The original documents are located in Box 6, folder "7/14/75 - President's Birthday Party" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

Audiovisual Unit

Book Collection

____ Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: 18"×10" B: WS & Photographs of GRF at private birthday 28"×10 Color & party m 7/14/75

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The item was transferred from: Weidenfeld Bro 6 7/14/75 GRF Bday

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<u>BETTY BEALE</u> A Leafy Light For Ford's Birthday

What do you give a President of the United States for his birthday? That question confronted for the first time the coterie of Jerry Ford's close friends who were invited to Betty Ford's party for him last Monday and have been celebrating with him every year.

him last Monday and have been celebrating with him every year. What do you give a man who suddenly has airplanes, helicopters, tennis court, swimming pool, a mansion full of authentic antiques, supurb chefs to supply mouth-watering edibles, a fleet of cars, a yacht, all the golf clubs a fellow could want, at least a half dozen blazers, etc.? For the nation's No. 1, selecting something to use or amuse can be a real strain on the brain.

PRESIDENT FORD, HOWEVER, found some surprises awaiting him when he showed up an hour late for his birthday dinner. He thought the big staff party that afternoon had replaced the annual dinner so when that was over he went for an unhurried swim. When he joined the First Lady at 7:30 everybody had been there an hour with their presents, one of which had a hard time getting by the electronic scanner at the Southwest Gate.

presents, one of which had a hard time getting by the electronic scanner at the Southwest Gate. The Perkins McGuires, who were in Spain, had sent, via the Bill Whytes, a putter with a gold foot for the putting face from Neiman Marcus (for the man who has everything but still can't kick his ball to a better lie) but the package was too long to fit into the scanner and required some inspecting. The Whytes' set of Burning Tree Club buttons for one of Ford's numerous blazers was no problem.

lem. When the President opened all the gifts before supper, he found: bright red swimming trunks embroidered with the presidential seal from Rod Markley; a green stone poolside frog from the Clark MacGregors; a massage shower head from the John Byrneses; a fine sand wedge from Sen. Bob Griffin who had no trouble at the gate ("Obviously senators are trusted more than others," observed Peggy Whyte dryly) and attached to the club were a compass, a wrist scorer, a leveler and five other golf aids; and three things from Rep. and Mrs. John Jarman — a silver dollar money clip minted in 1913, the year of Ford's birth; a golf shirt printed all over with his age, 62, and with his early. nickname, "Junie," in block letters on the back, and, best of all, a laughing machine, one of those boxes that produces so much laughter it's contagious. Next to an upheld veto, that's about the most beneficial present a president could get.

See BIRT HDAY, Page 5

Ford to Celebrate Birthday Monday by Helen Thomas (Excerpted from UPI)

President Ford celebrates his 62nd birthday Monday and says he thinks the Presidency has "made me more youthful." Not everyone would agree. Some White House aides believes he has aged a bit under the demanding pace of the Presidency.

When asked how they would celebrate, First Lady Betty Ford told reporters "it's a surprise." Mrs. Ford says the only change she has seen in her husband is that "he works harder -- if that is possible." (7/13/75)

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(FORD BIRTHDAY)

(BY HELEN THOMAS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A NAVY SOUL BAND PLAYED "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" IN A ROCK AND ROLL TEMPO, COMEDIAN FLIP WILSON RATTLED OFF PLAYBOY-STYLE JOKES AND BETTY FORD GAVE THE PRESIDENT A BIG KISS ON THE CHEEK IN A CELEBRATION OF HIS 62ND BIRTHDAY TODAY.

"IT'S THE NICEST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION I EVER HAD," FORD TOLD THE BLACK COMEDIAN, WITH A BIG SMILE, BEFORE LEAVING FOR HIS SECOND BIRTHDAY EVENT, AN EVENING CRUISE ON THE POTOMAC ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL YACHT SEQUOIA.

SOME 200 WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS AND EMPLOYES IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING NEXT DOOR POURED OUT OF THEIR OFFICES AND GATHERED IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY.

"I WAS SURPRISED," FORD TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARD. THEN HE QUIPPED, "WHO'S KEEPING THE STORE?" WILSON, PORTRAYING HIS FEMALE CHARACTER "GERALDINE", GAVE REPORTERS A HUMOROUS REPRISE OF A MEDICAL REPORT ON FORD THAT PRESS

SECRETARY RON NESSEN HAD GIVEN EARLIER IN THE DAY. DRESSED AS A NURSE, WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL EMBLAZONED ON THE BODICE AND SLOGANS READING "GO NAVY" NEAR THE HEMLINE, WILSON CALLED FORD "THE MAIN MAN" AND MRS. FORD "FIRST MAMA".

WHEN WILSON READ THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE "PHYSICALLY FIT," HE SAID WITH A LEER "OF COURSE, MAMA COULD HAVE TOLD US THAT." WILSON OPENED HIS REMARKS WITH A "HOW YOU DOING, TIGER" TO THE PRESIDENT.

WILSON SAID HE WANTED TO REVEAL WHAT FORD HAD SAID DURING HIS MEDICAL EXAMINATION BUT THAT HE "JUST KEPT MUMBLING". HE GOT A LOT OF LAUGHS WHEN HE REFERRED TO FORD'S "TRICK KNEE"

AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF THE PRESIDENT'S STUMBLING ON THE STEPS OF AIR FORCE ONE BY INSTALLING AN ESCALATOR. WILSON THEN TURNED SERIOUS, SAYING FORD "MAY NOT HAVE THE RING OF

A GREAT ORATOR, BUT HE HAS THE RING OF TRUTH." THE PARTY BEGAN WITH ROCK AND ROLL DANCING BY THE YOUNGER SET. JACK FORD, 23, THE PRESIDENT'S SON COMMENTED: "IT DOES SOMETHING FOR THE STATELY ATMOSPHERE."

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62-Like 40-A Good Year for a Ford

L.A. Times . July 15, 1975

-I feel about 40," said **President Ford** as a Navy soul band played "Happy Birthday" with a rock 'n' roll beat. Betty Ford gave him a big kiss on the cheek and Flip Wilson's Geraldine got cheeky with him on his 62nd birthday. About 200 White House staffers deserted their offices and poured into the East Room for the birthday party.

Newsmakers-