

REPORT #3 7/13/75

POLL REPORT OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD VISIT TO FORT MACKINAC.

Told by White House people, who were surprised themselves that president and Mrs. Ford and Governor and his wife were going to visit fort, only ~~as~~ as we approached Governor's mansion.

Fort is about a block beyond, across road from Presidential chopper.

They were greeted by a small contingent of youngsters dressed in Revolutionary war garb and by Dr. Eugene Peterson, Mackinaw island state park director.

They signed in and then went to the base of the flagpole where the president posed with six boy scouts in reenactment of a picture taken when he spent a month at the fort in 1929, as an eagle scout. He has visited the island several times since then, Ford said, but this was his first trip back to the fort.

He happily reminisced about his month at the fort as he and Mrs. Ford visited a building marked "Post Headquarters, 1853." He walked past the paymaster's office and into the quartermaster's storeroom, where he saw old army canteens, several hanging uniforms, and lots of garden equipment, like rakes and hoes and shovels.

Then to a building that apparently was an old commissary, but served as his barracks 46 years ago. "It was just bare with army cots," he told Mrs. Ford and Dr. Peterson. Today, it's not that much different, except there are no army cots. On one wall is an engraved piece of marble, saying, "This island--a fortress created by nature for herself."

He and Mrs. Ford then stood by an old cannon overlooking the bay and Ford recalled the old paddleboats that used to visit the island. "I was telling some of these younger persons like the governor and the senator about the paddleboats," Ford told Peterson, who walked up a little behind the rest of the crowd.

"I used to know the history (of the fort) backward and forward but I must admit I have forgotten a lot of it," he told Peterson, referring to the fact that he served as a guide while he was there in '29.

They spent about 30 minutes there, with the president obviously loving every minute of it. As they turned their carriages around to return to Milliken's home, Ford stopped his to get out and shake hands with Glen S. Allen Jr., a Michigan appeals court judge and former mayor of Kalamazoo.

Back to Milliken's about 12:45 p.m. also Beckman, Chicago Tribune.

The President and Mrs. Ford, accompanied by Gov. Milliken, Sen. Griffin, and their wives, occupied a second row new in the nearly century old Tzeitz Trinity Episcopal Church for the 45 minute service.

~~Viztzz~~ Vicar Roland Raham, just a year out of the seminary, made two reference to Mr. Ford.

During a prayer--which also was the theme of his 12 minute sermon-- he asked for "wisdom and strenghtn to do Thy work." When making church announcements, Father Raham, who admitted he was excited but not nervous, ~~wezsaxed~~ told the President "weclome back" to the island, a reference to his previous visits as a Boy Scout here in 1929 and also as a delegate to Republican state conventions.

After the service, Father Raham and his wife presented the President with a souvenir plate of the island before Mr. Ford waded into the crowd, which included tourists with home made signs and many with cameras.

The church, which has a capacity of 120, was swltering for parishioners who arrived an hour before the start of the 10:30 am. services. All had undergone routine clearance by the Secret Service.

Among the parishoners on hand was former Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams, now a jurists on the Michigan Supreme Court.

After the service, the President ~~walked~~ took a three block stroll along Main Street, greeting startled ~~xxx~~ tourists, shaking hands along the way. He stopped ~~ss~~ at the May Fudge Shop to buy some vanilla fudge. The President shook handswith employes, gave them his autographs, and sampled some of the candy.

Then he ~~staying~~ boarded a carriage for a trip to the home of F. Steward F. Woodfill, owner and former host of Grand Hotel, who at ~~age~~ 78 spends his summer in a swank waterfront home.

There, the president and Gov. Milliken, with their wives, shook hands and posed for pictures, chatting for a few minutes ~~before~~

~~returning to the governor's mansion for lunch.~~

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Telegram

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President and Mrs. Ford arrived at Trinity ~~ep~~ Episcopal Church at 10:25 a. m., accompanied by Sen. and Mrs. Robert P. Griffin and Gov. and Mrs. William Milliken. Church vicar, the Rev. Roldand Raham, ~~gzzzz~~ was outside church to greet president. Inside the church, ~~fozz~~ President sat on the third row from front next to a window with Mrs. Ford on the ~~xxx~~ outside; The reverend, mopping his face with a white ~~hazzk~~ hankerchief, welcomed the President and during ~~thax~~ the service prayed for God to grant wisdom to "the President and others in authority." The church was filled with about 75 people; among those in the congregation were Mackinac ~~raz~~ Island's mayor, Miss Margret Doud, dressed in a red and white polka dotted dress; also Michigan Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen (Soapy) ~~Wz~~ Williams, a former governor; Williams is a member of the church. The 32-year old minister, Raham, said he ~~zz~~ "wasn't ~~zzzz~~ nervous, but I'm excited." This is his first church. The President joined in the church service and singing, and put money in ~~thzz~~ the collection plate, which was filled. President left church at 11:25.

Remer Tyson
Tom Greene