

Washington Digest

Presidential Inaugurations Are Mostly Circumstantial

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WASHINGTON.—“The King is dead, long live the King.” Thus the ancient rite proclaimed a new sovereign who “by the grace of God” must take up the scepter. At once a hundred pairs of hands are busy preparing for the coronation. Courtiers and commoners, the noble masters and mistresses of ceremony, seamstresses and workmen, knights and stable boys, each trained to his task begin their work for the great event.

Form and program may differ, but where kings and emperors reign, the ceremony, according to the stern law of tradition, seldom varies in any but the smallest degree.

Only a cataclysm can effect a change. I heard about my first coronation when I was 12 years old. I remember it for two reasons, one being the fact that it almost didn't come off. On the very eve of the coronation day, the heir to the throne fell ill. All celebration was called off. And then on the day after the event was to have taken place, as the nation waited anxiously to hear the fate of its sovereign-to-be, a shocking and ludicrous thing occurred.

One of the country's leading newspapers came out with a report of the coronation, mentioning even minor details just as if it occurred (and just as it did occur later).

This journalistic faux-pas was forgotten by most people outside of the profession, but I was to be reminded of it when I went to work on a rival newspaper in London many years later and heard the tale retold as a grim warning to pressmen and journalists.

The editor of the erring journal didn't think he was taking much of a chance. He knew the coronation program never varied from the reign of one sovereign to another. Up until that time, I suppose, no English king had ever been rash enough to become ill and change the program.

As a matter of fact, I didn't take the warning seriously. Later I was able to insert much color in my report of the wedding of a royal German princess by the simple expedient of translating a story of the nuptial ceremonies of her brother which had appeared in a Berlin newspaper some years before.

But no one could attempt to write up the inauguration of an American President from the account of a previous ceremony. A mere two centuries is short enough in a nation's history, to be sure, but many changes have taken place in our habits and customs since George Washington took over the presidential oath of office.

It is said that George Washington never considered himself America's first President, never referred to himself or was referred to by his contemporaries as such, since others served before him under the first constitution. The United States was already a nation, recognized as such by the presence of foreign ambassadors on April 30, 1789, the day Washington took the oath of office.

The position of the previous “presidents” was largely honorary and not filled by popular vote, and when the day came to invest Washington with the new powers, there was no precedent, no set of rules to follow.

New York was the capital, and General Washington set out from Mount Vernon to New York on the long journey which turned out to be a spontaneous tour of triumph with a reception at every city along the way.

There was no dearth of ideas as to the social program. A flower-bedecked barge, accompanied by a whole flotilla of private craft, carried the President-Elect across the Hudson, and he was wined and dined and welcomed with gaily-bedizened guards of honor surrounding him.

But when it came to the actual ceremony, a deadlock occurred. The senate argued for an hour as to whether it should receive the new chief executive seated or whether the members should rise. Indeed, they might be talking still if the house of representatives had not suddenly appeared. Washington then entered the building with due pomp and finally was led to an outdoor balcony where the crowds of Broad street witnessed his oath.

That part of the ceremony—the taking of the oath out of doors—is now an established precedent, although it was either forgotten or ignored until James Monroe's day. The chamber of the senate or the house where it took place until Monroe's time was, however, usually open to as many of the public as could find room.

Circumstance has contributed to variations in the program. Besides the moving of the capital in the early days, there have been the

cases of death in office. Five times a President has taken the oath without the usual ceremony for this reason. President William Henry Harrison came into office as a hardy military hero, and, scornful a carriage, rode bare-headed to the Capitol on horseback. A month later he died. Vice-President John Tyler was in Williamsburg and did not reach Washington until two days after the appointed date. Tyler took the oath on April 6, 1841, in Brown's hotel in the presence of members of the cabinet.

The next emergency installation took place when Andrew Johnson took the oath in the Kirkwood hotel a few hours after Abraham Lincoln had died from an assassin's bullet. The first time that a President was sworn in away from Washington since it had become the nation's capital was when Vice-President Chester Arthur took the oath in his own home in New York City shortly after the news came of President James Garfield's death at Long Beach.

When President William McKinley was shot at the Pan-American exposition, Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt hurried to Buffalo in time to take the oath in the home of Ansley Wilcox on the same day the President expired. And most of us are familiar with the scene in the little Northampton home where by lamplight a father, as the witnessing notary, took the oath of his son, and Calvin Coolidge succeeded Warren Harding who had passed away a few hours before in a San Francisco hotel.

When Franklin Roosevelt died at Warm Springs in 1945, Harry Truman took the oath in the White House executive wing. This was “public” in the sense that the door to the little office was open, and photographers and newsmen, this one among them, looked over each other's heads from the crowded corridors.

Some Variations Took Place

Another circumstance has affected the procedure of the accession to office. Because of the variability of the calendar, March fourth has four times fallen on Sunday. Until Woodrow Wilson took the oath on Sunday, March 4, 1917, in the President's room in the Capitol, no President had ventured to keep the law and violate the Sabbath.

President Monroe on succeeding himself had announced simply that he would take the oath on Monday, March 5. In 1849, the same thing occurred in the case of President Zachary Taylor. But for some reason, President Rutherford Hayes actually became President before his time. He was secretly sworn in on Saturday, the third, the ceremony being repeated on the fifth in public.

For some years it has been considered necessary for an outgoing President, if there is one, to take part in the ceremony. His presence has been as much expected in the carriage or automobile which carries both men to the Capitol as the President-Elect. This was not always so, and both the Adamses made it a point to absent themselves, the former leaving the city before the ceremony, and the other taking a horseback ride at the moment when the guns boomed out the salute to his bitterly-hated opponent.

Perhaps the inaugural day first began to take on its present complexion with the advent of President James Madison. People thronged into the capital and the first inaugural ball was held. President Monroe, who followed him, gave us another precedent—the presence of the marine band. But it was left to Martin Van Buren to bear a unique honor. He was the first American-born citizen to hold that office. Up until his time the Presidents were all former British subjects.

Because of the war and a desire to emphasize the “fourth-term” as little as possible, the 1945 inauguration ceremonies of Franklin D. Roosevelt took place on the White House portico instead of on a platform on the east front of the Capitol building which is now accepted as the usual location.

No outgoing President will ride with Harry Truman this year, but one ex-President may attend the ceremonies. The warm feeling which exists between the former small-town boy from Missouri and the wealthy retired engineer will undoubtedly assure Herbert Hoover a place of honor if he wishes to accept it.

Farm Topics

Ringold Lady Dora Tops Hampshire Sows

Raises Total of 71 Pigs to Weaning Age

First of her Hampshire breed to become a “seven-star” sow, Ringold Lady Dora No. 753,056 has raised a total of 71 pigs to weaning age, an average of 10.1 pigs per litter. This record is more impressive when compared with national averages. According to U. S. department of agriculture reports, the national average is 6.18



Here, with her seventh “star” family, is Ringold Lady Dora No. 753,056, champion production sow in the Hampshire breed and the first of her kind to qualify as a “seven-star” sow.

spring pigs and 6.39 fall pigs per litter raised to weaning age.

To qualify for a star in the Hampshire production registry a sow must raise a litter of at least eight pigs, without fault or defect, to weigh 320 pounds within 56 days of farrowing. And of course to gain a “seven-star” record Ringold Lady Dora has repeated this performance seven times. She is the first sow in the Hampshire breed to be listed for either the sixth or seventh “star” litters.

In her seventh “star” litter, this sow farrowed 15 pigs, nine of which were saved. The eight selected for registration weighed 443 pounds at 56 days after farrowing.

The production champion was fed a ration containing corn, oats, alfalfa and pelleted milk by-products prior to farrowing. Her pigs were creep fed early and raised on a ration of seven parts corn and three parts oats, with 8 per cent milk by-products added.

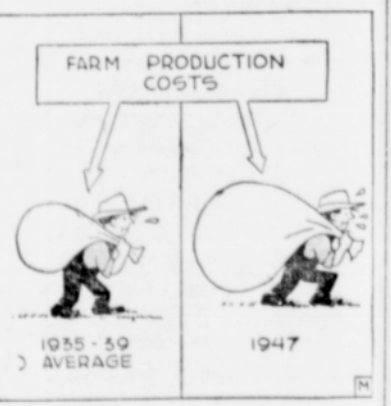
Ringold Lady has been owned and bred by William C. Goodheart, Jr., of Eaton, Ohio, since 1944, and was sold to Meadowlark Farms, Inc., Sullivan, Ind.

Farm Production Costs

Farm production costs have nearly tripled since the pre-war years of 1935-39, according to U. S. department of agriculture statistics. These costs totaled 14.9 billion dollars in 1947, compared with 5.2 billion before World War II's outbreak. Farm wages are now three and a half times the 1935-39 average.

Meanwhile, farm prices have slumped and many economists expect a further easing in months ahead. Corn and wheat are already 25 to 40 per cent under their early 1948 peaks.

Farmers can best meet the impact of higher production costs and lower prices by good soil management that steps up crop producing efficiency and lowers output costs per unit.



Good soil management involves no magic or mystery. It simply means playing fair with the soil by returning organic matter and plant nutrients used up by constant crop production. Organic matter can be restored by growing deep-rooted legumes such as alfalfa or sweet clover in the rotation and plowing them under for green manure.

When the soil is restocked with organic matter and plant food you will get higher yields and you will cut your production costs.

Dry Skim Milk Retailed Now in Small Packages

Now that dry skim milk—officially called non-fat dry milk solids—is on retail markets in small packages for home use, thrifty homemakers have a convenient, economical product to build up the nutritive value of family meals.

The ease and convenience of its use as well as its high nutritive value justifies its place along with flour, sugar and salt on the pantry shelf of every homemaker.

Sportlight

GRANTLAND RICE

Shooting at Cobb's .367

THERE is a certain mark in baseball, and there are only two ballplayers now hanging around who have even a faint wisp of a chance to equal or beat it. The mark is Ty Cobb's lifetime batting average of .367. Here is one of the greatest records that sport has ever known.

The .367 is high enough. But when you figure this represents 24 years of play against the top pitchers from almost three decades, the picture takes on added greatness.

The two players referred to are Ted Williams of the Red Sox and Stan Musial of the Cardinals. Neither will ever last for any 24 years. But

each has at least a long shot, outside chance of meeting the .367 challenge by hitting from .380 to .390 for the remainder of what would have to be a miracle career. You might be interested in selecting the leaders from past campaigns. Here they are—

- Ty Cobb—24 years, .367.
- Rogers Hornsby—19 years, .359.
- Joe Jackson—10 years, .356.
- Billy Hamilton—11 years, .353.

Dar Brouters, Ed Delehanty, Willie Keeler, Tris Speaker, Babe Ruth, Harry Heilmann, Bill Terry and George Sisler follow in order from .348 to .341. Lou Gehrig finished at .340, two points under Babe Ruth's .342.

Ted Williams, today, is slightly over .350 and Stan Musial's lifetime record to date is .345.

Ted Williams is 30 years old and should have at least seven or eight good years left. The war cut into his chance for any longtime mark, and it also hit him just as he was approaching his peak. His average was .356 when he gave three years to the service.

Musial is only 28 years old and should have 10 seasons left. His mark is .345. Both Williams and Musial could launch their wily frames on batting slurges and finish close. But it would take miracle hitting.

One thing to their advantage is they don't have to hit against such pitchers as Johnson, Young, Joss, Walsh, Wood, Donovan, etc.

Joe DiMaggio is out of the race. Joe is now 34 years old. He has been around as an active pro since 1932 when he was with San Francisco, and that was 16 years ago. He can have only a few big years left and his lifetime average is only around .331.

So only the Red Sox and the Cardinal aces have any chance to mingle with the Cobbs and the Hornsby's, the Joe Jacksons and the Billy Hamiltons above .350.

Two Greatest Records

Ty Cobb set more records than an adding machine can handle in a day. But there are two that are almost unbelievable. The first of his incredible performances has already been named—that of finishing with a lifetime average—taking in 24 years—of .367.

Here are two leading examples. Hans Wagner and Nap Lajoie are still remembered as two of the greatest hitters of all time. I saw both Wagner and Lajoie in the years of their prime. Both were masters of the ash. Yet, after 21 years, Lajoie's all-time mark was .338 and Wagner's was .329.

Here's another angle. After 16 or 17 years, both Lajoie and Wagner began to fade away from their twin peaks. But, after Cobb had completed 20 years, his batting averages for the last four years were: .378, .339, .357 and .323—the last mark was in Cobb's 24th campaign. At the end of 20 years, Cobb's mark was around .372.

Cobb's other high mark was just as amazing. Hans Wagner led the National league in batting through eight seasons. Hornsby led his league seven times. But, from 1907 through 1919, Ty Cobb led the American league in 12 out of 13 years. He led nine consecutive years, was finally stopped by Tris Speaker in 1916 and then came back to the front in 1917, 1918 and 1919.

In 1922, just 17 years after he reported to Detroit, Cobb made his final challenge. He batted .401 that year, but George Sisler's .420 was more than the veteran could match.

Check back and you'll find few ballplayers still around after seventeen major-league years. To find one good enough to pass .400 is something else again.

There are a few records that will not be broken that anyone now living will ever know about.

One is Babe Ruth's output of 714 home runs. The other is Cy Young's pitching record of 510 big league victories. The other two belong to Ty Cobb: .367 for 24 years—leading the American league in 12 out of 13 consecutive seasons.

Smile Awhile

Strange Fruit
Two little girls were being taken away from London, and as a special treat someone had given them a couple of bananas—the first they had ever had.

As soon as one child had taken a bite of her banana the unlighted train ran into a tunnel.
“Oo, Mary,” she said, “have you eaten yours yet?”
“No,” replied Mary.
“Well, don't,” added Jane.
“They make you blind.”

Matter of Opinion
“Were you ever disappointed in love?”
“Yes, twice. The first jilted me, and the second didn't.”

Physics
Teacher—What will happen when light strikes the water at an angle of 45 degrees?
Bright Youth—It will go out.

Check that Cough from a cold Before It Gets Worse

—and get well quicker with the NEW FOLEY'S

The NEW FOLEY'S HONEY & TAR contains one of the most important cough treatment developments in years, one that ACTUALLY HELPS SPEED RECOVERY. Also soothes throat, checks coughing. Also delicious, non-narcotic, does not upset digestion. But most important, NEW FOLEY'S helps you get well quicker from cough due to cold. At your druggist.

IF PETER PAIN KNOTS YOU UP WITH MUSCLE ACHES

• Rub in gently-warming, soothing Ben-Gay for fast relief from muscular soreness and pain. Ben-Gay contains up to 2½ times more methyl salicylate and menthol—famous pain-relieving agents known to every doctor—than five other widely offered rub-ins. Insist on genuine Ben-Gay, the original Baume Analgésique.

Also for Pain due to RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, and COLDS.

Ask for Mild Ben-Gay for Children.

QUICK... RUB IN Ben-Gay

P.A.'s Smooth Smoking Both Ways...

For rich-tasting smoking joy—in pipes or papers—there's no other tobacco like crimp cut Prince Albert—America's largest-selling smoking tobacco.

I FIND REAL SMOKING COMFORT IN A PIPEFUL OF P.A.—AND THE NEW HUMIDOR. TOP SURE KEEPS P.A. MILD AND RICH-TASTING!

“You can't beat P.A. for rich-tasting smoking comfort,” says John Burkes. “P.A. smokes mild and cool—right down to the bottom of the bowl.”

MORE MEN SMOKE Prince Albert THAN ANY OTHER TOBACCO

THE NEW HUMIDOR TOP. Locks in freshness and flavor. THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

P.A.'S NEW HUMIDOR TOP IS GREAT. I FIND THAT CRIMP CUT P.A. STAYS FRESH AND TASTY, AND ROLLS UP FAST AND EASY INTO MILD CIGARETTES

“Crimp cut P.A. is great,” says Fred Eisner. “P.A. shapes up fast into neat cigarettes that are extra-tasty, extra-mild.”

• TUNE IN “GRAND OLE OP’RY”, SATURDAY NIGHTS ON NBC