

# Mrs. McDuffie Tells of Last Day With Roosevelt

President Laughed at Her Joke at Breakfast; Was in High Spirits

By MABLE ALSTON  
WASHINGTON

"The passing of President Roosevelt was a greater shock to us who were with him at Warm Springs, Ga., than to the world in general, as he seemed so well Thursday morning," said Mrs. Elizabeth McDuffie, who has been with the Roosevelts since 1933.

She said, "I made every trip with the President to Warm Springs, and he always seemed so rejuvenated after being there a short while.

"In fact, on this last trip he became so alive after just two days, he would laugh heartily, take rides, eat and seem to enjoy his meals immensely.

On Thursday, after he had greeted her in his usual way, she declared, she told him of how she and a friend had a little discussion about reincarnation.

She said she told the President that she had said she did not know whether she believed in it or not, but that if such was the case, she will like to return as a

canary bird.

"The president stopped everything and looked me up and down, as if to say, 'Well of all things, a woman as large as you wanting to return to this earth as a canary,' and he burst out in loud laughter," she added.

## President Amused

"The President laughed and laughed, and ended up by saying what he usually said when something pleased him or was funny, 'I love it, I love it,' she continued.

"He had a late breakfast and did not arise until about 11 o'clock. Shortly before I went up the way a bit to the guest cottage, I looked back and he was sitting for the painting.

"Just before lunch I was called to the cottage and told of the President's illness and a few hours later of his death."

## Not Safe and Secure

She said that a friend asked her whether she would like to see the President return, adding that although unable to answer at the time she could now.

"Having watched him daily give energy, time and money, and seen him criticized so unjustly and so often," she declared, "I would never want to see him return to this cruel world after God has given him a safe and secure place to rest.

"I shall always cherish my last sight of him, laughing and chatting with friends in the little cottage he loved so well, and I shall never depart from the beautiful little necklace he brought back to me from the Yalta conference.

## Mrs. Roosevelt Unique

"I wish that I could find words to describe Mrs. Roosevelt but all that I can say is that after she was made they threw the pattern away. She is so genuine in all of her efforts to help humanity.

"I can only endorse what the world is saying today that no greater man ever lived and died than our late President."



MRS. ELIZABETH McDUFFIE