

One Man's Recollections Of Four U.S. Presidents

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

The death of one President recalls the death of another. Disbelief still persists that President Kennedy's assassination really occurred. And shock and disbelief predominated when I first learned

that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died. The news came over the intercom system from the Orderly Room to our barracks that fatal day of April 12, 1945. I was an 18-year-old soldier in basic training at Camp Wolters, Tex. (near Ft. Worth). No one had any inkling that the

President was ill. There had been no news report of it; and besides that, we were too engrossed in preparations for battle to be conscious of much that was happening outside of camp.

THE MEMORY is vague now. I remember that all battalions, all companies, all platoons were called out and stood in formation while a proclamation and orders for mourning were read.

And on the day of the funeral the entire camp marched in review on the parade ground as part of memorial services. Other than that, the memory is dim. I do recall a deep feeling of loss, as I had idolized President Roosevelt since a freshman in high school.

MY FIRST recollection of Roosevelt, again a vague one, is of his re-election in 1936. Actually, I remember being impressed more by the newspaper "extras" that told the news than by the election, it self.

One time, President Roosevelt was to be in South Bend, my home town. I can remember wanting to join the throngs to see him, being unable to and thinking that this probably was my only chance to have seen the President of the United States.

INTEREST IN national politics ran high during the Roosevelt-Wendell Wilkie campaign of 1940. Though Wilkie was a fellow Hoosier, Roosevelt was my hero. It was after my military service started that I emerged from hero worship and started looking at politics more realistically.

Roosevelt impressed me with his warm, friendly, fatherly, freethinking manner. Kennedy I will always remember as a man of youth, vigor, vitality, love of life. He seemed to possess boundless energy. I marvelled at his oratory, his great depth of knowledge, his insatiable desire to learn even more.

I WAS IN the Army when Harry S. Truman was inaugurated. My views on military conscription were very narrow at the time. Thus, my views of President Truman were tainted from the beginning. Dwight D. Eisenhower I looked upon as a great leader. And with him my wish to see in person the President of the United States of America finally materialized.

I was fortunate enough to cover his appearance at Defiance College, Defiance, O., in October, 1953, for the Ft. Wayne, Ind., News-Sentinel.

IN DUE TIME, historians will more accurately assess the qualities and the accomplishments of these men.

But out of shock and disbelief come now these recollections from one individual.

STRICTLY FRESH

In Africa, certain tribes follow a ritual called the "mahoola." It consists chiefly in a senseless beating of the ground with clubs. The same thing in America would be called golf.

Too bad we can use daylight savings time only once as an excuse for being late.

Calhoun Named Clerk-Register For Oakland

Huntington Woods Mayor David R. Calhoun has been appointed Oakland clerk-register after a 14-hour meeting of the Circuit Court judges.

Calhoun will assume his duties on Dec. 31, filling a post left vacant by the Nov. 6 resignation of Daniel T. Murphy, now chairman of the County Board of Auditors. Calhoun had been one of two endorsed for the appointment by the Oakland County Republican Party Executive Committee.

According to presiding Judge Stanton C. Dondoro, Calhoun was chosen over the six other candidates after "more than one ballot was cast."

A manufacturer's agent, Calhoun has been mayor of Huntington Woods since 1950, a member of the County Board of Supervisors for four years, and a former chairman of the Board's drain committee.

For the unsuccessful GOP candidate for state treasurer in 1960, Calhoun is currently a member of the Supervisor's Inter-County Committee. "It was a most difficult task to select one man from this group. It should be very gratifying to the office of Oakland County that men of high caliber are interested in holding public office," said Dondoro.

Big Hole Battlefield in southwestern Montana was named a National Monument in 1910. It commemorates the spot where, on August 9, 1877, Chief Joseph and his Nez Perce warriors won a notable victory over U.S. troops.

Legal Notices

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SALE
TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN
SANITARY SEWER BONDS

Scaled bids for the purchase of the above bonds will be received by the Township of Bloomfield, 4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, on the 28th day of December, 1963, until 5:00 o'clock p.m. Eastern Standard Time, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read.

Said Special Assessment Sanitary Sewer Bonds shall consist of ninety-nine (99) bonds of the denomination of \$1,000.00 each, numbered consecutively in direct order of maturity from 1 to 99, both inclusive, will be dated December 1, 1963, and will mature serially as follows:

- \$20,000.00 May 1, 1964;
- \$20,000.00 May 1, 1965;
- \$20,000.00 May 1, 1966;
- \$20,000.00 May 1st of each of the years 1967 and 1968.

The maturity on the year 1968 may be redeemed at the option of the Township of Bloomfield at any time on or after May 1, 1968, and accrued interest to the interest payment date on or after May 1, 1968, shall be accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. Notice of redemption shall be given not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for redemption, at least one (1) newspaper or publication circulated in the State of Michigan which carries a general circulation, notices of sale of municipal bonds. No sale of bonds shall be made on bonds called for redemption shall be made on bonds called for redemption until provided the Township has money available for such redemption with the saying agent.

Said bonds shall be coupon bonds and shall bear interest from their date at a rate of rates not exceeding four per cent (4%) per annum, expressed in multiples of 1/8 of 1%. Said interest shall be payable on May 1, 1964, and semi-annually thereafter on November 1st and May 1st of each year. The interest rate for each coupon period on any one bond shall be the same rate only and represented by one interest coupon. Both principal and interest will be payable at a bank or trust company to be selected by the Township of Bloomfield, which paying agent shall be qualified as such under the laws of the State of Michigan or the Federal Government. Accrued interest in the discharge of such bonds shall be paid by the purchaser at the time of delivery.

Said 1963 Special Assessment Sanitary Sewer Bonds are issued in anticipation of the collection of an equal amount of special assessments in accordance with Section 208.131.

In addition to special assessments, said bonds pledge the full faith, credit and resources of the Township of Bloomfield for their payment. Under the pledge of full faith and credit, in case of insolvency of funds derived from other sources of special assessments to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, the same become due, the Township of Bloomfield shall be liable for the same. If, for any reason, the Township of Bloomfield should be unable to pay the same, the Township of Bloomfield shall be liable for the same. No proposal for the purchase of any of the bonds within its limits within the limits of taxation provided by the Constitution and laws of the State of Michigan.

For the purpose of awarding the bonds, the interest cost of each bid will be computed by determining, at the rate or rates specified therein, the total dollar value of all interest on the bonds from January 1, 1964 to their maturity and deducting therefrom any premiums. The bonds will be awarded to the bidder whose bid on the above computation produces the lowest interest cost to the Township. No proposal for the purchase of less than all of the bonds herein offered or a larger lot than that whose value will be considered.

As certified or cashed check in the amount of \$1,000.00, drawn upon an income-producing bank, payable to the order of the Township of Bloomfield, must accompany each bid as a guarantee of good faith on the part of the bidder, to be forfeited as liquidated damages if such bid is accepted and the bidder fails to take up and pay for the bonds. No interest will be allowed on the good faith checks, and checks of unsuccessful bidders will be promptly returned to each bidder's representative, or by registered mail.

Bids shall be conditioned upon the unqualified opinion of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, attorneys at law in Michigan, approving the legality of the bonds, which opinion will be obtained without expense to the purchaser of the bonds. The cost of printing the Township shall pay the cost of printing the bonds. The bonds will be delivered at Detroit, Michigan.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Envelope containing the bids should be plainly marked "Proposal for Bonds—DELORIS V. LITTLE, Clerk."

Approved: October 22, 1963
STATE OF MICHIGAN
MUNICIPAL FINANCE COMMISSION (33)

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WORK WAS SECRET

Articles of Confederation 'Revised' into Constitution

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary," James Madison once pointed out. But Madison and the political leaders of his generation were practical men, and so it happened that on Sept. 17, 1787, he and 38 other state representatives put their signatures to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The ceremony climaxed some four months of work, mostly unauthorized, for the delegates to the Philadelphia convention had been empowered only to revise the Articles of Confederation.

In fact, Patrick Henry, who opposed a stronger national government, had refused to attend the convention because, as he later put it, "I smell a rat."

UNDER THESE circumstances, and to ensure that each delegate would have the fullest freedom of speech during the debates, the convention ruled that its proceedings would be kept absolutely secret. Sentries were posted at the

doors to the meeting hall. The anxious delegates even appointed one of their number to accompany the 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin to the social dinners, to make sure he did not slip any mention of the debates during friendly conversation.

It wasn't until 1819, when the first journal of the convention was printed, that the American public learned of the proceedings. Nevertheless, gossip was rampant and, at one point during that summer, reports circulated of wide disagreement among the delegates.

Apparently the convention members decided on counterpropaganda, for one newspaper reported, "So great is the unanimity, we hear, that prevails in the Convention . . . that it has been proposed to call the room in which they assemble—Unanimity Hall."

WHEN SEPT. 17 arrived, however, and the committee on style presented the finished document to the convention, three delegates refused to sign. To conceal this fact,

a note added to the document read: "Done in Convention, by the unanimous consent of the States' present."

The Constitution was hotly debated when it was submitted to the states for ratification, and even those who had signed it had their doubts.

Ben Franklin probably summed up the feelings of the 39 signers . . . and of all those who have since admired the Constitution . . . when he said, "I consent, sir, to this Constitution, because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best."

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Maryland and West Virginia was declared a National Monument in 1961. It is one of the least altered of the older American canals.

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