

# FDR Interested In Masses, Says Irvin McDuffie

## President's Valet, Wife Appear At League Meeting

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## Move To Make City Vote - Conscious

Irvin H. McDuffie and his wife both employes in the White House, were featured as guest speakers Tuesday night at the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Civic and Political League, held in the assembly room of the Butler Street YMCA.

More than 50 persons heard Mr. McDuffie praise President Roosevelt and described him as a man "interested in the masses". Mr. McDuffie, an ex-Atlanta barber, has been personal valet to the President eleven years.

Mrs. Lizzie McDuffie in talking to her audience revealed that she is indeed a keen student of politics. She pointed out the need of organized strength and unity if the race as a whole intends to succeed in its political undertakings.

Mr. and Mrs. McDuffie are spending their vacation here and in Elberton. Mr. McDuffie was with the President in Warm Springs recently.

Heading a special committee, C. A. Scott sold the League on the idea of sponsoring citizenship schools and conducting a luncheon for employers of Negroes in Atlanta as means of making the colored people here more vote-conscious. Mr. Scott said the luncheon would be held for the purpose of persuading employers to instruct their employes to register and vote.

The league went on record as endorsing a move to have a WPA band and federal theatre organized here. Prof. D. A. Starling of Morris Brown college suggested that Atlanta should follow in the footsteps of Florida cities in bringing the federal projects to Atlantans.

John Wesley Dobbs, president of the League, told the audience of his recent three-week trip through Georgia, at which time he studied the voting power of colored people as it exists in the state. He said with the exception of Albany where 500 Negroes are qualified to vote, Georgia cities have very few colored voters.

## Roosevelt Still Is Hero To Valet After 11 Years

### Georgia Negro Says Chief Executive Doesn't Let Unpleasant Things Worry Him

[By the Associated Press]

Elberton, Ga., April 9—After eleven years, President Roosevelt still is a hero to his valet, who says he is "the kindest and finest man in the world."

The valet is Irvin McDuffie, 56-year-old Elbert county Negro, who quit a barber's job at Atlanta in May, 1927, to become employed by Mr. Roosevelt, then at Warm Springs.

McDuffie, as the President addresses him, says the Chief Executive is standing up well despite the rigorous work of his office. This, the valet explains, is because he knows how to play, sleeps well, and "just doesn't let unpleasant things worry him."

#### Saw President Angry Twice

He says he has seen the President "angry but twice." He didn't say what aroused the Chief Executive's wrath on those occasions.

"Mr. Roosevelt works hard," McDuffie said. "Often he works late into the night, but when his work is put aside he forgets it."

"Nearly every night before going to bed he spends a while working with

his stamp collection. When he goes to bed he goes there to sleep—and he sleeps like a baby until I call him next morning.

#### Plays Solitaire

"On nights when his work permits he likes to lounge in his room and play solitaire. Sometimes he plays bridge when some one gets him into a game. But he always protests he can't play. But I reckon there is nobody in this country who can beat him unless it is Culbertson."

One of McDuffie's jobs is to lay out the President's clothes. His favorite suits, the valet says, "are some old ones in which he feels free and easy when duties are not too pressing."

#### Likes Outlandish Clothes

"But his real favorites are some outlandish old clothes that he wears when we are at sea. He puts them on the minute we get aboard ship and he wants to wear them until we put in at some port."

The valet is here visiting a boyhood friend, Paul Blackwell, superintendent of Elberton's Negro schools.

## If They Can't Entertain F. D., There Are the McDuffies

ELBERTON, Ga. (ANP)—Whenever President Roosevelt comes to Warm Springs for one of his periodical visits, Georgia turns on all sorts of hospitality.

Of course, it is the folk at "the Big Houses" who do the entertaining. However, there is one person in his entourage who gets almost as much attention in another world, and that is Irvin McDuffie, the president's valet.

Mr. McDuffie, accompanied by Mrs. McDuffie, has been visiting in the State for two weeks, awaiting the President's arrival and taking a needed vacation. Elberton is his home. Once the manager of one of the large Herndon barber shops in Atlanta, he got the job with the president after an injury to his leg.

At the sixty-eighth annual session of the North Georgia C.M.E. Conference, presided over by Bishop McKinney of Texas, he was one of the principal speakers. Five hundred delegates and lay members were in attendance. After the conference, Mr. McDuffie was guest of honor at a reception held in the home of Principal Blackwell, head of the colored schools of the community and a former boyhood friend of Mr. McDuffie's.

Washington Herald

## A WHITE HOUSE KEY COG

BLACKISTONE, INC.,

1407 H St. N. W.

3-14-38

One of the key cogs in the Chief Executive's daily whirl from 8:30 a. m. until—; the man who sees him to bed and up again; really the closest man in the world to President Roosevelt, is



a colored man, Irvin Henry McDuffie, his valet for the last 12 years.

McDuffie is 56 years old today, and the President is also 56. He and his wife—the latter an employe of Mrs. Roosevelt—live at the White House. A native of Atlanta, the President found him through the good offices of one of America's leading newspaper publishers, who was a patron of the famous barber shop of which Irvin was the manager.

McDuffie has been around the world with the President and is the only Negro ever to have his membership certificate signed by the Chief Executive after initiation in the mythical Neptune Society, composed of those who have crossed the Equator at sea.

It is a pleasure to nominate McDuffie for today's floral tribute and we trust that your gift of flowers will be as pleasing to all in the White House as they are to those in other Government offices where they are received with acclaim.

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