

**BACHE & Co.**  
Incorporated  
100 GOLD STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

JOHN A. ROOSEVELT  
*Senior Vice-President*

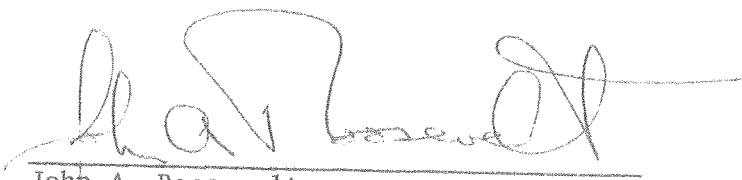
January 24, 1974

To whom it may concern:


Please be advised that at the time of my mother's death in 1962 I inherited, pursuant to her will, contents of her house at Valkill Farms, Hyde Park, New York, subject to certain specific grants. Amongst the items not subject to specific grant under her will was a 22 caliber Smith & Wesson Target Revolver No. 644041 model 1931-1940, K-22 first model ejector. This target revolver has pearl butt plates and was registered by my mother with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Following my mother's death I gave this particular firearm to Charles Curnan, who at that time was superintendent of my place at Hyde Park, as a memento for the years of his service to my family.

I do not consider that any member of my family has any rights to this particular piece of property, in view of the fact that it was property which I gave outright to Charles Curnan.

  
John A. Roosevelt

JAR:ljb

Attested to:   
Lorraine J. Bernich  
Secretary to John A. Roosevelt

PISTOL	(WEAPON)	REVOLVER
Make <i>Smith &amp; Wesson</i>	Calibre <i>22</i>	Number <i>644041</i>

*Eleanor Roosevelt*  
(Signature of Holder)

This license is issued under the following conditions:

1. It is revocable at any time.
2. It expires ~~December 31st of the year~~ issued. *until revoked.*


PISTOL	(WEAPON)	REVOLVER
Make <i>Smith &amp; Wesson</i>	Calibre <i>22</i>	Number <i>644041</i>

This Permit Not Valid in the City of New York

**C 8043** STATE OF NEW YORK  
County of Dutchess

Date *August 5, 1957*

License to Carry Pistol is Hereby Granted  
To *Eleanor Roosevelt*  
Address *Valkill Cottage, Hyde Park*  
Occupation *Writer & Lecturer*  
Employed by *Self*  
Nationality *U.S.A.*  
Age *72* Height *5'10"* Weight *144*  
*John R. Schwartz*  
Judge or Justice of *County* Court



State of New York  
County of Dutchess

ss.:

No. C. **8043**

Permission is hereby given

To *Eleanor Roosevelt*  
to purchase a revolver or pistol pursuant to the provis  
Section 1897, Penal Law of the State of New York, a lic  
possess same having been issued by me.

Dated *August 5* 1957

*John R. Schwartz*  
Judge or Justice of *County*

This Coupon must not be detached from the License excep  
person who sells or otherwise provides the Licensee with any  
contemplated in such License, and he shall retain same. Any  
other person who sells, gives, or otherwise provides a person  
pistol, revolver or other firearm except upon presentation, remu  
retention of this coupon, will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

January 31, 1958

Dear Officer Kenny:

I am enclosing the papers which you requested in connection with my revolver.

When I return from Florida, I will bring the revolver to your office for you to handle in whatever way you think is wise.

Thank you for your patience.

Very sincerely yours,

Officer Michael Kenny

17th Precinct  
225 East 49th St.  
New York City

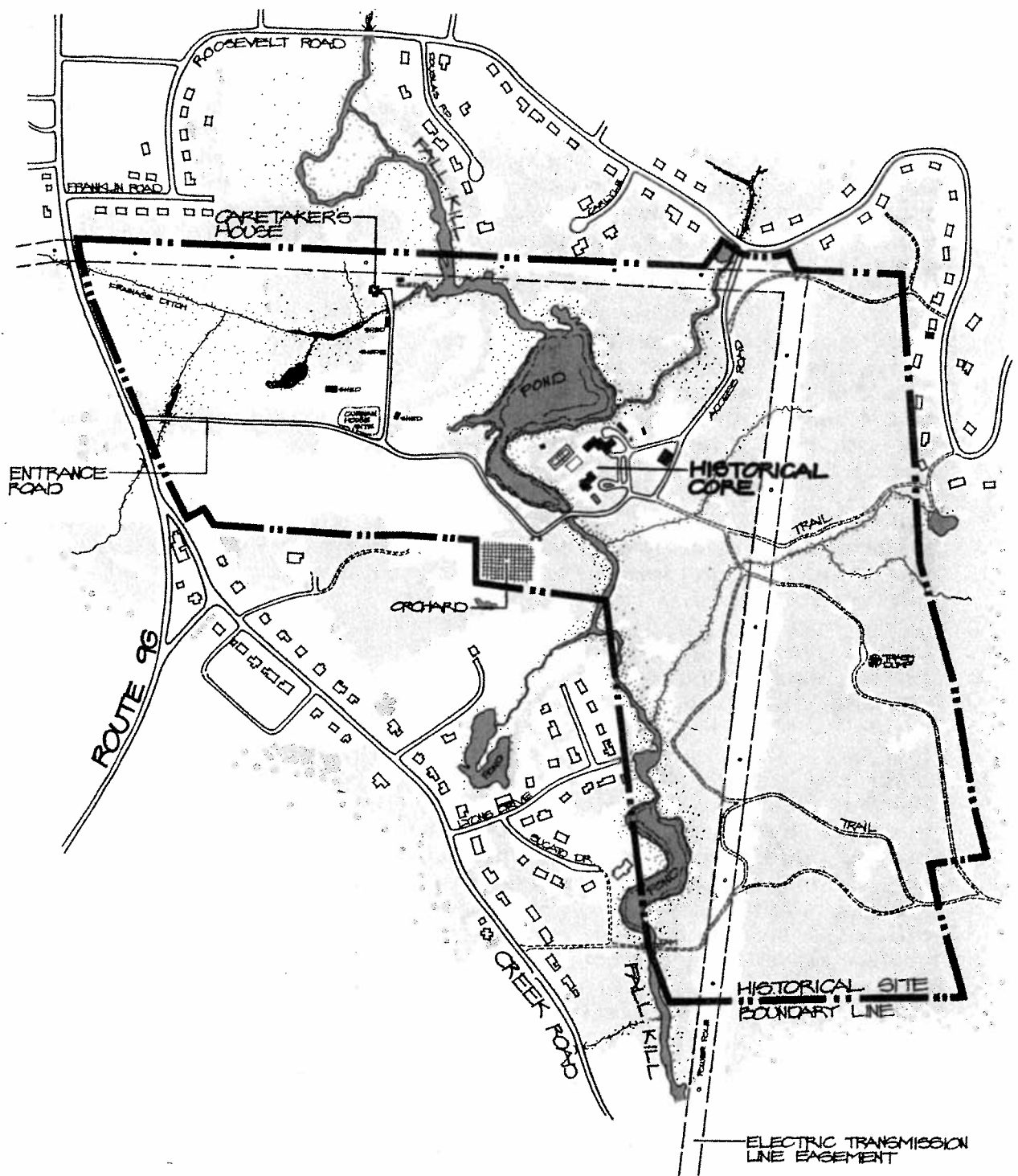
d

The police station tells me Mrs. Roosevelt,  
~~if she~~ does not renew her permit, <sup>she</sup> must  
return the slip which has her signature  
and which is attached. In addition she  
must return the last year's permit to-  
gether with a note as to the disposition  
of the revolver.

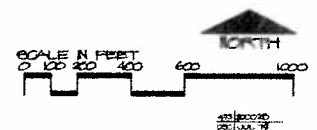
So sorry!

m.

It sho is diffcult to be a pistol  
packer!!



# HISTORIC SITE



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## Viewpoints

# New Val-Kill conference center is 'invisible legacy' of site's former superintendent

By Kristine Coulter  
Staff Writer

HYDE PARK- Susan Curnan refers to herself as "the Val-Kill kid," she said. She grew up on the Val-Kill grounds in Hyde Park. Val-Kill was former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat. "The greatest thing I have learned is how good it is to come home again," Roosevelt is credited with saying about the modest cottage.

On a sunny but cold day in late autumn, Wednesday, December 3, the grand opening of the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill office and conference center was held.

Curnan commented that as she walked to the dedication ceremony, she thought "This is such a happy day and it is so right."

"This house my parents lived in...it's right that it would become a home for the development" of Eleanor Roosevelt's ideas, Curnan stated.

Her father, Charles Curnan was the superintendent of Val-Kill for more than 30 years. The house that Curnan lived in with her father and

mother, Mildred Curnan, is now the office and conference center. The new building was built upon the original footprints of the Curnan's old house. Some of the stones from the home were used to build the current fireplace.

"It belongs here," Curnan said of the center.

The new conference and office center will be a place where members of the community can learn about Eleanor Roosevelt and the ideas she believed in and the actions she took to have those beliefs come to fruition, according to officials.

"We love our new building. It's a wonderful place to express Eleanor Roosevelt," said Executive Director of Val-Kill Kathleen Durham.

Durham said members of the community will be welcomed for workshops and there is a conference room, which can accommodate approximately 60 people.

"I hope that they learn about her transformative leadership style, her humanitarian way and the way she touched people's hearts," Durham said.

Anne Meisner is a friend of the Eleanor Roosevelt site.

"I started [as a friend of the site] about 20 years ago," said Meisner. After stopping for a while, Meisner rejoined the organization two years ago.

The Staatsburgh resident said she wanted to "further the works Eleanor Roosevelt might have done if she was still alive."

"I love it," Meisner commented on the building.

President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Charles North said during the dedication ceremony, "Even though you're not a business...it brings a lot of benefit to Dutchess County."

Stone Cottage, the main building on the grounds, once served as a furniture factory. When the factory closed in 1936 it was then converted into a cottage for Eleanor Roosevelt. It became her permanent home after President Franklin Roosevelt died.

In July of 1962 Eleanor Roosevelt threw what would be her last party as hostess for Charles Curnan. His

daughter presented the plaque that was given to him that summer day to the Val-Kill Center.

He dedicated "his entire life basically" to the Roosevelt family, Curnan said of her father.

When Eleanor Roosevelt died, Charles Curnan was responsible for her body and for welcoming the dignitaries.

"This is a bit of the invisible legacy becoming tangible," said Curnan of the conference center.

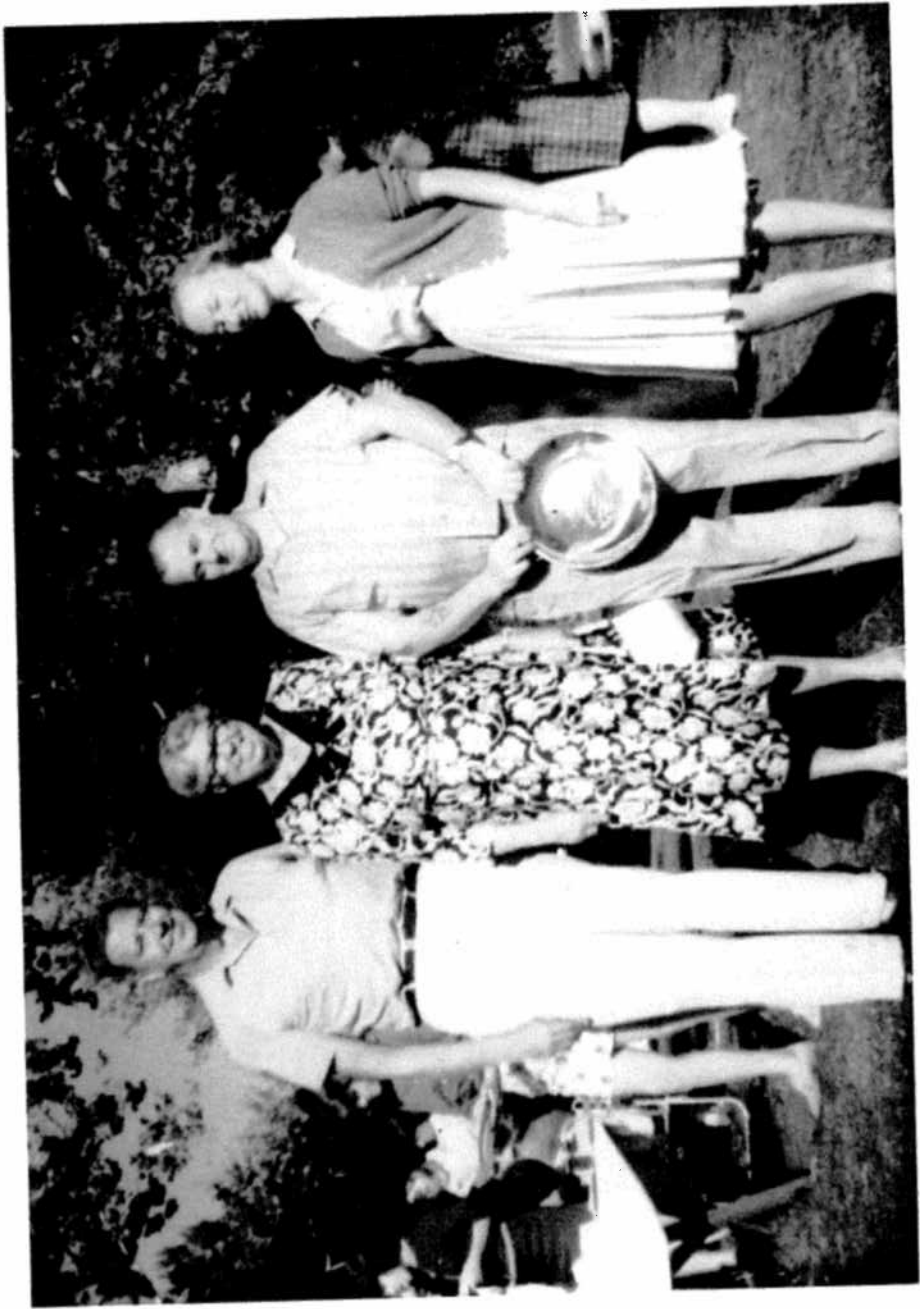
Curnan told the story about her father driving Eleanor Roosevelt, along with Curnan and her mother, to Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. There the former first lady gave the first address at the university.

Years later Curnan said her father told her to go to Brandeis. She listened after she realized her father knew what was he saying, she said.

Curnan now works at Brandeis as Director and Associate Professor Chair for children youth and families.

"I think there are no coincidences," said Curnan.





# Eleanor Roosevelt

NO ORDINARY WOMAN



WHEN THE ROOSEVELTS ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1933, THE SECRET SERVICE SUGGESTED THAT ELEANOR CARRY A GUN ON HER TRAVELS. HERE SHE PRACTICES AT CHAZY LAKE, NEW YORK.

THE KU KLUX KLAN ONCE PUT A \$25,000 BOUNTY on Eleanor Roosevelt's head. She was in her seventies then and as outspoken about civil rights as she had been as First Lady. The year was 1958.

The Klan had learned that she was to speak in June at a workshop on methods of protest at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. The FBI warned her that it could not protect her and suggested that she not go. Eleanor thanked her caller for the warning, but decided she was going anyway, and flew to Nashville.

"This elderly white woman picks up a seventy-four-year-old Eleanor Roosevelt" relates historian Allida Black



# MRS. ROOSEVELT CARRIES A PISTOL!

*'Packs' a Weapon on Lone Auto Journeys---And Knows How to Use It*

NEW ORLEANS, March 6 (U.P.).—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt modestly revealed today that she is somewhat of a marksman with a pistol.

She was trained, she said, by New York State prison guards as a matter of protection when she drives about the country alone.

In a press conference here preceding the first of a series of lectures on a six-State tour, the President's wife casually told of her adeptness with a gun. She said:

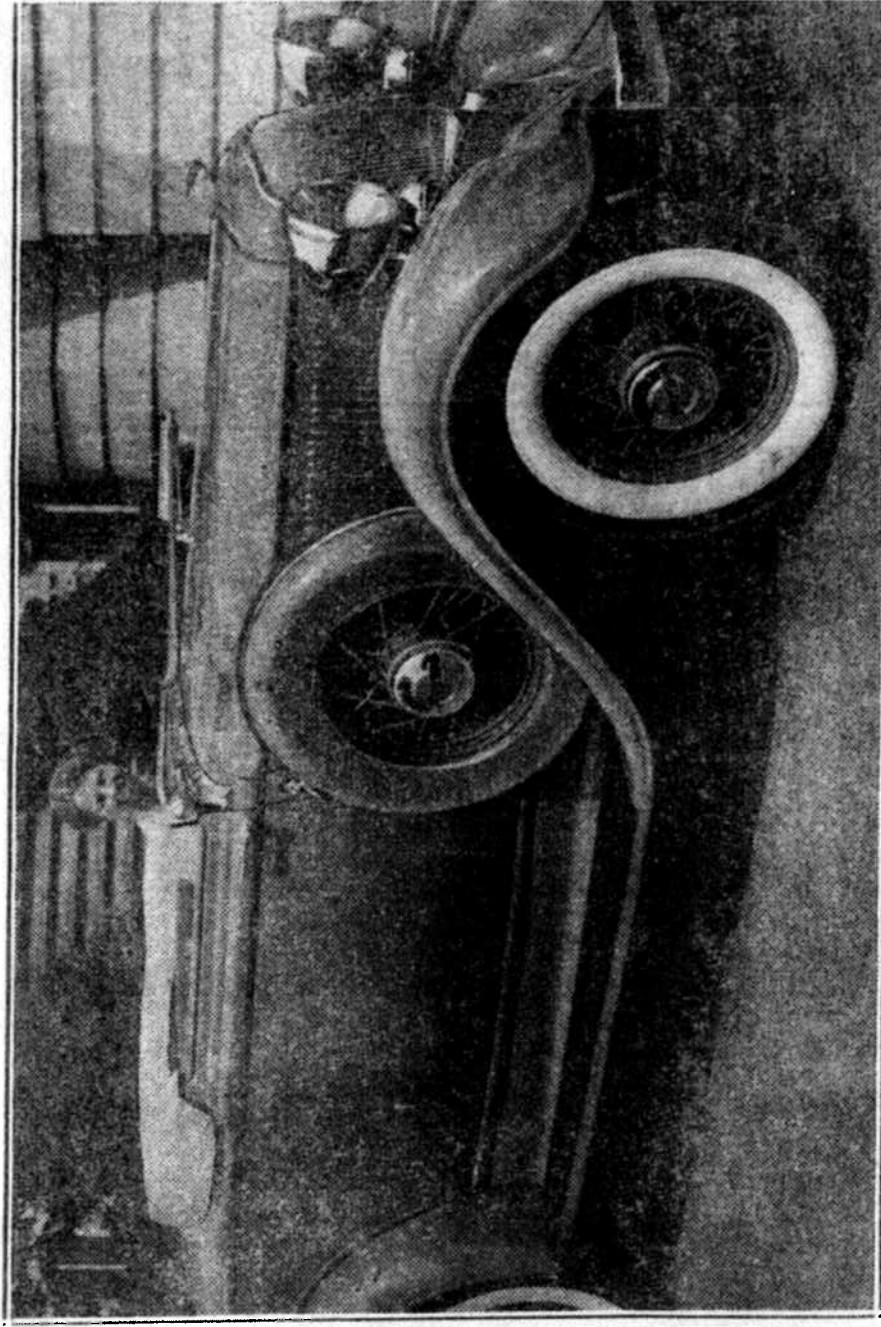
"Only when I travel by automobile—that is, when I drive alone, have I any protection. And then I carry a pistol."

"Can you use a pistol?" asked astonished reporters. She replied: "Oh, yes, I was trained by the prison guards of New York and I'm a fairly good shot."

At her lecture, Mrs. Roosevelt emphasized that she had no desire to become President of the United States. The time is not yet ripe, she said, for women in that field.

"Not that many of them are not worthy, but at this time no woman can obtain and hold the support necessary for election."

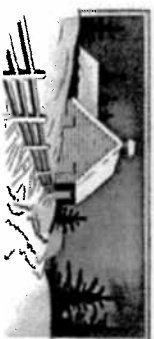
Mrs. Roosevelt was to speak in Baton Rouge tonight.



MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AT WHEEL OF HER AUTOMOBILE  
*First Lady was Starting for a Drive Through Rock Creek Park.*



Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
extends  
her very best wishes for  
Christmas and the New Year



Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
extends  
greetings and best wishes  
for  
Christmas and the New Year

Mrs. + Mrs.  
Charles Curran



PRINCESS TE ATA in American Indian Folk Lore  
ISH-TLOPI, American Indian Baritone  
EDWARD PELEGER, at the Piano  
KURUKS PAHITU, at the Tom-Tom

Sunday, June 11, 1939  
Hyde Park, New York

Guests will be presented to the President and  
Mrs. Roosevelt and the King and Queen immediately  
on arrival at the President's cottage. There will  
be an entertainment during lunch. If it should  
rain, guests will be presented to the King and  
Queen at the big house at one o'clock,  
but there will be no picnic  
If you wish to bring a box luncheon, space will  
be reserved for you by the guards



1943

WITH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR A  
HAPPIER NEW YEAR  
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROOSEVELT



CHRISTMAS  
1939

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
from  
THE PRESIDENT  
and MRS. ROOSEVELT

## Roosevelt auction haul tops estimate

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Personal items — including paintings, letters and even hair brushes — once belonging to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt sold for nearly \$2.7 million during a two-day sale at Christie's auction house.

Officials at Christie's had estimated prior to the beginning of the auction that the items would likely bring anywhere from \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million, according to spokeswoman Bendetta Roux.

"It's the Roosevelt factor," Roux said. "The fact that these items belonged to the Roosevelts made them very attractive to bidders."

A 1933 painting of FDR's yacht *Amber Jack II* entitled "Amber Light" by artist Jonas Lie fetched \$149,000 on Thursday, making it the most expensive item sold. The painting, which was inscribed by the artist, was valued before the auction at between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

A gold watch presented to FDR by Argentina's minister of the Navy sold Thursday for \$58,750. Christie's had valued the watch at \$7,000.

### Silver service sells

In addition, an American silver dresser service once owned by Eleanor Roosevelt and valued by Christie's at between \$1,000 and \$1,500 sold at auction Thursday for \$37,600. The set included beakers, a glass jar, a hand mirror, several hair brushes and a shoehorn.

Many of the mementos sold during the auction were part of 3,000 items from the personal collection of John A. Roosevelt, the youngest of the Roosevelt's six children. After he died in 1981, his widow remarried but kept the apartment filled with family heirlooms and artifacts until last year, when she sold the property and decided to put the contents up for auction.

AUTUMN 2009

# THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

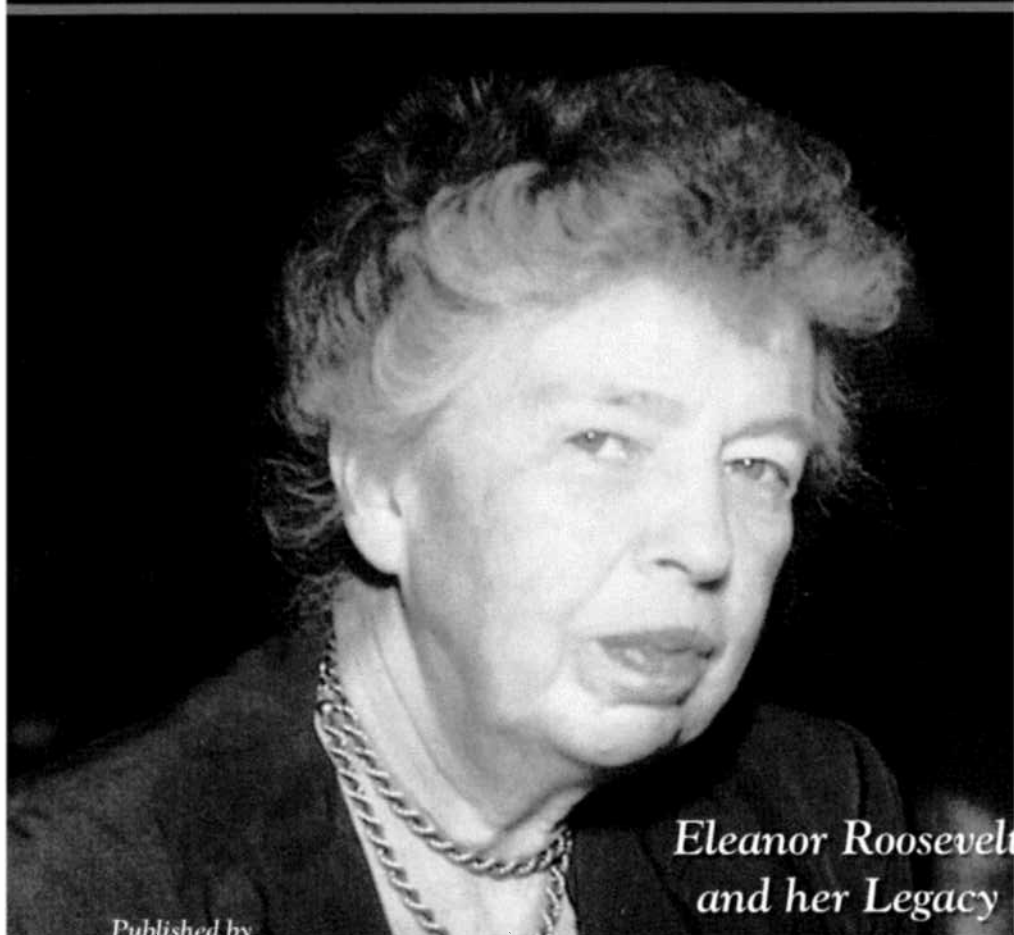
*A Journal of Regional Studies*



AUTUMN 2009

# THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

*A Journal of Regional Studies*



*Eleanor Roosevelt  
and her Legacy*

*Published by*