

wonderland



Gerald R. Ford

A Special Report



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The City of Grand Rapids wishes to acknowledge
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All-America City



Our 38th President



Jerry Ford was a sports hero, an All-American boy and a congressman's congressman. Then fate put him in the White House.

Though he was born in Nebraska, spent most of his public life in Washington, D.C., and retired to California, it is with Grand Rapids that Gerald R. Ford is most closely identified.

He spent his youth in the Furniture City and represented it in Congress for 25 years.

And this week, when the Ford Presidential Museum on the downtown west riverbank is dedicated, the city will witness an affair seldom matched anywhere in the nation.

The stories in this expanded edition of Wonderland Magazine, written by Press political reporter Ed Hoogterp, look at Jerry Ford from a Grand Rapids perspective.

Hoogterp pored through newspaper files and other sources, visited the former president in Palm Springs, Calif., and interviewed Ford associates and opponents.

Other source materials included: Bud Vestal's "Jerry Ford Up Close"; Jerald terHorst's "Gerald R. Ford and the Future of the Presidency"; Ford's memoir "A Time To Heal"; and "Gerald R. Ford, 1913—", a collection of Ford speeches and important dates and other documents edited by George J. Lankevich.

Photographs on inside pages are from Press files and the Ford Presidential Library and Museum collections.

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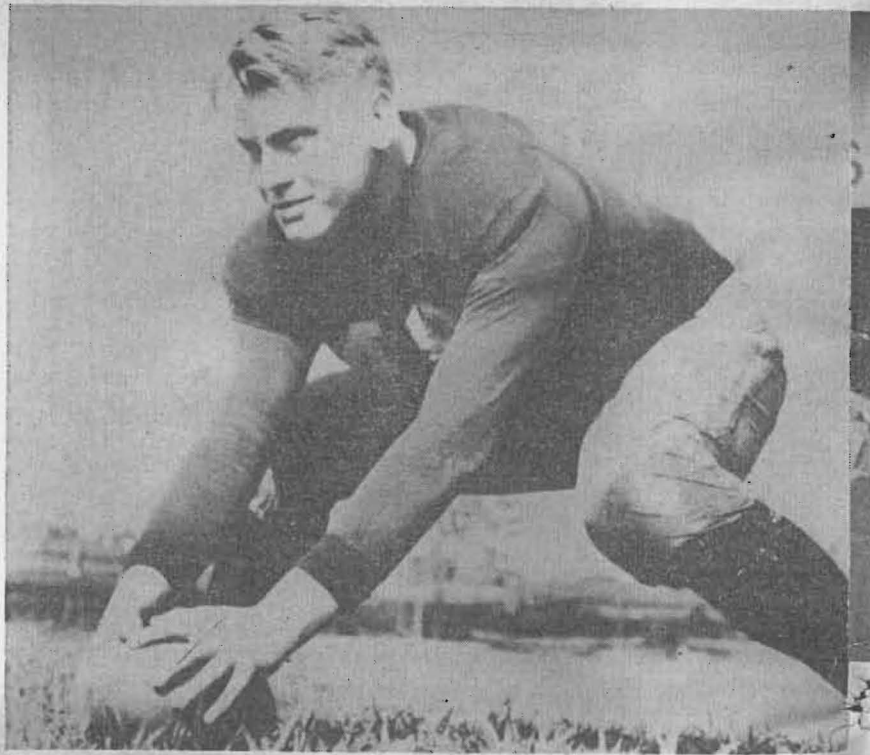


Gerald R. Ford in the White House Oval Office just after becoming president in 1974.





Young Jerry, left, with brother Thomas.



The football hero: Ford in 1934 wearing University of Michigan uniform.

The 38th President: Growing into power

"In all my public and private acts as your president, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and candor with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy in the end.

"My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."

Gerald R. Ford Jr. spoke those words Aug. 12, 1974, when he took office as the 38th president of the United States.

While other presidents used inaugural addresses to proclaim new frontiers or call America to scale the heights of greatness, Ford offered a simple promise of honest, decent leadership.

That moment, as Ford began what has been called his "accidental presidency," was the culmination of an odyssey that had started more than a quarter-century earlier in Grand Rapids.

He began as a rebel — though admittedly a gentlemanly one — championing the rights of World War II veterans, battling the local political machine and challenging an incumbent congressman who was a member of his own party.

Then for nearly 25 years he was "a congressman's congressman" — hard-working and influential as he rose to lead the Republican Party in the House of Representatives, but little recognized by people outside the government.

Many observers saw Ford as a congressman who simply bided his time, taking care not to rock the boat as he moved gradually into his party's inner circle. Ford disagrees with that assessment.

"I keep reading that I'm a plodder, that I'm not one who shakes up the establishment," he said in a recent interview at his home in the California desert near Palm Springs. "That's not true . . .

"When I got down to the House of Representatives at the outset I was looked upon as a rebel, having beaten Mr. Jonkman. (Ford unseated Republican Rep. Bartel Jonkman in the 1948 election.) I was in the forefront of those who helped get rid of Joe Martin and elected Charlie Halleck (as House Republican leader) . . . I don't care if it was anti-Jonk-

man, anti-Joe Martin, anti-Halleck — I was always in that group that was stirring the pot."

In 1965 Ford took over as GOP leader in the House and held that post nine years, dreaming all the time of becoming speaker of the House. In the early '70s, seeing he would never realize that dream, he began to think about leaving public life.

But while Ford contemplated retirement, fate had other plans for him. Political scandals were rippling through Washington, sweeping Vice President Spiro Agnew and then President Richard Nixon out of office.

In a supreme irony, the dishonesty, bribe-taking and cover-ups in the Nixon White House helped elevate Ford, a congressman noted for his honesty and diligence, to the presidency.

Jerry Ford's ascension to the White House to a position where the former South High School football star stood shoulder-to-shoulder with such world leaders as Leonid Brezhnev and Anwar Sadat — is a story that could have happened only in America.

It actually began not in Grand Rapids but in Omaha, Neb., where the future president was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Lynch King on July 14, 1913.

The baby was christened Leslie Lynch King Jr. Soon afterward his parents divorced and Dorothy King returned with her son to her home town of Grand Rapids.

In 1916 she remarried. Her new husband, Gerald Rudolf Ford, adopted the boy as his own, changing his name to Gerald R. Ford Jr. The child was known as "Junior" or "Junie." Childhood mementos such as Scout awards displayed in the Ford Presidential Museum which opens this week in Grand Rapids list his name as Junior Ford.

The family that helped shape the future president lived in a succession of houses in Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids. During most of young Jerry's grade school and high school years, his home was at 649 Unlon Ave. SE — in an area that was then solidly middle class but has since fallen on hard times.

Though he speaks with pride about the city's "super" downtown, of which the Ford Museum is a

major part, his voice is tinged with dismay as he talks about his old neighborhood.

"Some of it has unfortunately deteriorated very badly," he says. "The old high school I went to is closed. First it went to a junior high school, then it was closed, and now I understand it's a Job Corps center."

"Unfortunately, that's one of the areas of the city where population shifts have had an adverse impact. But I think gradually they'll take the necessary steps to rehabilitate it."

"The old Madison Square area, I'm told, is really a tragic area . . . I used to go down there to the Madison Theater. It was one of the best community theaters in the city."

Gerald Ford Sr. was a salesman in the early years, then opened his own firm, the Ford Paint & Varnish Co., just weeks before the 1929 stock market crash that signaled the beginning of the Depression.

The business operated through those difficult years, and the future president spent school vacation time working there. Two of his younger brothers later managed the firm, which was sold in the early '70s.

Although young Jerry was a Boy Scout, a popular high schooler and a good student, it was as an athlete that he gained the most attention.

He was a star center on South High School football teams in 1929 and 1930, then attended the University of Michigan where, as a senior, he was named most valuable player on the Wolverine squad. He played in the 1935 College All-Star game and turned down professional football offers from the Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers, accepting instead a chance to work as an assistant coach at Yale, where he hoped to gain an education in the law.

Six years later he graduated from Yale Law School and returned to Grand Rapids to open his practice in partnership with Philip Buchen who would later serve as an adviser.

continued on page 7





Newlyweds Jerry and Betty Ford leave Grace Episcopal Church in 1948.

'When I got down to the House of Representatives . . . I was looked upon as a rebel.'



Handsome young congressman in the 1950s.

What do you remember about

July 4, 1976



The tall ships sailed into New York harbor. Fireworks burst through the air everywhere. And our Jerry Ford was President of the United States.

We in Grand Rapids felt proud and patriotic. Thank you, President Ford. And congratulations. For we feel just as proud and patriotic today.

We are honored to sponsor the Ford Presidential Parade float, "Spirit", commemorating Gerald R. Ford's presidency during the American Bicentennial.

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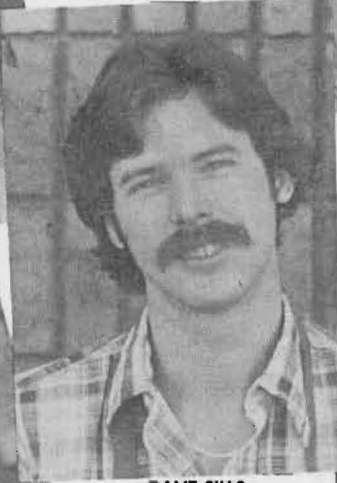
BRUCE NYENHUIS →
Bruce is our newest design shop member. Bruce attended Calvin College, and is currently studying coins and precious metal.



← **KAREL ENGSTROM**
Karel began apprenticing at the age of 13 with her father, the head jewelry professor at Western Michigan University. She is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, and also has a B.A. from Western. Karels specialty is raising vessels. She has done work for the president of A.T.T. She's also won the David T. Marvel Award for metal smithing.



← **CHRIS NYENHUIS**
Chris is a graduate of Gem City College, with an emphasis on jewelry design. He has 7 years experience and is close to finishing the G.I.A. class in gemology.

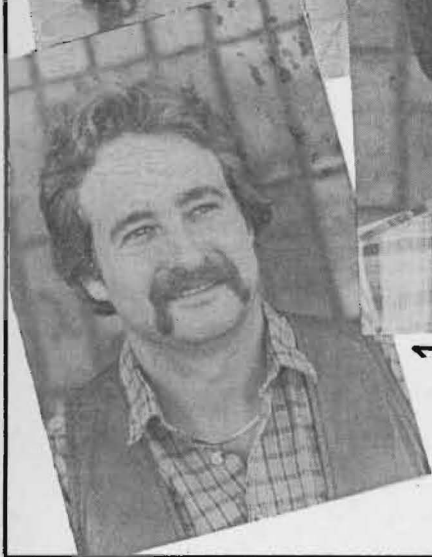


← **GLENN SIRONEN**
Glenn is the former assistant to the vice-president of Wide Band Corp. He has 12 years experience in the New York diamond district. Glenn also worked with Charles Perrella Inc. NY, NY. Many of his designs are in the current Perrella catalog.

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↑ **KEN BRAMELL**
Ken joined our staff after being a design shop foreman at Saunders and Son in Baltimore, Md. During his 13 years in the business, Ken has designed jewelry for others in the congress and diplomatic circle.



← **DAVE SILLS**
Dave has a B.F.A. degree from Western Michigan University. Focused in metal work and jewelry design. Dave has 5 years experience, with work of his being accepted into the Kalamazoo area art show the past 2 years. During his years at Western, Daves designs were shown at Miller Auditorium.

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continued

The partnership lasted less than a year. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. The following April, Ford joined the Navy.

Before he left for the service, however, the young attorney joined a group mounting a frontal attack on the scandal-plagued political machine that ran Grand Rapids politics with an iron hand in the 1930s and '40s.

A person unfamiliar with the history might think Grand Rapids was a tame, sleepy place in the 1940s. But in politics at least, it wasn't that way.

City Hall, and indeed much of state government, was run by a Republican Party machine under the iron hand of local businessman Frank D. McKay.

McKay controlled the local Republican committee and his lieutenants held similar sway over GOP organizations in Detroit and Flint.

His influence in the GOP gave him effective control over Michigan politics since, as Will Rogers reportedly said on a visit to Grand Rapids: "I find Democrats are so scarce around here they had to close the season on 'em."

McKay was state treasurer from 1925 to 1931. Later he was reported to have ties with Detroit mobsters. He used his political connections to make a fortune by dealing with the government in such diverse businesses as meat, tires, financial services, construction, beer and liquor.

His cronies could count on getting government jobs as long as they did his bidding.

In 1941, a local dentist named Willard B. "Doc"

VerMeulen set out to break the back of the McKay machine. VerMeulen figured he would need 10 hard-working men to wrest Republican party control from McKay.

The first man he chose was Paul Goebel, who later became mayor and forced the McKay machine out of City Hall. The second was Jerry Ford, then fresh from Yale Law School.

The dentist warned Ford he could lose clients by allying himself with the rebellious group, called the Republican Home Front.

To that warning, young Ford responded: "What do you mean? I haven't got any clients. All I've got is an office."

World War II quickly intervened in the group's plans. Ford, Goebel and many other members joined the service, decimating the Home Front ranks. In 1942, VerMeulen put up a slate of GOP precinct delegates in an attempt to gain control of the local party. He lost to McKay's group.

But two years later, even with many members off at war, the Home Front candidates won a majority on the county GOP committee.

VerMeulen recalls wanting Gerald Ford Sr. as county chairman. The elder Ford declined the honor at first but changed his mind after receiving a letter from Jerry Jr., serving as a naval officer on the carrier U.S.S. Monterey in the Pacific Ocean.

Ford's letter urged his father to help the Home Front with whatever the group asked. "When I come back, I'll take your place," he promised.

During the early and mid-'40s McKay was constantly hounded by law-enforcement agencies. He was indicted by a grand jury investigating kickbacks from liquor purchases by the State Liquor Control Commission, but was never convicted.

Most damaging politically was a grand jury investigation into reports of bribery involving state lawmakers who were rewriting rules for horse-racing and pari-mutuel betting.

Three grand jury witnesses committed suicide under suspicious circumstances, and a fourth, state Sen. Warren Hooper of Albion, was forced off a lonely stretch of state highway and machine-gunned to death in January, 1945.

No one was convicted but police believed Hooper

was assassinated by two Detroit hit men who were secretly released from Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson just long enough to accomplish the murder.

"There was never any evidence that McKay ordered the killing," chuckles VerMeulen, "but a lot of people thought he did, which was pretty near as good."

VerMeulen attributes McKay's influence largely to his hold over the ethnic Polish and Lithuanian communities in Grand Rapids.

McKay owned a private bank, and as the dentist recalled in an "oral history" interview for the Ford Presidential Library: "Whenever (immigrants) wanted to send money to the old country, (McKay) took care of it. If they wanted a mortgage to buy a house, he saw they got it. And when they became citizens, he saw that they knew how to vote."

In 1946, Lt. Cmdr. Gerald R. Ford Jr. came home from the Navy, and other Home Front soldiers were also back in the city.

By 1948 the group was ready for a final assault on McKay. VerMeulen's allies already had control of the county GOP committee, but McKay's friends were clinging to most elective governmental offices, from coroner to congressman.

In the primaries in September, 1948, the Home Front challenged those officials. John B. Martin, a military veteran and Rhodes Scholar, ran for the state Senate; Louis Schooley, a war hero who had lost both legs and an arm in action in the South Pacific, challenged an incumbent state representative, and Jerry Ford opted to try for the congressional seat held the previous eight years by Bartel Jonkman, a Republican with a reputation as an isolationist and arch-conservative.

All the challengers won, and to many, the Ford victory was most surprising.

"I didn't think he had a chance to win," VerMeulen recalls. "But Jerry thought he did."

In the summer of 1948, after young Ford announced his intention to run for Congress against the incumbent, his father resigned the county Republican chairmanship.

continued next page



The Fords pack their bags for Washington in 1948.



Quonset hut was 1948 campaign headquarters.



After winning 1948 election, Ford returns as promised to Paris Township farm to help with work.



38th President

continued

That action was due partly to Jonkman's protests, Gerald Ford Sr. said in a July 27, 1948, resignation statement that hinted at the close relationship between stepfather and son.

"I accepted this job as chairman while my son was fighting in the South Pacific," Ford said in the statement. "I guess we all had tears in our eyes in those days and we all wanted to do a good job at home.

"My reasons for resigning are these:

"I met Jonkman at Philadelphia and he charged me with having placed my son in the race against him.

"I told him this was not true. I told him Jerry Jr. was 35 years old, had a mind of his own and the right to run for office if he wanted to.

"Jonkman told me I could have drawn my son out of the race. I told him every man has a right to seek office and, in my son's case, all I could do to help him would be done.

"Jonkman then said I was taking unfair advantage of my position as county Republican chairman.

"... Rather than have my son's campaign embarrassed, I think it best that I ask you to accept my resignation."

Pat Loomis was the senior Ford's vice chairman on the county Republican committee. She later became acting chairman and describes her role as "girl in the middle" between the Home Front and the McKay camp.

She liked the young Ford, she recalls, but gave him little chance of unseating Jonkman.

"I tried to convince him to run for a state office," she says, laughing at the memory. "I just didn't think he had a chance of winning." When Ford won the seat, "I was very pleased but very surprised," she says.

Ford recalls that not even McKay and Jonkman took him seriously at first:

"They sort of kissed me off as a guy who couldn't win. They didn't wake up... until it was too late. I was not the real threat to them at that time. Doc VerMeulen was. Paul Goebel was. I was sort of the next generation and not really considered a challenge."

On election day — Sept. 14, 1948 — Ford walked off with an impressive victory, outpolling Jonkman nearly 2-1 and winning even in Ottawa County where the incumbent had counted on his Dutch name to carry the ethnic vote. Ford then easily defeated Fred Barr, his opponent in the November general election.

The young Jerry Ford who went to Washington in January, 1949, to represent Kent and Ottawa Counties was actually something of a progressive. When he challenged Jonkman in the 1948 GOP primary, he had the support of such prominent Western Michigan Democrats as A. Robert Kleiner and Leonard Woodcock.

Kleiner, now a Grand Rapids attorney, recalls Jonkman as "a political hack put in (Congress) by Frank McKay."

Jonkman was an isolationist, an ally of the local Republican machine, and a Red-baiter who started attacking "Communists" in the State Department even before Wisconsin's Sen. Joseph McCarthy picked up that issue.

Many Democrats preferred Ford, the young lawyer and war veteran, and since they knew they had no hope of electing one of their own back in those years, they helped Ford oust Jonkman.

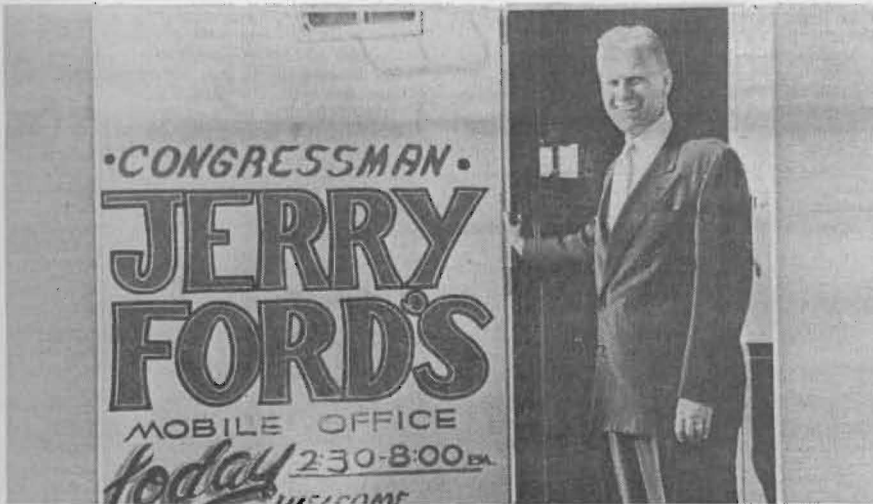
"There were a bunch of us who went away to war and came back with stars in our eyes," Kleiner says. "We were gonna make the world a better place."

He recalls that he and other veterans "worked harder than hell" for Ford's election. It was a spin-off of the local "good government" movement that swept McKay out of city politics and led to Goebel's

As a rising young congressman, Ford was close to his family, close to his district.



Congressman and wife celebrate Michael's first birthday.



Ford's trailer-office was a common sight in Zeeland, Kent City and other communities.



The Ford family in 1960: Michael, Steven, Betty, Susan, Jerry and Jack.



election as mayor.

While Jonkman tried to stay above the fray, refusing even to debate the young challenger, Ford spent his time campaigning tirelessly. He met the district "one-on-one," stumping through farms and small towns; shaking hands in dairy barns before sunrise; greeting voters at factory gates, fairs and picnics, and speaking to any group that would listen.

He won votes from those who agreed with his

views on the issues of the day, but he also won the hearts of thousands of district residents who saw him as a friendly, smiling man willing to listen to their concerns.

Those concerns were often similar to the frustrations facing voters today: taxes, inflation, unemployment, the vagaries of weather, the post office and late income tax refunds.

To thousands of West Michigan voters, it was as

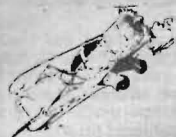
important to have a congressman who cared about such human problems as to have one who shared their political beliefs.

As soon as he went to Washington, Ford and his aide, John P. Milanowski, set about building a "constituent service" network that became the envy of Congress.

Maury DeJonge, now Kent County clerk, followed

continued next page

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The new vice president walks in Red Flannel parade: Cedar Springs, 1973.

38th President

continues

Ford's career nearly three decades as political reporter for The Press. DeJonge recalls the Ford aides were "amazing" in their ability to get action for district residents or simply to keep track of birthdays, anniversaries or other important dates.

"I don't know how those guys did it," DeJonge says, but it was common for 5th District residents to receive cards or letters signed by Ford on those occasions.

In his second congressional term, Ford became a member of the House Appropriations Committee, a powerful body that has a hand in funding every federal agency.

Though he earned little notice outside government for his work, federal-agency officials were well aware of his clout. That made it possible for him to expect quick and effective action when he contacted an agency about a constituent's problem.

Ford himself believes the biggest issue of the 1948 campaign was neither Jonkman's ties with McKay nor his inability to relate with the voters.

Says Ford: "McKay . . . was an issue but not the principal one. The fundamental issue was in foreign policy, my support for an international point of view (and) . . . for the Marshall Plan, and Jonkman's rather extreme isolationism, his formidable opposition to the Marshall Plan and to foreign aid generally.

"That was a very gut issue in the campaign. Plus the fact that I represented the younger generation, a more moderate Republicanism across the board while he represented the Republicans of the 1920 and '30s."

Jonkman's aloofness from the district and his refusal to debate the challenger also became important, particularly when contrasted with Ford's gusto in meeting the public and discussing large or small problems.

"That all became an issue," Ford says, smiling broadly at the memory. "We certainly sought to exploit it. I challenged him to a debate, took off two or three months from my law practice and covered the district on a massive basis.

"Mr. Jonkman, on the other hand, had become a little indifferent as to getting out to see his constituents. It was a case of a younger fella being more energetic against a person who was 30-some year older, who had gotten a little — maybe — lazy about how he dealt with his constituent problems.

" . . . I was very mindful of that problem (in late years). Fortunately I never succumbed to being in different to the constituents. As a matter of fact, worked our district very hard, even when I was minority leader. I ran a good office which was very responsive to . . . requests for help."

It took Ford 16 years to work up from freshman congressman to minority leader. He made the slow rise in part on the basis of his seniority and good nature, and in part by "stirring the pot."

He was one of the first GOP congressmen to back a Dwight Eisenhower presidential candidacy. In 1959 he helped Charles Halleck of Indiana take over the minority leadership from Joseph Martin. He was himself elected to the No. 3 House GOP post in 1963, and in 1965 he defeated his old friend Halleck to take over the party leadership.

Robert Griffin, Michigan's 9th District congressman at the time, was a leader in the coup that unseated Halleck and made Ford minority leader. He remembers Ford as a low-key leader who got what he wanted without ruffling feathers.

"Often times Jerry Ford knew where he wanted to get, but he wasn't the kind of leader who'd say 'We should do it this way,'" Griffin said in an interview in his Traverse City law office. "He was very adroit and adept at getting people to support the position he wanted in the first place.

"He didn't rub people the wrong way. That was

Ford had little ambition for political jobs outside the House of Representatives. He preferred to remain and pursue his goal of becoming its speaker.



Ford meets Richard Nixon at Kent County Airport in 1968.



true not only of Republicans but Democrats, too . . . It shouldn't have been that much of a surprise to the people of Michigan when Jerry became minority leader."

Ford had little ambition for political jobs outside the House of Representatives. He refused on several occasions to be considered as a candidate for the vice presidency, U.S. senator or governor of Michigan. He preferred to remain in the House of Representatives and pursue his goal of becoming speaker of the House.

To become speaker, however, a man had to be a member of the majority party. And during the 10 years he served as minority leader, Ford worked relentlessly to increase the number of Republicans in Congress.

Though he never was able to put together a Republican majority in the House, his single-minded pursuit of that goal helped keep the party strong during one of its darkest periods.

Ford broke with earlier GOP practice of cooperating with conservative southern Democrats, and instead set about trying get Republicans elected to those seats. In one year he delivered more than 200 speeches across the nation in support of Republican House candidates.

In 1965, when Ford was named minority leader, the GOP was at its lowest ebb, says Griffin.

"That was a debacle — we were really wiped out," says Griffin, recalling the 1964 election in which a number of GOP congressmen were swept out of office by Lyndon Johnson's landslide victory over Barry Goldwater. "They were even talking about the end of the two-party system."

Griffin, Charles Goodell of New York, and others decided the party needed a change. Ford — who remembers that he "subtly" made himself available for the minority leadership — was elected over Halleck in January, 1965.

Ford was chosen as the candidate in that coup



Back in Grand Rapids, January 1974.

because "he was electable," Griffin recalls. Ford had few enemies among Democrats or Republicans in the House and was regarded as "extremely capable" and "a hard worker," Griffin says.

Ford set to work quickly, creating a committee to come up with Republican alternatives to Johnson's programs and personally campaigning for Republicans across the nation. By one estimate he made 200 speeches outside Washington in 1966.

"We were down to 140 seats (after the Johnson-Goldwater election)," Ford says. "And in the first election after 1964 we made a net gain of 47, one of the largest swings in history. I campaigned all over the country for Republican candidates."

For the remainder of Ford's tenure as GOP leader, the Republican strength stayed around 185 to 190 seats — far short of the 216 needed for a majority

continued on page 14

Congratulations Grand Rapids!

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The Ford Years

1913

The future president is born to Dorothy and Leslie Lynch King on July 14 in Omaha, Neb. He is named Leslie Lynch King Jr. Soon after his birth, his parents are divorced and Dorothy and the baby move back to Grand Rapids.

1915

Dorothy King remarries and her new husband, Gerald Rudolf Ford, adopts her son, renaming him Gerald R. Ford Jr.

1931

Ford graduates from South High School, after having been an all-star football player in his junior and senior years. He enters the University of Michigan.

1935

Ford graduates from the University of Michigan with a B average, placing him in the top third of his class.

He had been named most valuable player on the U-M football team his senior year, after playing as a substitute center on undefeated teams as an underclassman.

He plays in the 1935 College All-Star game but declines professional contract offers from the Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers. Instead, he accepts a coaching position at Yale University, hoping to enter its Law School.

1941

Ford receives a law degree from Yale, graduating in the top third of his class.

He returns to Grand Rapids, opens law practice in partnership with Philip Buchen, and joins the Republican Home Front, an organization dedicated to toppling political boss Frank D. McKay, who controlled much of state government from his Grand Rapids office.

1942

After joining the Navy, Ford serves on the USS Monterey in the Pacific. He is discharged in 1945 as a lieutenant commander with 10 battle stars.

1948

Until he became president, this may have been the most important and active year of Ford's life. He challenges incumbent GOP Congressman Bartel Jonkman whom he defeats in the primary, and goes on to win election to the House of Representatives over Democrat Fred J. Barr Jr. He was to be re-elected to the same post another 12 times.

Shortly after defeating Jonkman, the future president marries Elizabeth Bloomer Warren, a divorcee and former dancer.

1949

Ford's first year in Congress. He impresses observers with his hard work, but his votes against public housing and minimum wage laws antagonize some liberals who had supported him back home.

1950

Ford defeats James H. McLaughlin to win 2nd term in the House.

1952

Nineteen GOP congressmen, including Ford,



The vice president and Mrs. Ford draw a crowd in July 1974 visit.

sign a letter urging Dwight D. Eisenhower to run for the presidency. Ford decides against running for the U.S. Senate after the death of Sen. Arthur Vandenberg. He defeats Vincent E. O'Neill, winning 66 percent of the votes to take 3rd term in Congress.

1954

After declining to run for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by GOP Sen. Homer Ferguson, Ford is re-elected to the House with 63 percent of the vote; his opponent this time is Robert S. McAllister.

1956

Ford receives a 58.5 percent rating from the liberal Americans for Democratic Action. He wins re-election over George R. Clay with 67 percent of the vote.

1958

Richard VanderVeen, the man who eventually replaced Ford as 5th District congressman, is Ford's opponent in the election. Ford wins handily, carrying 63 percent of the vote.

1960

John F. Kennedy defeats Richard M. Nixon in the presidential race. Ford wins re-election over William J. Reamon with 67 percent of the 5th District vote.

Ford becomes the ranking Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and supports Kennedy's foreign aid initiatives.

1962

The American Political Science Association designates Ford "A Congressman's Congressman." Republicans fare poorly in elections and lose strength in the House of Representatives, but Ford wins by his customary 2-1 margin, defeating Reamon again.

1963

In January, Ford is named House Republican Conference chairman, the No. 3 post in the House GOP organization, as a result of a "young Turks" revolt led by Robert Griffin and Charles Goodell.

On November 22, John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas and Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president. Ford is named to the Warren Commission, assigned to investigate the Kennedy assassination.

1964

Johnson wins a landslide victory over Republican nominee Barry Goldwater. The election cuts GOP strength in the House to its lowest level.

Reapportionment changes district lines. Ottawa County becomes part of the 9th District, served by Robert Griffin, and Ionia County is added to Kent to make up Ford's 5th District.

Ford is re-elected, again over Reamon, with 61 percent of the vote. The election shows that Ford's personal popularity transcends party considerations, since Johnson defeated Goldwater even in the 5th District.

1965

Ford is elected House minority leader; again Griffin and Goodell are engineers of a coup against established leadership. Over the next four years Ford will lead a battle, usually without success, against Johnson's "Great Society" programs.

During nine years as minority leader he will consistently deliver 85-95 percent of the GOP House vote for Republican positions.

He works to weaken civil rights bills, but refuses to appear before a whites-only audience in Natchez, Miss.

1966

With 68 percent of the vote, Ford wins his biggest re-election majority. His opponent is attorney James M. Catchick.

The Vietnam War is occupying more and more of the nation's attention, and Ford blasts Johnson for mismanaging it.

He believes the United States should make more use of air power. He will remain a "hawk" on the war issue.

1968

Richard M. Nixon is elected president after a divisive three-way campaign against Democrat Hubert Humphrey and Independent George Wallace. Ford is re-elected, beating Laurence E. Howard with some 63 percent of the vote.

1970

In Congressional sessions of 1969-70, Ford attempts to limit the Voting Rights Act and reduce federal aid to education.



He calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and terms the Nixon Administration's military invasion of Cambodia a "tremendous success."

All that adds up to controversy, but he is re-elected after a long and bitter campaign, garnering some 61 percent of the vote to defeat Jean McKee.

1972

An eventful year. On June 17, burglars break into the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Office Building in Washington. This marks the beginning of the scandal that will make Ford president more than two years later.

As minority leader, Ford helps head off an early Watergate investigation by convincing congressmen to deny subpoena powers to the House Banking Committee and its chairman, Wright Patman.

Ford tours Communist China during the summer and admits he's impressed. Nixon is re-elected in a landslide over liberal, anti-war Democrat George McGovern. The GOP does not come close to a majority in the House, however. Ford wins easily, again defeating McKee with more than 60 percent of the vote, but is convinced he can never be speaker of the House. He contemplates retirement.

1973

As the Watergate scandal unfolds, Ford walks a tight-rope, strongly supporting Richard Nixon but at the same time calling for administration officials to testify before a Senate committee.

He is convinced Nixon is not guilty of any wrongdoing, and says the president should make Watergate tapes available to special prosecutor Archibald Cox and to the Senate committee headed by Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, under investigation for alleged bribe-taking while he was Baltimore County executive and governor of Maryland, resigns on Oct. 10.

On Oct. 12, Nixon announces that Ford is his choice as the new vice president. On Dec. 6, after being confirmed by the House and Senate, Ford takes the oath of office as vice president.

He still maintains Nixon is innocent of Watergate wrongdoing, and remains loyal to the president through the next eight months.

1974

Richard VanderVeen, a liberal Democrat who calls repeatedly for Nixon's resignation, wins a February special election to replace Ford as 5th District congressman.

Ford visits 40 states during the summer, speaking in support of the president. During the same time, his advisers quietly begin planning the transition to a Ford presidency.

At the end of July, the House Judiciary Committee votes three counts of impeachment against Nixon — the first step toward forcing him from office.

On Aug. 8, Nixon goes on national television to announce he will resign effective at noon the next day. Ford becomes the "accidental president." He tells America, "Our long national nightmare is over."

A month later, on Sept. 8, Ford grants Nixon a full pardon.

1975

During Ford's first full year in the White House, he battles Congress constantly over spending bills and continues to face public anger over the Nixon pardon.

1976

Ford loses the presidential election to Jimmy Carter after a long campaign that features the first televised debate between major candidates since 1960.

1977

Ford leaves the White House after serving about 30 months as president.

1980

After long consideration, Ford decides against seeking the presidency again. He also turns down an offer to be vice-presidential candidate on the ticket headed by Ronald Reagan.

1981

The Ford Presidential Library opens in Ann Arbor and the Presidential Museum opens in Grand Rapids. □

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New portrait replaces Nixon's in U.S. Embassy at Bonn.



Aug. 9, 1974: Chief Justice Burger administers the oath as Ford becomes 38th president.



Ford as president: alone in the Oval Office.

38th President

contin

that could have elected the Grand Rapids congressman speaker.

Ford remembers that with a whimsical smile never got to be speaker," he says, "which was disappointment of my political life." Then, chiding, he adds: "But if I couldn't be speaker I guess I came out all right."

During those years he also was first saddled with an image that plagued him the rest of his public life.

President Johnson, upset by Ford's constant stumbling at Democratic programs, performed what Ford calls a "hatchet job" on the minority leader.

Johnson's most oft-quoted slur was a humorous observation that "Jerry Ford is a nice young fellow but he played too much football without a helmet. The president also wondered aloud whether Ford could walk and chew gum at the same time.

Both Ford and Griffin trace Ford's "stumblebum" image at least in part to the Johnson comments. "In years, comedians and cartoonists portrayed Ford as a dim-wit, constantly bumping into things or falling down.

Ford remains good-natured about that image though it clearly nettled him.

"I never understood that," he says. "I was in the upper 15 to 20 percent of my graduating class at the University of Michigan. I was in the upper third of a very bright Law School class at Yale University. I was a good competitive athlete and I've kept up my athletic activity.

"I've never understood why the press refuse to recognize the facts. Frankly, it never bothered me but it was an unfair distortion . . . I bumped my head and you'd think everybody thought I couldn't walk straight."

Calling the image "a triviality," Ford says a politician can't let such things trouble him.

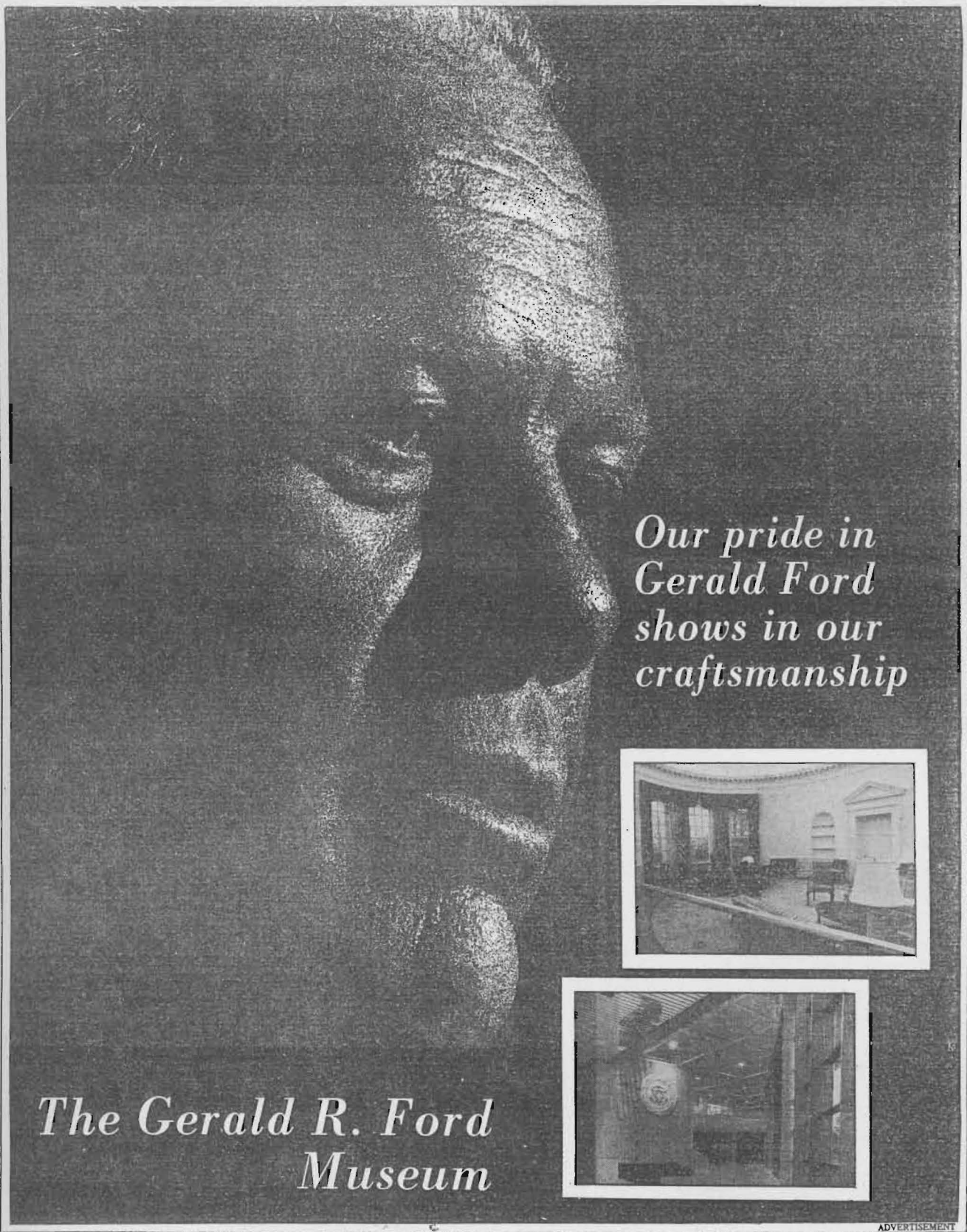
He believes his public image is favorable, but still recalls the "unfair" press treatment:

"I think I'm a pretty good skier, but the only pictures they took of me were when I fell down. Every skier falls down . . . I'm a fairly aggressive skier — you're taking certain chances and inevitably you're going to fall. Even Olympic skiers fall.

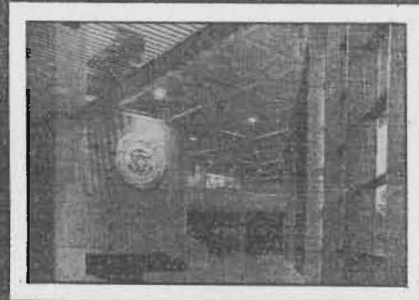
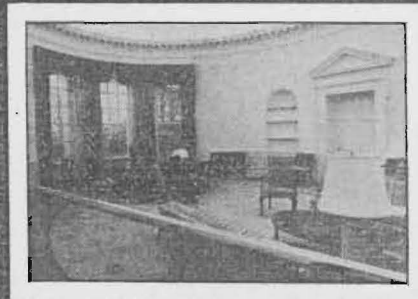
The three men who occupied the oval office before Ford were among the most powerful persons

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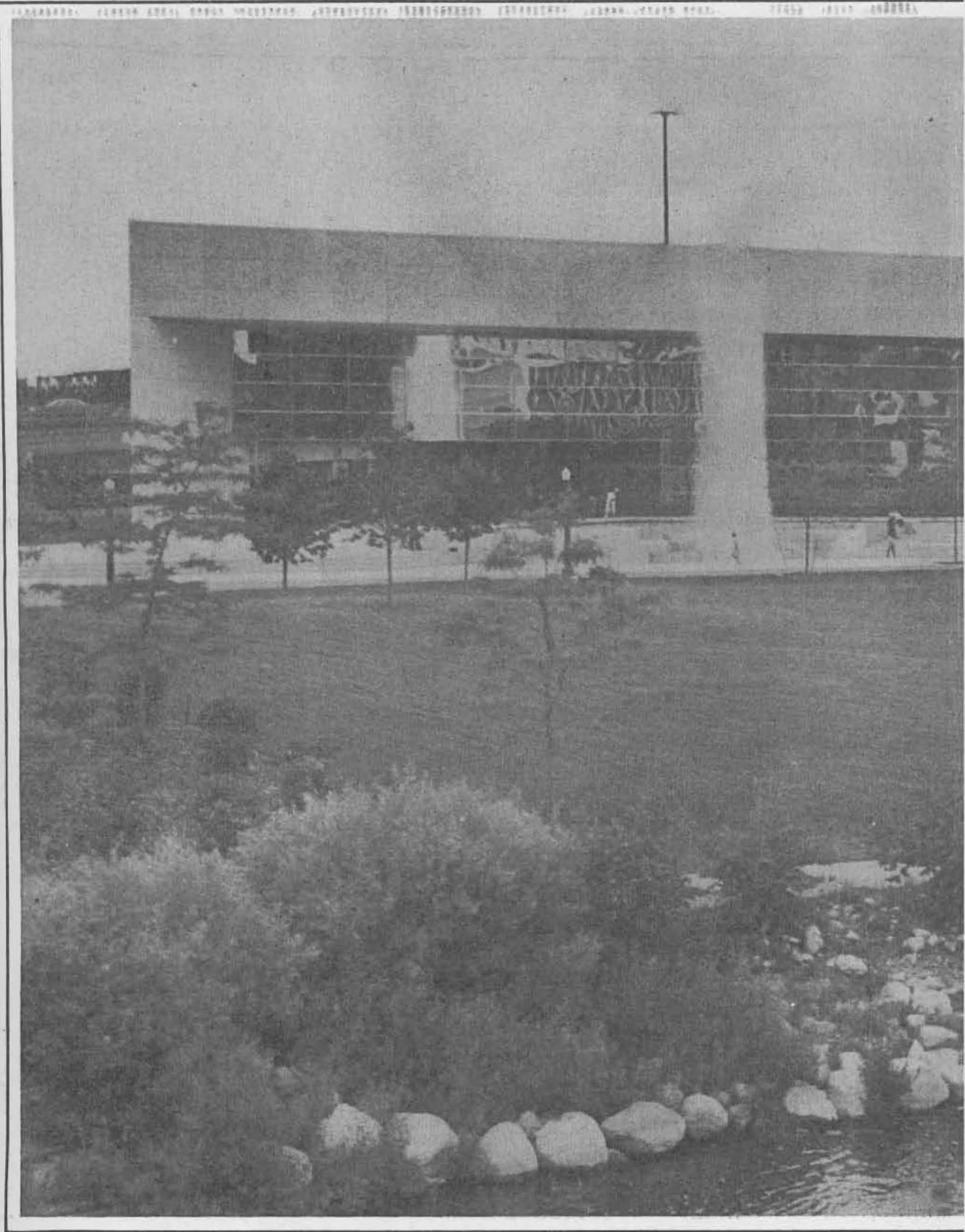
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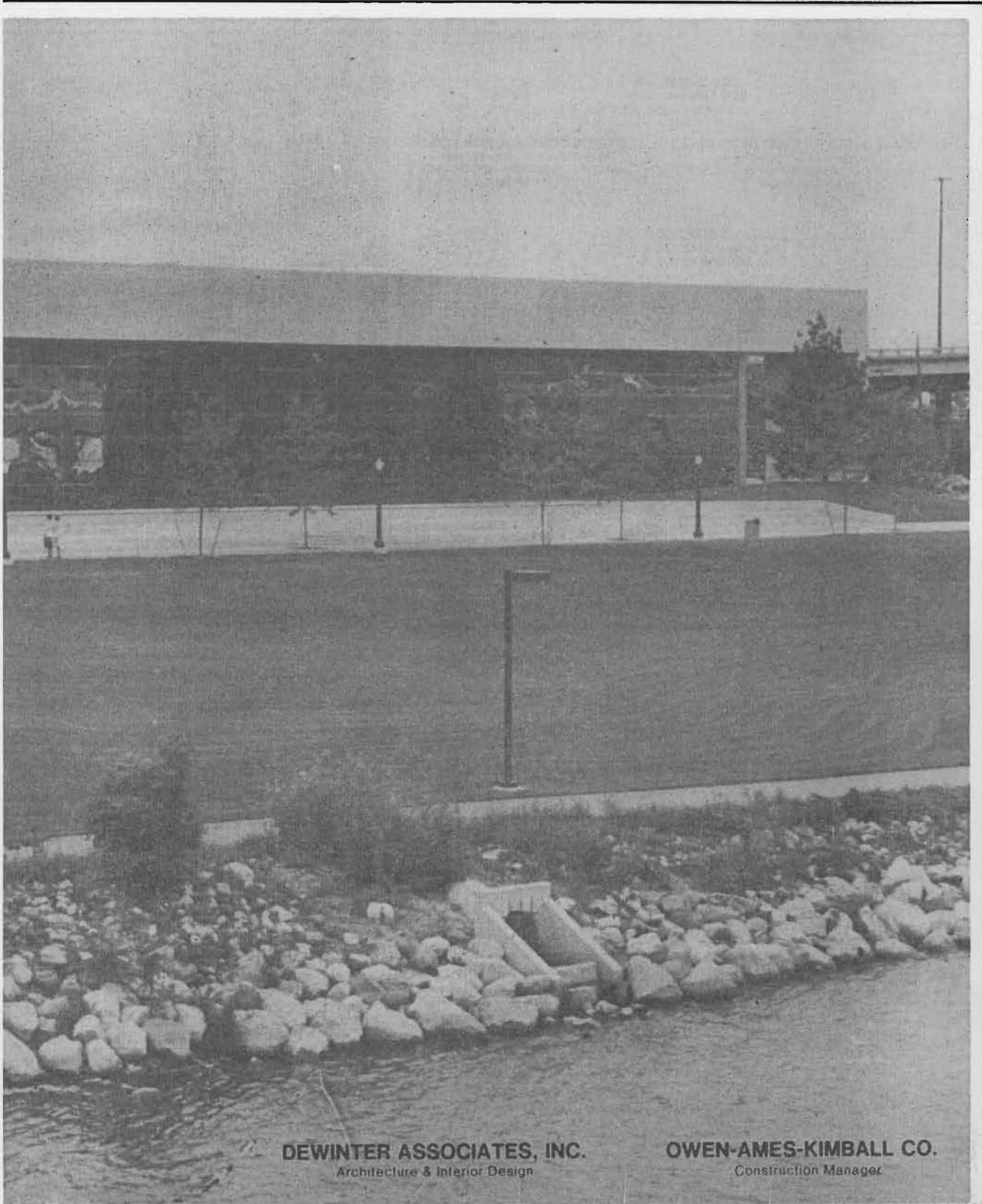
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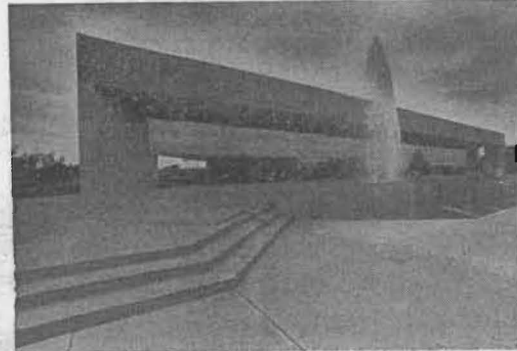
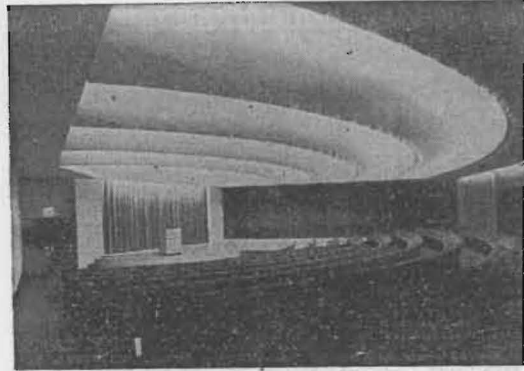
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38th President

continued

ities of the 20th century — John F. Kennedy, the aristocratic charmer who became a legend after his assassination; Johnson, the Texas rancher who tried to battle American poverty and Vietnamese communism at the same time, and Nixon, the tragic figure destroyed by the abuse of power.

Gerald Ford's personality could never outshine those men. Because he made a point of getting along with both friend and foe in Congress, he inspired neither the devoted following nor the bitter enemies that often latch onto political leaders.

When he rocketed to national prominence by becoming vice president in 1973, news organizations from around the nation descended on Grand Rapids to dissect the man and his town.

They found a district that is a microcosm of midwestern America — a collection of city, suburb and farms. It was a city that held closely to traditional beliefs, where churches prospered and people still aspired to own a nice home on a quiet street.

And they found a man who closely reflected the conservative economics and traditional social values of middle America.

What he was, in fact, was a bright young man who came to Washington in 1949 with firm beliefs about America's social, economic and foreign needs. And he was a man who held to virtually those same beliefs as a senior citizen when he left the White House 28 years later.

"I don't think his basic philosophy changed very much," says Griffin, who served 22 years in the House and Senate. "The perception of what's conservative has changed."

Ford was a man not of simple mind, but of simple values. He owned up to a straightforward view of the world that said hard work and American ingenuity could solve just about anything.

From the beginning he distrusted government policies that handed out money to people, but he supported the nation's grand engineering projects — whether water systems or the space program.

He liked to describe himself as a liberal on foreign affairs, a moderate on domestic issues and a conservative on economics.

That description is apt, particularly applied to the political realities of the '40s and '50s, when Ford was a strong supporter of such progressive foreign-affairs measures as the Marshall Plan, among other foreign-aid initiatives.

Ford was the candidate of an America that had just won World War II — a nation convinced of its own righteousness and destiny.

His earliest supporters were veterans who had returned after fighting together on three continents and believed America could show the world the way to peace and prosperity.

In the giddy optimism of those postwar days, it seemed America could do anything. Federal government policies helped thousands of returning veterans to build new homes in what was the beginning of suburbia as we know it today.

Even before becoming a congressman, Ford worked with local veterans groups to make land and financing more available for veterans' homes. But he opposed plans for publicly owned housing.

Industry boomed in those postwar years, there were plenty of jobs and the federal government began pouring billions of dollars into the interstate highway system that would stretch to virtually every sizable town in America. The American Dream changed from "40 acres and a mule" to "two cars and a home in the suburbs."

Meanwhile the Marshall Plan used American money to help rebuild the shattered economies of the European and Asian allies that had borne the worst damage from the world war.

Though suspicious of welfare-style programs,

continued next page



President and First Lady wave from steps of plane at Kent County Airport.



Confetti greets Ford in first trip home as president.





Thanksgiving 1974: Silas McGee shows his style as 1930 South High teammates, including Ford, look on.

38th President

continued

Ford didn't oppose the huge engineering projects — of the day.

Early in his first campaign for the 5th District congressional seat, he attended a conference in Chi-

cago and announced his concern about high Lake Michigan water levels, with a tacit suggestion that the government should do what it could to control those levels.

He also spoke of the need for flood-control measures along the Grand River watershed. He held those views well into the '60s, favoring for a time an Army Corps of Engineers plan to build a mile-long dam on the Rogue River, creating a huge lake in

rural northern Kent County. That plan was later dropped.

All that was consistent with Ford's position in the mainstream of postwar America. It was a period in which America was clearly the most powerful nation in the world, a time when most Americans assumed other nations also aspired to the kind of decent, clean, open society that appeared to exist here.

From the vantage point of the 1980s, those times seem far away and hopelessly unsophisticated. In this "age of limits," some find it difficult to imagine the hopes for unlimited growth and prosperity that dominated America after the war.

Some journalists and political liberals objected to the conservative views Ford still held in the 1980s, and some doubted his capacity for creativity. A New York Times reporter found Ford himself more conservative than the district that sent him to Washington. The implication was that Ford had not advanced as far as his community in the years after the war.

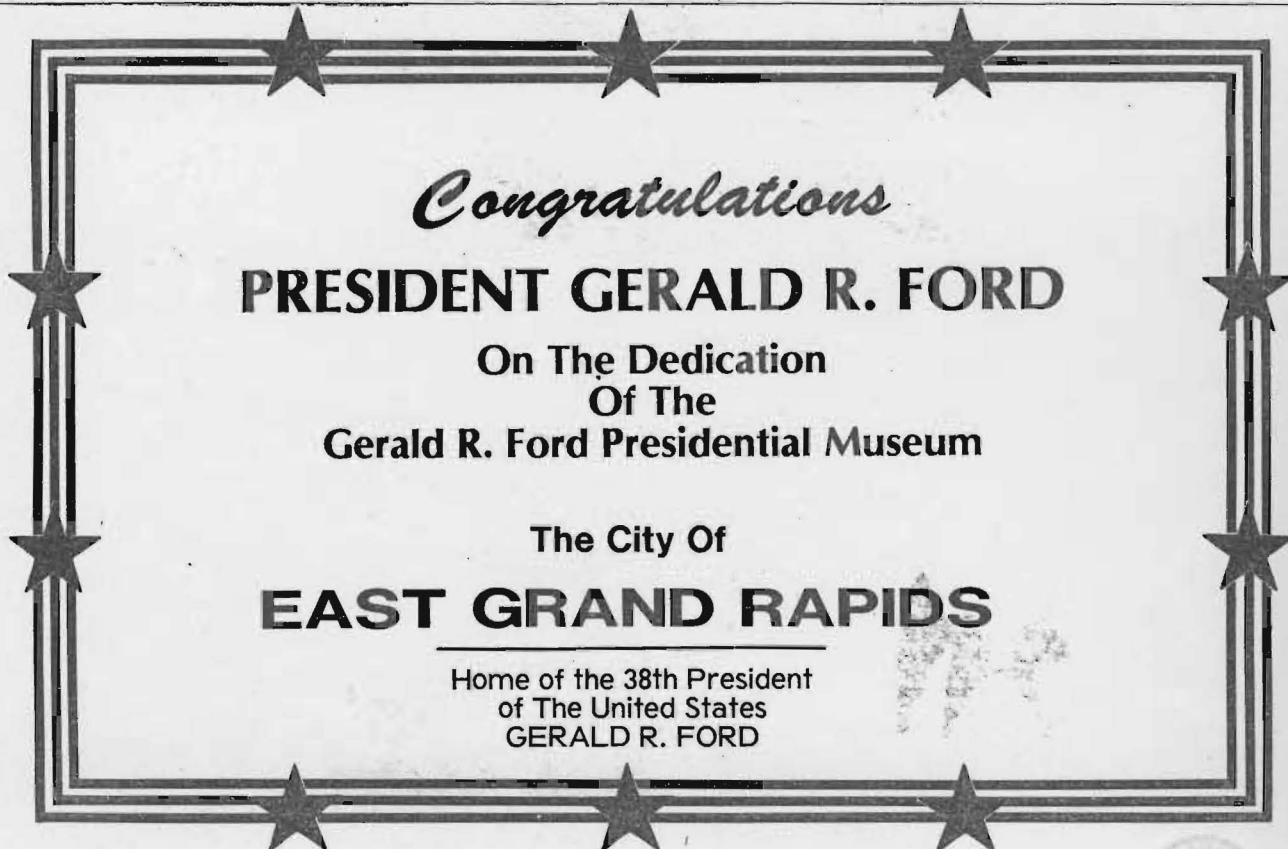
But the virtually unanimous appraisal was that Ford was decent, honest and trustworthy — in direct contrast to the popular perception of the man who made him vice president.

Ford ascended to the summit of government only because financial and political scandals toppled the previous administration, forcing both President Richard Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew from office.

When Agnew resigned after being accused of accepting bribes, Ford was Nixon's choice for the vice presidency. While the choice surprised much of the nation, Nixon apparently felt he needed a man with a reputation for integrity and strong party loyalty — and a man who would be confirmed in Congress without controversy.

Ford filled that bill largely because of the reputation he had built up in his years of working the House floor. When Nixon himself resigned under

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Congratulations

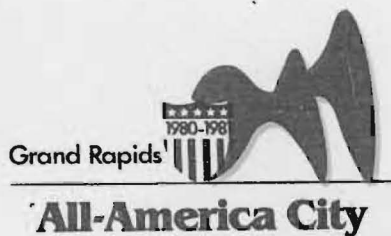
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75, the president is greeted by Betty, Jack and Steve.

continued

pressure 10 months later, the former congressman from Grand Rapids — still little known to much of the country — became president.

He came to the office with experience and abilities far beyond those of common men, but somehow he remained just Jerry Ford to millions of Americans.

TV crews filmed him picking up the morning paper off his porch in Alexandria Va., and buttering his toast for breakfast. Ford came across as a husband and father from suburbia, which in fact he was, and his simple, down-to-earth manner became

continued on page 50



Ford and Liberty in the Oval Office.

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The golfer: Ford keeps his eye on the ball.

Thirteen times Gerald R. Ford asked voters in the Grand Rapids area to send him to Washington as their congressman, and 13 times the voters did as he asked.

During that time, the Democratic Party put up 10 different candidates to challenge Ford. They worked hard, but on election night each was left to ponder the wisdom of battling for a lost cause.

In the 5th District, it seemed, you just couldn't beat Jerry Ford.

Attorney Richard F. VanderVeen lost to Ford in 1958, then became Ford's successor by winning a special election for the post in 1974, after Ford became vice president.

The other challengers were: Fred Barr, James McLaughlin, Vincent O'Neill, Robert McAllister, George Clay, William Reamon, James Catchick, Laurence

Howard and Jean McKee.

"It was like being overwhelmed," VanderVeen says of his '58 campaign. "We worked very hard, raised what — for then — was a fairly big amount of money, but it didn't seem to make much difference in terms of the percentage of votes we got."

He recalls that Ford did not shy away from debate. "He was always willing to appear on the same platform. He was never personally vindictive; he was always gracious to opponents."

VanderVeen, a liberal Democrat, declines to assess Ford's service as a congressman, however, saying there is nothing to be gained from raising "counterpoint."

VanderVeen's victory in the 1974 special election, and reelection in general balloting later that year, marked the only



Cartoonists had difficulty caricaturing Ford's face. These drawings are among a set presented to him in 1975.

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beat Jerry Ford

time in more than 50 years that a Democrat has held the 5th District seat. He figures he won because he made an issue of Watergate and Richard Nixon.

One of VanderVeen's major campaign themes that year was that Ford, not Nixon, should be president.

Jean McKee, another local attorney, lost to Ford in 1970 and '72. She ran against him chiefly, she says, because she opposed his hawkish stand on the Vietnam conflict.

McKee and Ford debated each other on several occasions, she recalls, and "generally the feedback was that, at least in a couple of cases, ... I held my own."

McKee, who describes herself as a "liberal," differed with Ford on social programs and environmental issues as well.

Ford's positions on those questions, she says, "while not as extreme, were not unlike those of the Reagan administration."

She was regarded as a strong, articulate candidate but never was able to garner even 40 percent of the vote against Ford.

The futility champion — that is, the person who ran the most times against Ford — was William G. Reamon, an attorney who was Ford's Democratic opponent in 1960, '62 and '64.

Reamon kept his sense of humor despite the election losses. Running against Ford, he chuckled, was "sort of like trying to climb Mount Everest carrying a blacksmith's anvil."

Reamon knew he had little chance of beating the popular incumbent, but says: "I thought it was important that the Democratic position be articulated. Mr. Ford's ... conservatism was certainly well-recognized, and I felt there was a need to express an opposite point of view."

Reamon isn't impressed with Ford's record. "Gerald R. Ford's name, so far as I'm aware, is not attached to a single significant piece of legislation," he charges, adding that Ford displayed "a kind of a sit-tight, caretaker, do-nothing type of attitude."

Supporters say Ford did not author legislation because his jobs in Congress, as a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and later as minority leader, allowed him to make his mark in other ways. That, says Reamon, "is a lame excuse."

Reamon holds no personal bitterness against Ford, however. "I don't see how you could say anything negative about Gerald Ford unless you get into the area of political philosophy. Other than that he was the All-American boy."

"In a personal sense he had great empathy for people, I'm sure, but in a political sense he was in some ways insensitive to individual problems. It's a classic example of the conservative attitude."

"In matters of personal charity he could be generous. In mat-

ters of social welfare he could be unresponsive to the needs of the people en masse."

Ford's down-to-earth style — and his sophisticated "constituent service" network — made him untouchable in the 1960s.

"Ford was at the height of his popularity and undoubtedly received many, many votes from people who were not much concerned about his philosophy," says Reamon.

Local voters "were very much

impressed by his personality and his obvious genuineness — the fact that he always presented a very pleasant demeanor and generally came across in a positive way if you didn't pay too much attention to his philosophy," the three-time challenger adds.

Reamon recalls an incident during the Ford presidency that pointed up Ford's gentlemanly attitude toward political opponents.

The local attorney was staying with a friend on Mackinac Island at the same time Ford, Gov. William Milliken and Sen. Robert Griffin were attending a judicial conference there.

Reamon was sitting on a porch drinking a cup of coffee, and when a carriage bearing the three VIPs clopped past, he called out to the president.

The carriage stopped, the men chatted briefly about the campaigns, and Reamon recalls telling the president something like, "Look how it all turned out — now you're down there in the White House."

Ford responded with a smile: "Yes, and here you are — making all that money at the practice of law."

Reamon doesn't begrudge Ford the national attention he's getting this week during "Celebration on the Grand," which marks the opening of the Ford Presidential Museum.

"I'm certain he's getting recognition that he's entitled to," he says.

But Reamon's mind will be on football that week rather than on politics, and for once he and fellow University of Michigan alumnus Gerald Ford will be on the same side.

"What I will be thinking about that whole week is how badly Michigan is going to beat Notre Dame on the 19th," Reamon says. "I wish the attendance at the gala well, but I shall not be there." □



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A personal friend of Mr. M. E. Davenport, you spoke at our Founder's Day ceremony in January of 1966, recognizing the 100th year of business education for the College.

In your address, Mr. Ford, you said, in part:
"This is a wonderful moment in the history of Davenport College. It marks 100 years of service to business, industry and the community; 100 years of providing educational and career opportunities to tens of thousands of young men and women seeking places in the world of work; 100 years of providing training and education for employed adults whose advancement in their jobs depended upon increased skills and knowledge; 100 years of contributing to the economic and social growth of this community through strengthening of human resources. This is a proud record. I join in marking this day as a most significant one for our city, community and state."



An annual visitor to the Davenport campus, Congressman Ford is shown here talking to students and faculty at a College assembly.

Responding to the inspiration and vision you suggested 15 years ago when you were our Congressman, Mr. Ford, Davenport College is now the largest private two-year College in Michigan and the 16th oldest independent business school in the country—serving more than 3500 students.

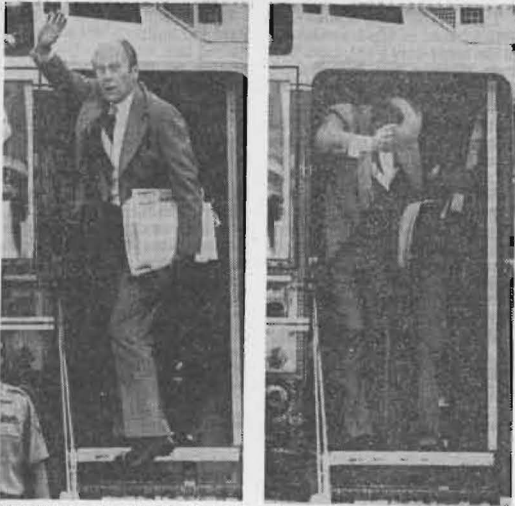
Mr. Ford, as you have dedicated your life to a free and glorious America, we, too, at Davenport are committed to the special mission of preparing people to be effective participants in our free-enterprise way of life.

Thank you, President Ford!

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Ford bumps head entering helicopter in 1974.

38th President

continued

both his greatest strength and his worst failing.

Supporters stressed that Ford's basic decency helped heal the wounds of a nation torn apart by years of undeclared war in Southeast Asia, and by the scandals that riddled the Nixon-Agnew administration. They noted that his image as a "regular" American helped dispel the imperial trappings that had grown up around the White House.

Others charged, however, that the new president's lack of ruthless political instincts contributed to organizational problems in the White House early in his administration.

His attempts to mobilize public opinion — particularly the ill-fated Whip Inflation Now, or WIN campaign — were dismal failures, critics point out, and he was never really able to pull his administration from under the cloud of the Watergate scandals that put him in office.

Soon after he became president, polls showed 7 out of 10 Americans approved of his actions. A month later, he gave Nixon a full pardon and his stock in the polls dropped by 22 percent.

"A decent person who makes terrible mistakes" is the way Ford is described by A. Robert Kleiner of

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Emotional crowds greet Ford on Mo



Meeting the home folks: November 1976.

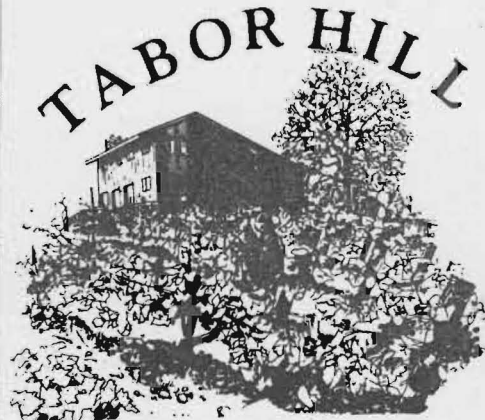


Waving out train window in 1976 campaign.

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

38th President

continued

Grand Rapids, who supported him until 1956 and later became one of the state's most prominent Democrats.

"He has a very big heart. If he saw a hungry kid on the street, Jerry would give the kid his own lunch. Yet he can't see that when he votes against hot-lunch programs, he's taking lunches away from millions of kids."

Kleiner contends Ford lacks the sensitivity to see how government actions affect people at the bottom of the ladder. And he says Ford is too easily swayed by "people who have amassed great wealth."

Yet even he — and Kleiner headed a local Democratic party that lived for decades in the shadow of Jerry Ford — is convinced of Ford's personal honesty and intelligence.

"He's an intelligent man," Kleiner acknowledges. "He's not stupid."

Ford's years in Congress had two main phases: his years on the Appropriations Committee and his years as minority leader.

He was ranking Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and was quoted regularly as an "expert" on defense spending.

During those years he consistently supported defense outlays and backed foreign-aid plans laid out by President Kennedy.

When Ford took over in 1965 as House Republican leader, he kept up his support of the defense establishment. A "hawk" during the Vietnam war, he often irritated his Senate colleague, Minority Leader Everett Dirksen, by calling on the Johnson administration for stronger tactics and more use of air power in Southeast Asia.

Ford's biggest battle in Congress may have been



Election eve 1976 is a happy night in Grand Rapids for Jerry and Betty Ford . . .

one he ultimately lost — the fight over Johnson's social programs dubbed the "War on Poverty"

Most of that program became law in the mid-'60s despite opposition from Ford and other Republi-

cans. Many are the same programs being cut back by the Reagan administration.

The war on poverty raised a classic argument

continued on page 54

Congratulations Grand Rapids!

The dedication of the Gerald R. Ford Museum will be a day long-remembered. We salute the people of Grand Rapids and Gerald R. Ford on this momentous occasion.



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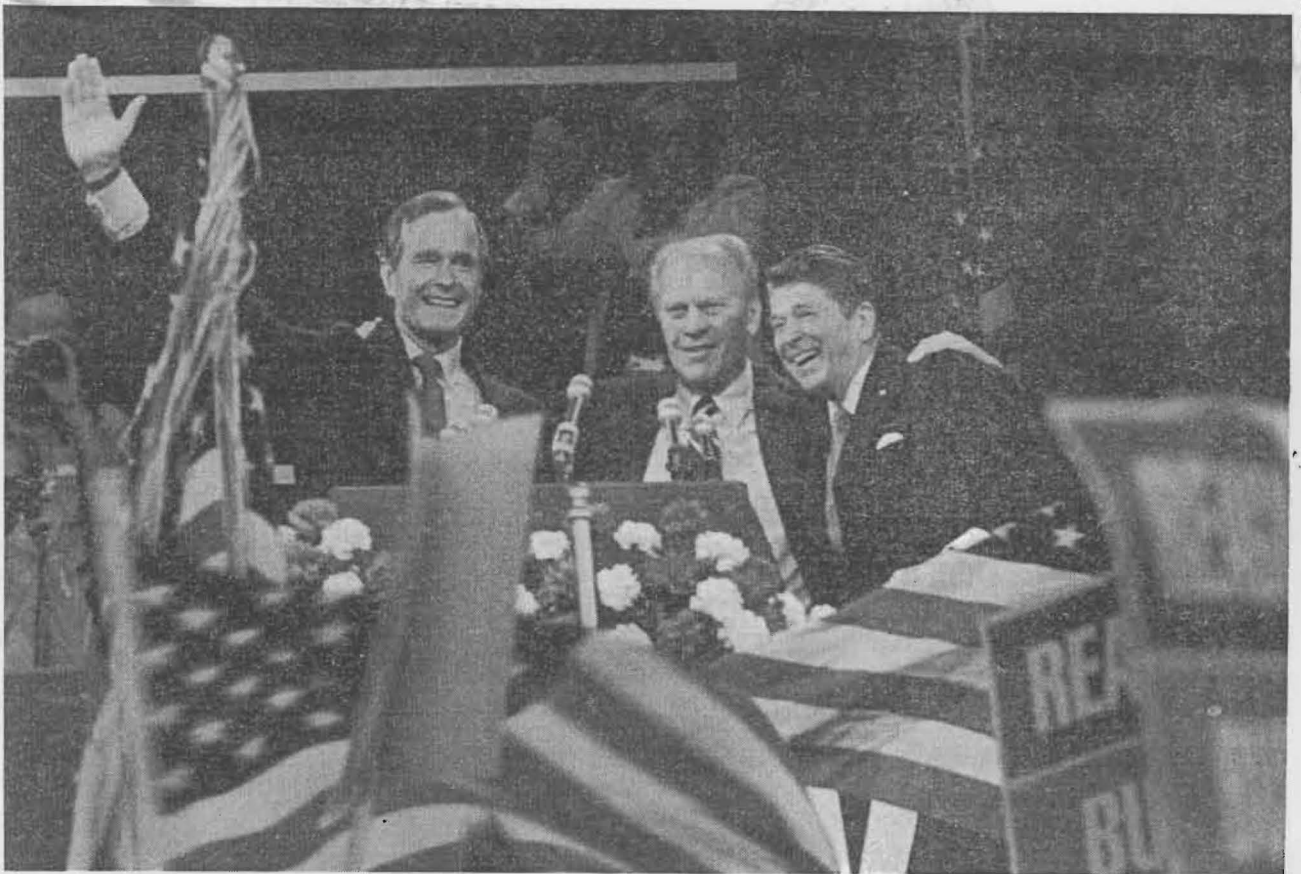




His image as a 'regular' American helped dispel the imperial trappings that had grown up around the White House.



... But faces are grim in the Oval Office the next night as Ford prepares to concede.



George Bush, Ford and Ronald Reagan campaign together.



38th President

continued

between conservative and liberal thinkers.

Liberals, led by Johnson, contended the programs were needed to relieve the suffering of the poor and give them a chance to rise into the mainstream of the economy. They charged that their opponents were racially motivated, since many of the poverty agencies and related programs were targeted specifically to aid blacks.

Conservatives on the other hand contended the programs were too expensive, would result in bloated, inefficient government, would harm the nation's free enterprise economic system and wouldn't work to solve the original problem anyway.

Ford, an outspoken leader of the conservative opposition, believes his position was vindicated at least

in part by the 1980 election in which Reagan won the presidency and conservatives made huge gains in the House and Senate.

"In reflection, that (the War on Poverty) was an experiment," Ford says. "A costly one in dollars and a major effort philosophically. I always had reservations about it. I supported some of the programs and I fought others.

"But you know, the election of 1980 was sort of a referendum on those programs. And my appraisal of the 1980 election is as follows: A majority of voters in 1980 were not being less compassionate to the people who are less well off, but the majority of voters said those so-called poverty programs were not solving the problem.

"And the voters in 1980 said we have to try something different to solve the problem. To a degree that's a support for the position I took in many in-

stances in Congress. I wasn't sure these programs were going to do everything the promoters promised. We spent countless billions of dollars in a well-motivated effort, but the record shows a lot of those programs didn't work."

Ford acknowledges that some good came from the poverty battle, however. The Johnson programs "did develop an awareness of the problem . . . there had even been some lack of a recognition of the problem."

He believes the Reagan administration must find new ways to help the disadvantaged.

"We have to experiment. We have to try some new things to help people who are less fortunate educationally, socially and otherwise."

Ford tried to reduce the growth of government while he was president, but failed. Now the Reagan administration is succeeding in many of the same areas, including tax and spending cuts.

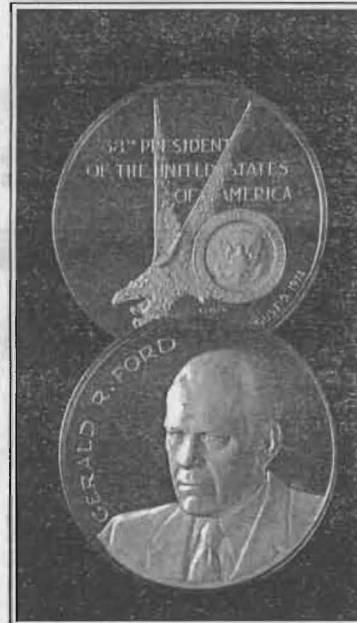
"There was a totally different political environ-



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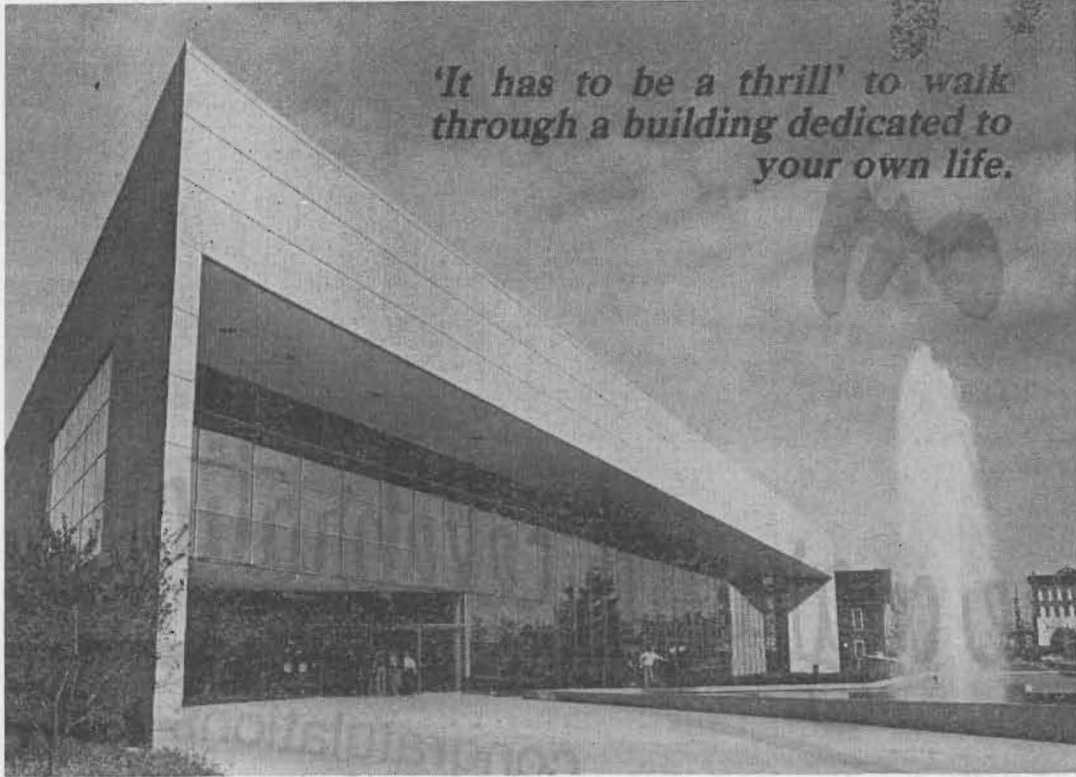


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Ford Presidential Museum's mirrored-glass front faces the Grand River.



Museum display: The Fords accept cheers at 1976 GOP convention.



The museum features a replica of Ford's White House office.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

it," says the former president. "We were coming of the trauma and the tragedy of Watergate and its sad ramifications. The Reagan administration is in on the wings of a significant political election where the public ... gave them a mandate. Boy, my inheritance was much different from that of President Reagan. I think in many respects economic policies — reduction in the rate of growth of federal spending, tax reductions to stimulate out of an economic slump — the contents are virtually identical."

prime interest rate to 6¼. I hope they do as well." With his political career over, Ford has been able to sit back and enjoy life. His home in Rancho Mirage outside Palm Springs, Calif., overlooks the fairway of a private golf course. From his office window he can look out across the grass and palm trees to mountains rising beyond. He has more money than ever. He and his wife have each written a book; he is a much-sought-after speaker who commands fees as high as \$15,000, and he serves on a number of corporate boards of directors.

When he reflects on his public life, there are no regrets — "only wonderful memories." "I hope people remember me as a person who was dedicated to trying to make government work to the benefit of individuals. I want them to think of me as an honest, forthright, hardworking friend who chose public service as a career."

This week, with the opening of the Presidential Museum, Ford will be able to see his own life story told in a building constructed specifically for that purpose. He's not sure how he'll react to that honor. "It has to be a thrill," he says. "It's really overwhelming to see what has been done. It's just shocking in one sense, but satisfying in another." □

At 68, he remains in vigorous good health.



Have a grand celebration!

congratulations

on the completion of

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