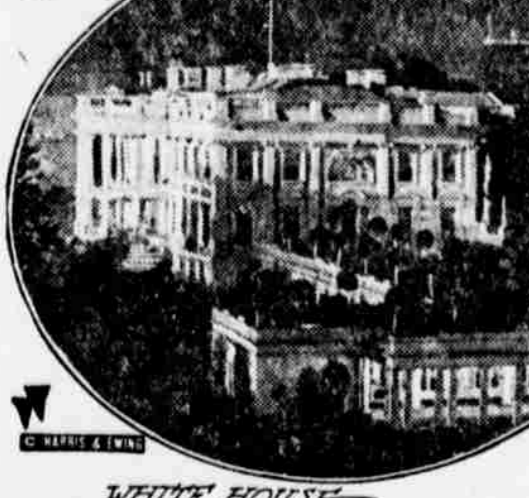


# Social Life at the Capital *By Jane Drew*



PRESIDENT HARDING



WHITE HOUSE



WHITE HOUSE STATE DINING ROOM AND FIRST LADY OF THE LAND



PAN-AMERICAN UNION BUILDING

**WASHINGTON**—Washington socially stands singular. This does not mean that in the ordinary interchanges of social amenities the capital city is different from other cities of the land, but in the structural aspect and in the method and manner of the doings of its society or rather societies, Washington is unquestionably a city apart.

**White House.** His wife, on the contrary, goes everywhere. That is, she goes to her most intimate friends for any occasion and to others with whom she is not so closely associated for special events. In truth the social head of this nation is the wife of the President and not the President himself.

**Year's day for the entertainment** following the holiday reception at the White House. The President also entertains the diplomats at a dinner, but only the ambassadors and ministers are invited. The state dining room of the executive mansion is not spacious enough to include the entire secretarial corps. Other state dinners given by the President and his wife are in honor of the speaker of the house of representatives and the vice president and their wives. Still another dinner includes the members of the supreme bench and their wives.

The fact that this city is the capital of a great country and that here the chief officials of that country dwell, coupled with the farther fact of the presence of a large foreign official element, accounts for the singularity of Washington in its social life.

Although one hears much more about the large society affairs which take place at the White House, they are few in number compared with the smaller affairs. The wife of the President, knowing all the various circles, wants to do honor to each and in order to cultivate acquaintance in a familiar way gives a series of musicales, teas and small receptions, sometimes in the afternoon and again in the evening.

**Politics and Society Mixed.** If there is one set of people in Washington which has an unbreakable entertaining habit it is the diplomatic corps. This is as it should be, for diplomatic relations are maintained more or less through social relations. Anything or nothing is an excuse for something to be given by diplomats. It may be the coming of a new ambassador, minister, secretary or attache. Then again it may be the departure of some one of their number. A prospective wedding within the diplomatic circle is sufficient reason for a score of social functions before the event takes place. There is also a circle within the diplomatic circle. The South and Central American countries are a group by themselves, which forms the Pan-American Union. One of the most beautiful buildings—by some it is considered the most beautiful—has been erected for the uses, both official and social, of the Union.

There are seven distinct social circles in the city of Washington. Each circle has its distinct place and each enjoys its own somewhat isolated activities. And yet there are times when all the circles become concentric and within the one circumference the members of all circles mingle. Does this sound obscure? In truth it is a very simple matter. The seven social circles of Washington are those of the administration, of congress, of the diplomats, of the army and navy, of the judiciary, of the scientists and of the old residents. So it is that all through the so-called social season Washington witnesses all kinds of doings which are separate one from another and which are attended only by those who were born or have been inducted into the particular conference. Then comes perhaps some greater event and all are bidden and all go.

Luncheon at the White House is usually an informal affair to which the President invites guests, frequently without much previous notice. The invited are more often than not out-of-town friends who have come to Washington for a few days and have business at the White House. It is only occasionally that the White House luncheon becomes what the society editor calls a function. It would be difficult to estimate the extent of the entertaining which is done in a year at the White House through the small and informal and semi-formal affairs. The probabilities are that every day when the President and his wife are at home in Washington guests partake of the hospitality of the historic house. This sort of entertainment without doubt is the most effective. It enables both hosts and guests to become better acquainted. It becomes possible for one to say "The President and his wife know me," instead of "I know the President and his wife."

**Just as the members of the diplomatic corps** bring something from all parts of the world, so the members of house and senate bring something from every state in the Union. In some ways the latter are the most important part of the life here and one is made aware of it in many of the social affairs given for them, especially by the members of the diplomatic corps. Politics and society are inextricably mixed up and yet there is method throughout. One of the first things for the wife of a newcomer in the diplomatic circle is to find out who the members of congress are in the foreign relations committees and then to call on the wives of both house and senate members. That opens up a series of calls for the senators and representatives wives. One is sure to see a large amount of entertaining among the diplomats for members of congress and their wives.

Now why is it that Washington is as it is socially? In the first place it is what it is because in this town, except for the residential set neither birth nor money can count for anything. It is the office held or the attainments reached, as in the case of the scientists, which determines the position of the man and his family in Washington society. This is America and the office and not the man must be accepted and honored. In Washington a man may be poorer than the turkey of Job and may have been born in a garret, but if he has made good and the people have honored him by election to high office he freely can enter a certain White House which the country counts as better than any Newport or Southampton mansion.

**Great State Functions.** In saying a word for the small and intimate affairs there is no intention to minimize the importance of the great state functions which in their way amalgamate for the time being the various circles which form Washington society. One is able to determine to some extent what these huge assemblies accomplish from the fact that from two thousand to three thousand persons attend each of them. To be sure, there is more or less crowding when they are indoor affairs, but it is amazing how well they are handled by the President's army and navy aids.

**Other Great Circles.** The army and navy generally are classed as one circle, whereas they really are two distinct entities. In Washington, however, they get together more than in other cities. The circle here is a large one, despite the fact that there are many departures. There are always others to fill vacancies. And so it is that the circle keeps going round with hops, balls, luncheons, dinners and bridge. The members of the sister branches of the government service know how to have a good time and to make things move in the capital.

It has been the custom to hold four great receptions each season. The first is in honor of the diplomatic corps, the second for the judiciary, the third for congress and the last for the army and navy. They take place soon after the Christmas holidays and are given two weeks apart. Each administration chooses the day of the week on which they shall be given. Thursday for some reason seems to have been the favorite day. May is the month for White House garden parties. These affairs are also the special province of the mistress of the mansion, for the invitations are sent out in her name. However, the President always is present and receives with his wife. It is perhaps needless to say that the parties are large ones, for there is no reason to leave out anyone who is eligible. The White House grounds are spacious and beautiful and no finer setting could be found.

There are as a rule four garden parties, one a week until the series ends. In case of rainy weather the party must be given in the White House, much to the disappointment of everybody. The affair then becomes more like one of the winter receptions. There is, however, a marked difference in the receiving line. Whereas only the President and his wife receive at the summer parties, the wives of the vice president and cabinet officers are in the line at their left at the winter receptions. Everyone living in the capital city wants to be invited to a White House garden party, but it is the old residential group who from time immemorial have considered the garden fetes at "the President's house" as their special festal privilege.

**Equally True.** "The rapidly increasing divorce rate," remarked the wit, "indicates that America is indeed becoming the land of the free." "Yes," replied his prosaic friend, "but the continued marriage rate suggests that it is still the home of the brave."—American Legion Weekly.

All this may seem snobbish to the last degree, but in a way the thing is most excellently democratic. The precedence given a man in Washington really is a compliment to the people who elected him to office or who elected the man who appointed him to office. Here is where the democracy of Washington society comes in despite its precedence and some seeming fol-de-rols.

**Entertaining the Diplomatic Corps.** An administration circle affair which has developed into one of the most important during the season is the luncheon to the diplomatic corps at which the secretary of state is host. At one time the secretary of state held the luncheon in his home, but the expansion of the foreign corps has made a private house impossible as a banquet hall and so the Pan-American Union building, of which Washington justly is proud, is used each New

Year's day for the entertainment following the holiday reception at the White House. The President also entertains the diplomats at a dinner, but only the ambassadors and ministers are invited. The state dining room of the executive mansion is not spacious enough to include the entire secretarial corps. Other state dinners given by the President and his wife are in honor of the speaker of the house of representatives and the vice president and their wives. Still another dinner includes the members of the supreme bench and their wives.

## LEGION MAN UP FOR MAYOR

Henry H. Curran Wins Nomination in New York City, With Comrade Pressing Close Second.

Two service men of the World war were among the four candidates who sought their party's nomination for mayor of New York recently. One of them, Henry H. Curran, won out in the contest, with an ex-service comrade, F. H. LaGuardia a close second.

Mr. Curran, at present president of the borough of Manhattan, taking in what is commonly known as New York city, left off a thriving law practice to enter the army. He entered the first officers training camp at Plattsburg in 1917, was commissioned a major and served overseas as commander of the Three Hundred and Second engineers. Seventy-seventh division. Following his discharge in April, 1919, he organized the Three Hundred and Second engineers post of the American Legion and was prominent in the work of that organization until he actively entered politics, when, as he was holding an elective office and trying for another, he was unable to hold any Legion office because of the service organization's ruling.

F. H. LaGuardia, president of the New York board of aldermen, a major in the air service during the war, on his defeat pledged his full support to Mr. Curran. John Purroy Mitchell, former mayor of New York, entered the air service shortly after his defeat for re-election in 1917 and likewise became a major in the air service, in which capacity he met his death.

## ATHLETICS HIS STRONG WORK

Harry Maloney, American Legion Post Commander, Leads Team to Victory in Big Games.

The old "setting up" exercises of the army, invented primarily, they alleged, for the doubtful amusement of sleepy bucks but which happily spread by War department order to include the majors and colonels, did nothing to wreck the constitution or disposition of Harry W. Maloney, once the World war assistant director of athletics at Leand Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.

A veteran of the Boer war, during which he served with the English, Maloney kept in condition during the days of the A. E. F. Leaving off the training of varsity athletes at Stanford, he became director of athletics at Camp Fremont, Cal. Later he went to France as supervisor of the athletic entertainment of the Eighth Infantry, and when the big inter-allied games were held in the Pershing stadium, Paris, in the spring of 1919, he was in charge of the American team which swept everything before it. Maloney is commander of Fremont post, the American Legion.

## GOT TEN HITS IN TEN SHOTS

Holder of World's Record in Gun-Pointing, W. S. Wilson Retires From the Navy.

With sixteen years of service in the United States navy and the world's record in gun-pointing to his credit, William S. Wilson, Westfield, Mass., has retired from a life of thrills and travel to that of a front-porch citizen.

"Now I'll have a chance to get acquainted with my family," Wilson wrote the American Legion headquarters when his final honorable discharge was in his hands. He is the father of four children, including twins.

The sailor made two trips around the world before the World war. During it he was on the first United States sub-chaser to cross the Atlantic. He spent the winter of 1917-18 in the waters off the Azores, and later was detailed as adjutant to organize a naval unit at Columbia university, New York. He established his gun-pointing record in 1908 by getting ten hits in ten shots in seventeen seconds at battle range. On discharge he was chief torpedo man in the fleet naval reserve.

**Equally True.** "The rapidly increasing divorce rate," remarked the wit, "indicates that America is indeed becoming the land of the free." "Yes," replied his prosaic friend, "but the continued marriage rate suggests that it is still the home of the brave."—American Legion Weekly.

**Ice Water Proved an Aid.** By distributing ice water free to all comers at the county fair in El Reno, Kan., the local post of the American Legion attracted a large crowd and was enabled to assist service men in getting Victory Medals and in untangling their government compensation claims.

## SAVED FROM THE OPERATING TABLE

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