Papers of Curtis Roosevelt

CURTIS ROOSEVELT

1951-1982

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Biographical Sketch

CURTIS ROOSEVELT

1930-

Curtis Roosevelt is the eldest grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Born on April 19, 1930, he is the son of Anna Roosevelt and Curtis Bean Dall. His older sister is Anna Eleanor Seagraves. Curtis and his sister were popularly known as “Sistie” and “Buzzie” during their early childhoods. Curtis legally changed his last name from Dall to Roosevelt in later years.

Curtis and his sister lived in the White House from September 1933 to November 1935, then visited frequently thereafter. He was there for Christmas 1936 through FDR’s Second Inauguration in 1937. He was also there for Christmas 1939. Curtis and his sister returned to live in the White House with their mother Anna in 1944-1945 until FDR’s death, although Curtis was at boarding schools during this period.

As a teenager, Curtis spent a short period in a hospital recovering from a mild attack of infantile paralysis.

In 1948, he accompanied his grandmother Eleanor Roosevelt to Paris, where Mrs. Roosevelt was attending a session of the United Nations General Assembly as a delegate from the United States.

After graduating from the Southwestern Military and Naval Academy at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Curtis attended Loyola University in Los Angeles and graduate studies at Columbia University.

He held numerous positions in advertising and education during his professional career, including vice president for public affairs for The New School of Social Research, and he was regional director of the National Citizens Council for Better Schools.

In 1964, Curtis joined the Public Information Department at the United Nations as Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section. He assisted civil, labor, church and other non-governmental groups (NGOs) interested in United Nations activities.

In more recent years, Curtis has become a popular speaker and appears frequently in documentaries about his grandparents. In 2008, he wrote his memoir, TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN: GROWING UP IN THE SHADOW OF MY GRANDPARENTS FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR.

He is married and lives in southern France. He has one daughter by a previous marriage.
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