March 12, 1947
Lancaster, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am writing you as I had promised a few days ago, who were with me but
I asked the your beloved husband, Franklin D. Roosevelt, passed away. These corps were
entering the 343 General Hospital the same as I
when I brought it up. I was going to write you in regard to same thing which
will always live forever in
our minds. We were on
strackers in the B-29's were coming in from a raid on
Tokyo, Japan. The idea was
just coming over the jungle
as we looked up the sky.
(2)

one of the planes shot a very hard shot out to show he had wounded abroad. Just at that moment the radio came on with the news that our leaders had passed away. The commanding officer of the dispensary asked us to bow our heads in silent prayer for Him. This has stuck with me since that day in May 1945 as I have had it pretty tough going since getting out. I neglected to write you as I said I would. This little scene of which I wrote of will always be in my mind as long as we live. I don't know where these other fellows are but I have did.
as I said I would that
day in May 1945.

If you read this, Mrs.
Roosevelt, just remember
one thing two of us who
were there on D-Day that
day was with you & feel
as you did. We had lost
the Allies’ greatest leader
the Army of any one every
bad.

Some of these days
if it’s Ok tell you I will
send you some money in
which to purchase a flower
wreath to be placed on this
grave in from those of us
of the 724th M.F. Bn. 3rd P. C
246, Guam.

Well, close for now hope
ing these times fine you
4 yours in good health
(4.)

happiness. I Remain
Franklyn E. Alexander.
Boys Industrial School
Lancaster, Ohio.
P.S. I'm Nightman here.
Tell your son James I send this in my very best regards. Write him while embarking at 10th Army
in Hawaii.
Mr. Roosevelt bought some 2,500 acres of farm lands before he reentered public life, intending to conduct agricultural and forestry operations on a substantial scale. The demands of his career, however, so interfered that no great results were achieved. He later transferred the farm lands to the Foundation, and this property is now in process of becoming a part of the Roosevelt Memorial.

The Little White House, the central point of interest of this Memorial, was built in 1932, costing then, less than $10,000.00. It, with the garage and guest house erected soon after, were truly Georgia products, since all labor and materials were locally secured. Henry J. Toombs, the architect, makes this interesting statement: "In Mr. Roosevelt's first visit to Warm Springs in the winter of 1925, he occupied the cottage near Meriwether Inn from which the beginnings of the Foundation were planned and his first house, to be built nearby, projected. That first house, now known as McCarthy Cottage, was completed in winter of 1926. In part it was intended to encourage others to build winter homes on the spur of Pine Mountain which was to become such a part of his life. But even while his first cottage at Warm Springs was building he had selected a site higher up on the mountain, had a topographic survey made of it and many times went there to picnic and talk of a future house which would sit on the edge of the ravine which sloped westward from the site. It is interesting in retrospect to note the resemblance of this location, now site of the Little White House, to the location he later chose at Hyde Park for a retreat there—also on a hill top.

"Mr. Roosevelt had become much interested in and appreciative of the old houses in nearby towns to Warm Springs, and despite his fondness for the Dutch Architectural tradition of New York, wanted his house on the hill at Warm Springs patterned after an old house, characteristic of Georgia, in Greenville nearby. (His first home at Warm Springs was similarly inspired by a nearby house.) The first plans of the house were rejected as being too 'pretentious,' the pretentiousness consisting of a small reception room. The house was accordingly reduced to size as it now stands. The arrangement did not include a dining room, the living room being intended for both purposes, which reflects Mr. Roosevelt’s taste for simplicity and informality. The only generous feature was the large sun deck on the rear. The Governor thought of it as a modest place in its finish and details and rejected plaster for local pine boards for the interior and insisted on a fireplace of stones gathered from the hill side. The little garage and servants' building was built at the same time as the house, during the winter of 1931-32. The guest cottage with two rooms and a bath was added in 1933."

The grounds were left much as nature developed them, and so are they to remain. Otherwise, they would not truly reflect the thinking and the choice of the man being commemoratively honored.

Mr. Roosevelt is the father of the State Park System in Georgia, as he first visualized the creation of a State Park on Pine Mountain, and so expressed himself in a speech delivered at the dedication of a Memorial Fire Tower, nearby. His suggestion was taken up and followed through, to become what is now Georgia's largest and best developed park of more than 5,000 acres, with facilities being added to the present Inn or Tavern and 10 more cabins for overnight use of recreationists. The name of that Park has just been officially changed from the Pine Mountain to the Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park by Acting Governor M. E. Thompson. Since this Park is only a few miles away from the Little White House, these two projects should be made to function in unified harmony of policy and of use.
The donation of the lands on which the Little White House, Dowell's Knob; the Cascade Falls site, and other points frequented by President Roosevelt while at Warm Springs, is being made by the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation. This is a gift to the State of Georgia, tendered upon condition that the State would further develop, then administer the property as a Memorial, perpetually.

In cooperation with that idea, and with the active support of then Governor Ellis Arnall, an Act was passed by the Georgia Legislature in the Session of 1946, creating the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, a State Agency. This Commission has seventeen members, and is charged with the specific duty of receiving, developing, then administering this Memorial in the public interest. An appropriation of $200,000.00 of State funds was made to implement the work of the Commission at all stages so long as the funds will last. No further financial aid from the State is contemplated or expected. Moderate admission fees to begin when the Memorial is opened to the public, should provide adequate operational expenses. Should some other Memorial features be decided upon, it may be that a campaign for additional funds will be staged, either on a national or international basis.

In this development, the Commission will be guided by the strong, oft expressed sentiment of President Roosevelt, that this whole area should become a vast recreational project, where a lot of people could find wholesome release and exercise. The cooperation of all who are interested and able to help, will be sought. There is room for public facilities and for private operations as well. The Master Plan, for the region to be evolved, should comprise the long list of all acceptable forms of recreation, with sites and fields of effort assigned to fit each need.

Georgia thus comes into a magnificent legacy, the ultimate value of which is beyond computation. The call for recreational facilities is, everywhere, greater than the supply. Shorter hours of work; the problems of juvenile delinquency and "teen age" crime, all point up the urgent need for this facility to be within easy reach of, perhaps, a million people within 125 miles radius from Warm Springs.

To the proper maintenance, development and expansion of this Memorial to the great humanitarian and world citizen, Franklin D. Roosevelt, this Commission pledges its best effort.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission

Ivan Allen
Chairman
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS
MEMORIAL COMMISSION

BASIL O'CONNOR,
Honorary Chairman
President, Georgia Warm Springs Foundation
120 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

IVAN ALLEN, SR., Chairman
Ivan Allen-Marshall Co.,
27 Peep St., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

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729 Hurt Building
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W. S. ALLEN
Attorney at Law
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J. J. BAGGITT
Baggett Motor Co.,
Lawrenceville, Georgia

CASON J. CALLAWAY
Blue Springs Farm
Hamilton, Georgia

R. EVS. Judge Superior Court
Tifton Circuit
Tifton, Georgia

MRS. JOHN B. GUERRY,
Former Member
Georgia Legislature
Macon, Georgia

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H. BAXTER MADDOX
Vice President & Tr. Officer
First National Bank
Atlanta, Georgia

L. J. MOORE, President
Tri-State Inc.,
Covington, Georgia

E. CARTER FITTMAN
Attorney at Law
Duluth, Georgia

H. G. RAY, President
Georgia Peanut Company
Moultrie, Georgia

W. FRED SCOTT, JR.
Business Man
Thomasville, Georgia

MAX L. SEGALL
Southside Bank
Glenwood, Georgia

EARL STAPLES, Solicitor
City of Carrollton
Carrollton, Georgia

THOMAS W. STARLIN
Attorney at Law
14½ East 11th Street
Columbus, Georgia

Consultants:
A. D. TAYLOR
Landscape Architect
Cleveland, Ohio

HENRY J. TOCUM
Architect
Atlanta, Georgia

LEE B. THIMBLE
Secretary-Treasurer

This Commission created by Act of
Georgia Legislature
January 31, 1946.
A State Agency

*Deceased
Speech of Ivan Allen on Anniversary of Foundation of Warm Springs Foundation

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. A. SIDNEY CAMP
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 8, 1947

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following address of Ivan Allen, chairman, Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, on the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Warm Springs Foundation, and Little White House dedication ceremonies, June 25, 1947, WSB, on the air:

Welcome.

The great Roosevelt, before he was Governor of the State of New York, before he was President of the United States four terms, he came here to these simple, rural, rustic surroundings in pursuit of health, and there also found happiness and friends. In solitude and tranquility, here he had humanitarian dreams, and planned a Government

ment with a soul. Afterward these dreams and plans were enacted into laws. Through the years these laws have not been materially changed.

There is being dedicated here today a national, yes, an international shrine, a sanctuary of glory, an altar of liberty. It shall light the pathways of the generations to come.

On this 3,000-acre reservation is a mountain called Dowdell’s Knob. Mr. Roosevelt bought this mountain and built a private road to the top. It was his favorite picnic grounds, and here he entertained his visitors and neighbors. Here he could look over the countryside for 50 miles, in all directions. Shall we, his followers, build there on this eminence the Franklin D. Roosevelt Peace Tower, higher than the Washington Monument, more elaborate and more beautiful in design, modernized with radio, television, chimes, elevators, equipped to broadcast messages of inspiration to the world? Shall it be built with funds from all 48 States? Yes, and from all the other nations of liberty-loving people. In the very words of the great Roosevelt: “This generation has a rendezvous with destiny.” God give us heart and will to take this mission forward to a new, more daring future, a new world of peace.
Allen—

I am very hot nearly anythng in the way of personal effect has been disturbed or disturbed. I had to learn a great many things in the big house in order to carry out my husband's wishes. I shall look forward to letting with you when we are back in NY.
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Office
201 PETERS BUILDING
ATLANTA 3, GA.

August 26, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry there was any confusion of letters, charged entirely to the United Nations Organization, Inc.

It would have done your heart good to have been down at Warm Springs on June 25. It was a beautiful day around the woods and the Little White House. You would have approved of everything that was done and said.

From the first to the last, and everyone in Georgia knows it, I have followed Mr. Roosevelt. I was Chairman of the National Campaign Committee in Georgia in 1940 and again in 1946. I knew him down in Warm Springs before he was Governor.

I want you to help me make the Little White House a great living memorial. If you have any personal effects that he used at Warm Springs, books, papers, basket where "Fala" slept, walking cane; as you go through the effects all these kind of things will be helpful in making it a personal and interesting place to look at in the years to come.

Sometime when I am in New York I am going to call you up and have a talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Ivan Allen

Last nursery

W. S. Allen, Greensville
J. J. Baggett, Lewansville
Cason J. Callaway, Hamilton
Lawrence S. Camp, Atlanta
Judge R. Eve, Tifton

G. Clarence Thompson, V.C., Manchester
Mrs. John B. Guerry, Monetum
N. Baxter Maddox, Atlanta
Miss Lucy B. Mason, Atlanta
L. J. Moore, Covington
R. Carter Pittman, Dalton

H. G. Ray, Moultrie
W. Fred Scott, Jr., Athens
Max L. Segall, Gaines
Harl. Staples, Cordelet

Thomas W. Starling, Columbus
Speech of Ivan Allen on Anniversary of Foundation of Warm Springs Foundation

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The Little White House at Warm Springs, Ga., has just been dedicated as a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the deed given to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, for the state of Georgia.
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GEORGIA'S LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

By Katherine Pierce

Journal Magazine Color Photos by Ralph Jones

Now a memorial to the late war President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Warm Springs cottage will soon be open for the public to see how simply a great man could live.

The Little White House at Warm Springs is now a Georgia memorial to the great war president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt—Georgian by choice.

This second home of his, where he died, was dedicated last Wednesday as a shrine to his memory, so that citizens of America's future may hereafter visit it to see the simple, unpretentious way a great man could live. The Warm Springs Foundation deeded the cottage and over 4,000 acres of land to the state of Georgia for this commemorative purpose. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission—a 17-man board of Georgians—now takes over the administration of the memorial.

By early fall, according to Lee Trimbble, secretary of the commission, it is hoped that anyone who wishes may go through the Little White House and see all the mementos of President Roosevelt's many pleasant visits to this place he especially loved. First, though, in anticipation of heavy traffic, they've got to reinforce the pine floors.

If you could have been with the group of prominent national figures who were taken on a conducted tour of the Little White House as part of Wednesday's program, you would have seen it just as it was left after that sad day in April when the president died. It will remain unchanged, as he last saw it. Only his very personal effects were removed. Even the last newspapers he read are there, in the drawer of his desk, in the room where he died.

The public has been permitted to view from a distance the exterior of the Little White House during the past two years — the low graceful white clapboard cottage with the four white columns, Southern Colonial style, with the gray asbestos shingle roof overhanging with pine, and the brilliant Paul's Scarlet rose climbing up the side of the porch. Women visitors frequently weep when told by Alvin Fowler, the regular guard at the gate, that this rose was in full bloom that fatal day in April. (Requests for cuttings have come from all over the world.)

But few people before Wednesday had been allowed to enter that door with the ship's-anchor knocker. If you are one of those still waiting for the public opening, you will be interested in The Journal Magazine's tour of the Little White House.

It is a cottage of six rooms and two baths. The first thing that strikes the visitor is the utter simplicity of the place. It might be anyone's summer cottage instead of that of the president of the United States, whom the Warm Springs people sincerely speak of as the greatest man who ever lived. The conglomeration of silver, for instance, is like your odd-piece collection to take along to the beach; cooking utensils are odd-and-ends left over from the town kitchen. There is not even an electric refrigerator; an old ice box stands on the back porch.

The second thing that you notice is the maritime motif everywhere. Not only is the door-knocker a ship's anchor, but ships are everywhere in the house—ship models in shadow boxes over just about every door, ship models on tables and mantels, and in bottles on bookcases, ship pictures and ship engravings on every wall, and John Paul Jones dominating the living room, with his pants weighed down with five pistols and the ocean swirling behind him. President Roosevelt's love of the sea found full expression in his surroundings at the Little White House. One of the ship pictures is, appropriately, of the steamship Savannah.

All the interior walls are of Georgia yellow pine; the effect is rugged and masculine. The beams overhead were stained and smoothed when the house was built, but the president ordered paint remover to take the stain off, and made the workmen hew the beams with an ax. As Alvin Fowler says, "Mr. Roosevelt didn't go for anything fancy."

The foyer contains an oak chest, table and chair, one of the Roosevelt wheel chairs, a card table, and on the wall a map of Georgia, along with a fiber wall-hanging and a large cartoon drawing some admirer had sent to the president after a possum hunt he attended.

From this foyer, the visitor enters the large dining-room, with its beautiful glassed picture view across the terrace to the pine woods beyond. Here over the mantel is the ship model Mr. Roosevelt loved best, a three-masted schooner, the placing of which he directed for two or three hours to show it to best advantage; and on either side of the big stone fireplace are built-in bookshelves with an unusual selection of books, from the girl's book "Just Patty" to murder mysteries, a history of Georgia, modern poetry and politics, and French novels. Many of them have gift inscriptions. It is not certain that the president read them all, but his friends of Warm Springs say it is possible he selected the French novels himself—he did read French, and spoke seven different languages, they have been told. (He also knew deaf-and-dumb dialect, according to Duncan Cannon, assistant business manager at the Foundation, who once saw him manually discussing something with a mute.)

Beside the fireplace, and near the telephone, stands the leather chair in which the president was sitting when he was stricken with the headache which was the first symptom of his illness. It is a comfortable chair, well-worn in the seat. A long wooden fork by the fireplace suggests that the frankfurters Mr. Roosevelt liked might have been cooked there over the

The Atlanta Journal Magazine
In this room, sitting in the leather chair on the left, Mr. Roosevelt was stricken on that sad day in April. The ship model over the mantel was his favorite of many.

The President's bedroom, showing a corner of desk and bed. On the porch can be seen the table where he played cards.
On this cement sun-deck, or terrace, looking out over his favorite pines, the President liked to entertain friends.

The President’s bedroom, showing a corner of desk and bed. On the porch can be seen the table where he played cards.

colors. There are no curtains in the living room, just Venetian blinds. A hand-made rag rug is on the floor, but when you ask who made it, you are told, “that question has been unanswered before.”

At the other end of the room the dining table and six chairs are placed, beside a shelf with a musical stein that plays “Dixie,” a bottled ship, and other souvenirs.

Perhaps the next most interesting room is the presidential bedroom, where the imitation walnut furniture is of the simplest, with white hobnail counterpane and faded draperies. Here he had his desk, still equipped with his own pen. A hand-carved home-made chair sent to him by an admirer in Butler, Ga., stands here, with native cowhide seat. Another chair is on rollers, so that he could pull it over to his bedside with the least effort. A pencil sharpener is on the chest of drawers, and a barometer with the indicator at “very stormy” is at the head of the bed. Mr. Roosevelt had a hard hair mattress, he couldn’t sleep on a soft bed. A photo of the garden at Hyde Park is alien among the ship engravings in this room. A hooked rug brightens the floor.

The two guest bedrooms are simple, with nothing of any especial interest except the Democratic donkey framed on the wall of one of them. The kitchen is homely and undecorated, with faded linoleum, cane-bottomed chairs, an old-style electric range, and such ordinary furnishings as fly swatters, scales, and oilcloth covered table, that look like those in any small, economical kitchen. The book is Mrs. Dull’s “Southern Cooking,” and a menu written out in it (possibly the president’s last dinner) includes tomato juice, cold meat, new potatoes, beans, corn pudding, head lettuce, and chocolate waffles for dessert.

A human interest note for posterity is struck by a proud penciled inscription above the stove, in the cook’s handwriting — “Daisy Bonner cooked the first meal and the last one in this cottage for the President Roosevelt.” Daisy was his only local servant; he had a Filipino house boy to help him get around.

T is significant of his attitude to his handicap that there is nothing around the house except the bathroom fixtures, arranged especially to help a polio patient. The doors are standard size (he had a narrow wheel chair which went through them easily). Even the mirrors are normal height for a standing man to shave himself. In just about every room, and out on the terrace, is an outlet for plugging in that instrument over which so many important messages between Mr. Roosevelt and other dignitaries of the world were carried during the war. The telephone company, which had an idea of removing the hand-set after the president’s death, came around to the notion of leaving it for an accessory to the memorial, after its significance as a Roosevelt relic was pointed out. In the guest house are other museum pieces — Mr. Roosevelt’s exercising machine, three of his wheel chairs, and his “walker” — an ingenious device to enable a polio victim to get about on his own feet more easily than with crutches.

Mr. Roosevelt found the location for the Little White House while he was out riding, the story goes. He used to love to slip away from the Secret Service men for a couple of hours, and his favorite horseback trail came out just above the house site. Fred Botts, now registrar at the Foundation, who was a fellow-patient of Mr. Roosevelt’s in the early days at Warm Springs, remembers going up there with him in his old Model T Ford to see the location. “He pointed out where he wanted the house to go,” says Mr. Botts, “but neither of us could get up there to investigate the site. So he had to go back and do his prospecting on his horse.”

The contract for the Little White House was let in December of 1921, and the president moved in in April of 1922. He suggested details of the house himself, although the architect was Henry Toombs. It cost about $8,700—not counting the guest house with two rooms and bath, nor the two-car garage. At Warm Springs they still have the letter he sent with his first check for $1,500 to cover the opening expenses—a peculiar note saying he hoped that would last awhile. Soon after he moved in, he gave a tea to which most of the leading people were invited, from neighboring towns—his first entertainment in the Little White House, in May, 1922.

The terrace where he loved to sit in the sun, and even on wind-swept days of the Georgia autumn, was added later. It is a rounded sun-deck at the back of the house. Here he entertained many famous guests. His porch chair, which also had rollers to make it a minor wheel chair, stays in his favorite spot. All around the porch are the tall pines he hated to have cut down—you can still see where he had falling ones propped instead of destroyed. Whenever a tree was cut in his absence, he missed it on his return, and demanded an explanation. From a persimmon tree whose top just reaches the rail, Mr. Roosevelt often picked the fruit to eat, on his fall visits to the Foundation.

Around the house at a little distance are eight sentry boxes, where Marines were on guard, and closer to the house the secret-service men kept vigil. Floodlights could be turned on from the terrace, to protect this, probably the most strongly guarded summer cottage in the world.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Enclosed you will find a poem written in memory of Mr. Roosevelt. I wrote this poem a year ago while in the ninth grade. A couple of weeks ago as you may know was the anniversary of the Girl Scouts. The troop that I am in also had its anniversary. Every year my troop has a birthday tea and this year my troop, 159 of Roslindale, had its third birthday.
I was asked to say a poem on the program. I did not know for a few minutes what I could recite therefore I hesitated. I later remembered the poem I had written in memory of Mr. Roosevelt. I read the poem March 14 at the tea and received many congratulations. I was encouraged by my mother and many other people to see if this poem could reach you in any way. I am glad I have written this letter and would appreciate it if you would please let me know if you receive this letter.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Allen
In Memory of Fr. D.B.

American! American! Why let this man be gone,
He has done no wrong to any man who on this
earth was born.
We know him not from ages past
This man from our memory we should not cast
He could not walk with an eager stride
The man with justice, equality, and pride.

Gone he is we know that now,
He who wore no evil on his brow.
Why did he leave us pray tell me why?
When ere I heard his name I would sigh.
In many hearts he meant the same
In mine I know he shall always remain.

America he left us in year 1945
He really was a great man while he was alive
He was like a brook calm and still
And our hearts with joy he would always fill
To the people of Today he really was the best
So may God bless his soul and let him peacefully rest.

Barbara Allen
Chicago, Mar. 15, 1907

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

Enclosed is an account of your address at the large luncheon given at the Corcoran Hotel, Chicago, which was prompted to compose an address in your honor and I hope you will be pleased with it. Every line beginning with your name must be written with your signature and accomplishments.

In July, 1654, he was 17 years of age, being born on the 12th day of July, 1848 at Crawfort, near the Philippines. In July, 1868, at Conestoga, where the Pilgrims journeyed a month before landing on Plymouth Rock, just across Cape Cod Bay.

Fifteen years served the U.S. Dept. in the Dept. of Agriculture from 1905 to 1915. Everyone admires you in your work as they did your President, our best wishes, though he was passed to the great beyond, is just as strong to-day as before and will continue to increase in the love of the People of the World. Your sincerely cordially,

[Signature]
Acrostic

Eleanor Roosevelt

Endearing you are to the People
Loving All and Respected by All,
Every Nation has either heard or seen you
Answering quickly in Brotherhod's call:
New ideas on Life you convey them
Only God knows the hardships you bear
Round the World by Rail, Ship and Air Plane

Racing often with Death in mid air:
On the spur of the moment you tell them
Of America, the Land of the Free,
Sealing Friendships with Truth as you know it
Evermore than their Friend you will be:
Victory is Ever your Watch Word
Everlasting Faith unto God is your plea.
Look Up and Lift Up your Motto
That can bring to the World, Liberty.

Written by Jeremiah Stone Allen
Mar 7th. 1947

Respectfully dedicated to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt