

Little White House Made a Shrine

Story of Summer Sanctums Of U.S. Presidents Traced

By BAUKHAGE
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WASHINGTON.—This summer the Warm Springs Infantile Paralysis foundation turned over a little five-room house on the mountainside to the state of Georgia, which will run it as a museum and national shrine. And so another of the "Little White Houses" goes back to the people. It is the only one in which a president spent his last days. In one of its three bedrooms President Roosevelt died. In its living room he spoke his last words.

The Warm Springs house was different from other summer hideaways of presidents because it was really a home. The late President Roosevelt himself built it in 1932 at a cost of \$8,700. He willed it to the infantile paralysis foundation. It was a very simple structure in which the architecture of the locality and a few Rooseveltian ideas are blended. There are the two bedrooms, a third guest room, a living room, a kitchen and that's all. But there is a view that would make a Park avenue penthouse owner jealous.

Like all of the houses which President Roosevelt occupied, this little cottage is crammed with history, much of it still unwritten.

Warm Springs was the symbol of Roosevelt's victory over disease and pain. Since then, largely because of his efforts, many hundreds of others have achieved similar victories in the community in which the "Little White House" was a part.



Baukhage

The simple cottage was also the scene of his death. He was posing for a portrait when the "terrible headache" came. He had signed his letters for the day and in his last signature, which I have seen, there is evidence that death already was "plucking at his sleeve."

Late in the war, when it was difficult to go far from Washington, another "summer White House" in Maryland was established. It was given the name "Shangri-la." The President himself named it jokingly when, because of security reasons during the war, its location had to be concealed. It was discovered, thanks to a slip of the tongue on the part of Mrs. Roosevelt, and because absurd stories were written about the tremendous amount of money which had been expended on it—a matter of fact it cost very little to convert—it was thrown open to the press.

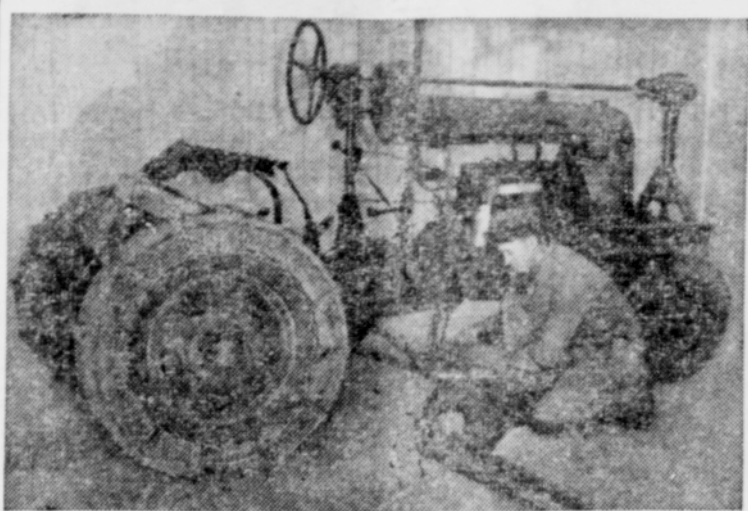
One article described its "million

dollar pool." I have seen the pool. It is less than 20 feet across. Pollywogs wiggle in it, rocks green with years of moss, surround it. It has been there a long time and I doubt if anyone ever had the temerity to bathe in it, although "Shangri-la" was a deserted boys' camp when it was taken over. It sits high on a mountain top beside a splashing trout stream surrounded by thick woods.

Today there is one overstuffed chair in the corner of the solarium that somehow always seems to get turned around at a certain angle. Turned that way, a push button and a hand telephone with an extension number on it. Lift it and the answer comes, "White House." It connects directly with the switchboard at 1600 Pennsylvania avenue.

It gives me a rather strange feeling to look at that chair—empty—and realize what messages went over the telephone beside it, what words were dictated while the long cigarette holder moved nervously to the ash tray on the table at its arm.

President Truman has not used "Shangri-la" very often but when he goes there next he and Mrs. Truman will find a retreat which gives them more privacy than probably any other spot on earth. Tucked away in the deep woods is a new, little cabin, just big enough for two. No guest room, no parlor, just a cozy cottage with a neat, modern kitchen, a dining room-sitting room with a fireplace. There too is a company, three a crowd. A sanctuary any president deserves.



TILLS SOIL WITH 'GADGET' . . . For a total outlay of \$75 for welding and parts, James van Hyfte, 31-year-old farmer near Hillsdale, Ill., built this highly efficient, light weight tractor. A 1928 car engine is the heart of the tractor. A double transmission gives the machine six speeds forward and three reverse, making it adaptable to any kind of load, speed, field or road condition.

NEWS REVIEW

New Dust Bowl Feared; Corn Outlook Improves

Thinking men—experienced ranchers, grain men and bankers in the West—are looking worriedly ahead to a revival of the dreaded dust bowl because transient farmers are plowing up thousands of acres of virgin range to plant wheat which will bring them two dollars a bushel.

Under the stimulus of the two-dollar wheat, buffalo grass is being turned over at an unprecedented rate, and the prediction is that when it quits raining the dust bowl will stage a savage comeback.

The West again has become a paradise for speculators who are buying up land for \$15 to \$25 an acre and planting it in wheat. One good crop will pay for the land and leave them a good profit besides. Suitable primarily for grazing, the land normally is priced at from \$2 to \$10 an acre.

"Suitease farmers" roll in with their tractors, plows and drills, put in a wheat crop and then leave until it is time to harvest the grain. No one stays to check the inevitable wind erosion.

The current world food shortage offers some justification for expanding the wheat crop, but it would be difficult to maintain that rational outlook if resulting dust storms caused a recurrence of the mass ruin and exodus from the dust bowl of the 1930s.

FAIR OUTLOOK: Corn Prospect

As July entered the Midwest's agricultural scene with a gush of warm air and sunshine, prospects appeared reasonably good for a fair-sized crop of corn in Minnesota and South Dakota this year.

However, in those states, as in the rest of the corn belt, a long period of favorable weather conditions is most essential. The frequent, heavy rains must stop in order that saturated fields can return to normal.

Planted acreage of corn in Min-

MARSHALL ANGERED

Angered at Soviet criticism of his European recovery plan, Secretary of State George Marshall rejected as a "malicious distortion of the truth" the Russian claim that American offers to help put Europe on its feet are inspired by imperialist motives. He drew a stinging comparison between United States' efforts for world aid and Soviet aggrandizement in Europe.

which went on the rocks this time, deepening the rift between Russia and the western powers.

Conflict arose over two main issues:

1. Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov opposed any plan by which the great powers could impose an economic program on the smaller nations of Europe, while British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, backed by French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault, wanted to draft a broad scheme for reconstruction of all Europe.
2. Molotov placed his entire emphasis on the American aid aspect of the Marshall plan, but Britain and France primarily stressed a self-help program for Europe.

Result is that Great Britain and France probably will go ahead without Russia on a western European four-year reconstruction program of self-help, at the same time hoping for American credits and supplies.

The New Arrivals
When a star fails to give out its usual glow, there is always another to take its place. It always happens that way, but rarely in such profusion as the new season has offered us.

As Newhouser, Feller, Pollet and other star pitchers hover around the soapy chute, a lean, lank young fellow by the name of Ewell Blackwell of the Cincinnati Reds is stepping into the gap as the star pitcher of 1947, possibly one of the best of all time. Blackwell has completely outclassed Feller and Newhouser, Pollet, Hughson and others. The Human String Bean has no one even close.

Back of the Red Terror, we have Frank Shea of the Yankees, Warren Spahn of the Braves, Cat Brecheen of the Cardinals, Johnny Sain of the Braves, Schoolboy Rowe and Dutch Leonard of the Phillies.



SPORT occupies a peculiar place in this country. It appeals to more millions than politics, finance, the theater, motion pictures, literature, art or any other single entry you might mention. When you include baseball, football, boxing, bowling, basketball, golf, tennis, track and field, swimming and the rest of the sports, the combined interest of people between the ages of 6 and 90 blankets the country. You can also toss in both sexes.



Grantland Rice

Governors, senators, congressmen, leading bankers and lawyers, industrial leaders, heads of labor unions, can be indicted and jailed, and a good part of this is taken for granted.

It would be interesting to show you the long list of those named above who have been indicted and convicted. This means those who have been proved to be crooks, thieves, chiselers, even murderers, who held high places in public life. As a rule, or a general average, most of these convictions have been accepted with public yawns.

The public trust in politicians, so-called statesmen, bankers, industrial leaders and labor leaders has never been too strong. Look at the record. Many of these were expected to go wrong. But it has been different in sport.

Sport, amateur and professional, has been the main public trust. Let the governors and the senators and the industrial leaders, plus labor's head delegates, turn crooked, as so many have. But sport must be clean, all the way through.

Crooks Muscle In

The trouble is that sport hasn't been as clean as it should be. Too many smart and crooked hangers-on have been chiseling in through the last 20 years. The crooked, stupid and cowardly underworld has been looking for the open gaps. This applies to racing, football, baseball, basketball and any sport that commands the public interest. The underworld has been looking over sport's rich pastures too long. They have seen the harvest that could be taken over. And too many of them have taken over—especially in racing and boxing. The crooks expect to have even better luck with baseball and football.

And nobody seems to know just what they can do about it. For the crooks, as a rule, are smarter than the honest people. At least they know their goal, and how to get there. And not even the government of the United States has the faintest idea of how these thieves and crooks can be handled. So they are permitting this country's major interest to take its major beating, too deeply interested in politics, which seldom has been on the level.

Boxing has been packed with crooks. So has racing. These are the two sports that need most care, and neither is getting the protection that it needs.

What Can Be Done?

Sport is the basis for handling all juvenile delinquency programs—it is the one program we have left in which the public at large has complete confidence, complete faith. And yet, here are all these thieves, crooks, chiselers and murderers moving in—the slime of creation—and no one seems to know just what to do about it.

Just what should be done about this present sport situation is quite a problem. Starting from the president of the United States on down through various governors and their commissions, no one seems to bother much, for sport is supposed to take care of itself. Yet those who are handling sport directly find themselves faced with situations they are unable to combat. They know everything except the answers. They see the underworld moving in, and they give out statements which mean nothing.

The players so far, have been the main bulwarks that sport knows. But, who is going to take care of the thieves and the crooks?

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Dogs I've Known...

by Roland Coe



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DOAN'S PILLS

Havens of Other Presidents

Ever since the days of Buchanan almost every President has seen fit to flee the banks of the Potomac when Washington weather begins to lure the mercury to the top of the tube.

Although the United States army began being hot weather host to chief executives in Buchanan's time and continued to do so into the regime of the dashing Arthur, it was because Lincoln lived at the "cottage" just within the Eagle Gate of the Soldiers' Home (now well within the city of Washington proper but once a distant suburb) that this summer White House became famous as the Lincoln Cottage.

When Grover Cleveland became president, however, and shortly thereafter took a bride, he felt that it was improper to live on the army in the summer months. So he bought a place of his own called Red Oak on a high hill in the capital now known, in honor of his short domicile there, as Cleveland Park. It was a plain farm house when he bought it but it soon blossomed into a comfortable home.

Then Washington was a town of some 175,000 people (1886) and Cleveland had an unobstructed view over the whole panorama down to the Potomac itself.

When he was defeated he sold the place. When reelected he bought another.

That effectively ended the Soldiers' Home tradition and it was really not until the time of President Taft that a "working" summer headquarters was set up. Other presidents took vacations—Theodore Roosevelt "went home" to his beloved Sagamore Hill on Oyster Bay with a secretary or two. President Taft went to Beverly, Mass.

When President Wilson went to Cornish, N. H., it was for rest and recuperation. In 1916 he chose the imposing Shadow Lawn in New Jersey and by that time war was impending and his staff went with him.

President Harding didn't want to "get away." He wanted people, lots of them, around him—also 52 cards.

President Coolidge, too, it was said, didn't know what to do with a vacation but he made as geographically varied a selection of summer White House sites as any president.

First it was Swampscott where, as one dispatch put it, he was "lathered to a telegraph wire." As a matter of fact no telegraph wires actually entered "White Court," the great colonial mansion perched on the rim of New England's rock-bound coast, but the telephone did and he made regular trips to near-

by Lynn where the offices were located.

In 1926 he chose an Adirondack "camp," near Paul Smith's. One of those primitive places millionaires build in the wilderness equipped with all the comforts of a modern hotel. Kirkwood Camp, owned by Irvin Kirkwood, a newspaper publisher, was such a place.

The next year Coolidge repaired to the Black Hills of South Dakota where he lived in a spacious lodge among the trout streams, guarded by a troop of cavalry and making a long, twice-weekly journey to Rapid City to attend to affairs of state and interview the press.

The next year he again went to Wisconsin and on an island in a lake 28 miles southeast of Superior, lived in Cedar Lodge, making necessary a 56-mile trip three times a week.

President Hoover, when he took office, almost immediately went down into his own well-lined jeans and for \$15,000 bought "Rapidan," another mountain stronghold in the Blue Ridges. When he left office he promptly deeded the tract to the commonwealth of Virginia, hoping perhaps, other presidential campfires would burn there. But his successor chose otherwise.

Warm Springs belongs to the state of Georgia, countless thousands will visit it, as they do Hyde Park and other local monuments. "Shangri-la" is now a part of the national park system.

The next president, whoever he may be, may have it if he wishes, without extra expense to the taxpayer. But who knows? He may have a dream-house, realization of which we need hardly begrudge him.

Just Friends



His Excellency, the Most Reverend Dr. Mar Ivanious, archbishop of Trivandrum, India, enjoys visit with baby Claude, youngest of the prolific Dionne family which also includes quintuplets. The two met in Ottawa, Canada.

FAVORABLE FORECAST

Downward Price Trend Seen

NEW YORK.—With the postwar inflationary price rise apparently nearing an end, the probabilities seem to favor a downward movement of the price index in the next 12 months, it is predicted in a report on "The Price Level" released by Bankers Trust company.

The report, prepared by Roy L. Reiser of the bank's economic department, added that "the prices of some manufactured goods may show a further modest, and probably temporary, rise, but it is believed that any such movement will be more than offset by declines in the prices of farm and food commodities and other materials."

The bank warned, however, that a combination of contingencies such as bad weather and a substantial deterioration of domestic crop prospects could upset its forecast.

After examining the factors involved in the present rise as compared with those in the price jump following World War I, the bank said, "since the all-commodity wholesale price index has not increased as much this time as in World War I, it is likely that the decline in the price level will not be as severe during this correction period as it was in 1920-1921."

The bank cited a number of factors to support its view. A collapse

in farm prices does not appear imminent in the near future, it said. Food prices, although below recent highs, are supported by a high level of employment and national income. Prices of many manufactured goods have risen only modestly despite greatly increased costs of labor and materials.

Furthermore, it is pointed out, the greatly increased supply of savings and liquid assets may provide some support for the price level. The business inventory situation, moreover, does not appear comparable to the excessive monetary speculation following World War I.