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### THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



ABE CHILTON HAD TWO MISFORTUNES IN ONE WHEN HIS NEW WAGON BROKE DOWN ON MAIN STREET. HE FELL RIGHT INTO HIS WIFE'S ARMS AND...

### THOUSANDS IN LINE TO VIEW FACE OF CHIEF

(Continued From Page One.)  
tion, reached Washington at 10:22 o'clock tonight.

Although the train was nine hours late, thousands jammed the station concourse waiting for hours packed against the iron fence that shuts off the train platform to be first to give their silent tribute to the dead chief.

The train backed into the station so that the funeral car with its flag-draped casket rolled in first, to stop where the little group headed by President Coolidge waited.

The lights of the funeral car cast a brilliant glow in the big train shed. Secretary Christian and Dr. Sawyer were on the back platform. There was no noise in the station, but the thrumming of the air pump of a distant engine.

Mrs. Harding stepped off the car leaning on Secretary Christian's arm and with Dr. Sawyer on her other side.

The band in concourse began playing "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Mrs. Harding walked erect but slowly along the station platform. While her hand was on Secretary Christian's arm she apparently needed no support.

The military guard of honor that way from San Francisco alighted. Members of the party who came all the way said Mrs. Harding had stood the trip well.

As the solemn strains of the comforting hymn filled the station, the casket was tenderly lifted down through the special door cut in the side of the car. It was placed on a rolling platform.

A single wreath that had been waiting at the station was laid on the great flag spread over the casket.

The military guard resumed its place about the casket. The uniformed men raised their burden and began moving slowly toward the double rank of non-commissioned officers who formed a corridor to the president's room.

Meantime Mrs. Harding had entered an automobile and had been whisked away through a side street to the White House. Her appearance and the reports of those who had made the trip with her from San Francisco set at rest widespread rumors that she had suffered a physical collapse. It was said she had borne up bravely from the first and had shown no sign of breaking under the strain.

Secretaries Hoover, Wallace and Work, Attorney-General Daugherty and General Pershing walked slowly behind the casket as it was carried down the living corridor.

Speaker Gillett also walked with the party that alighted from the funeral train. The double rank of soldiers forming the escort was greeted only by old friends and members of the family. A plan to have Mrs. Coolidge and the ladies of the cabinet present to meet her was cancelled at her own request.

The little group that was to console her while her dead husband lay in the casket consisted of Mrs. George T. Harding Jr., wife of the president's brother; Dr. Heber Votaw, the president's brother-in-law; and Mrs. Votaw Clifford King, Mrs. Harding's brother, and Mrs. King, Governor Crissinger of the reserve board and Mrs. Crissinger and Director Scobey of the mint and Mrs. Scobey.

As Mrs. Harding stepped into the White House a shooting star dropped out of the heavens shedding a brief but mellow light upon the scene. A crowd of a few score who had been admitted to the grounds stood at a considerable distance until Mrs. Harding disappeared beyond the portals.

President Coolidge gave his formal greetings to his dead chief as the casket reached the head of the aisle of soldiers, before the president's room. He stood hat in hand as it passed, then turned to follow slowly with bent head.

March Led by Troops.  
The flag-draped burden that carried with it the sorrowing heart of a nation then was borne through the long room to the plaza beyond and lifted to the black draped gun carriage. It was strapped in place as the troops of the escort sat with sabres raised high in "present." A moment later at a low command the troops turned slowly away to lead the march to the White House.

It seemed long after the rattle of hoofs, a block or two away, before the escort came abreast.

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