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4 Aug. 6 '75

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AUGUST

Betty Confides: Ford Try in '76 Given My Okay

Washington, Aug. 5 (News Bureau)—First lady Betty Ford, declaring that she “feels at home in the White House,” says that her husband would not be running for election next year “unless I wanted him to.”

Mrs. Ford, in a chipper mood and looking rested despite the



Washington Star Photographer Ray Lustig

The Betty Ford laugh.

Washington Star 8/14/75

Coping in the White House

By Frances Lewine
Associated Press

Betty Ford says she has found excitement and self-confidence in her first year in the White House, even though it was marked by illness and occasional loneliness.

She's ready to campaign for her husband's election in 1976 by traveling with him as much as possible. And she looks forward to continuing to do things "that interest me and that I've been involved in."

The First Lady points out those things include continuing to push for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, expressing interest in the performing arts and in handicapped and retarded people.

FROM BEING "scared to death" at

the prospect of moving into the White House when her husband suddenly became President in August 1974, Mrs. Ford has come to grips with life in the 132-room, 18-acre executive mansion.

Responding to questions as the August anniversary date approached, Mrs. Ford told The Associated Press:

"I had no idea when we came a year ago how many responsibilities there would be and decisions to be made as First Lady. I found that it was practically a 7-day-week, 24-hour-a-day job."

From entertaining a dozen heads of state to answering an average of 2,000 letters a week, Mrs. Ford has been coping with that job.

"Gradually, I've gained more confidence in my ability to handle situations," she added.

AND, AS A political wife for more than a quarter-century whose husband has worked long hours and been absent on frequent political campaigns, she has found:

"The White House has given me more time to spend with my husband."

The Fords have established a relaxed family life in the White House, with pet cat "Shan," and a new Golden Retriever dog "Liberty," whom they expect to have some puppies soon.

They enjoy dancing and official social life, often lingering at White House parties, dancing cheek to cheek.

During this past year, the President and his wife have passed some family

See BETTY, C-5

Being First Lady Is 'Practically a 24-Hour-a-Day Job'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (AP) — Betty Ford says that her first year in the White House has been exciting, even though it was marked by illness and occasional loneliness, and that she has gained confidence in her ability to meet the demands of being the President's wife.

She is ready to campaign for her husband's election

From being "scared to death" at the prospect of moving into the White House when her husband suddenly became president Aug. 9, 1974, Mrs. Ford has come to grips with the new demands in her life.

Responding to questions as the first anniversary approached, Mrs. Ford said:

confidence in my ability to handle situations."

During this past year the Fords have passed some family milestones, too. Their daughter, Susan, turned 18 and graduated from high school, and their son Jack, 23, completed his four years as a forestry major at Utah

my cancer operation. I really had to pull them through. I had to make them happy because they were so sad and upset."

Following that surgery for breast cancer last September, Mrs. Ford kept her own spirits up as well as the family's, and her doctors say there is no sign of recurrence.

Illness kept the 57-year-old

avoid jostling that might cause a flareup of her neck and back pains.

Although she was unable to travel with Mr. Ford to Japan and Martinique last winter because of illness, in the spring she did go with him to Europe.

Mrs. Ford also joined the President at the 35-nation summit conference in Helsin-

family was behind him the decision to run in 1976.

He told a recent news conference that Mrs. Ford has been "an effective spokesman" for the Equal Rights Amendment to end sex discrimination and, "come next year, I suspect, she can speak for both of us."

Mrs. Ford prides herself on having influenced her



Associated Press

Betty Ford: One year in the White House.

Little Dropping By

Mrs. Ford says that the first year in the White House has "all been exciting—every day."

"Every convenience is provided by a very excellent staff," but she notes that friends just can't come and go as they could in Alexandria. "At times it is lonely and you can feel isolated."

Mrs. Ford says that her responsibilities are confining, too. "Here we are with the Kennedy Center five minutes away, yet we have very little time and I haven't been able to get there."

When asked about her most difficult moments in the past year, Mrs. Ford promptly responded: "Trying to pull my family through

So though a black and red felt jacket fastening with bows down the front bears a modest (\$36) price tag, a customer could spend as much as \$400 for an Italian suede jacket.

The felt number is made specially for the store, as are shirts in antique silk prints (\$48) that team up with heathery tweed skirts from Italy (\$60). Add a leather-trimmed cinch belt (\$24 to \$28) to complete the look. The Basque beret takes on a new dimension here with handpainted butterflies or flowers done by a neighborhood artist (\$17). Matching chiffon scarves are \$10 each.

The ubiquitous cotton T-shirt shows up in fall shades like rust, pewter, sea foam and deep rose with long sleeves and self-color lion appliqué (\$20), a basic turtleneck sweater of nylon and wool comes in a choice of 25 collars and there's a whole wall of bright cotton and silk squares.

The shop carries sizes 4 to 14, is open 9:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M., Monday through

They started out carrying only items they themselves liked, but soon found that their taste didn't necessarily coincide with that of their customers. To their surprise the asparagus and lemon boxes (\$39 and \$22, respectively) proved best sellers in the line of Hungarian Herend porcelain they stock. People, it seems, collect vegetables and fruit.

They collect baskets, too, so stock in that area was quickly augmented and the partners found themselves selecting papier maché boxes from Kashmir simply because the design incorporated frogs, another collectible.

The Townhouse Collection also has such things as animal planters of polyester resin painted to resemble terra cotta, Stuart and Tudor style crystal from England and some hand-blown glassware. Prices generally range from \$3 for tiny individual enamel-on-copper ashtrays to \$175 for hand-painted tole lamps.

Hours are 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily except Sunday.

She puts in seven-day week—

First Lady adjusting

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She's ready to campaign for her husband's election in 1976 by traveling with him as much as possible. And she looks forward to continuing to do things that interest me and that I've been doing.

The First Lady points out those things include continuing to push for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, expressing interest in the per-



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DAILY NEWS,

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