

The original documents are located in Box 41, folder “Ford, Michael - Visits from Family” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

Betty Ford arrives in Essex and hardly anyone there notices

By BARBARA YAGERMAN
News Staff

ESSEX — Betty Ford, the First Lady of the United States paid a visit to this quiet little fishing town, Tuesday afternoon, and hardly anyone bothered to take a second look.

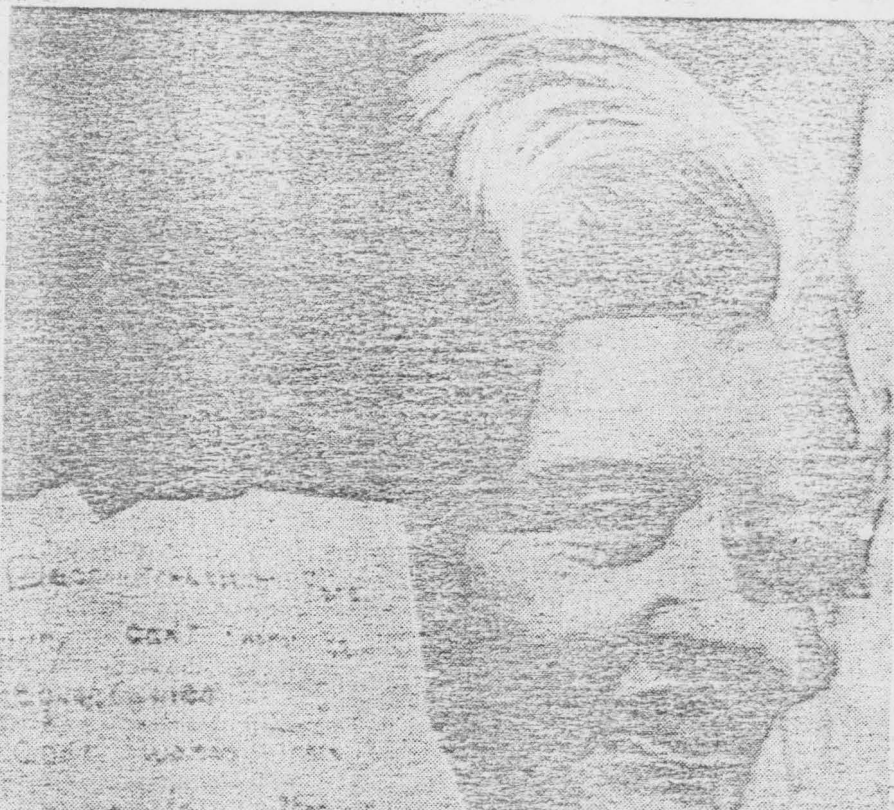
Business went on as usual, as Mrs. Ford's motorcade, with two state police cruisers, two secret service cars, plus her big black limosine, wound its way through the narrow streets to the little house where her son, Michael and his wife, Gail, are living.

Both Michael and Gail were off working, when Mrs. Ford arrived at about 4:30 after driving up from a public appearance in Plymouth. Gail came home about 6, and Michael a half hour after that.

This was the first time Betty Ford had been to visit her son, since he became a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. It was the first time she had been up to see the young people in their home.

Even though this was also the first time anyone could remember a First Lady coming to Essex, the town seemed most willing to respect the Fords wishes to make this a completely private visit.

Except for a couple of anything at all out of the ordinary photographers standing across from would be happening that afternoon. the two-story shingled house where Roads were not blocked off. There the Fords secret service contingent (BETTY FORD—) stays, there was hardly a sign that (Continued on Page 2)



20 miles west. June 30, 1976.

Betty Ford knocked, but son didn't answer

ESSEX — Betty Ford came to visit her son yesterday and no one was home.

No one but Secret Service agents, photographers and reporters, some of whom had gathered outside the Prospect Street cottage four hours before Mrs. Ford's scheduled visit to her son, Michael and his wife, Gayle.

Michael, however, was still out on his summer construction job during his vacation from Gordon College, and his wife was also at work. Both arrived home after 6 p.m., an hour and a half after Mrs. Ford's four car motorcade drew interested spectators along Western Avenue and Prospect Street.

Mrs. Ford's visit here was a side trip from her stop in Plymouth where she opened a bicentennial art exhibit called "Remember The Ladies — Women in America 1750 to 1815."

Joining Mrs. Ford in Plymouth were Massachusetts First Lady Kitty Dukakis, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Nancy Kissinger, and U.S. Rep. Margaret Heckler, R-Mass.

The exhibit, commercially sponsored with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, will be on display at Pilgrim Hall through Sept. 26 when it will move to other locations across the country.

The title of the exhibit is derived from Abigail Adams' re-

quest of her husband John, second U.S. president, that in formulating the laws of the new American nation, "I desire that you remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

About 1,000 persons were outside the hall when Mrs. Ford arrived. Most greeted her enthusiastically but some carried placards indicating their opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment which Mrs. Ford supports.

As Mrs. Ford cut the white ribbon to open the exhibit some demonstrators chanted: "Go Away ERA," but they were drowned out by cheers and applause from others in the crowd.

Undaunted, a smiling Mrs. Ford restated her support of ERA in saying, "We are here today to take care of the unfinished business of our Revolution...full freedom and independence for women."

Mrs. Ford concluded by reading a letter sent to her husband last week by a six-year-old South Carolina girl. The letter said: "Dear President Ford: Why can't women be equal? Men are equal."

"Why can't women? Men say women can't be equal. That's not fair to girls and women. I'm going to write to the governor so he can change the law."



MRS. FORD
...came to visit



MICHAEL FORD
...not at home