

Remarks by
Mrs. Betty Ford
Gladys City
April 21, 1976

What an honor it is to become a citizen of Beaumont---a city with people of such great imagination and pride in the past. It seems so much like what I've heard about Texas and Texans---that you built a whole town to celebrate the Bicentennial.

What a town! And what a Bicentennial gift to the Nation! Everyone---young and old---will be entranced by Gladys City, because it really is fun to relive such an exciting time. America loves the West---memories of the cowboy and the "boom town" are favorites in our folklore and many of our works of art.

But Gladys City is more than a place to let the imagination wander. As I walked down these streets, I thought about the contrast between life at the turn of the century and today. We've made such tremendous progress, and the development of the oil industry has played a major role in this progress.

Gladys City brings to life a time of great adventure and reminds us to seize the opportunities of our day.

On behalf of the Nation, thank you for a very exciting birthday present. I'll always be proud to be a citizen of Beaumont---a "boom town" grown into a dynamic city.

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