

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

'Cactus Jack' Comes of Age; May Seek Presidency at 70



November 22 finds John Nance ("Cactus Jack") Garner, most un-Throtlebottomish vice president in U. S. history, celebrating his 70th birthday. The event is significant, because it calls attention to the age of a man who is yet spry enough to be presidential timber next year. Simple, close to common folks, he once said: "I deceive all of them by telling the truth." Immensely popular, he usually gives new congressmen their first lessons in statecraft. Above: He leaves the White House with Alabama's Rep. William Bankhead and Kentucky's Sen. Alben W. Barkley.



Picture Parade

Once a shortstop, baseball is his favorite diversion in Washington. Here he throws out the first ball at the season's start. He's nearly always sunny and unworried.



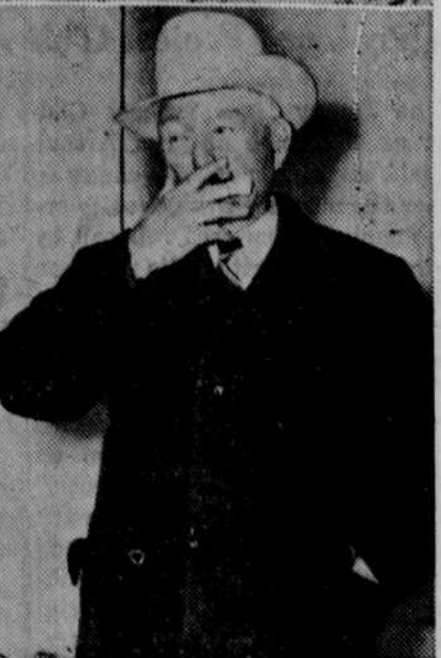
With Mrs. Garner at the one time each year when he dons formal dress—something he dislikes. He's bound for a White House dinner. The Garners retire at 9 p. m., arise at 6 a. m.



Back home in Uvalde, Tex., he loves to hunt and fish with a few old cronies, who probably know the real John Garner better than any of his Washington colleagues. Here he's fishing with Ross Brumfield, who operates a garage when the vice president isn't around.



The above picture may be symbolically significant. Awaiting the President, whose chair is vacant, Garner and Postmaster General James A. Farley drink a toast. Political wisecracks believe these men may get together in opposition to the President next year. But "Cactus Jack" won't talk. He just smokes in silence, as when the picture at right was taken following a reputedly heated conference in the White House. His friends say the best presidential endorsement he has received to date was the denunciation of C. I. O.'s John Lewis.



Banter: With New York's Rep. Mead and California's Sen. Downey.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

The Taft brothers—Senator Bob seems to need new glasses... The lagging electric industry is beginning to show new life... Electric power shortage is hampering Japan's war activities.

WASHINGTON.—Robert A. Taft, U. S. senator from Ohio, should read that old nursery rhyme that starts: "For want of a nail a shoe was lost, for want of a shoe a horse was lost," etc., winding up with the kingdom being lost because a certain rider could not get through to turn the tide of battle.

In the case of Mr. Taft it may be proper glasses. To get the answer one has only to go to his native town of Cincinnati and ask the first 10 people one encounters about the Taft brothers. The answers, or at least eight of them, will be that Brother Charley is a swell guy, a genial person with a smile, who will cross the street to say "Hello" to a friend, or slap an acquaintance on the back. The same eight, or more, will report that Brother Robert is a more self-centered person, and seldom if ever known to slap a back.

From close friends of the senator one learns that Brother Bob would be very glad to be a back slapper—not just to advance his own presidential aspirations, but because he feels that way. But the trouble, they confess, is that he has very poor sight. The reason he doesn't wave to people he knows across the street is that he could not possibly realize he knows them. He just can't see them.

Which seems to those of us who have been listening to this defense to be a sharp criticism of Mr. Taft's glasses. Certainly there is nothing the matter with them for reading. The most casual perusal of any speech or statement Mr. Taft makes will show that he has put a lot of study into it, that he must have read volumes in his research on the subject before giving vent to any public utterance.

Maybe the Senator Needs New Pair of Glasses

It savors just a little of a fiction story in one of the magazines a few years back, about a beautiful girl, with particularly beautiful eyes and a soulful expression, who for some reason was not popular. A smart doctor was attracted, and finally found out the trouble. The eyes were soulful because they were not looking at anything. They couldn't. She didn't mean to be high-hatting young men she had met a few days or nights before. She simply didn't recognize them! So the doctor forced her to wear glasses. They were married, and lived happily ever after!

Well, it might be that if Senator Taft had some amazingly good glasses, which would make him as able to recognize people as his brother, he would get a lot further along the steep and difficult path that leads to the White House. Certainly if he had been using such glasses for the last two or three years he would even now be a bit further up that road.

And it's still not too late. It is generally agreed in Washington that, of the two men concededly ahead of him in the race for the G. O. P. nomination last spring, one Thomas E. Dewey, has lost ground tremendously, and the other, Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, has gambled his all on this European war issue.

Obviously there is not as much talk about Mr. Dewey as there was. Whether this is due to the "over-shadowing" operations by Attorney General Frank Murphy, or whether the war situation has made his youth seem more of a handicap, it is difficult to say. Whereas Mr. Vandenberg has not helped himself for the 1940 nomination by opposing the arms embargo repeal, whatever may be the situation with regard to public sentiment in 1944.

Lagging Electric Industry At Last Is Showing New Life

That big electric power plant to be built at Philadelphia, and the big play the utilities are trying to get for it, involve some very interesting angles. In a statement issued by the utility executives in Washington, stress is laid on the details—that it will have an ultimate capacity of half a million kilowatts—that it will cost \$48,000,000—that it comes on the heels of new generating capacity at Philadelphia in 1938 which cost \$7,000,000. Also that the new plant will take care of 2,000,000 homes of average usage. And that it would run 7,000,000 radio receiving sets or light 5,000,000 100-watt lamp bulbs.

Impressive? Well, it's all true, but a more interesting statement would also be true but is not included. Which is that this plant would have been built in the normal course of events; that similar proportionate additions to plant would be added to most of the privately owned electric systems in the United States, and that actually the electric industry has been lagging behind in additions and betterments.

The Philadelphia story is the direct result of a finding by the recently sabotaged war resources board that the weak spot of the war preparations situation, so far as power for war industries is concerned, was Philadelphia. This has not been given any publicity, but all the utility men knew what the resources experts thought, feared resulting publicity, and scrambled to meet it.

The utilities are also putting considerable emphasis on the fact that this big new plant is to be run by steam! There is a reason for that, also. The plant would have been designed to burn coal even if no other reason than efficiency were being considered, because the present expert opinion of the industry is that power can be produced more cheaply from coal than from water power.

Public Sold on Falling Water as a Natural Force

But the utilities realize the public is not convinced of that. The average citizen has been thoroughly sold on the notion that falling water is a natural force, the utilization of which certainly must cost less than to dig coal from deep down in the earth, then haul it to a plant, and then burn it to produce steam. It doesn't seem natural that current could be produced more economically that way than by just putting a turbine under falling water. But when all the costs of a hydro plant are added in (the Norris dam in the TVA system alone cost \$30,000,000), the accounting sharks say coal is the cheaper method.

But this comes at a peculiarly apt time for propaganda purposes. The famous Loup and Platte river projects in George Norris' state of Nebraska are making a sorry showing, made worse at present by the fact that there has been such a drought that they are obliged to buy steam-produced power.

Power Shortage Hampers Japan's War Activities

The Tennessee Valley authority is not the only hydroelectric power development in the world which is having trouble. There has been a bad drought in Japan, according to reports to the department of commerce.

Japan never has had an adequate coal supply and, like Italy, has been spending millions trying to develop enough water power to cut down coal importations, and thus protect its foreign buying power, or rather permit the use of its foreign buying power for more vital things—for instance scrap iron.

The present drought is said to be the worst in Japan's history, but whether this is an exaggeration or not, it is certainly the worst drought since Nippon's hydroelectric developments reached their present magnitude.

Not only has the power supply to non-urgent industries been drastically reduced, but the country's heavy industries and even its munitions plants have had to curtail production schedules. The power shortage has become so acute that steel-mill operations in the important Osaka-Kobe district were suspended temporarily during the early part of September due to the sudden cessation of current.

The Japan Electric Power Generation and Transmission company, which was recently organized to control the Japanese electric power industry, has already received warnings from the military authorities of the grave situation prevailing in the heavy industries as a result of the power shortage.

According to the Japanese press, a feeling is developing in industrial circles that bureaucratic management is to blame for the present predicament, but this view does not appear to be warranted.

Couple of Stories Dragged In by Way of Illustration

Just what the bureaucrats are supposed to have failed to do is not made clear, in the absence so far of any satisfactory rain-making machinery. It reminds some observers of the time Will Rogers was defending the then prince of Wales, now the duke of Windsor.

"I keep hearing that the prince of Wales just can't stay on a horse," Will wise-cracked when annoyed at criticisms of the prince. "I've been looking at pictures of his falling off, and I notice that every time the horse is down too. I wish some of these fellows would explain to me how a rider is going to stay up when his horse is down."

But instead of wanting to shoot the weather man, the Japanese politicians feel that somebody ought to resign. That seems to be a normal Japanese proceeding. Washington chuckled years ago over a story told by the late Richard V. Oulahan of the New York Times. When riding on a train carrying members of the royal family en route to Tokyo, Dick pulled a cord by mistake and the train came to a grinding stop. There was a long delay, after which the train crawled to the next station. Then the military took charge. A day later an old friend in the foreign office told Dick the cabinet would have to resign because of this incident.

"But why?" Oulahan asked. "Well, it never happened before, so we have to resign," replied the official. Dick was afraid to reveal that he was the cause of this cabinet upset, but got out of the country as fast as he could. Checking on his return to Washington, however, he found the cabinet had really quit. (Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

FARM TOPICS

FOOD CROP IS EASILY STORED

Average Farm Provides Many Choice Spots.

By H. R. NISWONGER

Most farms provide plenty of choice spots where the family can store ample supplies of fruits and vegetables for the winter.

A cellar, basement, attic, or pit are favorable places to store apples, pears, root crops, dried beans or peas, onions, pumpkins, and squash, studies at North Carolina State college disclose. However, cellars containing furnaces usually are not satisfactory for fruits and root crops as the atmosphere is too warm and dry. Also, cabbage should not be stored in a cellar since the odor will penetrate through the house.

On the outside, hot beds or cold frames provided with a covering of boards and dirt may be utilized for storing root crops such as beets, turnips, and carrots, and for celery, collards, and cabbage.

Outdoor pit storage in a well-drained location is very satisfactory for storing root crops and potatoes. Several small pits should be constructed instead of one large one.

Vegetables should be stored in conical piles and covered with straw and dirt. As winter approaches, the dirt covering should be increased. Ventilation may be provided by inserting a section of stove pipe into one side of the pit, extending from the vegetables out through the straw and dirt.

Another section of stove pipe may be inserted on the opposite side. Not only will this provide ventilation, but it will permit the removal of vegetables in small quantities through the pipe. In this manner, the straw and dirt covering will not be disturbed.

After each removal of vegetables, the stuffing used in closing the stove pipes should be replaced. Some farmers erect a temporary board covering or shed over the storage pits to keep off the rain.

Many Farmers Use U. S. Marketing Aids

More farmers are carrying their problems to the county agent now than a few years ago, on the basis of nationwide reports from the 3,000 agents of the agricultural extension service. Seekers after information on marketing, for example, numbered approximately 1,200,000 last year—more than double the number of farmers asking for help with marketing problems as recently as 1932.

Most of those assisted were members of co-operative selling or purchasing organizations. Records of county agents show that some form of assistance with marketing problems was given by extension agents in 18,500 communities. Individual farmers and organizations aided handled products valued at more than \$640,000,000.

Among the types of marketing counsel most frequently requested by farmers was assistance in making best use of current market information, in locating markets, and in packaging and processing farm products. Organizations asked for similar services, and for assistance in accounting and methods of keeping their membership informed.

More than 100 specialists on state extension staffs spend either full or part time on extension work in marketing. County agents, at work in all agricultural counties, give a share of their time to marketing work, the amount varying in different counties. As with all activities of the extension service, the marketing program has reached its present proportions largely because of the assistance given by 14,000 farmers who voluntarily act as local leaders in marketing work.

Hot-Spot Remover

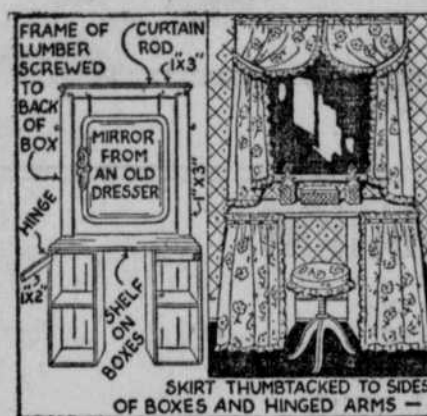
Farmers near one Ohio town have found that rural hot spots can be cooled off with the right kind of competition, according to the Country Home Magazine. When a local dancing pavilion and tourist camp of questionable reputation began to get on their nerves, a dozen farmers contributed \$2 each to hire a group of entertainers. Then they advertised a Saturday night dance with free ice cream and other mild refreshments, and for two Saturday evenings in a row attracted such big crowds that the hot spot was left high and dry. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, the dancing pavilion proprietor now operates his place in a manner which meets community approval.

Farming Briefs

Surplus products amounting to 1,700,000,000 pounds were bought and distributed by the Federal Surplus Commodities corporation in the last fiscal year. The cost, including charges for freight and handling, totaled \$66,000,000. Included in the list were 122,000,000 pounds of butter, 3,210,000 dozen eggs, 61,200,000 quarts of fluid milk and 13,900,000 pounds of dry skim milk.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



The illustration shows what became of the mirror and piano stool which the bride had left over last week. To the mirror and stool were added two wooden boxes from the grocery. These were placed on end about 18 inches apart and a shelf of 1/2-inch pine screwed to the top. A frame was then screwed to the back of the boxes as shown here. A curtain rod was placed across the top and the mirror hung lengthwise under it. An arm was then hinged to the front of each

box. Paint was next. White, because white furniture is smart and because it matched the woodwork. The flowered chintz in tones of rose and blue-green with narrow frills of the plain blue-green tone matched the window curtains.

The dressing table skirt was made with a one-inch heading at the top and tacked along the ends of the table and the hinged arms with thumbtacks through a double strip of the plain material.

NOTE: Readers who are now using Sewing Books No. 1, 2 and 3 will be happy to learn that No. 4 is ready for mailing; as well as the 10-cent editions of No. 1, 2 and 3. Mrs. Spears has just made quilt block patterns for three designs selected from her favorite Early American quilts. You may have these patterns FREE with your order for four books. Price of books—10 cents each postpaid. Set of three quilt block patterns without books—10 cents. Send orders to Mrs. Spears, Drawer 10, Bedford Hills, New York.

ASK ME ANOTHER

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

The Questions

1. When a state is added to the Union, when is the star added to the flag?
2. What animal has the largest brain in proportion to its size?
3. What is the difference between a cornet, a trumpet and a bugle?
4. How many tons of water flow over Niagara falls per minute?
5. What is the difference between permanent and perpetual?
6. Are there more red or white stripes in the American flag?
7. How many times does high tide occur during a week?
8. What is meant by the heuristic method?
9. How does the size of Brazil compare to that of the United States?
10. Which are the highest existing animals on earth?

The Answers

1. On the July Fourth following the admission.
2. The ant.
3. A bugle has no valves, the cornet and trumpet are similar, but the cornet has more winding, curved pipes and is shorter.

QUICK QUOTES



PEACE

"THE greatest guarantee of peace is a public opinion that desires peace. Without a knowledge of the facts we cannot have such a public opinion. Give light and the people will find their own way."—U. S. Senator Henry C. Lodge Jr.

INDIGESTION

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Experience and Memory Experience is the father of Wisdom, and Memory the mother.



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