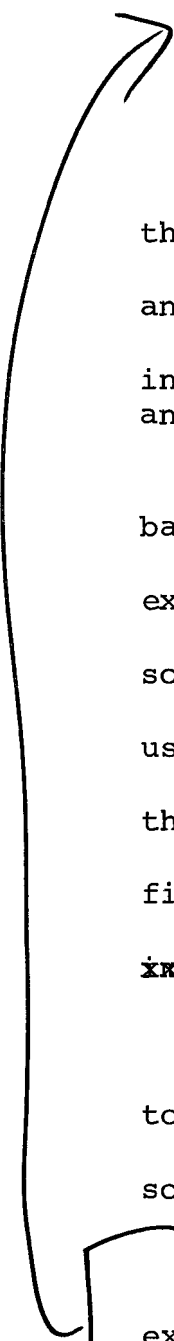
Gladys City also reminds us of the tremendous progress
we have made in this century. We can walk down these
streets and see the contrast between life at the turn of
the century and today.

In this very special year, we should look closely at
~~the~~
past to help us appreciate ~~the~~ the ~~opportunities~~ opportunities and challenges
of our own time ~~in~~ in history.

~~Gladys City will be a part of our history.~~



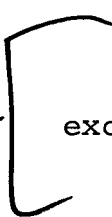
In this Bicentennial year, we should look closely
at our past to help us appreciate the opportunities and
challenges of the present. America's past ~~is~~ was filled with
exciting moments, like the ~~exciting moments of the~~
one Gladys City symbolizes, but ~~the~~
~~exciting moments of the~~



I think you've chosen a splendid way to celebrate the Bicentennial Year by reconstructing an important and exciting moment in the history of Beaumont and in the history of America. I know many people from this nation and others will be fascinated with Gladys City.

This will be a place where visitors can put themselves back into another era and imagine the hardships and the excitement of ~~theixxfaxe~~ our ancestors. I think there's something else very important Gladys City illustrates for us---and that is the tremendous progress we've made in this century. The wonders of technology are so at our fingertips---it's easy to forget how much technology has ~~xmpe~~ improved our ~~x~~ lives.

~~We~~ When we look closely at the past, we can learn to appreciate and use the present so that we too may someday inspire future Americans.



~~Happy~~ On behalf of the Nation...thank you for an exciting birthday present.

Gladys City---Replica Boom Town

~~XX~~

I think it's great fun to step back into history and imagine what it might have been like to have lived in a different era. ~~This~~ What a ~~day~~ dynamic period ~~and~~ Gladys City represents in our history. The adventurers who ~~was~~ smelled excitement and came to towns like this one are the kind of people we admire in America. The spirit, the enthusiasm and the drive are still here in Texas today. I'm just having a marvelous time in your state, and ~~xxxx~~ all of your spirit is contagious.