

JULY 28, 1975

Pool report from Linz--Sunday, July 27, 1975

A crowd of about five thousand was packed around a cleared space at dockside. The way was lined with an honor guard in 17th century uniforms, red tunics, high metal-faced helmets. The town band was playing traditional om3/4pah3/4pah music, then hit "Stars and Stripes Forever" as the President arrived.

President was offered ceremonial glass of wine, took two gulps. Somebody suggested he drink it down. He replied, "I'm driving." He and Mrs. Ford signed the "golden book." His inscription: With appreciation of your warm welcome and with continued close friendship for a better world." He spoke briefly, observing that Linz had everything typical of the Rhine region: "good wine, pleasant people and a beautiful setting." He said he had just heard that when the councils of Linz used to do business over wine "they tell me the decisions were always unanimous. That's something politicians today can be envious of."

He was greeted by several wine maidens in medieval costumes, red velvet with wimpled hats, and the 1975 wine queen who was described by some present as a Brunhilde with a paper crown. The President kissed her and the others.

Coming back on board, Ford commented, "The wine was delicious-- and the girls were pretty, too."

Bonnie Angelo/Time

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