

Roosevelt Memorial Association
OF THE
Tennessee River Valley, Inc.

Office of
RALPH M. SALIBA
Vice-President and Director of Publicity

Sheffield, Alabama

July 29, 1935

Honorable R. H. Walker
Speaker of House of Representatives
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Harry:

Having accepted the position of Vice-President and Director of Publicity for the Roosevelt Memorial Association, it is my purpose to put forth all my ability and ingenuity toward the success of this undertaking.

Inclosed herewith is a copy of my first publicity story for release to the Associated Press which I am holding in abeyance until I have heard from you. In going over the names of those who are sponsoring this movement and who have agreed to serve on State Advisory Committees and in other capacities, I do not find your name listed and knowing that you are very close to the President and a 100% "New Dealer," and in view of the national publicity this undertaking will have, I do not want to release this article without having your name listed as one who is sponsoring the movement.

I want to list your name as a member of your State Advisory Committee and as a sponsor of the movement along with other prominent people who have agreed to serve in such capacity, therefore, I would appreciate very much an immediate response to this request.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely your friend,



Ralph M. Saliba

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The Roosevelt Memorial Association, organized and incorporated in the Tennessee Valley is promoting a tri-state movement for the erection of a hospital for the care of crippled children and the building of a Museum and Hall of Fame of the south. The movement includes the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The hospital, while it will care for crippled children suffering from any form of disease or malady, will place special emphasis on the care of Infantile Paralysis cases.

In the Museum will be portrayed the development of this section from the days of the Indians down to the time the dream of Industrial and electrical development visualized for the Tennessee Valley Basin has become a reality. This will be done by the construction of, in the Museum, two enormous miniature Tennessee Valleys; one showing the valley as it was before the white man came into the south; the other showing it as it will be from its mouth to where it empties into the Ohio, with cities built along its river banks, peaceful farms abounding in its wide expanse with all dams and locks completed and projected along the entire length of the river. In the Museum will also be displayed many things of historic interest and value to the people of the south. Hundreds of individual articles and many private Museums have been pledged to the Association. The International Harvester Company has agreed to supply for the museum a replica of the first reaper Mr. McCormick ever built and many other industrial institutions have pledged their support towards making this phase of the undertaking the show place of the South.

In the Hall of Fame will be given recognition to those figures who have contributed largely to the development of the South from Andrew Jackson down to and including many moderns.

The entire undertaking to be projected as a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt in recognition of what he has done to relieve our people from social and economic insecurity for this section of the South.

What is probably the most historic spot in the South has been officially selected as the location for this memorial. LaGrange College Mountain, in Colbert County, Alabama, the site of the first chartered college in Alabama will

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as of yesteryear as engineers, landscapers and architects begin to mould the beauty of its hills and ravines into the proper setting for this memorial.

LaGrange College was chartered by the Alabama Legislature in 1830 and for many years men and women went out from its historic halls to play leading roles in the affairs of the nation. It may well boast of the leaders it gave to Law and Literature; to the Arts and Sciences; to Poetry and Drama and scarcely a state in the union but has men and women within its confines who point with pride to the refining influences of Old LaGrange College on their lives. At the beginning of the war between the states LaGrange was converted into a Military College and in 1863 a special expedition was dispatched from Missouri with instructions to destroy LaGrange. It was completely destroyed, together with the town of about 600 inhabitants and since that time has lain a mass of ruins, mute evidence of the war.

200 acres of land have been donated to the Association by those who owned land in the former incorporated site of the town of LaGrange. Approximately 200 acres more has been purchased by interested citizens of La Grange Community and donated to the Association and the approximately 400 acres coming to the Association as a gift from the interested citizens of that community gives the association practically all of the old incorporated town of La Grange.

The Association proposes to raise by public subscription the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to carry out its building program. It asks the cooperation of public spirited citizens, patriotic, civic, and fraternal organizations interested in the betterment of living condition for unfortunate youth and the perpetuation of the historic grandeur of the South.

LaGrange was long ago, just a summer resort for the wealthy before the establishment of the college. Even before the days of the summer resort, in the days of the Indians the settlement was near Sand Spring, a very fine spring of free-stone water and other mineral springs. Health is said to have emanated from the health giving properties of Sand Springs, and the long lives of the people of the village, old settlers tell you seriously, are due in large measure to this water. So health seems to be part of the heritate of LaGrange from its very earliest days. Strangely too, that this old site seems destined to be the place where health and a chance will be given crippled little children and would seem to be its heretage also as the one spot for the memorial to our friend and our president, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Among those who are sponsoring this undertaking and acting in official capacity are:

Ex-Gov. B.M. Miller of Alabama
 Gov. Hill McAllister of Tennessee
 Donald Comer of Birmingham, Chairman PWA Board
 I. T. Quinn of Montgomery, Commissioner of Game and Fisheries
 Congressman Joe Starnes, of Guntersville
 J. Fred Johnson Jr. of Florence, Member Federal Radio Commission
 Ed. Pettus, of Selma, Former chairman state Dem. Ex. Com.
 Mrs. A. Y. Malone, of Dothan, National Committeewoman from Ala.
 Col. Harry Ayers, publisher, of Anniston
 L. L. Herzberg, City Commissioner of Gadsden
 John C. White, Vice President Tennessee Valley Bank Decatur
 Dr. R. A. Smith, Mayor of Brewton and formerly with the
 Convict administration of Alabama.
 Chas Baumhauer, City Commissioner of Mobile.
 Simon H. Rubel, Corinth, Miss., Grand Master, Grand Lodge
 of Miss. F. & A. M.

Dr. W. H. Anderson, of Booneville, Miss. Publisher and President
 of Booneville Hospital
 Ralph M. Saliba, of Sheffield, Secretary-Manager Colbert
 County Chamber of Commerce.
 B. L. Malone, Probate Judge of Morgan County, Ala.
 A. M. McConnell, Probate Judge of Limestone County
 Chas. Bragg, Probate Judge of Lawrence County
 Thos. E. Jones, former probate judge, Madison County
 Mrs. Cora. C. Carter, of Guntersville, President Carter Hdw. Co.
 Miss Annie Wheeler, of Wheeler Ala., Daughter of Gen. Joe
 Wheeler
 Burgess Mahan, Russellville, Executive Vice Pres. Est. Natl.
 Bank of Russellville, Executive Vice Pres

Close to the heart of our President are the afflicted little ones, especially those who are the victims of Infantile Paralysis. Many of them are in homes where poverty cradles her nest. Help for the must come from the outside. No greater tribute could be paid President Roosevelt than to help make possible this memorial-- for the good that it would do and as a tribute to one who has done much. Lets give our crippled little ones a fighting chance to make good--- let's offer our President a memorial that will gladden his heart because of the possibilities it presents to suffering little ones. Let's help make straight twisted little backs and legs, and gnarled little feet, and thru the incense of their gratitude, offer our own thanks for our friend and our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who never fails to think of those who live in the street of forgotten men.