

# DRIVING WITH FDR

## A CALENDRIAL BIOGRAPHY BY STEFAN LONCE

April 12, 1945, was a date which shall live in world history, because that is when Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, in Warm Springs, Georgia, while visiting the polio clinic he had founded.

That's why, on April 12, 2012, I was in Warm Springs, at Roosevelt's Little White House, as they call the cottage FDR designed for himself at the former resort whose mineral-laden buoyant waters enabled people paralyzed by polio, like FDR, to walk, in pools filled with that empowering water.

I went to Warm Springs for the ceremony they hold each year commemorating FDR's death, and celebrating his life. That's because I am Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "calendrical biographer" (a term I coined), which means that I focus on the critical dates in FDR's life and tell my readers about what happened then, and why it matters. A calendrical biographer's objective is to be selective, rather than comprehensive.

Thus, **DRIVING WITH FDR: A CALENDRIAL BIOGRAPHY** begins on August 10, 1921, when FDR was paralyzed by polio. On August 14, 2011, I started selling my self-published calendar, also entitled **DRIVING WITH FDR**, which begins with a 4-page **MINIBOOK** explaining how being able to drive, using hand controls he designed, after he was paralyzed by polio and could no longer walk, affected FDR and changed world history.

I'm grateful to Lynn Bassanese, the Acting Director of the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY ([fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://fdrlibrary.marist.edu)) for selling my **DRIVING WITH FDR 2012 COLLECTIBLE CALENDAR**

in the FDR Library gift shop, and for being so helpful with the original historical research that went into the calendar, and that's going into **DRIVING WITH FDR**, the book.

In Warm Springs, I discovered amazing newsletters published by the polio patients, including FDR, who wrote, "Our one objective must be to further the cause [to eradicate polio] and to that end let us not give not a moment's thought to titles and credit for the work, but simply enlist as privates in...an invincible army... in this crusade [against polio]." I will tell you more about these virtually unknown, inspiring newsletters in **DRIVING WITH FDR: A CALENDRIAL BIOGRAPHY**, which I shall publish in 2012.

The ceremony in Warm Springs on 4-12-2012 was inspiring. Robin Glass, who so effectively manages Roosevelt's Little White House for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, graciously welcomed the guests and introduced Army General Larry Ellis, who spoke of how FDR inspired him. A racially integrated chorus of 5th-graders from a nearby school sang "America the Beautiful." Wouldn't FDR and Eleanor have loved the fact that the children's chorus was racially integrated...and wouldn't Eleanor have loved that one of the members of the color guard was a woman!

All this will be in **DRIVING WITH FDR**, the book, as will my satisfaction at learning from Diane Crane, the Little White House gift shop manager, that the docents consult my **DRIVING WITH FDR 2012 COLLECTIBLE CALENDAR** every day, to check the "On this Day, FDR..." chronology which lists the major events in FDR's life, using FDR icons, and they use that information on their tours! I'm told that similar use of the calendar is being made, daily, at the FDR Library.

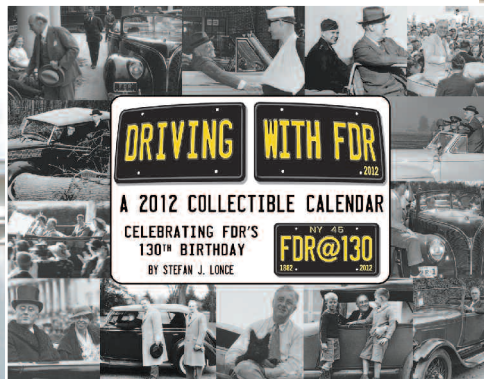
Please download my **DRIVING WITH FDR MINIBOOK**, on my website, [www.DrivingWithFDR.com](http://www.DrivingWithFDR.com) (it's free!). I think that you would like it...and I hope that you do!



FDR and I take a time out at his favorite picnic spot in Warm Springs.



Retired Army General Larry Ellis addresses the crowd at Roosevelt's Little White House on 4-12-2012.



The 5th Grade chorus from a nearby school sings "America the Beautiful"