

# Legs

The world knows the true story of the life of Frank D. R. - in regard to his incapacitation to walk alone after having recovered from a fatal Paralysis - But very little is known of how Dr. W. M. Kuffie the valet who served him twelve years, became incapacitated to the extent that he could no longer stand for hours on terrazzo floors, and follow the trade that he had hoped to make his life's vocation - He was a tonsorial artist & a massuer. He was scalded on ~~at the~~ barber shop - and following this accident, he had to slow down during the Depression of '26-'27. The opportunity came to him to become the valet of private citizen Frank D. R. - Knowing that he had been advised by his physician to give up the Barber work he had an interview with F. D. R.



with F. D. R. at Warm Springs  
Ga. a customer. Mr. Smith  
having spoken to - m - in regard  
to taking up this work,  
m - . reluctantly accepted  
the job. Because he was  
a churchman, deacon - day  
in his choir. and - a great  
lover of home -

He resigned his position  
at the Barber's shop for  
one year -

He very soon realized that  
the nature of the work was  
such that he had to give  
most of his time to Mr. R -  
because of the long hours  
of duty - At Warm Springs  
he was butler, valet, barber  
& general handy man  
at the small cottage  
where Mr. R. resided



May 7, 1927 - was the date that  
I went into Mr. R. employ -  
during the summer - R. did not  
require - M. - services, in N. Y.  
I had his son to travel with  
him & M. remained at the  
Springs to take care of the  
barber shop - which had  
been established for the use  
of the patients.

I met Mr. R. in Baltimore  
letter.

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F. O. R. discussed with M. - his plans  
for a bigger & better warm Springs  
~~and~~ so as to be able to give  
both races an opportunity to  
receive the benefits of the  
warm waters.

The Foundation was in its  
infancy - and in any  
state where there is segregation  
It would mean separate



plants -

So the idea of taking Colored patients at that time was abandoned for the want of money for a two plant system, which is always necessary in States having Segregation Laws -

So the idea was abandoned at that time for the need of money to cover expansion but it was Mr. R. idea to eventually have a two plant system.

He was completely wrapped up in the idea of making Warm Springs a haven for Infantile Paralysis patients & to expand as the years went by -



Being so deeply imbued  
with this idea, in the interest  
of suffering humanity in  
general & I. P. Victims in  
particular, as well as a continuance  
in the interest of his own  
health, that when the  
political doors began to open  
for him - He was entirely  
averse to accepting -

At W. S. Recreational activities for  
servants, were limited, except with  
in the sphere of their own making  
Hence after F. W. left home to  
go to Manchester for the evening  
because, he realized what he  
was up against in trying to turn  
down his friend A. L. Smithy,  
Mack & others had a checker  
Party & were having a grand time  
which was ~~hindered~~ broken  
into at intervals, by the  
telephone - Long Distance



Trying to Reach Mr. Roosevelt -  
one can visualize the attitude  
on the part of the servants,  
So all were glad when Mr. R. returned -  
It was midnight when he  
returned & as if there had  
been a signal, the Phone rang -  
The world has heard repeatedly the  
Conversation that took place  
and how Mr. R. was drafted &  
nominated & elected Gov. of N.Y.  
in 1928 -

During that Campaign - with Al  
Smith running for Pres. on the  
Democratic ticket, His friend  
F. D. R. fought valiantly for him, to  
the extent, that ~~the~~ numerous  
Politicians in Ga, would visit  
Mr. R. at W. S. some by appoint-  
ment & some would come  
self-appointed,

One morning some one knocked  
on our door - There were no



quads then; when mac answered  
the call, a six foot, farmer from  
Talbotton Ga - Requested to see  
Mr. R. - He was told that he would  
have to wait probably three hours  
~~this~~ & He announced that he  
was willing to wait, after Mr  
R - breakfast was served - he  
was told about the Visitor -  
at ten o'clock he was admitted  
and after a two hour conference  
where in the Governor Elect, he  
used every means in his power  
to show the gentlemen that  
~~the~~ he was being misled  
by the visible propaganda  
which he was carrying with  
him (A card stating that if Al  
Smith was elected Pres, that the  
Pope of Rome would be  
the actual Pres. of the U. S.  
The man looked rather depressed  
when he left & told Mr. R -



That in spite of all that had been related - He still felt that he could not vote for Al. Smith Democrat though he be -

He missed his swim that morning trying to convince one man of the merits of the Happy warrior as a man regardless as to his religious Creed -

The campaign was heavy + was a novelty for me - Judging by some letters written home,



Initiated into the realm of  
Neptunus Rex. Nov. 24th. 38



1936 -  
South America  
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