

# Garner, 70 Today, Carries More Weight Than Ever in Politics; Influence May Mount Before '40

Former Frontier Lawyer Expected to Hold Party Sway.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (NEA).—Absent in the flesh as he celebrated his 70th birthday in far-off Uvalde, Tex., today, Vice President John Nance Garner is nevertheless very much of a presence in Washington. The taciturn Mr. Garner, who has not made a formal public speech since taking office in 1932, is a force in the Administration not to be measured by words.

How active he may prove to be as a contender for the Presidential nomination in 1940 is open to conjecture. But there is no doubt that he commands a segment of the Democratic Party, and that he may have as much to say about who is nominated as he did in 1932, the year he switched his delegates to give Mr. Roosevelt the nomination. The 70 years on which John Garner looks back have marked a career closely tied to home soil and home things. The old board shack with tar-paper roof in which he set up housekeeping when he married Mariette Rieher 42 years ago still stands on his estate, "Fair Oaks." Mr. Garner never is happier than when among the people he knew when he was young and Texas was almost frontier country.

## Frail As Youth

The rugged and ruddy John Garner of the 70th birthday bellies the rather frail youth who was born in a mud-chinked log cabin near Clarksville, Nov. 22, 1868. Working at farm chores and walking to school, clerking in a general store at 16, failed to develop a strong physique. By the time he had saved enough to enter Vanderbilt University to study law, a doctor predicted: "That boy won't live to use an education if he gets it."

Frail health continued until he had patched together a lawyer's education at college and by reading while a young man. For reasons of health as well as of opportunity he moved to Uvalde, and began practice in 1890.

The frontier lawyer of that day had to be a cautious and shrewd business man as well. Mr. Garner was. In less than five years he was prosperous, leading citizen as lawyer, rancher, trader and editor of a local paper.

They tell a story in Uvalde that Mr. Garner was opposed in his first campaign for public office, a judgeship, by the woman who was to become his wife and secretary. The team has been consistently successful. In 1898 the young judge was chosen for the Legislature.

When large-scale business came to Texas, Mr. Garner was one of those who sought Government control of it in the interest of general welfare. But always conservatively, always advocating the middle way and the compromise, rather than the extremes. "There is no reason," he said, "to believe that a progressive, impatient of red tape."

## To Congress in 1901

His business affairs flourished, banking and ranching being added to a steadily increasing law practice. In 1901 he was sent to Congress by the 15th District, which continued to send him back again and again for 30 years. His service in Congress was marked by ability to make friends with those on both sides of any question, and to do energetic work almost entirely without speaking on the floor. Slowly he came to wield a tremendous influence among fellow Congressmen.

This influence has broadened, rather than narrowed, since Mr. Garner became Vice President in 1932. That he has been unsympathetic to many of the New Deal programs is no secret. The reason is easy to find in the acceptance speech he made in 1932:

"There are just two things to this Government, as I see it. The first is to safeguard the lives and properties of our people. The second is to insure that each of us has a chance to work out his destiny according to his talents. This involves protecting him from being injured or oppressed by those of superior acquisitiveness, and perhaps less conscience. . . . There is no reason to believe that Mr. Gardner today would wish to broaden this conception."

But, as he rounds 70, all these thoughts are doubtless far from the Vice President. Inspecting the pecan trees or live oaks that surround his home, or possibly making a trek into the Rio Frio country where he can relax as camp cook—these are more to the taste of John Garner than a formal birthday party with many candles.

## DR. F. M. EDWARDS' DISCOVERY FOR CONSTIPATION

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John Nance Garner . . . key political figure at 70.

## WOMAN TENOR DIES AT 48 IN HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 22 (U. P.).—

One of the world's few women tenors, Ruby Helder of England, was dead today. She succumbed last night after a long illness. She was 48.

Miss Helder's unusual voice was popular in radio and on the English concert stage for more than 10 years before her retirement in 1935. Mrs. Metcalfe said she had been having trouble with her ear since casting Co.'s first stars, and sang

several command performances for the King and Queen.

Surviving is her husband, Chesley Bonestell. They had lived here five years. Her ashes probably will be sent to England.

## BUG IN EAR 26 YEARS

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Nov. 22 (U. P.).—Somebody literally must have put a bug in Mrs. Lizette Metcalfe's ear 26 years ago. A recent X-ray examination revealed the insect in a good state of preservation.

Mrs. Metcalfe said she had been having trouble with her ear since casting Co.'s first stars, and sang

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**S.S.S. Tonic stimulates the appetite and helps change weak blood cells to strong ones.**

## BOARD APPROVES NEW APARTMENT BUILDING PLANS

Zoning Group Also Grants Seven Other Requests to Build, Denies Four.

The Indianapolis Zoning Board has granted the request of John W. Hobbs Jr. to construct an 18-family apartment building at 3055-65 N. Pennsylvania St., it was announced today. The Board denied four requests and granted eight.

The Indianapolis School Board was granted permission to build a 16-classroom grade school building at the northeast corner of 51st St. and Baltimore Ave. The request of James H. Ward to erect a two-family residence at 5233 Guilford Ave. was denied.

## Six Others Granted

The following petitions were granted by the Board:

E. & H. Specialty Co. to operate a machine shop at the northwest corner of Keating Ave. and 9th St.; India M. Griffin to erect a retail store at 745 E. 63d St.; Arlene Pickering to convert an existing residence into an interior decoration studio with a sign.

Louis A. Elaboush to erect a retail store at the southeast corner of Gladstone Ave. and 10th St.; Isaac Sarfaty to erect a store in front of a structure at 1006 S. Capitol Ave. and the Hoosier Fence Co. Inc. to display fencing material at 5206-8 E. New York St.

The following requests were denied: Ulysses Knight to install a gasoline pump and 300-gallon tank at 2161 Sugar Grove Ave.; B. A. Winston to operate a junk and salvage

storage business with a 50-horse power motor at northeast corner of Pine and Lord Sts., and the Model Creamery to erect an ice cream stand at College Ave. and 12th St.

## MISSSES DUCK, BUT PAYS FINE, ANYWAY

NEW YORK, Nov. 22 (U. P.).—Charles P. Wehrheim, who came here from Puerto Rico to stand trial for violation of the migratory bird law, had paid \$5 in Brooklyn Federal Court today for shooting at a duck that got away.

He pleaded guilty to firing at a duck—and missing—at 6:50 a. m. on Nov. 5, 1937. The law prohibits hunting in season before 7 a. m.

Wehrheim, a forester employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was transferred to Puerto Rico shortly after the incident and before the charge was filed.

The U. S. Attorney wrote to the forester and asked him to drop into court and be fined the next time he was in Brooklyn. Wehrheim found it convenient to appear today because he had returned to New York state on vacation to go hunting—for ducks.

## PROFIT TAX REPEAL SOUGHT AS RAIL AID

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (U. P.).—An independent transportation conference, comprising representatives of railroads, airlines, water carriers, finance and shippers, demanded repeal of the undistributed profits tax today as part of a broad rehabilitation program for the railroad industry.

The 50 transportation conference delegates, all members of the 1938 transportation conference of the United States Chamber of Commerce, then turned to proposed revisions in the rate-making rule for the Interstate Commerce Commission and to consolidation problems.

**TREE MIGRATION STUDIED**  
BERKELEY, Cal., Nov. 22 (U. P.).—Scientists at the University of California have decided that the

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**APPLE A DAY PAYS AT 90**  
WALKER, Ontario, Nov. 22 (U. P.).—Mrs. Caroline Freidinger, who has just celebrated her 90th birthday here, attributed her remarkably good health and long life to "work, an apple a day, and three regular meals."

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