

GROWING UP WITH WARREN HARDING

Warren Harding's Mother

By Jack Warwick

Boyhood Playmate, School Chum and First Newspaper Associate of the Republican Presidential Nominee

XI

Warren G. Harding's mother had the simplest, most effective, quick-action method of getting "sleepy heads" out of bed in the morning I ever heard of. An eye-opener without a kick, that is what it was—one that would meet the approval of a convention of Prohibitionists.

We found it more difficult to get up at the Harding family home than at the Star office. Those uncomfortable cots didn't encourage late breakfasts. It was different at W. G.'s home. After one clear call, answered by the guttural note that American mothers know so well, we were expected to get out. But, of course, we didn't. That would have been contrary to all "sleepy head" rules and regulations. We were given a few minutes of grace and then, nothing doing, it happened. Across our eyelids this resourceful woman drew a cold, wet cloth.

The effect was magical. We never saw her coming into the room—we were too sleepy for that—but we did see her backing out, smiling and bidding us a gently-spoken "good morning."

The "wets" may yearn for eye-openers of doubtful merit, but this mother had the genuine article, war-

ranted to work, and no hurtful aftermath.

An All-Day Mother Every Day
In all the years I knew the family home of Warren Harding it was a cheerful, comforting place. But it was more than that. It was a sanctuary where a Christian spirit dwelt—a spirit that spoke in a quiet voice, out of a lexicon of gentle words. What I can say here will be but a poor, faltering expression of what my heart would like to speak of a woman who was an all-day mother every day.

There was nothing fictitious in the life of Mrs. Phoebe Harding, mother of the Republican candidate for president. She was real, with no taste for superficialities.

At one time, during the staggering, wobbly days of the paper we were trying to rejuvenate, this mother said to me:
"You and Warren will make a success of the Star."

Just that—and she had revealed her implicit confidence in her boy, as she might have expressed the abiding faith of her soul in its immortality. I must forever think that the courage, the downright unshrinking courage to go forward into the teeth of formidable circumstances, came from

the mother who could look ahead and see, by her faith, where the road turned toward success.

Don't let me give the wrong impression of this family home. Remember, I have said it was cheerful. There was an absence of sanctimonious gloom, and the atmosphere was wholesome. Aside from W. G., the eldest, five other children lived there, and it was the kind of a place where young people liked to congregate. It was a refreshing refuge to me after a long, hard day in the printing office.

Doctor, Nurse, Comforter
It was my good fortune to know Warren Harding's mother in after years, when we had children sick unto death. I am sure she had felt it a part of her mission to study medicine, that she might aid in healing, while she gave out of the storehouse of her compassion to those who must suffer. She was doctor and nurse. I have witnessed her gentle, patient ministrations. In my own household, where a baby's life hung in the balance and the last step had been taken to keep the little one with us, I knew, I felt that out of her soul there poured the last remedy—a piece to Heaven that the invisible thread of life might not snap, not yet—God's will be done!

For years this quiet, unpretentious woman passed our little home almost daily. Sometimes late in the evening, homeward from a visit to the sick, I have heard her go by with tired steps yet humming some sweet, familiar old song, unconventional in her unconsciousness of the world around her—and I have thought how rich one might be to inherit a spirit like hers!

Mrs. Phoebe Harding died ten years ago.
No man can ever pay in full the debt he owes a good mother. The best he can do is try. For fifteen years before her death, every Sunday morning, Warren Harding carried flowers to his mother. When he was out of town an order was left with the florist for their delivery to the family home.

There was one other boy, I knew him well, the Harding home in Marion, the youngest child of the family. He has made good in medicine. I am not commissioned to write about him. If I were and he was running for president, I might feel licensed to borrow the Caledonia oracle's "little devil" phrase about W. G. and apply it to him, but with the utmost good will lived in a splendid state of harmony. The children had all the fun any family of children could have in a well ordered home without encroaching on the rights of one another. The spirit of helpfulness was in the atmosphere. The mother governed with splendid executive ability and tranquilized the household. Occasions for punishment were rare. I am of the opinion that Dr. Harding, the father, will not feel hurt if I give him the position of vice-president, adding that his office was held in greatest respect.

Three Lucky Dogs
Much has been said about W. G.'s fondness for dogs. With him every week is a "be kind to animals week." I recall three dogs that had their day with him. They were lucky dogs. They were Rink, Senator and Jumbo. Rink was content to lounge on the roller rink craze, but that had nothing to do with his name. Senator was a dignified Newfoundland that came along from nobody knew where and adopted W. G. at first sight. He served faithfully at the Harding home and at the Star office until his day came to pass on, or out, whatever it is a dog does when the breath of life leaves him. Jumbo as his name signifies, was a heavyweight, a cross between a mastiff and sledge dog. He was brought out of the north country. His day was eight years.

W. G.'s love of dogs was not of the fancier's affection. It was fondness acquired in boyhood. He liked them for their affectionate faithfulness, which they always gave him in return for his unflinching kind treatment. The dog lover's side of the presidential candidate can best be revealed through an editorial tribute he paid in the columns of his own paper, to the memory of Jumbo. Here is a part of it:

"He had romped with hundreds of different newsboys and found canine joy in their familiar greetings. Yet there was a serious side to this playful, good-natured dog. He had a watchful eye for the suspicious looking, and would guard a trust with a faithfulness that men might imitate. He was overzealous, perhaps, in exercising the responsibility he felt in keeping watch at the home which sheltered him, but he never harmed any one without cause. He was only a dumb brute, but had proven the intelligence, made himself understood with his great, tender eyes, and possessed a rare combination of dignity and docility."

If Warren G. Harding is elected president, I'm no prophet if there isn't a White House dog.
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Tomorrow Jack Warwick will tell of a blowup and an embarrassing rip.

Work on Sidewalks Is Being Hurried at Dallas

DALLAS, Or., Aug. 12.—(Special to The Statesman.)—Work on several miles of cement sidewalks in this city which has been delayed several weeks on account of a shortage in cement, began Tuesday morning and the work is being pushed as rapidly as possible in order to have the walks completed before the fall rains set in.

Pugh & Souer, the contractors in charge of the work, have two cement mixing plants in operation, capable of laying about one and a half blocks of sidewalks per day. The work began on Washington street and it is the intention of the contractors to have both sides of the street finished before the end of the week.

MAKE TRUCKS IN PORTLAND
PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 12.—A number of new Portland-made Caravan motor trucks have been completed by the Hesse-Martin Iron Works and are being sold locally.

BEAVER GAME IS NEXT IN LINE

Kracke to Put Charges Through Hard Practice During Next Week

Walter Kracke, manager of the Senators, announces there may be no ball game until the Beaver set-to on August 23. Kracke is making an effort to have a game on August 22 with some team of which a definite announcement will be made next week.

In the meantime members of the Salem team will take advantage of the lay-off and heal the sore spots and sore fingers, which some of the team suffered in the Kerr-Gifford game. It was said last night that a part of the time will be used to good advantage. The team will indulge in practice and get ready for the biggest game of the season on the local lot. Some of the players are going to sharpen their batting eyes by indulging in some hitting at Oxford park.

Two Objects in View.
The Salem team now has only two objectives—to win the Beaver game and to defend their claim on the state independent baseball championship. To win over the coast league team, the Senators realize will be quite a feather on their bonnets, and they say they are going to have the plume after the game on August 23.

Hitting practice is on the calendar of Kracke for his charges for next week. High class twirling will be displayed by the batters and it behooves the Senators to be prepared to dent the offerings of the mound-man.

The Beaver-Senator game, fans predict, will be one of the best games ever played in Salem. The Beavers are sure to play at a fast clip, but the Senators are capable of extending themselves. Kracke says when they play on August 23 he is going to throw the Senator machine to high and step on the throttle for a win. In a majority of the games this season the Senators were returned winners without as much as extending themselves. They won easily and in the parance of the squared-ring, they pulled their bows.

Closing Favored.
It has also been rumored that all business firms of the city are going to declare a half holiday to permit employees to witness the game. A definite announcement will be made soon of the action of the business

houses in regard to the half holiday, or rather a quarter holiday between the hours of 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Some of the fans were elated over the probability of the store-closing program, for, as one said, this is one of the biggest games of the year, and much depends on the support which Salem fans will accord the teams. The Senators have already indicated their intention to give the ball fans of Salem the best ball obtainable, and some believe that the business men of Salem will do their part by encouraging the half-holiday movement so that as many as desire may be enabled to witness the game.

Abnormal Children Will be Tested in Next Clinic

The August clinic of the Marion County Children's bureau, which will be held at the Salem Commercial club on the afternoon of August 26, will be one of the most important yet held. Dr. C. U. Moore, eminent child specialist of Portland, will discuss child care with mothers, and Mrs. A. N. Flagel, prominent official of the state Parent-Teacher association of Portland, as well as a community nurse, will also be present to lend assistance.

The clinic is especially for children either above or below normal, and the age limit has been raised to include children up to 8 years, although no score cards will be issued above the 6-year limit. Names of children should be sent to Mrs. R. L. Matthews, phone 1348-M, or address 1348-M.

Have you weighed and measured your child? If your child does not meet the required weights and measurements of the following table it is not normal and should be taken to the August clinic. There's a reason for every abnormal condition.

Age	BOYS				GIRLS			
	Weight, lb.	Height, in.	Head, in.	Chest, in.	Weight, lb.	Height, in.	Head, in.	Chest, in.
Birth	8	20	14	13	7	19	14	13
6 mo.	20	25	17	17	15	24	17	17
12 mo.	22	29	19	18	20	28	18	18
18 mo.	23	30	19	18	22	30	18	18
2 yr.	28	33	19	19	27	33	19	19
3 yr.	33	36	19	20	32	36	19	20
4 yr.	37	40	20	21	35	38	20	21
5 yr.	41	42	20	22	39	41	20	22
6 yr.	45	44	20	23	43	45	20	23
7 yr.	50	47	20	23	48	47	20	23
8 yr.	55	48	20	24	53	49	20	25
9 yr.	60	50	21	25	57	51	21	25
10 yr.	66	52	21	26	64	53	21	26

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2 Quarts Wesson's Oil	\$1.47
1/2. Douglas Oil	36c
Pt. Mazola Oil	37c
Qt. Mazola Oil	72c
2 Qts Mazola Oil	\$1.40
Cottolene	\$1.30
Large Cottolene	\$2.70
Fresh Peanut Butter 1 lb.	17c
5 pounds	75c
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2 pounds	35c
Graham Crackers pound	23c
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