

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “7/14/15 - District of Columbia Village” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Susan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:

EVENT: Visit to D. C. Village (accompanied by Mr. Flip Wilson)

DATE: Monday, July 14, 1975

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: D. C. Village
Washington, D. C.

CONTACT: Dr. William Lukash, ext. 2672
Dr. Shuford, D. C. Village, 629-8203

COMMENTS: As the attached material reflects, D. C. Village is an institution dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of the indigent elderly in the District of Columbia. Dr. Lukash has prepared the attached, quite complete paper on this visit. Mr. Flip Wilson, who traditionally visits hospitals in cities where he is entertaining and who has been active in cancer programs, will accompany Mrs. Ford. The file is attached. Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Warren Rustand
William Nicholson
Dr. Lukash
Arthur Quern
Rex Scouten
Staircase



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BE VISIT yes
MON, JULY 14 yes
10:30? yes
(what about hair appt?)

Mrs Ford has tentatively agreed.

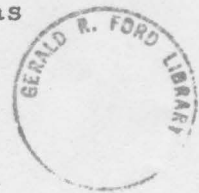
EVENT: Personal Appearance of Mrs. Ford
COORDINATOR: William M. Lukash, Physician to the President
DATE: July 14, 1975 (Monday)
TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am
PLACE: D. C. Village, Washington, D. C., 15 minutes from the White House

x2672

DR. SHUFORD, 629-8203
AT D.C. VILLAGE

GUEST: Mr. Flip Wilson will accompany the First Lady. Flip traditionally visits hospitals in every city where he is entertaining. He actively supports cancer programs and is noted for his humanitarian efforts, generally done without publicity.

BACKGROUND: D. C. Village is an institution dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of the indigent elderly in the District of Columbia. The emphasis is on personal attention and programs that will lessen the isolation and loneliness that afflicts our elderly population in Washington. This institution was formerly established as the Poorhouse of Washington in 1801. It was visited in 1940 by the then First Lady, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, who dramatized the insensitive care provided to the poor and destitute elderly by her personal visit. Mrs. Roosevelt informed her husband and the Congress regarding the pitiful state of care for the elderly. As a result, Congress finally appropriated funds for the new addition and infirmary which was finally opened in 1954.



Mrs. Ford has established her stand on support regarding the elderly in this country by her recent public appearance in Los Angeles where she was photographed with the 98 year old Negro lady involved with the Foster Parent program. Currently, 20 million American citizens are over 65. Many more will face the difficult period of retirement with its associated isolation and dehumanizing aspects of social detachment. This is a significant group of visibly viable citizens who can contribute to society and can be potentially a strong political force in achieving personal rights that they have already earned by providing us with their heritage.

SEQUENCE:

- 10:35 am Arrive at D. C. Village and view day care patients who arrive at the hospital by bus from their neighborhood just for the day time activities.
- 10:50 am Visit typical bedroom, the recreation hall and the dining hall.
- 11:05 am Visit session of motivational stimulation where a group of elderly patients will be stimulated to active group participation. Questions can be answered by the therapist.
- 11:20 am Visit occupational therapy, see the patients working.
- 11:30 am Depart D. C. Village for the White House.

PRESS: This will be an excellent opportunity for the press to see the First Lady and Flip Wilson actively involved with patients and to stress the importance of allowing the elderly to respond as sensitive, understanding people. The whole trip will stress the fact that there are other ways to help our elderly in sustaining their identity and self-esteem rather than institutionalization.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

directions to D. C. Village:

South Capitol Street Bridge on 11th St if ^{So. Cap} bridge ^{closed}
go past Bowling Field
295 So. stay on right hand lane, and go past Bowling Field.
brings you to Naval Research.

stop sign

turn left--under bridge (295 overpass)

(on left will be fire training station and D. C. Police Academy)

road curves to the right

turn immediately to the left--following signs to

D. C. Police Academy

in front will be 2-story building with 2 flags--
you're there!!!

basically - 295 south, take Naval
Research exit & look for
DC village signs



Shula

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. FORD
VIA: RED CAVANEY
FROM: PETER SORUM
SUBJECT: YOUR VISIT TO D. C. VILLAGE
Monday, July 14, 1975

Attached at TAB A is the proposed schedule for the subject event.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

BACKGROUND

D. C. Village is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of the indigent elderly in the District of Columbia. The emphasis is on personal attention and programs that will lessen the isolation and loneliness that often afflicts the elderly. D. C. Village was established in 1801 as the Poorhouse of Washington. Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt visited the facility in 1940 as First Lady to draw attention to the insensitive care provided to poor at that time. While conditions are greatly improved today, your visit will call attention to the methods of helping the elderly to sustain their identity and self-esteem.

You will be joined for this visit at the White House by Flip Wilson.



7/9/75
4:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

MRS. FORD'S VISIT TO
D. C. VILLAGE ,

Monday, July 14, 1975

10:05 am Mrs. Ford and Flip Wilson board motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route D. C. Village.

[Driving time: 25 minutes]

10:30 am MOTORCADE ARRIVES D. C. Village.

Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson will be met by:
Dr. Frank Shuford, Director of D. C. Village
Dr. Tzi-Minkao, Chief of Treatment
Dr. William St. John, Medical Officer
Mrs. Kathryn Carroll, Chief Nurse

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

Mrs. Ford and Flip Wilson proceed to library.

NOTE: A press pool will accompany Mrs. Ford through the tour of the facilities.

10:35 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson arrive library to greet patients and volunteers.

10:40 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson depart library en route Recreation Hall.



10:42 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson arrive Recreation Hall to observe music session.

NOTE: The patients will sing "Happy Birthday" in honor of the President.

10:48 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson thank song leaders and depart Recreation Hall en route Occupational Therapy Room.

10:50 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson arrive Occupational Therapy Room to greet patients and volunteers.

NOTE: Mrs. Ford will receive a gift made by the patients.

10:58 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson depart Occupational Therapy Room en route Motivational Stimulation demonstration area.

11:00 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson arrive motivational stimulation area for demonstration.

11:10 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson depart demonstration area en route Day Care area.

11:15 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson arrive Day Care area to greet patients and volunteers.

11:20 am Mrs. Ford & Flip Wilson depart Day Care area en route motorcade for boarding.

11:25 am MOTORCADE DEPARTS D. C. Village en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 25 minutes]

11:50 am MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



For immediate release
Thursday, July 10, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford and Comedian Flip Wilson will visit patients at the D. C. Village Monday, July 14 at 10:30 a. m.

The purpose of their visit is to learn about the facility and visit with its patients. D. C. Village is an institution dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of the indigent elderly in the District of Columbia. It stresses personal attention and programs to help the elderly maintain their independence as opposed to institutionalization.

Flip Wilson, who traditionally visits hospitals in cities to which he travels, is coming to Washington specifically to visit the facility, which he learned about in an earlier visit to Washington. He and Mrs. Ford will visit the library, the recreation hall, the occupational therapy area and see some of the Villages' programs in action.

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Press who need transportation should notify Mrs. Ford's press office by 5 p. m. Friday, July 11. There is room for 12 to accompany.

Flip Wilson's contact: Paul Cooper (213) 659 3870

*Press should go to Main Visitor's Bldg
Portable lighting & sound - indoor & outdoor*

ABC

Isabelle

*Angelo Owen - Reporter
Carmen La Parola
Paul Cooney
Paul King*

*WPC
TV
696-4121*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

directions to D. C. Village:

295 So. South Capitol Street Bridge on 11th St. if ^{So Cap} bridge ^{closed}
go past Bowling Field
stay on right hand lane, and go past Bowling Field.
brings you to Naval Research.
stop sign
turn left--under bridge (295 overpass)
(on left will be fire training station and D. C. Police Academy)
road curves to the right
turn immediately to the left--following signs to D. C. Police Academy
in front will be 2-story building with 2 flags--
you're there!!!

basically - 295 south, take Naval Research exit & look for DC village signs

Mountain Luther



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VISIT OF MRS. FORD AND FLIP WILSON
TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VILLAGE

July 14, 1975

10:30 - 11:30 am

PRESS RELEASE

In 1906 the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia officially opened the first public institution for the care of the aged and infirm residents of the District of Columbia. The first inhabitants were a hodge-podge of aged, infirm, indigent, alcoholic and mentally retarded individuals. The institution through dramatization of a woeful situation by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940's, ventured into a more modern program for the care of the aged and infirm. Throughout subsequent years, each First Lady in turn, Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Eisenhower, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Nixon expressed an interest in D. C. Village and its elderly residents.

D. C. Village is a component of the Department of Human Resources in the District of Columbia. It includes a 200-bed hospital complex and 10 cottage units which provide comprehensive care for 500 patients in the specialized field of geriatrics. The average age of patients at D. C. Village is 76 years. According to the latest figures there are 90,000 old residents in the District of Columbia who are 65 years or older. Five percent of the elderly over 65 require institutionalization.

The total effort of the professional staff at D. C. Village is directed toward helping the patients maintain their self-esteem, pride and the awareness that he or she has not been forgotten by the community. Through group activities the institution can maintain an important facet of the patient's socialization. The Community Activities Program seeks to effectively counteract the effects of institutional living by providing stimulating social, recreational and religious activities, ideally helping the patients to reach full potential in terms of personal fulfillment and contentment.

Many volunteers from surrounding communities donate their energy and service to the elderly by supplying and sharing new experiences. Regular visiting volunteers enable some of the patients to grow from acquaintanceship to concerned friends. The main goal is that perhaps some of the elderly patients will regain their confidence and security and return to their communities and neighborhoods and function as productive citizens.



I'm interested

FACT SHEET

1. 21.8 million Americans, or one out of every 10 citizens, is over the age of 65.
2. About 1 million, or five percent, of the nation's elderly live in nursing homes.
3. The average life expectancy is 71.3 years, indicating a higher percentage of elderly citizens as time goes on.
4. A disproportionate number of the American aged are women, who outnumber the men by 143 to 100. Women tend to outlive men by seven years.
5. A great many older Americans are plagued by poverty. 4.75 million of the nation's aged exist on \$2,000 or less a year which is well below the Federal Government's poverty line.
6. Medical care for the aged should emphasize the prevention of illness and preservation of health while keeping the aged in their communities and avoid institutionalization.
7. Society is urged to make better use of the elderly, drawing on their experience and talents and giving them a greater voice in matters that concern them.
8. The reservoir of talent tapped from the elderly has been utilized in the following ways:
 1. The Foster Grandparent Program, which pays oldsters for supervising dependent and neglected youngsters.
 2. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) which pays out-of-pocket expenses for the elderly to entertain the handicapped and visiting homebound patients.
 3. The Senior Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) which reimburses retired executives for expenses incurred while counseling small businesses and community organizations.
9. Government programs for assistance to the aged include the following:
 1. Financial assistance - through Social Security programs.
 2. Health care - which includes Medicare and Medicaid.
 3. Nutrition - food stamps and programs enabling the elderly to have at least one hot meal a day.
 4. Housing - The National Council on the Aging publishes a directory of special housing benefits for the aged.
 5. Legal services - legal services are available for the elderly for legal assistance and protection of their rights and possessions.



Dr. St. John

Mrs. Blanche Rivers -

Bluid - 85

played piano
19 St. Ba Baptist
~~Metropolitan~~ Church - 89

One stitch at a time is
like one step at a time

Quilts are so ip. It's going
to be cold soon so keep
on working.

I'm certain I'm pressed
with

VISIT OF MRS. FORD AND FLIP WILSON
TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VILLAGE

July 14, 1975

10:30 - 11:30 am

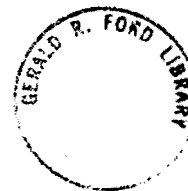
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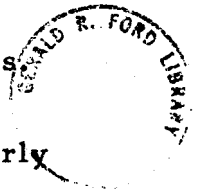
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MONDAY - PRESS
PLANNING TO ATTEND

Susan McElhinney
Newsweek

Noimi

Truck

Isabelle S.

Donnie R.

Fran L. (?)

staff { Driver
Pete
Carol
Shirley



UP-147

(BETTY)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD AND COMEDIAN FLIP WILSON MONDAY WILL TOUR THE D.C. VILLAGE, AN INSTITUTION FOR THE CARE OF INDIGENT ELDERLY.

THE COMEDIAN TRADITIONALLY VISITS HOSPITALS IN CITIES WHERE HE TRAVELS AND SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO VISIT D.C. VILLAGE, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID.

HE AND MRS. FORD WILL VISIT THE LIBRARY, RECREATION HALL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AREA.

UPI 07-10 05:59 PED

LIBRARY

R

MRS. FORD-ELDERLY
BY FRANCES LEWINE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- FIRST LADY BETTY FORD AND COMEDIAN FLIP WILSON TEAMED UP TODAY TO VISIT ELDERLY PATIENTS AT D. C. VILLAGE, EXPLAINING THEIR MISSION: "TRYING TO BRING SOME SUN INSIDE" ON A RAINY DAY.

FOR AN HOUR, THEY TOURED THE FACILITY FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM, SHAKING HANDS AND ADMIRING HANDICRAFTS.

WILSON, WHO IS WELL KNOWN FROM TELEVISION, WAS GREETED WITH DELIGHT BY SOME OF THE PATIENTS, WHO SURROUNDED HIM TO GET KISSED. HE LAUGHINGLY OBLIGED AND SIGNED AUTOGRAPHS AS WELL.

MRS. FORD SAID THAT WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN DR. WILLIAM LUKASH, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE FIRST LADY, GOT HER INTERESTED IN MAKING HER FIRST VISIT TO D.C. VILLAGE, WHICH OTHER FIRST LADIES ALSO HAVE VISITED.

MRS. FORD TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HER TOUR: "I AM VERY INTERESTED IN ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED. I HOPE TO GET AROUND TO MANY OF THE PROGRAMS HERE IN THE CITY."

THE AVERAGE AGE OF PATIENTS AT D.C. VILLAGE IS 76, BUT MRS. FORD MET ANUMBER WHO WERE GETTING CLOSE TO 100.

LOUISE T. DEAN, 89, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF A BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR FOR 50 YEARS, WAS LEADING A GROUP IN THE AUDITORIUM SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT FORD'S 62ND BIRTHDAY MONDAY WHEN MRS. FORD ARRIVED.

THE FIRST LADY TOLD THE SPRY 89-YEAR-OLD IT WAS "A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL THING" TO BE AS WELL AND HAPPY AS SHE WAS AT HER AGE.

WILSON, WHO HAS MADE A PRACTICE OF VISITING HOSPITALS AROUND THE COUNTRY -- IN 30 CITIES THIS YEAR, HE SAID -- WAS INTRODUCED BY MRS. FORD AS THEY WENT ALONG. "I BROUGHT HIM ALL THE WAY FROM CALIFORNIA TO SEE YOU," SHE SAID.

WILSON'S PARTICIPATION CAME THROUGH HIS MEETING WITH DR. LUKASH WHEN PRESIDENT FORD PLAYED IN THE LEE ELDER GOLF TOURNAMENT RECENTLY.

MRS. FORD MET A 99-YEAR-OLD BLIND AND NEARLY DEAF WOMAN WHO WAS CROCHETING A WHITE CIRCULAR MAT, DOING IT AS SHE TOLD MRS. FORD, "ONE STITCH AT A TIME."

"ONE STITCH AT A TIME, THAT'S ALL ANYBODY OF US CAN DO," SAID THE FIRST LADY. "THAT'S JUST LIKE ONE STEP AT A TIME."

FRALD R. FORD

FORD

A Day for Ford, Flip and Women

By Isabelle Shelton
Washington Star Staff Writer

Yesterday was President Ford's 62nd birthday, and unofficially it was Flip Wilson Day in the

same old stand with locker room jokes of questionable taste.

"THE PRESIDENT indicated his willingness



Mrs. Ford, Flip Wilson Visit D.C. Village

By Linda Newton Jones
and Donnie Radcliffe

Washington Post Staff Writers

First Lady Betty Ford and comedian Flip Wilson yesterday toured D.C. Village, the District's public home for the elderly, meeting and

country during the past year meeting patients.

Mrs. Ford and Wilson saw at least 100 patients yesterday, personally greeting at least a third of them. They toured the institution's library, recreation center, au-

around 300 people," said Yeldell, who accompanied Mrs. Ford and Wilson. "Those beds are needed by the community." He said elderly city residents awaiting admission to the home are living in "less than desirable conditions" among

"I see your husband on television all the time," Leatha Faulkner, 97, told Mrs. Ford after they were introduced. "Probably more than I do," the First Lady said with a smile.

Mrs. Ford and Wilson



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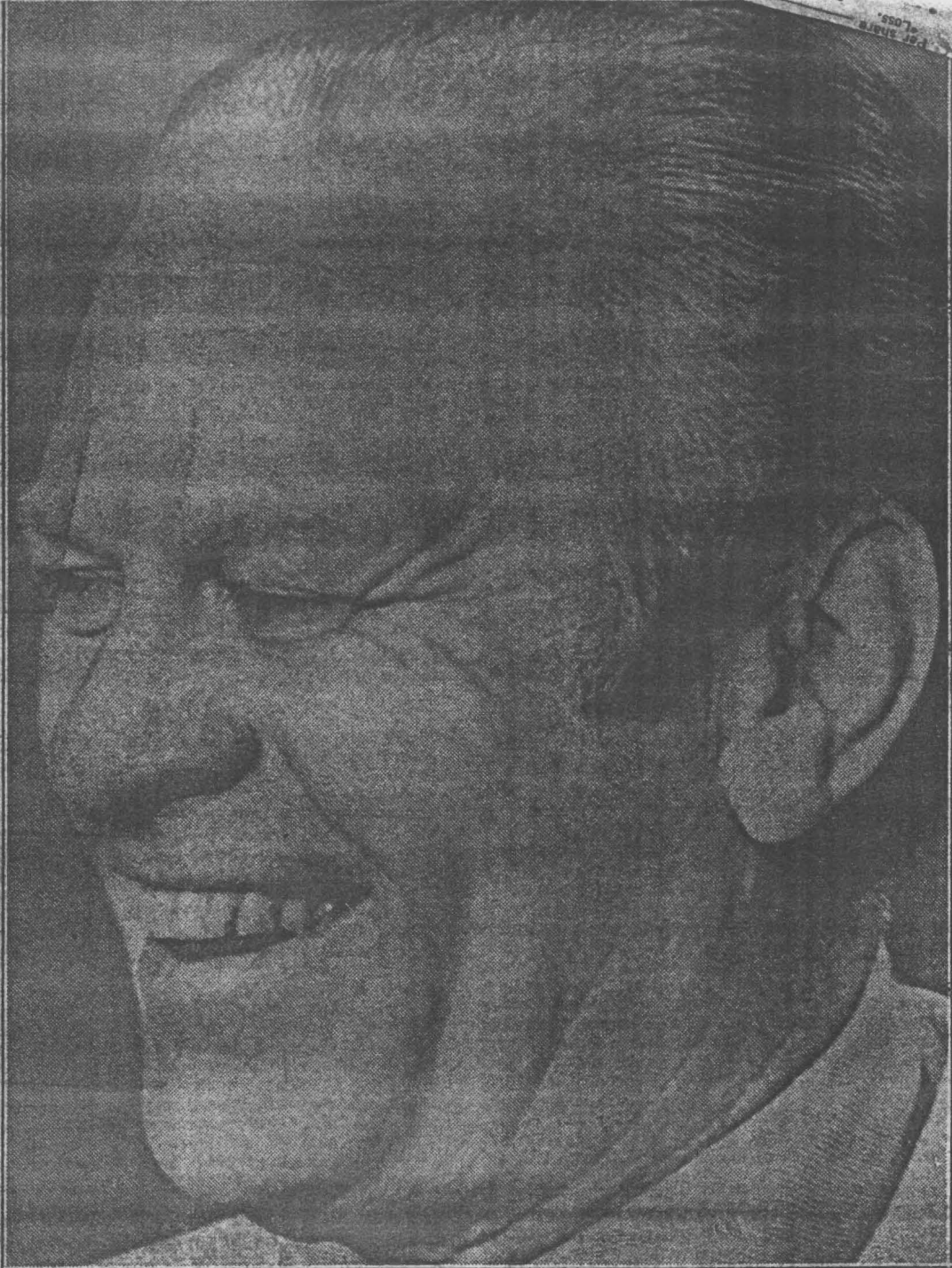
"THE PRESIDENT indicated his willingness and interest in following





No. 1 Celebrates No. 62

Betty Ford and comedian Flip Wilson chat with Robert Leigh, 93, during tour of D.C. Village, a home for the elderly. Later, first lady gave "surprise" birthday party at White House to mark President's 62nd birthday. Wilson was invited to entertain. Afterward President and guests took Potomac River cruise. Doctors gave Ford present for event by pronouncing him "physically fit." —Story on page 4



President gives reporters birthday briefing — he talked about gas price rise.

First Lady Flip's Co-Star

Washington, July 14 (AP)— First lady Betty Ford and comedian Flip Wilson visited elderly patients today at D. C. Village, and said their mission was "trying to bring some sun inside" as a rainy day.

For an hour they toured the facility for the aged and infirm, shaking hands and admiring handicrafts.

Some of the patients surrounded Wilson to get kissed. He laughingly obliged and signed autographs.

Mrs. Ford told reporters after her tour: "I am very interested in all of these programs for the handicapped. I hope to get around to many of the programs here in the city."

Daily News - July 15, 1975

Mrs. Ford, Flip Wilson Visit D.C. Village

By Linda Newton Jones
and Donnie Radcliffe

Washington Post Staff Writers

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7/15
FORD LIBRARY

HAPPY TALK—Frances Jackson laughs with First Lady Betty Ford, comedian Flip Wilson, center, and city official Joseph Yeldell in D.C. Village tour. Story, C7.
By Larry Morris—The Washington Post



but I like it here," said Mrs. Johnson, a District native.

Yesterday was President Ford's birthday and about 15 D. C. Village patients, under the direction of Louise Dean, 89, former director of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church choir, formed a special chorus to sing "Happy Birthday" to the President.

First Lady Flip's Co-Star

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