

The First Lady of the Land



By LOUISE M. COMSTOCK

WHEN Mrs. Herbert Hoover or Mrs. Al Smith sets up her domestic menage in the White House next March, she will do it according to customs established by 32 predecessors women of unusual personalities and talents who have molded to its present form the glamorous role of First Lady of the Land.

Love, romance, adventure, success and failure have come to them while mistresses of the nation's first home. Three of them, Letitia Christian Tyler, Caroline Scott Harrison and Ellen Axson Wilson died there; three more, Julia Gardiner Tyler, Frances Folsom Cleveland and Edith Galt Wilson, by marrying men already in office, came to the White House as brides. Only two of our Presidents were bachelors when inaugurated, a proportion which shows them to be no exception to the rest of humanity in this particular respect. They were James Buchanan and Grover Cleveland, and Mr. Cleveland remained single only a year after his term began. Three Presidents were widowers when they took the oath of office and to daughters or sisters fell the responsibilities of First Lady of the Land.

Martha Washington, the first to hold this position, had no White House in which to entertain the diplomats and foreign guests of the new Republic, but the elaborate formality of the receptions, levees and musicales held in the temporary Presidential residence at Philadelphia set a definite social tradition. "Lady" Washington was a widow when she married the famous general, the mother of two children, and she brought him a \$100,000 estate which helped make him the richest colonist in his part of the country. She is described as a quiet, unassuming woman, a good mother and a charming hostess, who held "court" with her idolized husband with ease and grace in spite of the lavish ceremony the times demanded.

It was thus to Abigail Smith Adams, wife of the second President of the United States, that fell the distinction of being the first mistress of the White House. She was introduced to her new abode on a bleak November day in 1800. Behind her lay a tortuous stage-coach journey over the miles of mud and wilderness which lay between her and her luxurious Philadelphia home. And before her—well, read what that staid and brilliant woman wrote her sister a little later:

"I arrived about one o'clock at this place, known by the name of the City, and the name is all you can call so, as I expected to find it a new country, with houses scattered over a space of ten miles and trees and stumps in plenty with a castle of a house—so I found it. The President's house is in a beautiful situation, in front of which is the Potomac. . . . It is the dirtiest hole I ever saw for a place of any trade or respectability of inhabitants. . . . This house is twice as large as our meeting house. I believe the great hall is as big. I am sure it is twice as long. Cut your coat according to your cloth—but this house is built for ages to come!"

Mrs. Adams was compelled to endure embryonic Washington only three months, for President Jefferson moved in the next March. Jefferson was a widower and affairs at the "Castle" were ordered by his two daughters and by the vivacious and popular Dolly Madison, at that time wife of the secretary of state. For 16 years, while Jefferson and her husband were President, Mrs. Madison built to colorful dignity the social life of the new White House; for over 50 years she held undisputed sway over Washington society. She was not handsome; it has even been said that, though brought up in the Quaker faith, she rouged, took snuff and played cards for high stakes. But, according to one of her biographers, this daughter of South Carolina "is believed to have made a greater contribution to the social life of the country than any other woman who had the honor of living in the White House."

Though Dolly Madison was twenty-one years younger than her distinguished husband, they lived together happily for forty-two years. When he died at Montpelier, his widow returned to Washington and though then nearly seventy and in straitened circumstances, she made her little house opposite Lafayette square, now the home of the Cosmos club, a magnetic center of social life. Her death in 1843, when she was seventy-seven, was mourned by the entire capital.

Her immediate successors, though perhaps less well known, each left the stamp of her personality upon the social regime of the White House. There was Elizabeth Monroe, a quiet, intellectual woman of stately bearing, and Louisa Johnson Adams, who, though born abroad, educated in foreign courts and "a person far beyond the average of her generation," was prevented by ill health from continuing the festivities initiated by Dolly Madison. Though Rachel Jackson died, perhaps of a broken heart, some months before "Old Hickory" was inaugurated and though she was much maligned during the stormy campaign which preceded his election, his passionate devotion to her memory was responsible for momentous events during his administration, though social life at the White House was actually in the hands of her sister-in-law, Mrs. A. J. Donelson. And it was Angelica Singleton, his daughter-in-law and a charming belle of the South, who presided over official dinners for President Van Buren, a widower.

Letitia Tyler, made First Lady of the Land by the death of President Harrison only a few months after his inauguration, died in the White House. President Tyler met the woman who was to be his second wife, Julia Gardiner of New York, in story book fashion. They were brought together by the death of her father, who was killed in an explosion on the Potomac and whose body was brought to the White House immediately after the accident.

The brilliant activity with which the new Mrs. Tyler brought her husband's administration to a close ended abruptly with the entrance of Sarah Childress Polk, a beauty of the dark Spanish type with a regal manner, whose strict religious beliefs caused her to banish dancing and the serving of refreshments from White House functions. Margaret Smith Taylor undertook the duties of First Lady of the Land reluctantly, resenting the demands this new honor made upon the husband she had already seen though the hazards of a spectacular career as Indian fighter. Consequently, so it is said, she sat quietly knitting and smoking a favorite pipe while her daughter, Mrs. William Wallace Bliss, saw to the installation of new lighting fixtures and furniture in the Presidential mansion and entertained for her father.

Abigail Powers Fillmore, a self-educated woman and a school teacher before her marriage, was another who, this time because of lameness, put the burden of playing hostess on a daughter. And Jane Means Pierce entered the important role under a cloud of grief for the death of her thirteen-year-old son killed in a railroad accident,

and though a competent if somewhat detached hostess, she had such a dislike of politics that they were never discussed in the President's home while she was around!

During the administration of the bachelor President, James Buchanan, his ravishing niece, Harriet Lane Johnston, one of the most beautiful and popular of the women who have held that position, played First Lady of the Land and brought to the historic mansion once again a period of high festivity. Then came Mary Todd Lincoln, "a pleasant-faced, cheerful woman, who would be satisfactory in her place," whose life at the Capital, darkened by the death of her son Willie and the President's assassination, could not have been a very happy one. Her successor, Eliza McCord Johnson, though she taught her husband to read and write, was an invalid while she lived in Washington and was forced to relinquish the duties of her exalted position to a daughter.

A new social era, as well as new furniture and decorations, entered the White House when Julia Dent Grant became its mistress. A talent for entertaining and unfailing energy enabled her to promote a continuous round of gala functions, among them the brilliant marriage of her daughter Nellie, one of her four children. Lucy Webb Hayes, also an excellent hostess, modified the nature of White House entertainment by banishing the serving of intoxicating liquors. And the custom of lavish and efficient entertainment established by these two was ably continued by Mrs. John E. McElroy, sister of President Arthur, and successor to Lucretia Garfield, whose term as First Lady was cut short by her husband's assassination.

Though President Cleveland entered office a bachelor, his marriage to Francis Folsom soon after gave Washington one of the most popular hostesses it has ever known. The young Mrs. Cleveland was the idol of the women of her generation, many of whom still remember the dresses she wore at her famous public receptions. Caroline Scott Harrison, an unusual woman, skilled in painting and music and the first president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, died in the White House, leaving her responsibilities to a daughter, Mrs. McKee.

At the close of President McKinley's administration, a quiet one socially, due to the ill health of his wife, Ida Saxton McKinley, Edith Carow Roosevelt, another woman still fondly remembered, became First Lady of the Land. She was an engaging, intelligent person, keenly interested in the activities of her famous husband and such a devoted mother to her five children that she has been called the "American Cornelia." The best remembered occasion of her life in the historic mansion is the marriage of Alice Roosevelt to Nicholas Longworth, present speaker of the house.

With Helen Herron Taft, the new interests of modern woman were introduced into the White House. Mrs. Taft was active in civic enterprise and was the founder of the Cincinnati Symphony orchestra. Her successor, Edith Axson Wilson, died during her husband's first term in office and was followed by Edith Galt Wilson, mistress of the nation's first home during the troublesome times of the World War. Florence Kling Harding was again a modern woman with modern ideas, being the first President's wife with the power to vote.

To the demands of a most elaborate social program Grace Goodhue Coolidge, who after seven years as First Lady of the Land yields her position next March, has lent a charm and tact that have endeared her to the American people. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont and before her marriage taught in a school for the deaf in Northampton. Through the death of one of her two sons, Calvin, Jr., the long illness of her mother and the death of her husband's father, through wearing years of continuous publicity, she has maintained a calm, gracious dignity, and been always a true First Lady of the Land.

Coincidences of Early Presidents

The following remarkable coincidences were noticeable in the names and lives of the first seven Presidents of the United States—Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams and Jackson: First—Four of the seven were from the same state (Virginia). Second—Two others bearing the same name (Adams) were from the same state.

Third—The remaining one of the seven (Jackson), being particularly tenacious of his opinions and ways, came very properly from Tennessee. Fourth—All of them, except one, were sixty-six years of age on retiring from office. Fifth—All these last mentioned served two terms. Sixth—The one who served one term only, had he served two terms,

would also have been sixty-six on retiring. Seventh—Three of the seven died on July 4, and two of them on the same day and year. Eighth—Only one of the seven had a son, and that son was one of the seven Presidents. Ninth—Two of them were of the subcommittee of three that drafted the Declaration of Independence, and these two were they that died on the same day and year, and on the anniversary of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence; and which happened just half a century from the day of the declaration. Tenth—In respect to the names of all, it may be said in conclusion, that the initials of two of the seven were the same—and the initials of still two others were the same. The remaining one who stands alone in this particular, stands alone also in the admiration and love of his countrymen and of the civilized world—Washington. (Originally published in the Boston Transcript in 1855.)

The Kitchen Cabinet

(© 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

When I was younger, I did oft frequent
The Married Bunch, and heard
Great Argument
About the Fearful Price of Eggs
and How
To get a Dollar's work out of a
Cent.
And when I asked of them their
Recompense,
What did they get for Keeping
Down Expenses—
Oh, many a cup of Coffee, Steam-
ing Hot
Must drown the Memory of their
Insolence.
—Myrtle Reed.

GOOD THINGS TO EAT

A sweet omelet is a delicious lunch-dish when one likes something light, not too hard of digestion, and still nourishing. Add a teaspoonful of powdered sugar to the omelet and after the bottom is well cooked spread a layer of jelly that has been melted over hot water, before it is folded. Finely chopped fresh fruits are good; if juicy pour the juice around the omelet when it is on the platter.

A good rarebit touches the spot for a supper dish or for a bite after an afternoon hike.
Tomato Rarebit.—Take two cupsful of tomato, one cupful of grated cheese, one green pepper and one slice of onion well chopped. Mix tomatoes, cheese, pepper. Add the onion to two tablespoonfuls of butter and cook five minutes, then add the vegetable and cheese mixture. When well heated add four eggs (yolks and whites beaten separately) lightly mix and turn into a saucepan, stirring constantly until the eggs are cooked. Serve hot on buttered toast.

Creamed Eggs With Onion.—Fry two small sliced onions in butter until a light yellow. Stir in one cupful of rich milk or thin cream, add two tablespoonfuls of flour thinned with a little cream, cook until well seasoned with salt, pepper and a pinch of nutmeg, then add hard cooked eggs, six to eight, neatly sliced or cut into quarters. Heat thoroughly and serve.

Pineapple Salad.—Place a slice of pineapple on lettuce and in the center put a ball of nicely seasoned cottage cheese. Dot with a cherry or with a dash of paprika. Serve with any good salad dressing.

Sweet Potatoes de Luxe.—Boil six medium-sized potatoes until well done. Cut into slices lengthwise and arrange in layers in a buttered baking dish, using one tablespoonful of diced pineapple on the layers. Season with salt, and dot with butter and brown sugar, a teaspoonful to each slice. Bake one-half hour, keeping covered the first half of the time. When done garnish with marshmallows and leave to puff and brown. Serve at once.

Just a plain apple pie may become something unusual by serving it with whipped cream which has been mixed with a little grated cheese.

Tasty Tid-Bits.

We enjoy a cupful of tea with our friends. Serving tea in the afternoon.

If with a small sandwich or cake, will not spoil the appetite for the evening meal. The custom of tea drinking in England is so common and cakes, marmalade as well as sandwiches are so often served that it would interfere greatly if the dinner hour was not much later than it is in America.

A cracker crisped in the oven and topped with cottage cheese and a cherry or a cube of jelly served with a cupful of tea is quite sufficient. Gingerbread cut in small rounds and topped with thick apple sauce, is another good tea cake. Gingerbread with cottage cheese is very well liked.

Pecan and Cheese Crackers.—Take fresh crisp crackers longer than wide, cover with a strip of any good snappy cheese, cut a little smaller than the cracker. On this lay halves of pecan meats in a row—four or five. Place in a hot oven and melt the cheese. Serve hot, with hearts of celery.

Krimmel Torte.—Put one-half pound each of dates and figs through a meat chopper, add three tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs and six eggs whites beaten stiff folded in very lightly. Flavor with vanilla and bake in layer tins in a very slow oven. Serve with whipped sweetened and flavored cream.

Vanilla Ice Cream With Maple Nougat.—Boil two cupsful of maple sugar and one-half cupful of cream until a waxy ball is formed in cold water. Take at once from the fire, stir until cold, adding one-half cupful of chopped pecan meats. This is poured hot, reheating it, over ice cream.

Spiced Walnuts.—Take two cupsful of walnut meats, one cupful of sugar, one-fourth cupful of water, three-fourths of a teaspoonful of cinnamon. Mix the sugar and water and boil until it hardens. Take from the fire, stir in the cinnamon and add the walnuts. Stir until the outs are thoroughly coated with the sirup. Spread on a platter to cool.

Nellie Maxwell

Blondes in Minority

Some enterprising individual recently discovered that only one blonde has been wife of a President and she was the famous Dolly Madison. Harriet Lane, niece of Buchanan, first lady during her uncle's regime, was blonde, too.

Dreaded Amphibian

The wickedest crocodile known is the Java man eating "crook." It sometimes grows to 35 feet in length in its wild state.

Latest Toad Story

Mrs. Sarah Chaloupkas, of Wyoming, Iowa, is telling a toad story. Her toad, a tree toad, she says, croaks though it has been imbedded in the concrete basement wall of her home 11 years. The toad was not heard until a year after the house was built, and is silent in the winter, but through the spring, summer and fall it is noisy. Three years ago, according to Mrs. Chaloupkas, the toad was silent and she thought it was dead, but a few days later she heard it again and today it is croaking as merrily as ever.

Touches that Add Style to Dresses

By MAE MARTIN

It's amazing to see how faded, out-of-style dresses can be transformed by a few buttons, a little braid and the quick magic of home dyeing or tinting. You don't need any experience to tint or dye successfully if you are sure to use true, fadeless Dye and Dyes. Tinting with them is easy as bluing, and dyeing takes just a little more time to "set" the colors. They never give things that re-dyed look which comes from using inferior dyes. Insist on Diamond Dyes and save disappointment. Over 20 million packages used a year.

My new 64-page illustrated book, "Color Craft," gives hundreds of money-saving hints for renewing clothes and draperies. It's Free. Write for it, now, to Mae Martin, Dept. G-143, Diamond Dyes, Burlington Vermont.

Autoists Fight Gates

Automobile drivers of Australia are tired of climbing in and out of their cars in order to open and close road gates to keep cattle at home. In that land of many cattle it has been necessary to fence across many of the country roads. A scheme to have at each gate an excavation, with tracks across for cars, but so constructed that stock cannot cross, is meeting with high favor. No provision will be made for horses and carriages, because they are considered by ranches as being "relics of the dim and distant past."

If you use Red Cross Ball Blue in your laundry you will not be troubled by those tiny rust spots, often caused by inferior bluing. Try it and see.—Adv.

Vacation Afterclap

Jack, who had just returned from a visit to his indulgent uncle, was sitting disconsolately with his father on the porch.

"What's the matter, son, feeling badly?" asked the father.
"I'm just feeling sorry for you!" replied the calculating youngster.
"What's the matter with your dad?" inquired the puzzled father.
"Well, I'm sorry cause you are not rich like Uncle Jack. He buys ice cream cones every day," was the lad's ineffective answer.

Town Good Fire Risk

The Arizona town of Chandler, with a population of 1,500 and assessable property in excess of \$1,500,000, has a record of two years without a fire. Soon after a quantity of gasoline was came ignited in April, 1926, doing damage of \$1.13, the town officials put in a fire siren system of summoning the volunteer fire department. But fortune decreed, that the sound of the siren should not disturb the quiet of the town after the siren had been turned on once for a demonstration.

Lucky Purchase

A once stately mansion was being torn down at the national capital to make way for stores. The material had been sold for a song. In moving one of the white but soiled stone mantelpieces the paint was accidentally rubbed off. Lucky purchaser! The material was found to be alabaster.

Can Order a Shine

She (in bootblack shop)—So you studied Greek, too?

He—Enough to acquire a polish.

Don't think that conscience prevents many men from posing as heroes.



When Food Sours

Lots of folks who think they have "indigestion" have only an acid condition which could be corrected in five or ten minutes. An effective anti-acid like Phillips Milk of Magnesia soon restores digestion to normal.

Phillips does away with all that sourness and gas right after meals. It prevents the distress so apt to occur two hours after eating. What a pleasant preparation to take! And how good it is for the system! Unlike a burning dose of soda—which is but temporary relief at best—Phillips Milk of Magnesia neutralizes many times its volume in acid.

Next time a hearty meal, or too rich a diet has brought on the least discomfort, try—

PHILLIPS Milk of Magnesia

Storage Warehouse, Price \$1.600. Same everywhere. Prospective California towns. Clearing \$18,000 year. Good trucks. Western Brokerage, 1612 W. Pico, Los Angeles, Calif.

Get a Daylight Reflecting Campaign Sign for your car; two sizes 7c and 1c, postpaid. Mention Smith or Hoover. F. X. MEIER, BERGENFIELD, N. J.

Men's Neckwear: New Selling Method; Men or Women. Snappy Styles. New Designs Weekly. Popular Prices. Big Profits. Write for it, now, to Mae Martin, Dept. G-143, Diamond Dyes, Burlington Vermont.

Sanford's Balsam of Myrrh
Since 1846 Has Healed Wounds and Sores on Man and Beast
Money back for first bottle—not suited. All dealers.

Wrote Checks

Bill Younger and Curtis Benton, both well known scenario writers, had been discussing a certain candidate for membership in the Writers' club when Benton suddenly exclaimed: "And there's another fellow who lives by his pen!"

Younger looked at the uncouth chap Benton had pointed out and finally said: "You can never make me believe that fellow's a writer."

"I merely said he lived by his pen," asserted Benton. "He keeps hogs."

WILL DO ALL IT CLAIMS TO DO

Mrs. Steele Says of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Pratt, W. Va.—"I was so weak and nervous that I was in bed most all the time and couldn't sit up and I am only 30 years old. I saw your advertisement in a magazine and after I had taken three doses of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I could feel that I was better. After taking two bottles I began doing my work and I feel like a new woman. I recommend the Vegetable Compound to my friends and say it will do all it claims to do and more. I will gladly answer all letters I receive."—Mrs. S. E. STEELE, Pratt, W. Va.

HOXSIE'S GROUP REMEDY
THE LIFE-SAVER OF CHILDREN
No opium, no narcotics. 50 cents at druggists, or KELLIS CO., NEWBURGH, N. Y.

W. N. U., FORT WAYNE, NO. 43-1928.

Habit of Saving Grows

The American Bankers' association has made the statement that in 1918 there were 10,000,000 savings accounts, and the number is now more than 40,000,000.

Getting Rid of Pests

Place a clean white cloth over the top of the bird's cage at night if bothered with canary lice. By morning the cloth will be covered with the minute red pests.



SAY "BAYER ASPIRIN" and INSIST!

Unless you see the "Bayer Cross" on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Aspirin proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians for 25 years.

DOES NOT AFFECT THE HEART

Safe

Accept only "Bayer" package which contains proven directions. Handy "Bayer" boxes of 12 tablets. Also bottles of 24 and 100—Druggists.

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocetateester of Salicylicacid