

## TALKS BY MRS. ROOSEVELT

June 30, 1937

Description: ER and Carlton E. Smith (presidential announcer) discuss ER's summer and White House plans.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt and Carlton E. Smith

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### ANNOUNCER:

The Pond's Program – with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt!

### BARR:

This is Virginia Barr of the Pond's Company speaking from Wilmington, Delaware and bringing you – Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt! Tonight, Mrs. Roosevelt is attending the wedding of her son – at the Dupont home in Greenville, and she has motored from there to talk to you about her plans and White House Plans for the summer.

First, may I say a word about summer care of your skin? You are out so much on dusty roads in summer, you get so much sun and wind right on your face. When you come in, with your skin just thick with dust – it feels so parched you hardly dare use water on it! How are you going to get it clean again, and at the same time get rid of that stiff, tight feeling? Well, the method smart women all over the world follow, is to use Ponds ...<sup>1</sup> Pond's Cold Cream. Then you clean the dust and dirt out of your pores and you also soften and invigorate your skin. Before you start on this coming week-end holiday, get a jar of Pond's Cold Cream. Take it along with you. I am pretty sure you'll keep on using it all the year round.

And now I have the honor to present – Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt!

(ABOUT 8 MINUTES FROM MRS. ROOSEVELT)

### MRS. ROOSEVELT:

Good evening.

I have just come from our son Franklin's wedding. I left the reception fifteen minutes ago.

In the studio with me here is Mr. Carleton Smith, of the National Broadcasting Company who always introduces the President when he speaks on the radio. We have both known Mr. Smith ever since we came to Washington, and it is a great pleasure for me to have him as my guest on this program tonight.

### MR. SMITH:

Thank you very much, Mrs. Roosevelt – but before we get started on our discussion of your summer plans and White House plans, won't you tell us something about the wedding?

### MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I can only give my impressions that it was a very lovely wedding. I imagine the parents of young couples never see a great deal of the outward aspects of marriage. I, for one, always am torn between the realization of the adventure that two young things are starting on and its possibilities for good and bad. I don't know whether to be happy or sad, but simply say prayers that fundamentally their lives may so develop that they may be useful lives and therefore happy ones.

### MR. SMITH:

I'm sure everyone listening joins me in wishing the bride and bridegroom happiness.

Now, Mrs. Roosevelt you've had an awfully busy winter and spring with all of your White House social life, and what I always call your extra-curricular activities. I hope you're going to have a real "off the record" holiday this summer.

### MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I nearly always go "off the record" in the summer. Occasionally I have to come back on for a day or two, but now I have only two definite dates for this summer after July 9<sup>th</sup> – one in Indianapolis for the

Young Democrats and one to speak for the Women's Club in Chautauqua late in August. But for the most part, the summer months are my only chance to read and write and enjoy out of door things, and above all, to enjoy that sensation of getting up every morning without finding a list of things that must be done.

MR. SMITH:

What are your plans for this summer?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

This summer I plan to stay at Hyde Park because the President may be able to get there now and then, even if Congress remains in session most of the summer. Also because I am anxious to do some writing, and it is easier to do it surrounded by one's personal possessions. I may go off now and then on short motor trips if it gets too hot on the Hudson River. And I shall, of course, stay occasionally with friends and have them stay with me. But my main plan is to loaf, read and write to my heart's content!

MR. SMITH:

I've been at Hyde Park several times, Mrs. Roosevelt, but I don't believe I ever found out just how old the "Big House" there is, and who built it.

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

The Big House at Hyde Park was built originally by Mr. Wheeler about 100 years ago. My husband's father bought it after his grandfather's house burned down. My mother-in-law added to it and changed it considerably in 1919 to suit the very large family which her son kept bringing home to see her every summer. It does seem rather large now though, with so many of our children married and gone.

MR. SMITH:

You often mention "The Cottage". How did you happen to build that?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I built the cottage at Hyde Park with two friends, Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman. The whole idea was the result of a talk my husband and I had with them, on a picnic one day over at the Val-Kill which is the Dutch word for Brook In The Field. He had always maintained that a small industry might flourish in a rural community. He felt it would afford the young people of the neighborhood an opportunity to learn a trade, and perhaps give them some work in winter when the farm work was light. And it might keep many of the young people in the country, who would otherwise drift into the cities.

Miss Cook was anxious to try her hand at copying early American furniture and she and Miss Dickerman wanted a little home in the country. So we build first the cottage, and then our furniture shop. The shop consisted of one room at the start, but later we enlarged it and began making pewter articles as well. Later still we built another little house where a woman who we had taught does weaving and she now teaches it in the village.

Our idea has always been to have these industries taken over by the workmen themselves. Last year our furniture shop was taken over by our head workman. And he's transferred the business into his barn. The shop building I have taken over and made into apartments. Mrs. Scheider has her apartment there and there's one for guests. Mrs. Scheider and I work there every day, and when the family is away from the Big House, I am apt to stay there.

MR. SMITH:

In one of your other broadcasts you told us about a typical day in the White House. When you're at Hyde Park, what do you do?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

In the morning I usually ride early. Then breakfast and work through the hot part of the day. We do not eat very much for lunch in summer, and in the afternoon we swim and lie around and talk. In the evenings we usually sew and read – either to ourselves or aloud as the case may be.

I am ashamed to say I often read late into the night unless I remember that I mean to get up and ride very early.

MR. SMITH:

Does the President have any one particular thing he enjoys most at Hyde Park?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I think the thing the President really enjoys more than anything else is driving around the place looking at his various plantations of trees which he has put in at different times. I sometimes think he knows every tree and how much it has grown since he last looked at it.

MR. SMITH:

You mentioned swimming a moment ago Mrs. Roosevelt, and that reminds me of a swim you took in Glacier National Park when we were there three years ago. At the end of a strenuous day of touring in the Park we arrived at Two Medicine Chalet where the President was proclaimed "Lone Chief", by the Black Indians, and you became "The Medicine Pipe Woman." After these two ceremonies you suddenly emerged from the cottage with your two sons, John and Franklin, and dove into the snow-fed Two Medicine Lake. Those of us on shore shivered just at the thought of swimming in that cold water.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: (LAUGHS)

That was a grand swim, although you will remember we did not stay in over long. But the boys had dared me to do it and I could not let them think I didn't have the courage.

MR. SMITH:

What do you like to do best in the summer time for recreation?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

The things I have already mentioned – plus picnics.

MR. SMITH:

Would you tell us, what do you put in your picnic basket?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

That depends very largely of course on who is going to the picnic with me. IF my husband is going on the party, hot dogs are very much in favor, but my mother-in-law does not like their names, so for her we usually take chops or chicken in a big thermos jug and sometimes we fill the bottom with mashed potatoes. A bowl of salad goes along; hard boiled eggs, some cake and fruit. If our boys are with us, I take a large amount of milk, as they can consume more milk than any other people I know. If Mrs. Scheider is there we have to have coffee, and, of course, since I've been in the south and southwest, if Elliot and Ruth should be here I would feel they must have coca-cola! On one picnic I remember we all played children's games in the afternoon. We brought out a victrola which my husband controlled. We put everyone in a big circle and told them when the music stopped, they had to sit down quickly, and that the one who sat down last was out of the game. Everyone played the game with such vim that the next day one of our best stenographers found it very difficult to [s]it down at her typewriter.

(OVER)

MRS. ROOSEVELT: (Continued)

Now, Mr. Smith, I think you said you wanted to talk over some ideas for vacation trips, but before we take them up, Virginia Barr has a word to say.

(INSERT MIDDLE COMMERCIAL)

MIDDLE COMMERCIAL

BARR:

Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt!

Around this time of year, a great many women ask me what to do for a tender, sensitive skin. Here is a woman who tells me she is the red-haired type with a skin that freckles and burns easily. She says, "For a long time I surely was discouraged. ~~The winters are hard enough, but in summer my skin gets much more tender.~~ I used to try all sorts of expensive creams – up to four dollars a jar! Sometime ago, I was feeling pretty desperate about it. Then, on my way home from work, a girl in the 10¢ store asked me if I had ever tried Pond's...<sup>2</sup> Pond's Cold Cream. I said no. And she spoke so highly of it that I took a jar home. Now I feel I've found the cream I'll always use."

You see, now, as that woman has found, Pond's Cold Cream is just the gentlest kind of skin care. No matter how tender your skin is from burning, Pond's Cold Cream leaves it feeling cooler and refreshed. You simply smooth it on, then wipe it off, gently – and your skin is clean! Get a jar of Pond's Cold Cream tomorrow morning and start this simple, gentle skin care right away.

And now, once again, we have the privilege of hearing – Mrs. Roosevelt!

(MRS. ROOSEVELT RESUMES)

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

In speaking of other people's summer plans, where are you going on your vacation this year, Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH:

I'm not sure yet. But in the course of other years, I have visited 45 out of the 48 states. This summer I'd like to visit the remaining three.

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

Which are they?

MR. SMITH:

Louisiana... Maine and Vermont.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: (LAUGHS)

Well, if I were you, I would visit Louisiana in winter, especially New Orleans which is one of the most fascinating cities I know, but I would choose Maine and Vermont for summer. They have beautiful scenery, mountains and lakes, and Maine has a seashore which I have known well for many years and love dearly. In addition, I think you will find in both these states very interesting people to study. They are different from any other people in the United States and they are not much given to confiding in strangers, but if you know them, they are grand people.

MR. SMITH:

You get around so much, Mrs. Roosevelt, what trips do you remember taking that might give us some good ideas for vacations?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

One thing I enjoyed very much was camping out in the Yosemite. We spent five days climbing high up in the mountains at Young's Lake there.

MR. SMITH:

Do you remember any particular experiences?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

Yes, many. Taking my morning swim with snow where I could touch it if I walked around the lake. Sleeping out under the pines. The rangers very courteously and thoughtfully arranged a tent for me. I occupied it one night, but the next night, I couldn't resist my desire to sleep out under the sky and trees. It was a perfect night, and I went to sleep immediately. Some hours later, I suddenly awoke, to hear and feel strange sniffing and pawing near my feet. I was rather worried for a moment and all the stories of bears ran through my mind. I lay there motionless trying to think what to do. Then I screwed up all my courage, and sat bolt upright, hoping that my sudden move would frighten the bear. It did – the animal leaped back, but instead of an ominous growl, I heard only a frightened bark. My huge bear turned out to be only the Chief Ranger's dog!

MR. SMITH:

What other trips do you remember?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

Another year, I motored around the Gaspé Peninsula, and if it hasn't been completely spoiled, you will still find not only beautiful scenery there /but<sup>3</sup> the flavor of a foreign country – with people living very simply.

Another delightful trip is through the Great Smokies.

A visit to Norris Dam will well repay any one with an interest in engineering or in social development. I could go on like this forever, as I believe there is certainly no more fertile vacation ground anywhere than in the U.S.A.

MR. SMITH:

Do you think man and wife should take their vacations together or separately?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

That depends, I am afraid, on the individual likes of the man and his wife. If they have been able to develop so they enjoy doing the same things, there is nothing more delightful than a vacation together.

But if the husband wants to play 36 holes of golf every day, and the wife wants only a sea voyage, and they cannot reconcile their differences, it is probably better to separate.

MR. SMITH:

What kind of vacation do you consider best suited to families with small children? Should the children be sent to summer camps if they are old enough?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I am afraid I have always felt that if possible children should be kept in their own homes with their own families. Any place in the country will be of great benefit to them – the seashore or the farm – it does not matter as long as children can be out of doors. The question of summer camps for children depends on what the family does in summer and the individual child and his relationship to the family. I always like to have my children at home – where we could enjoy summer recreations together, but as they grow older their individual interests are bound to take them away.

MR. SMITH:

I've been curious about the number of miles I've travelled with the President, so I called Mr. Smithers at the White House the other day and asked him if he knew the figure. He called back and told me that according to his records the President has travelled 97,000 miles – nearly 100,000 miles since he has been in office. Do you know how far you have travelled in that time?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

No, I have never kept my mileage but one of the newspaper girls stated in an article the other day that I have travelled twice as many miles as my husband.

MR. SMITH:

You have travelled by train, by car, by plane. How would you like to go in a trailer?

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

I think I should enjoy a trailer very much if I were quite sure that the people with me were congenial. But I cannot imagine anything more appalling than being cooped up in one with people one did not whole-heartedly like. (PAUSE)

Now, Mr. Smith and I must take our leave – Mr. Smith is returning to Washington, and I am going back to join the wedding party, and to have a word or two with my son and new daughter-in-law before they leave on their wedding trip.

Next Wednesday evening, I shall be in Washington again – where I am to join the President when he reviews the Boy Scouts.

(OVER)

MRS. ROOSEVELT: (Continued)

When I meet with you again, I'm going to answer some questions that you have sent in on housekeeping in the White House – and I'm going to have a few recipes to give you – recipes that we use in the White House for some of our favorite dishes.

Good night.

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

BARR:

Next Wednesday at this same time the Pond's Company will again bring you – Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt is planning to give you some of her favorite White House recipes. And may I remind you before you start on that grand vacation be sure and tuck a jar of Pond's Cold Cream in your suitcase, to keep your skin nice and soft and clean in spite of dust and sun and wind. This is Virginia Barr of the Pond's Company, wishing you – “Good night”.

ANNOUNCER:

This is the National Broadcasting Company.

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Transcribed by: Lee Febos

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Transcribed from a script held in the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a handwritten interlineation.

<sup>2</sup> This is a handwritten interlineation.

<sup>3</sup> This is a typed interlineation.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project