

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

May 18, 1949 (catalog date)

Description: In this segment, ER remarks on her receiving an award from the Women's National Press Club and discusses other women who have won the award.

Participants: ER

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. I was pleased and honored to be invited to Washington recently to receive an award from the Women's National Press Club and especially so because of the interesting company in which I found myself. In all, six women were given awards for their work during the year of 1948. Mrs. Marjorie Child Husted of Minneapolis received the award in the field of business, Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee of Portland, Oregon in the field of government, actress Madeleine Carroll for the theatre, writer Mary Jane Ward the author of *The Snake Pit*, and Grandma Moses, the famous eighty-eight-year-old painter of delightful American primitives. She was, of course, the center of all eyes because it is an extraordinary thing to begin painting at seventy-seven and be chipper and interested and alive at eighty-eight to everything that's going on in the world. I enjoyed her very much and President Truman enjoyed her very much. And I think she had a very good time. I'm quite sure that no matter what one had asked her to do she would have been right on the spot and ready to do it.

After the dinner, which was a very delightful dinner which we all attended, the newspaper women gave their annual stunt party. And that, of course, is uh sometimes a rather trying party because they're a bit ruthless in what they say of what goes-- about what goes on in Washington. But on this occasion, while they were very frank and somewhat critical, there was no real bitterness in any of the show. And that uh made it a very pleasant evening. There were Republicans and Democrats in the audience, prominent people in Washington life, and I think all of them enjoyed it even though the GOP was, on the stage at least, a little bit uh worn down let's say. But, as the show went on everybody was laughing and enjoying it, and they are always good actresses. So that-that part of the evening was very pleasant indeed. Afterwards, I went over to another reception which the McCall uh Corporation gave, and Mr. [Otis] Weiss asked in my honor and uh we saw a great many of the same people who had been at the dinner.

On the next day uh the winners of the award and some of the members of the National Women's Press Club were asked to tea by uh Mrs. Truman, and the president was there too. I had to leave very early because I was taking a train back to New York, but I was told of an incident which must have given a great deal of pleasure. Grandma Moses asked President Truman if he would play the piano. Blair House doesn't give you the feeling of the same formality that you would feel in the White House and so I think the president felt quite free and sat down and played for them. And he played very obligingly a piece by Chopin. And everyone, I think, found it most pleasant and it really gave the finishing touch to what was a very delightful occasion for all of us. I was given their award as woman of the year, and I'm deeply appreciative of their consideration and their uh kindness towards one of the members of their own craft. And now, back to my daughter, Anna, in Hollywood.

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The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project