

**90th ANNIVERSARY MEETING** (from Scrapbooks in computer)

90th Anniversary Meeting \$50. Tweed Roosevelt.  
(Notice flyer for 664th meeting, 10 November 1992. Min5, p79, item 89)

HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB

90th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

November 10, 1992

For the 600th meeting of the Club the menu for the 1911 Theodore Roosevelt dinner was recreated; and many of you will recall that memorable evening. The Harvard Club will rise to the occasion once again and prepare the same menu with some variations.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE MEAL THE PRICE WILL BE \$50.**

A choice of entree will be offered. The original dinner includes a fish course followed by Roast Black Duck. Please choose either Broiled Halibut or Roast Duck as your main course. Those who fail to choose in advance may not have a choice at the dinner.

(Please cut at fold)

HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB  
c/o Robert O. Boardman, Sec.  
163 Cottage Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740-3650  
Phone (508) 993-3048

I will be present for dinner on November 10, 1992

I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests

The guests' names are:

Halibut  
or Duck

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# A Roosevelt follows T.R.'s path in Brazil

By Joseph P. Kahn  
GLOBE STAFF

*The food and the arms we carried represented all reasonable precautions against suffering and starvation; but . . . Anything might happen. We were about to go into the unknown, and no one could say what it held.*

— Theodore Roosevelt, Brazil, 1914

BOOTHBAY HARBOR, Maine — The most restless ex-president in American history was 56 years old and a full term removed from the White House when he undertook the riskiest adventure of his life: a thousand-mile journey by dugout canoe down the Rio Duvida, or River of Doubt, through the heart of the Brazilian wilderness.

This was no international photo-op, no first-class safari to the verdant plains of Kenya. In the Amazon jungle circa 1914, the unknown was truly unknown.

Two men died on the trip. Kermit Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt's son, nearly drowned. Disease and despair bedeviled the rest, most notably Roosevelt himself. Still weakened from the ordeal five years later, he died while contemplating a second bid for the presidency, thus recharting the course of American political history. Of all his excursions to civilization's outposts, this was the Rough Rider's roughest, hands down.

Few places on the planet remain essential—  
ROOSEVELT, Page 66



Tweed Roosevelt will retrace his great-grandfather's journey.

# Tweed Roosevelt reenacts his great-grandfather's journey to Brazil

## ROOSEVELT

Continued from Page 61

ly unchanged over the past seven decades. And not many people get the chance, as Tweed Roosevelt, T.R.'s great-grandson, observes, to re-create an ancestor's experience under virtually the same conditions as the original.

If all goes as scheduled this Saturday, however, a multinational team of scientists, journalists, explorers and white-water specialists – including Tweed R., 49, a Boston-based investment counselor and official trip historian – will put in at the headwaters of the Rio Roosevelt with just that aim in mind. Sixty-eight years and three attempts (one failed, one vanished, one successful – in 1926) after Roosevelt's group helped rechristen the River of Doubt, they hope to duplicate the feat jointly credited to T.R. and his colleague, famed Brazilian explorer Col. Candido Rondon.

"This trip is on a different scale from anything I've done before," says Tweed Roosevelt, who has roamed the world in his own right, from the Middle East to Mauritania. "Modern technology makes a huge difference, of course, but the risk of accident and disease is quite real. And we're still talking about a part of the world that has seen very few outsiders, if any."

Whereas T.R.'s group worried about bandits, hostile natives and piranha fish that could strip a mule (or man) to bone in seconds, notes Tweed Roosevelt, insect bites and jungle fever were far more hazardous to the river's first mappers – and promise to be this time out, too, if boredom doesn't turn out to be the real nemesis of the eight-week trip. The good news, he quips, is that there aren't many poisonous snakes lurking in the rain forest. The bad news? "You'll never see the one that strikes you."

So far the more formidable obstacles faced by expedition organizers have been the more predictable ones, namely bureaucracy and monies. Team leader Charles Haskell

spent the past 18 months navigating a forest of red tape – on two continents – to make the trip happen. He and Elizabeth McKnight, his long-time partner and co-leader, set out to raise \$250,000 to fund a much smaller undertaking – and then watched the numbers swell, to 16 people and more than \$700,000 in expenses.

Some of these additions were scientific, some journalistic. To shed light on a region where literally hundreds of species await discovery, Brazilian researchers were brought aboard to study local flora and fauna; they will report their findings to a United Nations conference on the rain forest next June. Even the Brazilian Air Force was recruited, to supply overhead monitoring and rescue service, if necessary. Focus on conservation issues will be one constant linking the era of Teddy Roosevelt, an ardent conservationist, to the modern age of eco-angst.

"The bottom line is developing awareness about the region," says McKnight, who will be one of the first two women explorers to make the historic journey. "Brazilians don't need to be told by the rest of the world what to do about their rain forests. They need to develop their own solutions, which is why we're taking Brazilian scientists, not Americans."

Because the Rio Roosevelt runs hard and treacherous through the first 250 miles especially – portaging their heavy canoes around the river's whirlpools and falls taxed T.R.'s team nearly to the point of collapse – four whitewater experts will go along to command the quartet of 16-foot rubber rafts.

The 1992 Rio Roosevelt Expedition will also be recorded by a traveling press corps that includes two still photographers, a documentary filmmaker and a book writer. ABC's "Good Morning America" plans at least four reports from the river, assuming tape gets flown out and made available en route.

Haskell, a former publisher and politician as well as a veteran out-



PHOTO: THEODORE ROOSEVELT COLLECTION, HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

**His journey down the Rio Duvida left Theodore Roosevelt weak; he died five years later.**

doorsman himself, sees this bilateral, multimedia effort as a rare opportunity to bring history, science and conservation issues alive for a worldwide audience. He has already made half a dozen trips to Brazil in preparation and scouted the Rio Roosevelt extensively from the air. Earlier excursions to the continent took him on river trips through the Amazon Basin and to remote areas of Pantanala, a remote stretch overlapping southern Brazil and Paraguay.

"I've been mesmerized by the Amazon since I was 12," says Haskell, speaking recently at expedition

headquarters, a two-story house he shares with McKnight near the Maine seacoast. "My friend's grandfather had been down there in the '30s. I remember watching film of a leg shank being thrown in the water and devoured by piranhas. I was hooked."

In 1989, Haskell read Teddy Roosevelt's account of the trip, "Through the Brazilian Wilderness," and knew he had to go. "Beth said yes," he adds, "and we've been working on it full time ever since."

Sam Moses, who will write about

the expedition for Random House, serves up a slightly different view of history.

"When you put Roosevelt's achievement in its modern context," says Moses, "you almost have to ask yourself this. Can you imagine George Bush leaving the White House after his final term and going off on such a wild adventure? Not knowing if he'd come out alive?"

"We simply don't elect men like that to be our leaders anymore."

...

As Tweed Roosevelt will tell you, his great-grandfather was a man of many firsts. The nation's 26th chief executive was the first US president to drive an automobile and ride in an airplane, the first to marry twice, the first to ski, play tennis and take up jujitsu, the first to publish a book while still in office, the first to survive an assassin's bullet. The list goes on for two typewritten pages.

And as Tweed R. will also be the first to tell you, he was about the last Roosevelt anyone expected to reenact the 1914 Brazilian journey. Though he studied anthropology at Harvard and traveled the globe with his father, businessman Archibald Roosevelt Jr., the ancestral shadow of his famous forebear cast a good deal more darkness than light over his young life.

"T.R. never meant all that much to me, frankly," says Tweed Roosevelt over lunch, in the final days before his departure for South America. "We seldom talked about him in the family. And as I got older I faced the problem of people paying more attention to me because of my ancestry than who I was. My response was to ignore T.R. completely. Except when I was rebelling against the whole thing."

That changed in the early 1980s, when Tweed decided to bone up on T.R.'s nonpolitical exploits for a speech he was about to make to a Boston book collectors' club. In reading more extensively about his great-grandfather's adventures outside the White House, says Tweed Roosevelt, "I realized what an ex-

traordinary man this was. And I was old enough and secure enough not to worry that I wasn't nearly that extraordinary."

Getting hooked up with the Brazilian expedition became a matter of serendipity. When Haskell and McKnight approached the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation, looking for support both familial and logistical, they were directed toward Tweed Roosevelt, who lives on Beacon Hill with his wife and two young children and works as an investment adviser with the Lexington-based Wingate Financial Group.

"We met three Roosevelts initially," says Haskell. "All expressed interest in going. But Tweed was the most helpful getting us information, and he even looks like T.R. So we asked him. He was hesitant at first, but he's been a great sport about this."

Having a Roosevelt on board turned out to be a twofer. Not only would he become the designated historian of the 1992 expedition, but his background as an amateur entomologist may yield dividends for Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology and for the American Museum of Natural History, both of which are interested in augmenting their collections of rare South American insect and mollusk species.

Science aside, however, the real kick for Tweed Roosevelt – who spent days searching for the proper pith helmet to take with him down the river – is to go where only one Roosevelt has gone before. And to be there when he turns 50, on Feb. 28. Hey, if he decides to grow a walrus-tusk mustache during his two months down there, he may even come back looking like the Bull Moose of San Juan Hill.

"Most people undertake something like this when they're 20, if ever," he laughs. "I've chosen to do it as I approach my second half-century. If you want to avoid facing your 50th birthday, try doing it when you're halfway down the Rio Roosevelt."