

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/15/74 - Wedding Anniversary” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Wash Star 10/16/74 p C1

A Serenade Is So Romantic

By Isabelle Shelton
Star-News Staff Writer

Another Ford — this one named "Tennessee Ernie" — helped President and Mrs. Ford celebrate their 26th wedding anniversary yesterday on the South Lawn of the White House.

Tennessee Ernie and a group of 30 from the famous "Grand Old Opry" just back from a month-long tour of Russia, serenaded the Fords as they stood arm-in-arm on the Truman balcony.

The Fords clapped, waved and twice kissed during the serenade, which began with the "Anniversary Waltz."

THE FIRST LADY, back at the White House just four days from Bethesda Naval Hospital after her breast cancer surgery, was wearing a long blue quilted silk lounging robe, decorated with the pin the President had given her for their anniversary — a gold Presidential Seal surrounded by small diamonds.

The serenade medley also included "Country Roads," "Everything Is Beautiful," "I Believe In Music," and, finally "This Land Is My Land."

Mrs. Ford really caught the spirit, gracefully swaying in tempo from time to time, a happy smile on her face, and in the end blowing kisses to the crowd of 200 or so White House staff members gathered below.

THE CEREMONY was held in the early after-

See **FORDS**, C-4

The Fords enjoyed the

Mandy, quality, saww sportswear is holdlv underpriced. You will find the same





—Star-News Photographer Joseph Silverman

'Anniversary Waltz' serenade so much they took time for a smooch.





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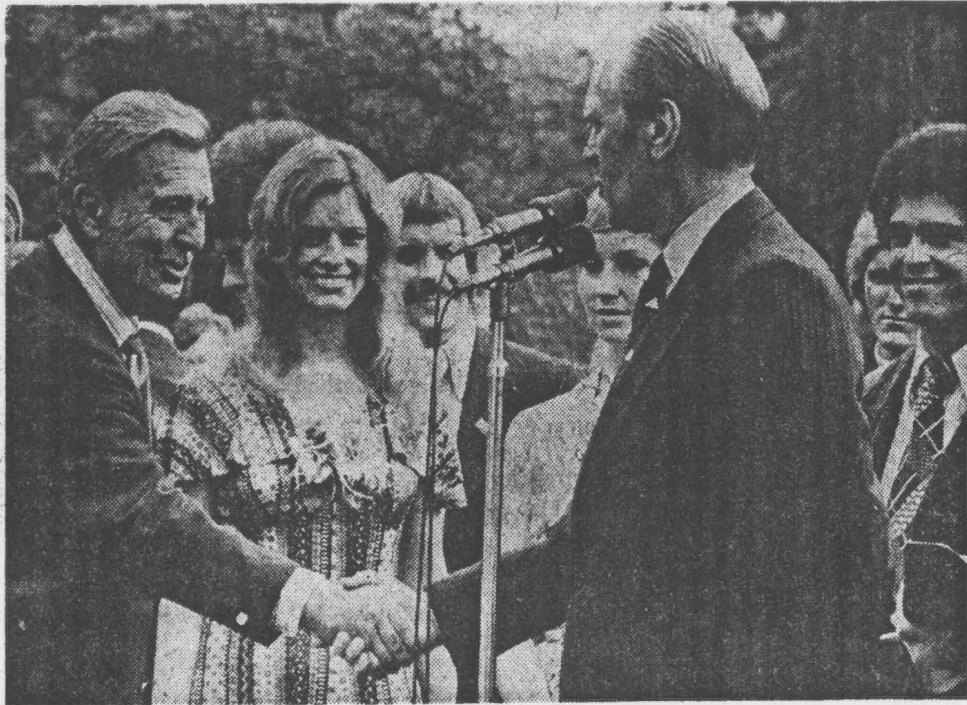
Occasional rain, 50-59. Details p. 91

ROCKY DEMANDS HEARING NOW

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Defense: Nixon Lied on Gate

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Tennessee Ernie Ford and members of his musical troupe are greeted by President Gerald Ford after serenading the President and Mrs. Ford on their 26th wedding anniversary.

An All-Ford Serenade

President Ford gave his wife a brooch of the Presidential seal, studded with diamonds, for their 26th wedding anniversary yesterday, and arranged to have her serenaded with the "Anniversary Waltz" by Tennessee Ernie Ford (no relation) and his group.

The First Lady's present was having her husband's University of Michigan athletic trophies—two loving cups and a metal football—silver-plated.

The couple celebrated at a private luncheon in the White House, as the President left yesterday afternoon for a trip to the Midwest. Mrs. Ford, who is recuperating from surgery, planned to

have a quiet dinner with her daughter, Susan.

After the luncheon, President and Mrs. Ford went out on the balcony to listen to the music from the Ford group, which was on the South Lawn. She appeared in good spirits and laughed, clapped and waved at the singers.

The President then went down and distributed Presidential seal jewelry to the musicians, who had just returned from a State Department cultural tour of the Soviet Union.

The President had called Ernie Ford before he left, to thank him for making the tour.



Photos by Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

President and Mrs. Ford enjoying their "Anniversary Waltz" serenade.

