

1855



2005

## *A day in Flint History*



### **1936: President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits Flint**

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt arrived in Flint on October 15, 1936, he was greeted by an estimated 150,000 people — the largest crowd, up to that point, in local history. Roosevelt also was making history as the first president to visit the city while in office. Theodore Roosevelt had visited in 1912 when he was an ex-president and it is said that James Garfield and William McKinley came to town as campaigners in the 19th century. People were packed 4,500 to a block between Court Street

and Atwood Stadium, where 20,000 more were awaiting FDR's speech. Roosevelt and his wife circled inside the stadium, waving from his open car, then he delivered a 10-minute speech from the car. His speech included a declaration that the U.S. had the opportunity to take the lead in outlawing war, but a reporter said the visit would be most remembered for the Roosevelt smile and the hand-waving.

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint