

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT : : From Fledgling : : A CAMERA BIOGRAPHY



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AT 3 MONTHS OLD WITH HIS MOTHER

AT 10-A SCHOOLBOY

AT 38-CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

AT 19-HARVARD STUDENT (LEFT)-HIS FATHER JAMES ROOSEVELT

AT 31-ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF NAVY

TODAY-AT 50

ALBANY, N. Y.—(AP)—The will to conquer made Franklin Delano Roosevelt president-elect of the United States.

It made him militant in politics. It developed his ability to win votes outside party lines. It motivated the genial, sympathetic qualities typified by his famous campaign smile and the ringing timbre of his fine voice. He eschewed the social distinction to which he was born and the prospects of a comparatively placid life as a big city lawyer of independent means, choosing instead to follow an ideal of public service.

Not even the tremendous physical handicap imposed by infantile paralysis, which in 1921 deprived him of his powers of locomotion, could turn him from that course.

Won First Office at 38. He was only 38 when he won his first office, a seat in the state senate of New York from Dutchess county. It was just that many years since the voters of his native community had sent a member of his party to Albany. That had happened in 1882 and Roosevelt was born January 30 of that year, at Hyde Park.

There a big estate flanking the Albany post road and overlooking the hill-embowered Hudson had been the seat of his family since the first part of the 18th century. It is still his home.

The parents of the president-elect were James Roosevelt, a fourth cousin of the 26th President, and Sara Delano Roosevelt, member of a family which had a firm place among New York's socially elect. Franklin's educational program of Groton school, Harvard and the law school of Columbia was in consonance with the family position.

Wed to Fifth Cousin. Toward the end of his first year in law school, on March 17, 1905, he married Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, a fifth cousin. A place with one of the big law firms of New York was ready for him on graduation, but after three years as a junior attorney he quit this work to go into politics.

In the next ten years he worked from the state senate to a place in the national councils of his party. He was assistant secretary of the navy in the World war and vice-presidential nominee in 1920. The Harding landslide marked the end of this decade.

Thus far the Roosevelt ship had sailed swiftly and surely before favoring winds. An uncharted reef changed all this.

There is a Roosevelt summer home at Campobello, New Brunswick. There the family of father, mother, daughter and four sons were wont to pass the hot weeks of mid-summer, swimming, fishing and cruising about the coast in sail or motor boat. Roosevelt came out of the cold surf one day in the summer of 1921, feeling a bit chilled.

Stricken With Infantile Paralysis. A few days later he was stricken with infantile paralysis. For a time his life was endangered. Then he came slowly back, but the disease had left him without use of his limbs.

For the next seven years virtually all his time was occupied in fighting to regain his ability to walk. By the time of the 1924 Democratic convention in Madison Square Garden, the stricken Roosevelt was able to go to the platform on crutches, stand leaning against a desk and present the name of Alfred E. Smith, "the happy warrior."

Warm Springs, Georgia, it was found, benefited him and he spent months there each year. Gradually the atrophied muscles responded to constant effort to use, chiefly to regaining a complete swimming stroke in the warm pool. When the 1928 convention assembled at Houston, Roosevelt again was on hand to nominate Al Smith as party standard-bearer and this time the nomination went through.

Roosevelt went back to Warm Springs, Smith in New York, wanted a strong gubernatorial candidate to help the ticket in his pivotal home state. The suggestion that Roosevelt run was sent to Georgia.

Elected Governor of New York. Mrs. Roosevelt hurried north, met the party leaders and announced that her husband, because the campaign effort might set back his fight for physical restoration, did not want the place. Party leaders called him on long distance telephone to urge him to run, and one of them, thinking to encourage him, said:

"There is every likelihood that you will be elected."
"Yes," replied the reluctant candidate, "that's the best of it!"
After that no "stop Roosevelt" movement could stay his progress to the White House.

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