

Washington Digest

Baukhage Finds Old Dates Of Interest in Year 1948

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WASHINGTON. — New Year's day, according to an encyclopedia which I once remember consulting, is celebrated in the western world by merrymaking and, theoretically at least, in the meeting of old friends.

I remember when we took the idea of New Year's "calls" seriously. That was back in western New York. I also remember later, when I was a student in Europe, three of us living in the same "pension" (a word which Americans abroad prefer to "boarding house"). We made our calls consecutively so that the one pair of gloves and one silk hat, which we possessed collectively, could serve for all. In that day and place both were essential.

Today I have been meeting some old "dates of 1948."

The first I have to record is January 6 . . . "Baukhage talking . . . from the radio gallery of the house of representatives after having watched the opening of the second session of the historic 80th congress." Note the word "historic." No one guessed then that other adjectives applied to that legislative body were to help cause one of the great "upset" election victories of American history.

On January 7 (my birthday) there was "a bright sun shining down on the Capitol but," I broadcast, "the shadows beneath it are deep and dark."

On that day the President delivered his message and the next day the Associated Press said: "Most of President Truman's 1948 legislative proposals, particularly his tax reduction and anti-inflation plans appeared headed today for a congressional waste basket." How true that was and how it helped re-elect him. In his annual message he is to present most of them again, more hopefully.

January 12 was a cold day in New York which had just emerged from a blizzard. I was there covering the assembly of the United Nations and that day the Palestine commission was preparing its program of partition which was to be completed with bayonets and handgrenades.

JANUARY 23. At 11:30 a. m. a message came over the news ticker, and such a sigh of relief went up from the White House and from both Republican and Democratic headquarters that the trees on Connecticut avenue bent nearly double. "I am not available for and could not accept nomination to high political office." Signed—General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

JANUARY 20. Gandhi is dead. The priest and prophet of Indian independence was shot to death at his prayer meeting on the lawn of the estate where he lived.

MARCH 9. Truman announces his candidacy; MacArthur renounces his.

MARCH 10. Jan Masaryk is dead. Much died with that name. From the house radio gallery again on March 17 I report the renunciation by the President of what was then called the "Truman Doctrine."

MARCH 19. Wallace attacks the President's foreign policy.

It was no April Fool's day joke when the Russians stopped the trains in Berlin. The next day, April 2, our counter move: Congress passes the European recovery program.

The gaygreen of leaf and lawn on this 12th day of April are not enough to dispel Washington's concern over the revolution in Bogota. (Remember? A Communist-directed affair. Secretary of State Marshall was there.)

At 10:30 in the morning of April 19, Justice T. Allen Goldsborough ruled John Lewis guilty of criminal contempt.

On April 27 come the rumors of war from Palestine.

The Moscow newspapers of May 11 are bought out—Ambassador Bedell Smith is conferring with Molotov.

The birthday of a state, May 14—Israel is born.

Dewey wins the primary in Oregon on May 24. Later he won the state.

A veteran steps down. Prime Minister Smuts of South Africa is defeated on May 28.

Oregon in the news again, tragically. The little town of Vanport is inundated. May 31.

Tragedy for a neighbor state on June 10. Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach of Washington state dies at the age of 53.

Outdoors, Philadelphia was cloudy and gray on June 21. Inside Republican headquarters it was rowdy and gay. Dewey starts his shock and blitz tactics against the field. Correspondents discuss the mystery of the vacant seats in the gallery. (Did this foreshadow the absence of the Dewey voters from the polls on election day?) The attractive Republican glamour lady, Clare Booth Luce, hurls her barbs in a

clever speech without revealing that she and her husband are going to plump for Vandenberg later. Television is most unkind to what should have been a most telegraphic subject.

JUNE 23. A heavy mist hung over the city of brotherly love on the day of the convention's crucial session. I had left the hall at 4 o'clock that morning. We had witnessed a stirring and a pathetic scene when the blind veteran, Harlan Kelly, nominated General MacArthur in a clear, unhesitating voice which held in it the ring of a true devotee. Earlier, there had been the longest demonstration so far, for Taft. Stassen's had been the most vigorous.

JUNE 24. I was looking over the public opinion polls and mentioned that qualities the voters said they would prefer in a presidential candidate were those of "the humanitarian, the protector of the weak, the benevolent guardian of the children, of the common man." Perhaps that was a better guide to what the choice was to be than the figures the pollsters provided us. It was late in the evening when candidate Dewey, accepting the nomination, raised his hand and swore that he had made no commitments to any man.

JUNE 26—The Berlin airlift, which with the Marshall plan achieved the two greatest victories in the cold war, begins.

JULY 12. The other side: a leathargic Democratic convention woke to life with a 28-minute demonstration for keynoter Barkley which "had more real feeling and spontaneity in it," I broadcast at the time, "than anything which even the super-confident Republicans produced."

JULY 13. This was a day of the battle of the extremes against the middle. The Negro attacking the Dixiecrats; Southerners begging for a candidate acceptable to the South. So heated were the arguments on the floor that policemen walked into the aisles several times. The Democrats' glamour girl had her chance, and Helen Gahagan Douglas, for some reason or other more telegraphic than her Republican rival, emerged equally triumphant, forensically.

JULY 14. The President finally is nominated and makes his acceptance in the small hours, offering a sample of what was to come forth in the campaign. Many had already left the hall. He called for the special turnip day session of congress. "I have run into perhaps four or five people," I commented next day, "who venture the assertion that perhaps he might still win." But everyone else laughs at the thought. The calling of the congress proved good strategy.

Thousands of people braved Washington's heat of July 19 to line the long, slow march of the caisson bearing the General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, to his last rest in Arlington.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 13th of August, as we were leaving the White House press and radio conference, Stepanovna Kasenkina jumped from the window of the Soviet consulate in New York City. She lived to become the symbol of the escape which so many human beings, suffocating behind the iron curtain, have sought before and since.

AUGUST 16. The diamond's rough-diamond, beloved Babe Ruth, dies.

SEPTEMBER 17. Tragic end of a man who had lived and died for peace. Count Bernadotte.

SEPTEMBER 20. A stormy session of the United Nations begins. Its deliberations all but forgotten in the heat of the presidential campaign.

NOVEMBER 2. The election of a President who nobody believed when he went to bed that night—or even in the early hours of the next day—had won.

NOVEMBER 3. A little before noon in a New York hotel Governor Dewey announced one of the greatest upsets in American political history when he conceded his defeat and congratulated "the champ."

NOVEMBER 14. A male heir-presumptive to the British throne is born.

DECEMBER 13. Baukhage returns from his vacation with a lot of lies about the fish he caught. I hope my readers will understand that the last hectic days of the year have been recorded in the daily press and are fresh in your memories. Hence I think they can be safely omitted.

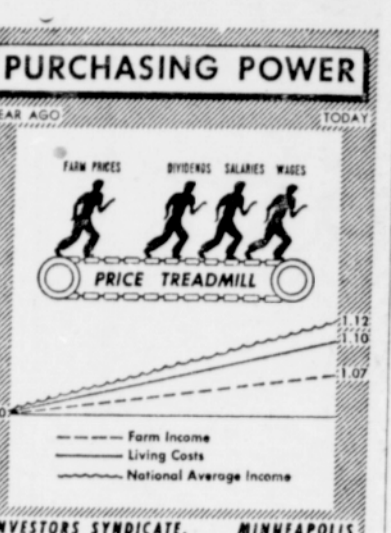


Average Farm Family Sees Income Recede

Buying Power Higher Now Than Year Ago

What, if anything, is happening to the average U. S. farmer with regard to the money he gets for what he raises, and does he have anything to worry about?

Although there has been a moderate drop in income of farmers, the average family has more purchasing power today than it had a



year ago, a reliable monthly survey of "real income" reveals. "Real income" is the relationship of revenue to living costs.

The national figures indicate that the average home has 2 per cent more buying power than last year. Wage-earners, salaried people and those with investment income are equally well off, while the farmer is now about 3 per cent below his status of a year ago.

It should be remembered, however, that such status a year ago was at a then all-time high.

Besides the recent drop in farm prices, the survey said, it is expected that there may be further tapering off during the next six months, but farm income will continue at a high level. In the same way, although surpluses are beginning to appear in the clothing industry, there are no signs yet that sharp price breaks are likely.



Overhauling the Land

Ten years' work in rebuilding the soil-depleted 300-acre Rio Grande College farm at Rio Grande, Ohio, were compressed into 13½ hours recently by 600 workers and hundreds of pieces of mechanized farm equipment. In this hilly Ohio valley country, chief problem was removal of excess water which had been carrying away top soil. Diversion ditches and sod water outlets were prepared. Two ponds were built. The course of a stream was altered. Years of cultivation had taken much of the life from the farm's soil, so the horde of workers also attacked the problem of soil rejuvenation. Great areas were tilled, limed, fertilized and seeded and overgrown pasture land was reclaimed and prepared for seeding. In the picture, a Jeep, equipped with bush and bog harrow, is engaged in mulching as part of the work done on the farm.

2, 4-D Winter Spraying Destroys Stumps, Weeds

Successful winter spraying with an ester of 2, 4-D is the newest twist to the ever-broadening field of chemical weed control.

At East Lansing, Mich., agronomists Keith Barrons and L. L. Coulter of the Dow Chemical company announced that stumps sprayed in near zero weather during the past three winters have responded to treatment in the same manner as stumps sprayed during the summer season. The chemical used was Esteron 44 which contains 44 per cent of the isopropyl ester of 2, 4-D.

Weak Egg Shells Mean Hens Require Calcium

Feeding oyster shells to laying hens to furnish the calcium needed for making strong egg shells is suggested by Irving J. Mork, agent of the North Dakota Agricultural college extension service.

"Hens that lay steadily will, as time goes on, lay eggs with weak shells," he said. "Usually this is due to a lack of calcium in the ration. It can also be due to a lack of vitamin D, however."

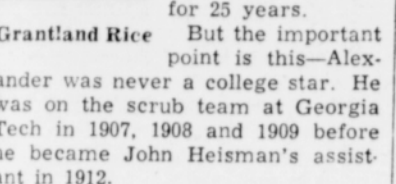


Scrub to Coaching Star

PRACTICALLY every one of the long parade of great football coaches has come from good or better football players — Camp, Haughton, Rockne, Little, Crisler, Bierman, Neyland, Thomas, Hickman, Voigts, Yost, Heisman, on and on indefinitely.

I can recall but one exception. His name is Bill Alexander of Georgia Tech, one of the top coaches of all time.

Alexander headed north from the red clay hills of Georgia to accept the accolade of the Touchdown club of New York. Today he is Georgia Tech's graduate manager, having turned over the coaching reins at Tech to Bobby Dodd after directing the destinies of the Yellow Jackets for 25 years.



But the important point is this—Alexander was never a college star. He was on the scrub team at Georgia Tech in 1907, 1908 and 1909 before he became John Heisman's assistant in 1912.

Bill Alexander, physically, was never quite equipped to be a college star. But, mentally and psychologically and emotionally he was far beyond most of the greatest players the game has ever known.

He knew football. He knew the physical side of football. But, better than most, he knew the value of deception, of using speed to match weight and power.

When John Heisman left Georgia Tech in 1920 to go to Pennsylvania, Alexander took over and set up a brilliant record for the next 25 years until he turned over the job to Bobby Dodd in 1945.

In that time, Old Man Alex had won seven conference championships—he was named the coach of the year in 1942—and he had baffled and bewildered more rival coaches than anyone I know, with lighter, faster, smarter working material.

It was lack of weight and power that bowled Tech over this year.

Bill Alexander is football's leading philosopher. He has known the game from the front line for over 40 years. He has a marvelous sense of humor—an amazing understanding of values.

Here's an Alexander story that goes back exactly 20 years to 1928 and explains Alex:

Georgia Tech was playing its final game of the season against Notre Dame. This game meant staying home or going to the Rose Bowl. "How are things?" I asked.

"How would I know," Alexander said, "I haven't seen the team in three days. I've had 122 tickets to collect and deliver to old grads. Say, who're we playing?"

The Four Horsemen

There have been many stories told about the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame since they rode to victory over 20 years ago, sweeping the plains from Army and Princeton to Stanford to Palo Alto.

You may remember their names—Harry Stuhldreher at quarterback, weight 154; Don Miller and Jimmy Crowley at the two halves, around 162 and 164; Elmer Layden at fullback, 162.

Some of the main arguments that always break out when their names come up are: "What did they all do? Who did the blocking? Who did the ball-carrying? Who did the kicking? Who did the tackling?"

This was undoubtedly the greatest pony backfield, pound for pound, in football history. The average weight was around 160 pounds. There wasn't a man on the job at 165 pounds or higher. Yet it ripped, ran and passed its way from coast to coast with a series of victorious thrusts.

One of the main arguments started when Don Miller, now a high-toned Cleveland judge, stopped me before the Army-Navy game a year ago and berated me soundly for picking him as a blocking back.

"I never blocked a guy in my life," Miller said with much indignation.

I told this to Elmer Layden, recently. Layden laughed. "I'll tell you the truth," he said. "We all had to block. We all had our blocking assignments, even bowling take out a tackle, or handle the secondary."

"Stuhldreher was probably the best of our blockers, but we had to block. Miller, Crowley and I handled most of the running. Stuhldreher did the passing, but we were more of a running team than a passing team. We all had speed. I could just shade 10 seconds—say 94 for the 100, and the others were about the same. I did the kicking."

Also the pass interference, I suggested. In the Stanford game against Ernie Nevers and others, Layden intercepted four or five passes, running two interceptions back for touchdowns.

Slavic Dancing Ushers in Christmas Season



Christmas ushers in a season of gladness and merrymaking that is marked in most Slavic countries by the gay and spirited performance of traditional folk dances. Among the most colorful is the fast and furious sword dance of Ukrainian Cossacks which is portrayed here by the dancing group of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox church of Chicago.

Christmas Holly Makes Tasty Tea

Holly is useful for something besides Christmas wreaths. Yaupon, a shrub which grows profusely in certain sections of North Carolina, can be brewed into tea and is actually on the menu of one Carolinian hotel.

It's an old story to old-timers of the region. They've been drinking Yaupon tea for centuries and swear that it has all kinds of good qualities.

The Indians before them used it, and John Lawson, an early historian, said the shrub was so highly valued that it was carried into the inland where it fetched a fabulous price from Indian tribes.

Actually, Yaupon is an American holly, but is closely akin to Mate, the drink so popular in South America. Both drinks are prepared much the same way. The leaves are cured with hot stones in a barrel and then chopped up, twigs included, and dried out in an oven. Leaves and twigs are then steeped in hot water and syrup, orange juice, lemon juice and cinnamon are added.

So at Christmas, instead of throwing away that dried up wreath, try brewing it up into a pot of tea.

Serbian Glorify Abundant Harvest

The Serbian strews his table with hay or straw at Christmas time and he is likely to eat roasted suckling pig for Christmas dinner. Weather permitting, a fire is built outdoors on Christmas morning and the pig roasted over it on a spit.

The Serbians, as well as the Croats, have several Christmas customs in common. Both plant wheat on a plate on December 10th. By Christmas day there is a miniature field of wheat which serves as a decoration, usually placed on a window sill.

Before sunrise on Christmas morning, the men of the family go into a nearby forest to fell a young oak tree. It is selected with great care and traditional rites must be observed in cutting it down. It must fall toward the East at the moment of sunrise. It is brought home in state and lighted candles are held on each side of the door through which it is carried.

Corn and wine are sprinkled on this Yule log while wishes for an abundant harvest for the next summer are expressed. As soon as the log is placed in the fire and is burning brightly, a neighbor, chosen beforehand for the ceremony, enters the house to bring Christmas blessings. He pours a little wine on the log and places a coin on it, a symbol of prosperity for the coming year.

Biblical 'Stables' Were Hewn Caves

The "stable" in which Christ was born does not conform to the modern conception of the word.

In Biblical times, places of shelter were hewn in rocky ledges; Judean travelers, frequently housed in such caves, welcomed joint tenancy with beasts because of the extra warmth provided by the animal's bodies.

The birthplace of Jesus was such a cave. Now a grotto beneath Bethlehem's Church of Nativity, the entire surface has been elaborately ornamented.

Yule Log Fires Prevented Evil

Centuries ago huge fires were built in the great baronial halls in England on Christmas eve and the servants brought in a log that was to burn throughout Christmas.

It was customary to save a brand from each year's fire to light the next one with. If the log was properly burned it was believed that the devil was powerless to do any mischief to the household.

Christmas Trees Universal Symbol

The Christmas tree is almost a universal symbol. It is common in many countries and its decorations mirror the cultural traditions and customs of the world.

The Japanese, who adopted American baseball, have also adopted the Christmas tree. They have given it an oriental appearance by decorating its branches with Japanese dolls, woodcuts, small tangerines and rice cookies called "sembei" that hold paper slips of fortunes.

In Germany, where the Christmas tree originated, chains and baskets made by hand—from ordinary newspapers when nothing else is available—are hung on the tree. Candles have been used for illumination ever since the time of Martin Luther, when the custom of decorating trees at Christmas first began.

The French Christmas tree is loaded with glittering ornaments and sugar-balls hang from its branches.

In Italy, the crib is the traditional symbol of Christmas and is carefully arranged beneath every Italian tree. This custom dates back to 1223 when St. Francis of Assisi arranged the first crib at Greccio, Italy, using a simple manger with a doll to represent the Christ Child and adding live animals for realism.

Czechs decorate their trees with clusters of gilded nuts, apples, and cookies made to resemble animal figures, peasant girls, stars and village huts.



Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

Placing wooden shoes on the doorstep for the good Saint to fill with toys and sweets is traditional Dutch fashion. Carrots are left in the shoes for the white horse which St. Nicholas rides in Holland.

Old Roman Holiday Like Christmas

Long before Christ was born the Romans observed a holiday that was very much like modern Christian celebrations of Christmas. The day was December 19, known as the Feast of Saturnalia.

The Romans ornamented their homes with green boughs. Also, the Druids observed the Feast by gathering and decorating with mistletoe, while ancient Saxons used holly, ivy and bay.

Ancient Swiss Legends Recalled on Christmas

Winter beauty and winter sports reach the acme of perfection in Switzerland by Christmas time—and ancient Christmas legends rule.

Legend has it that all you have to do on Christmas eve is cut an onion in half, peel off 12 layers and fill the same with salt. Each layer represents a month and those which are still salty the next morning predict rain.