



## IN OUR TOWN

# Lizzie Has Insight Into Life of FDR

By BILL BORING

Lizzie McDuffie lives in a little frame house at 103 Randolph St., N. E., among memories rich in history.

Her previous residence was the White House on Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue, where she was a maid in the household of the late President Roosevelt.

Someday Lizzie intends to write a book of her life in the White House and we'll bet that it will be more interesting than a lot of books already published.

For Lizzie had an insight into the life of President Roosevelt few people were privileged to have.

She knew Roosevelt not as the President but as Papa and Grandpa Roosevelt. She was in on the family talk around the table.

For my money Lizzie has the answers to a lot of the controversies related to Roosevelt. Like whether he sought a third term. Lizzie doesn't think he did. She thinks, rather, that he reluctantly yielded to a sequence of events brought on by the war.

"Else," says Lizzie, "why would Mr. Roosevelt have built the Hilltop House?"

The Hilltop House is a retreat which the President built at his Hyde Park estate about midway of his second term.

He used to tell Lizzie's husband, the late Irvin H. McDuffie, Roosevelt's valet, that he was building that house to live in once his second term was over.

"McDuffie," Lizzie quotes the President as having said, "when we get through this term, first, we're going to take a trip around the world. Then we're going to the Hilltop House to live. You'll look after me. I'm not going to do anything but write. Not even going to have a phone in the house. It'll be a great life, McDuffie."

*SPEAKING OF ROOSEVELT: Lizzie McDuffie thinks, too, that the President wished private life so he would have more time for his grandchildren. Lizzie says he was one of the greatest grandfathers she has ever seen, and all her life she has been in homes where there were grandfathers. He would always spend time with his grandchildren, when they were at the White House, before starting his day's work, Lizzie says. Get down on the floor and play children's play with them. Like this little scene with Chandler, Elliott's son, and Sarah, James' daughter. With the little old toy milk wagon Lizzie has in her back room. "Now, Sarah," the President would say, "you'll be the mama and you, Chandler, you'll be the papa. I'll be the milk man. Now how much milk will you folks be wanting today?"*

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