

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 10, 1934.

NASHVILLE RECOUNTS THRILLS OF BEING HOST TO FIRST LADY OF UNITED STATES



BY MABEL WHEELER SHIDELER,
The News Staff Correspondent.

NASHVILLE, Ind., July 10.—Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is far from Brown county now, but the memory of her short stay in this quiet little town lingers and echoes of her visit still may be heard among the wooded hills.

"She was so human."
The phrase voiced by Curry Bohm, one of the artists in the colony who was in the Brown county art gallery when Mrs. Roosevelt stepped in, expressed the sentiment of all who came in contact with her here last Sunday, when she appeared so unexpectedly.

The pictures show the first lady of the land here and some of the persons who had personal contact with her. At the left is Mrs. Ralph Sperry, designer of the Nancy Hanks doll

she is holding. Mrs. Roosevelt was so delighted with the doll that she bought one to take with her. She spent some time in the little shop where handcraft made by native workers is shown.

The center picture shows Mrs. Roosevelt in front of the Brown County Art Gallery, which she also visited. The picture was made by Miss Clara Wilhelm, 1316 North Oakland avenue, Indianapolis, who happened to be here at the time.

The girl at the right is Miss Ruth McGrayel, Nashville, with her autograph album, which contains the signature of Mrs. Roosevelt.

Expresses Admiration.

"Why, she was so sweet when I asked her if she would mind," said Miss McGrayel who is a young high school girl, as she exhibited her

treasure. "She smiled at me and took both my hands in hers when I walked up to her, and then got out her fountain pen and signed the book." "She sure is a peach," chimed in her brother.

Miss Fern Seitz, attendant at the art gallery, said she was so busy that she took Mrs. Roosevelt's money without looking up when she entered the galleries.

"I noticed the group of artists lounging near the doorway were suddenly very quiet," she said as she chatted today of the incident. "Then I looked up and saw the visitor. I thought she looked like the President's wife but just couldn't believe it, for she was so unpretentious and dressed so informally without a hat and with a white ribbon holding her hair back. Then Miss Carol Besteland, manager of the Nashville house, stepped forward and introduced her. I really thought it was a joke for a moment but after she greeted me I realized it was really true—the first lady of the land was in the gallery speaking to me!"

Miss Seitz and Edward K. Williams, artist, were talking together when Mrs. Roosevelt entered and Mr. Williams escorted Mrs. Roose-

velt through the gallery explaining the midsummer exhibit now on display.

In addition to two water colors of James Topping, a Chicago artist and members of the galleries, she bought an etching, "Simon's Barn," by Simon Erickson, Chicago. She also admired a Will Vawter canvas, "A Back Street," and "The Camp," a low key oil by Alexis J. Fournier, South Bend.

The water colors will be on exhibit until the show is over. Then they will be sent to their new owner in the White House.

Miss Besteland said she knew the visitor the moment she stepped into the Nashville house but could not believe her eyes. Mrs. Roosevelt commented on the charm of the hotel and its rustic air, noticing particularly some oils hanging on the wall, which she admired. Miss Besteland ushered her through the rooms and to the art galleries.

Perhaps her greatest interest, however, was in the hand weaving being done in the art shop. She asked Mrs. William Kenyon, who has charge of the weaving, many questions about the work and expressed herself as delighted that the girls in the community are learning the art.

All the workers are from this community and are taught by Mrs. Kenyon.

This is just what I have been looking for," she exclaimed, as the women told her of the work done by workers, which also includes the pottery made in the town. She bought not only the doll, but a number of pieces of pottery, including a honey jar, two jars, pots, three pitchers and a nest of seven blue bowls.

Evidently the first lady has a sweet tooth, for she also bought a box of the walnut brittle made in the shop, according to Mrs. Sperry, who sold her the candy.

"Don't wrap it," she said, "we'll eat it along the way."

Camera Fails.

One of the most excited persons in this village was Mrs. Laura Lowe David, now of Nashville, formerly

superintendent of nurses at the Bartholomew County Hospital, at Columbus (Ind.) Hospital. She saw Mrs. Roosevelt, ran for her small camera and hurried to the street as Mrs. Roosevelt was getting into her car. Mrs. David called to Mrs. Roosevelt and she leaned forward to wave at Mrs. David, saw the camera and smiled. Mrs. David was so excited that she was not certain which side of the "box" was up but she clicked. When her films were developed she had seven good ones and a blank. The blank was the Roosevelt picture.

Mrs. Roosevelt and her two companions, Miss Marian Dickerman and Miss Nancy Cook, both of Hyde Park, N. Y., rode "three in a seat" in the cream-colored roadster, Mrs. Roosevelt being in the middle when they left Nashville.