

and led me to the pres.' table, where I had lunch at his left, opposite the Princess Ingrid! Unbelievable, but true! She is sweet, perfectly natural & so well bred, & the pres. put mustard on her hot dog, as she had never had one before! Afterward, we drove in a long procession to the Dedication of the new Rhinebeck P.O. H.P.H. "laid" the corner stone - Clapping etc. of these great events are in my scrap book!

I drove with Alice & Alice Daws in their station wagon. Patty & Arthur were on the porch for the Dedication also.

I went twice to the Worlds Fair with Mary C. & with her & Frank - It is a marvelous trip.

On May 29th I took Aunt S.' fire brush, Anna's fire fork & my auditors down to the pres.' cottage - He seemed to like them all though I am determined to get a better pr. of auditors for him. These are too slender for that large fireplace -

On June 6th, Eva & Geraldine ("the Sisters") came up to Wieldercliff, to start their venture of "paying guests".

They have two maids (rather elderly!) and Mr. & Mrs. Julian Trewhelles as "guests" - These seem to love it. Lucy Mayo-Sweet has been there also for over two weeks, but leaves tomorrow for Southampton.

On June 11th was a Red Letter Day!! I left here at 9 a.m. in a car of Newances & drove to the H.P. Church, armed with a card of admission, which also entitled one to a place in the special parking space in the field to the south of the church. I was so early that the police knew nothing about it, & drove all the way to the village & back, before they would let me in!

Even so, I was at the church doors at 10 of 10, & the doors did not open until 10! In the meantime, Mrs. Wilson introduced me to various H.P. villagers, and also to Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Sweet of Paepohello. She was shaking with excitement!

I got a good seat, 2nd from the aisle, & for an hour enjoyed the comments of the villagers on important people who came in! When Helen Astor came in, the girl on my right, overcome by reticence, leaned toward me, & whispered: "Do you know who that is? It's Mrs. Vice President Astor!!" I answered: "Oh-ooo-ooo"!!

Eleanor finally came, & on the dot - the Royal - presidential party! Mrs. James Roosevelt & the Queen walked up together, followed by the King & Eleanor P. The pres. followed on Jimmie's arm, with Horace at his elbow. The pres. walked with great difficulty & told me later that only one side of his right brace was

fastened & if it had broken, he would have collapsed in the aisle! It must have been a terrible & endless trip up that aisle!! But it did not break!

The Queen looked so pretty, with shiny brown eyes & a lovely skin, & a very beautiful expression. Though she did not actually smile & bow as she walked up, she nevertheless had a very definite look of being in the public eye, & a little smile over her lips - The King looked very serious & unsmiling eyes, as the Roosevelts all did -

The Service was simple & very appropriate - Mrs. Wilson spoke a few words of welcome to Their Majesties, saying very graciously, just enough, & not too much, & in a religious vein.

At the close of the service, the King & Queen walked out together, swaying from side to side - followed by the P. ladies, & F.D.R. "steepling" along as he puts it, as fast as he could - (Newspaper clippings of all of this in my scrapbook)

The crowds dispersed very quickly after the P.-P. party drove away & I joined my car & proceeded off, about's pace with the traffic - In the village - The welcome salutes suddenly drew up beside me, & when they said they were going to the picnic, I suggested

going with them - parked my car opposite the H.P. Library & climbed into their station wagon & we lined up in the Roosevelt driveway, & after a little while the whole line started for the Hill Cottage - The road through the wood road was terrible - but we did it mind a little things like dust! At the Hill Cottage, a buffet lunch was set in the big living-room, and 6 card tables were in a row on the porch, 4 seats to each table. We all went down among the trees & placed our chairs. Katherine & Bill Hoffman, & Their son Malcolm & Helen Smith & Their Helen. I sat with them - A little after one the Pres. drove up with his mother & the K. & Q. in his own little car. They came out to the porch & sat in the wide doorway so: The King & Queen Standing



< < line of the populace coming up from the trees. We were asked to come & be presented! Gen. Watson asked my name & repeated it to the pres., the pres. then repeated it to Their Majesties, Eleanor explaining relations etc. etc. Franklin introduced a friend even one as his "cousin", until the King finally remarked upon it! F. asked us not to shake hands, much to my chagrin, but much to the joy of The K. & Q. We waved & smiled at each other & passed on - We then returned to our chairs & found the best possible positions so as to see their Majesties! I could see her all the time & him half the time.

After lunch there was an interesting Indian

programme, by a man & woman in lovely full dress Indian clothes - beaded - & feathers etc. A little long perhaps - Then the Royal - presidential party got into F. little car & drove off to the Valklee pool, & we dispersed. It was a memorable day, and since then F. has told us details of the visit. He says the King is "grand", with an almost American sense of humor - He never seemed to miss the funny side of anything. He showed an extraordinary knowledge of this country, the people, and important individuals, and always said something appropriate on meeting them - He was completely natural and put all the "royalness" aside, when in private - The Queen on the other hand, could never quite forget she was queen, & is a little lacking in humor though a fine person! Both are extraordinarily kind & considerate of everyone - when they were going to their train at H.P. They both turned back & shook hands with Monty Sneider - They gave him a pair of gold cuff-links with the Royal coat-of-arm / think on it.

F. said he tested out the Kings sense of humor with two of his oldest jokes, which he can't laugh at any longer himself! The King rocked back & forward with laughter, repeating over & over "It can't be true - it can't be true!" At the two "small" informal dinners at H.P., F. broke several precedents! After the usual toasts F. said he was going to

do something about which he had not consulted Protocol, or the State Dept. or even the British Ambassador! Sir Ronald looked at him with his mouth open, evidently thinking: "What is he going to do now!" Then F. proceeded to propose a toast to The Queen, a thing which is never done in England! The Queen was so overcome that she drank to herself!

When the dessert had been passed, at lunch or dinner, F. would catch the King's eye, & call out: "Sir, may we smoke?"

Sunday night, before F. did this, the King from the other end of the table, called out: "Mr. President, it's my turn now, may we smoke?"

F. told us the most amusing story of four "accidents", at H.P. all in the 26 hrs. The King & Queen were there. In Washington, everything went perfectly, the servants are accustomed to important people. But in H.P. they evidently all had the jitters! Just a week before, F. had received from the City of Limoges, a perfectly beautiful 120-piece set of Limoges china. It was decided to use them for the K & Q. In the middle of dinner, on Saturday, 24 of these plates were standing on a little old serving table, & without warning, the table & 24 plates crashed to pieces on the floor!

Later in the evening, a butler carried a tray with 6 ginger ale bottles & one tall glass. He caught his heel on the top of the steps leading to the library, lost his balance, & the whole tray went flying into the room, with him after it!

The King remarked : "That's number 2, what will be the next?"

Sunday morning, the ladies in waiting & the aids came down to breakfast and told the butler how they liked their eggs, etc. The butler soon appeared with a large tray laden with freshly cooked eggs, toast, etc. He bumped into the meat piece & dropped the entire thing on the floor!

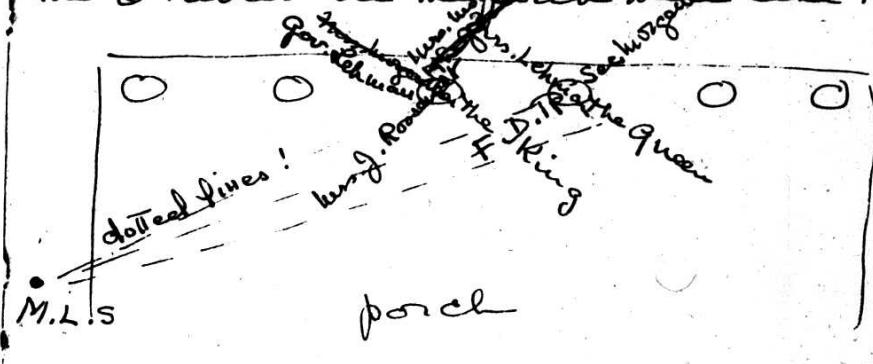
The fourth thing happened Sunday afternoon: The Roosevelts & their guests were sitting around the pool, Franklin on the grass - He wanted to move back into the shade, no one was paying any attention to him at the moment, so he started to propel himself back on his hands - He was doing beautifully and gave himself a fine big hand right onto a tray of glasses & bottles!

The Queen told Mrs. P. that they had not the slightest idea that F. could not walk - They knew he had to use a cane. They have asked him to spend a week with them, at Windsor or Balmoral where they can be quite informal & not surrounded by people.

On July 3rd F. telephoned Amb. Kennedy in London about the European situation. Mrs. K. had seen the King who told him the visit to H.P. was the neatest day on their whole trip - He mentioned the

picnic, the afternoon at Val-Kill & the informal dinners. The King told F. in Washington, that he likes his father George V, ~~but~~ hates garden parties, where you have to meet hundreds of people, & walks, "marching" at everyone on the lawn! That should be a comfort to Mrs. James P. who wanted so much to have a lawn party instead of a picnic!

To return to details of the picnic! The 6 tables on the porch were like this:



The others on the porch included Alice Day, Helen Astor, Mrs. Collier, the Leydig Hoyts, etc. 24 people in all -- As it was a hot day, a cold lunch of ham, chicken, salad, strawberry short cake & rolls were served, also beer & bottled drinks. But one dish of "hot dogs" was served on the porch, probably so that their majesties could see what they were like. "It is said" that the King asked for a second one! There was only one passing note, and that

was the way "certain individuals" took advantage of the permission to take photographs, & snappened the poor guests right before their hers. P. said about one of them that "She does not know any better!" I am quite sure the maids themselves "would know better"!