

David Edward Hardester

(- 21 Aug 1956)

Hardester, David E. Suddenly, on Tuesday, August 21, 1956, at his residence, 3701 Massachusetts ave. n.w., David E. Hardester, beloved husband of Wilma C. Hardester and father of David H. Hardester. Services at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. n.w., on Friday, August 24, at 2 p.m. (parking facilities). Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 22, 1956, p. A24

'Davie' Hardester, Compiled Colorful Railroading Career

Davie Hardester, whose railroading days were as colorful as the passengers for whom he was a Pullman conductor, died yesterday at his home, 3701 Massachusetts avenue N.W. He had suffered a heart condition for about a year.

Mr. Hardester's real name was David E., but Presidents, millionaires and everyone else knew him as "Davie." During his 39 years as a Pullman conductor, his face became familiar to most of the famous personalities who traveled in and out of Washington.

During the last few months of President Theodore Roosevelt's administration, Mr. Hardester

When President Taft took office, Mr. Hardester continued as the regular conductor on all White House specials.

After four years with President Taft, whom he remembered for the warmth of his personality -- he traveled eight years with President Woodrow Wilson. He remembered the latter for his considerateness and gentleness.

When Theodore Roosevelt's children, Alice and Theodore, jr., traveled out of Washington, Mr. Hardester went with them. Alice used to smuggle her Pekinese dog on the train, Mr. Hardester once recalled, and one night Theodore, jr., boarded the train with a pistol which Mr. Hardester had to "check at the door."

Mr. Hardester also traveled with Calvin Coolidge when Mr. Coolidge was campaigning for the vice presidency.

Mr. Hardester went off the White House specials after the Wilson administration to run luxury trains.

Once he brought a train into Washington loaded with 15 millionaires. He became close friends with fighter John L. Sullivan and the singer, Mme. Schuman-Heink. He was also the friend of J.P. Morgan, Bernard Baruch and members of the DuPont family.

For 12 years before he retired in 1940, Mr. Hardester was on the Palmetto Limited, the train that took many wealthy Northerners to their Southern shooting lodges.

Twice Mr. Hardester helped deliver babies who were born "on the rails."

In recent years, Mr. Hardester had continued being active in the Order of Railway Conductors.

Survivors are his widow Wilma, and a son, David H. Hardester, of the home address.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Hines funeral home, 2901 Fourteenth street N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.