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by Earl Hume

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IMPRESSIONS OF W. G. HARDING

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OREGON KNOWN REPUBLICAN LEADER SINCE 1883

By C. M. Idleman.
Former Attorney General of Oregon.

I have known Warren G. Harding since he was about 19 years old. He came to Marion from an adjoining county, having just received his degree at Iberia College, a small but thorough institution located about 20 miles from Marion. This, I believe, was in 1883, the year before I came to Oregon, but having spent nearly every vacation for 20 years at my old home, I became intimately acquainted with him and familiar with his career from the beginning.

He was tall, angular in build, with a look, action and deliberation that would credit him with being very much older. His first employment was on the Weekly Mirror, a newspaper edited in our town whose chief business consisted in disseminating democratic doctrine throughout Marion county. He was employed on this paper as typesetter and reporter combined and his services became useful although he was of a different political persuasion. His connection, however, with this democratic oracle was not of long duration as he joined the Blaine club and of course purchased and wore one of the large white Blaine hats. This was objectionable to the editor of the democratic oracle and he was ordered to make a change of his head-gear. He informed the author of this order that he believed this country allowed every man to wear such clothes as he might deem best suited to his own taste so long as it did not offend public decency and in his opinion, this hat did not have that distressing quality and he proposed to follow his own judgment in that matter. He was then summarily fired.

Built up Enterprising Daily. He shortly afterwards became proprietor of the Marion Daily Star and by his untiring energy, uncompromising frugality and economy, he built up this little daily sheet from an eight by ten double folio to one of the most enterprising and widely circulating papers in northern Ohio.

He entered politics first in his

own county which had been democratic since the time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. In 1898 he became a candidate for state senator from one district including Marion, Hardon, Logan and Union counties. He was elected by a large majority and again in 1900 re-elected to the same office. In 1902 he became a candidate for lieutenant-governor and was elected by an increased majority. In 1904 he was solicited again to run for lieutenant-governor, but refused and retired to private life.

Never Ran Against Cox. It has been generally heralded throughout the country by the opposing party that he was beaten by Cox for governor, but he has never been a candidate against Cox.

In 1914 he was candidate for United States senator against Joseph B. Foraker, one of the strongest and ablest men in the republican party at that time and who had been representing Ohio in the United States senate for years. This was the first primary election held in Ohio and his majority over Foraker was more than one hundred thousand.

After his energy, frugality and brains had brought him and his paper into prominence, he was brought more actively into social life, and he became acquainted with the daughter of Amos H. Kling, a resident of Marion and the wealthiest man in the county. His daughter was an accomplished woman, with an unlimited amount of common sense backed by keen discernment and she soon saw in Warren G. Harding those strong possibilities which afterwards ripened into realities. They eventually were married, not by eloping, but by Florence Kling stating to her father that she intended to marry Warren G. Harding irrespective of his wishes if it became necessary to do so without his consent. She did so, having a mind of her own, being very much in nature and disposition like her father. This, however, was in direct opposition to her father's wish and he would not be and was not reconciled until many years afterwards, but when he became acquainted with the striking character, the progressive spirit and the popularity of his son-in-law, he relented and for many years before his death they were warm friends.

A Student of Government. Senator Harding has made a special study of the fundamental principles of our government. There are few lawyers who understand the fundamental principles of government better than he. In a speech delivered before the Ohio society in New York, before he became a candidate, he shows himself to be the master of every principle and policy underlying the foundation of democratic government.

He is broad minded and liberal in his views with a peculiar disposition and patience as a listener, with a kindly and gentle nature which has often been referred to as a likeness to the beloved William McKinley. I may say that he has many of the characteristics of Ex-President McKinley but with them he has a much more forcible nature and a stronger analytical mind. He is a big man, physically and mentally, knowing all the phases of life, from poverty and hard work to the most exalted position which is now his.

Mrs. Harding Brilliant Woman. For his progress and exalted position, he owes much to Mrs. Harding. Immediately after her marriage she went from a home of comfort and affluence and took up her place in his office and assisted him in the conduct and issuing of his paper. She is a brilliant woman, endowed with common sense, and her knowledge of human nature is marvelous. With the courage and assistance of Mrs. Harding, combined with his extraordinary courage, determination and hearty exertion, he has reached the position coveted by every ambitious man who has good pure American blood in his veins.

New Debate Trainer at O. A. C. To train the debating teams in their annual platform tussels with the universities of Oregon and Washington and the Washington state college, C. B. Mitchell of the Michigan Agricultural college, has been appointed to organize and head the department of public speaking and dramatics at O. A. C.

Honey is Sugar Substitute. Lucky is the owner of an apiary in these days of high priced sugar, for honey is an excellent substitute for sugar, declares Sara W. Prentiss, instructor in household science at O. A. C. The little busy bee is one producer not contaminated with the strike germ, and no profiteer has cornered the honey market. By using at least a part of the home-made honey crop not in marketable condition, the big item of sugar cost can be almost, or altogether, eliminated from the monthly bill. Prentiss has prepared a number of recipes for use of honey as a substitute.

Discouraged. Eph Wiley says every one gets ready to concede the pre-eminence of the people's choice. It opens to remind him that many of them believe in it. —Public Ledger.

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