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A Good Place to Trade

Addresses Delivered At Memorial Services Friday

La Grande Speakers Paid Honor to Warren G. Harding at Memorial Services Held in L. D. S. Tabernacle.

(By Bruce Dennis)

As citizens of Union county, of the state of Oregon, of the United States of America, we have met here today in sadness and sorrow to pay proper tribute to Warren G. Harding—our President, our Neighbor, our friend, our highest type of American citizenship.

His career impresses us once more with the greatness of our nation, with the almost divine wisdom of our forefathers who framed the government and ordered that the chief is governed by you and by me. The from among the people.

As we mingle our grief today over the passing of our revered leader, we pause to acknowledge the greatness of a government which will select from its rank and file a newspaperman running a country daily in a town not much larger than the city of La Grande, for national leader.

We pause to ponder on the remarkable success of a nation that is governed by you and by me. The people in New York state are no different than the people in Oregon—all have the same desires and common purpose when it comes to justice and equity, and all endeavor to select the man whom they believe is best for the presidency.

Just so long as this feeling swells in the heart of every citizen, just so long will this great country continue to be the best ever known and the government will stand pre-eminently as a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Mr. Harding an Active Man.

Let us for a brief moment consider the life of this great man whom we meet today to honor:

We find him first working as a printer on the Caledonia, Ohio Argus. His entrance into politics took place during the Garfield campaign in 1880 when he played a tenor horn in the band that led the campaign torchlight procession.

In 1882 Mr. Harding received the degree of Bachelor of Science in the Ohio Central College where he had distinguished himself chiefly as editor of the school newspaper.

He devoted his energies to law, insurance and then to newspaper work. Later he purchased the Marion Star—a rather poorly supported weekly newspaper. When he returned from the Republican national convention at Chicago which nominated James G. Blaine for President he found the Marion Star in the hands of the sheriff.

Undaunted, though a standpat Republican, Mr. Harding took a position as reported on the Mirror, a Democratic newspaper, but because he insisted on wearing a Jim Baline campaign hat during the fall campaign prior to election he lost his job.

Mr. Harding taught school for a time and he played a horn in the prize band at Marion. Eventually the Marion Star drifted back into his hands and today it is one of the substantial and widely read newspapers of Ohio, having been built up by himself and his wife by hard work and honest effort.

His Newspaper Creed.

Warren G. Harding's newspaper creed, posted upon the wall of the editorial room of his newspaper, the Marion Star, warns reporters and editors "be truthful, be fair and

above all, be clean."

Following is the text of the creed: "Remember there are two sides to every question, get both."

"Be truthful."

"Get the facts. Mistakes are inevitable, but strive for accuracy. I would rather have one story exactly right than a hundred half wrong."

"Be recent. Be fair. Be generous. 'Boast—Don't knock. There's good in everybody, and never needlessly hurt the feelings of anybody."

"In reporting a political gathering, get the facts; tell the story as it is, not as you would like to have it."

"Treat all religious matter reverently."

"If it can possibly be avoided, never bring ignominy to an innocent woman or child in telling of the misdeeds or misfortune of a relative."

"Don't wait to be asked, but do it without asking."

"And above all, be clean. Never let a dirty word or suggestive story get into type."

"I want this paper so considered that it can go into any home without destroying the innocence of any child."

We find him in 1899 a member of the state senate of Ohio and 1905 he became lieutenant governor of his state. By this time he had begun to be a political factor whose influence was felt even in the face of such characters as Mack Hanna, Major McKinley and Senator Foraker, who were then practically in control of Ohio politics.

His first political defeat came in 1910 when he ran for governor, but four years later he was elected to the United States senate. In 1916 he was the "harmonizer" at the Republican national convention, having made the keynote speech as temporary chairman.

Prior to his election as president of the United States he had three times visited Europe and was recognized as one of the men of America who knew about the problems of the Old World.

Thus it will be seen that, although once a very obscure newspaperman he nevertheless under our great system of free and enlightened government, was later chosen as the nation's chief executive.

His success laid in the fact that he was a common man possessed of common sense. His speeches were not gems of rhetoric, he did not hold the multitude with oratorical eloquence, but he spoke in that simple, plain manner which drew home the conviction of his honesty much in the same manner that the martyred Lincoln did.

His Visit to Oregon.

Eastern Oregon was especially fortunate in having him as our guest only a few weeks ago.

When big business men of the cities advised against him making the Meacham trip; when men high in his party councils urged the folly of spending a precious day of his time in the mountains of Eastern Oregon; Mr. Harding listened to them with respect, but immediately announced his intention of spending July 2nd with the pioneers who blazed the Oregon Trail. That shows the Harding nature.

Another feature which you will

appreciate about this grand, good man and which was one of the reasons why his physical strength did not hold out, was, when the hour for his address at Meacham was near at hand and one of his party asked me in the presence of the President if we could not have his speech from the rear platform of his train where the amplifiers were already in place, immediately Mr. Harding spoke up saying, "these boys have their grounds already arranged with a speaker's stand, and I assume that most of the crowd wish to see a president of the United States more than hear him, and I will speak from the platform."

His kindly heart knew there would be disappointment on the part of Eastern Oregon people if they were not permitted to crowd around a speaker's stand in the old-fashioned way, and rather than disappoint that crowd he was willing to sacrifice his personal comfort and tax his strength by speaking in the open air to the multitude.

His visit among us brought all of us closer together. His charming personality was so outstanding that it commanded the love and admiration of all.

At the pioneer dinner where he and Mrs. Harding were the guests of honor, if you recall, the dinner was late. One of our good women who was assisting in its preparation felt that some explanation was due the visitors and she approached Mr. Harding saying, "Mr. President, the potatoes are not done and the dinner is late."

Turning to her with his beaming countenance and his open, frank manner he remarked, "Now that is all right, I have heard that something about the potatoes hundreds of times at my home when dinner was late."

A Man of the People.

That death should claim President Harding in the midst of his most useful administration is a calamity to this nation;

That the world should lose his careful leadership, his seasoned judgment, his fair deliberation on international matters is a tragedy.

We as Americans are brought face to face with an almost irreparable loss to national affairs. We have lost the guiding hand of one who knew the common people and loved them.

We have lost the wisdom of him who knew well that our nation is on the verge of convulsions; who knew well that unless there is a reaction to regain morality and Christianity that the way is dark.

We have lost a leader of broad vision whose patriotic teachings might have caused many of our citizens to turn from the dollar-chasing materialistic methods now pursued, to efforts along preservation of country, home and flag.

What Harding Has Done.

During his brief career as president he brought about the Washington Conference on Limited Armament wherein this country took a bold stand and important treaties were evolved.

He re-established peace with Ger-

many and Austria and withdrew the army of occupation.

He declared in favor of America participating in the World Court to prevent future wars.

He ratified the treaty with Columbia thereby settling long standing disputes.

He inaugurated the budget system in order that business of the government may be conducted along business-like lines.

He secured the extension of credit to the farmers of the nation.

He took a firm stand on the enforcement of the Prohibitory laws.

He brought about restricted immigration thus preventing this country from becoming the dumping ground for the slums of foreign countries.

He brought about a sound settlement of the British war debt and the war debt of Finland as well.

He extended an influence in Central and South America which assures much for the future happiness and contentment of those peoples as well as assisting materially the trade relations of the United States.

And today, we have gathered to pay our last sad respects to this eminent citizen. Today as a nation we are undergoing again the bitter grief caused by the death of a President in office.

It is consoling to know that our people have, since death claimed Warren G. Harding in the Palace Hotel at San Francisco on August 2nd, become humble and penitent; have gotten back to the oldtime days when sorrow softened the hearts and caused people to stop and consider the realities of life. If this condition of the public mind could but continue our president will not have died in vain, for his most outstanding address to Americans during his entire career carried a message urging all to seek the leadership of Jesus Christ, to get back to the Christian religion and re-establish the Christian home.

May we all today silently and solemnly contemplate the noble, Christian lives which he and his good wife set as examples to their countrymen; may we leave this building resolving to so live that we will be nearer that ideal so religiously and earnestly taught by this great American citizen in his political career, in his business career, and in his home life.

Warren Gamaliel Harding: The Christian.

(Reverend A. B. Sinton)

Mr. Harding was first of all a Christian. He was truly a great Journalist. He said on his trip to Alaska that Journalism is the greatest of all professions. His achievement in that profession proves his statement. He crowned Journalism with the greatest office in the world, the Presidency of the United States. He used the power of the press for the glory of God, and demonstrated that "the pen is mightier than the sword."

"I have seen His Star in the East" might again be said by the wise men. As the star led the wise men to the Babe of Bethlehem; so the Marion Star has led the wise men to the full grown, ever living Saviour, at the Disarmament Conference, in the proposed World Court. Perpetuating international righteousness. This Star has pointed us to the Christ. All the earth has been forced to see this Star.

Take His Love, just before he left the world he said "A New Commandment give I unto you, that you love one another." At Colorado Springs he said "I would almost be willing to overlook the others if you would keep this one. That is why I have urged the International Tribunal."

Figuratively speaking, he led us up to where we could hear the angels sing and left us there like his Master. The pen directed by consecrated Christian ability brought us to where we could see a World leading in righteousness. He left the world sitting at his feet, listening to the music of Heaven with visions of God's will being done on earth as it is done in Heaven. Could any profession do more?

His friends will go back to Washington and with power from on high say "Go On with his policy which was Christian. We be unto the Judas that would attempt to betray him and defeat his hope."

"The Doctrine of Christ preached by Harding on his tour through the United States" was the headline over this by the Associated Press, San Francisco, California, Aug. 2, one of the last acts of Warren Harding, directed by him after he had been driven by pain and illness to the bed where he died, bespoken much of the man he was. It was typical and characteristic and followed the thought he had emphasized in his addresses, not only on his trip to Alaska, but reiterated from time to time since he became president.

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