

Five-Minute Chats About Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

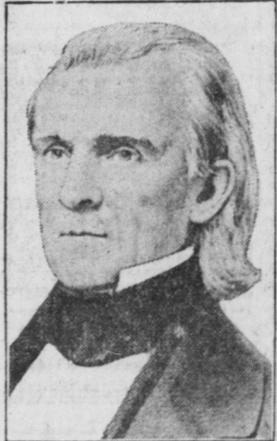
THE FIRST DARK HORSE

1795—Nov. 2, James Knox Polk born in Mecklenburg County, N. C.
 1823-5—Member Tennessee legislature.
 1825-39—Member of congress.
 1839-41—Governor of Tennessee.
 1844—Nominated for president by the Democrats and elected.
 1845—March 4, inaugurated eleventh president, aged forty-nine.
 1846—July 17, Oregon question settled.
 1846-7—The Mexican war.
 1848—Greatest territorial conquest in American history.
 1849—June 15, death of Polk, aged fifty-three.

JAMES KNOX POLK was the first dark horse to win the presidential race, and his figure remains among the pale shadows in the procession of presidents across the pages of history.

When he was yet a boy the family of James K. Polk moved from North Carolina to Tennessee, where he was too frail for frontier farming and was put to work behind the counter of a crossroads store. After a time in that excellent preparatory school of life he returned to his native state to enter college, and he graduated from the University of North Carolina.

Becoming a country lawyer, he was sent to the Tennessee legislature; married Sarah Childress, daughter of a well-to-do man of business, and went



James K. Polk.

to congress for 14 years. In the course of which he became first the Jackson leader of the house and finally speaker. Next he took his seat as governor of Tennessee for a term. After having been twice defeated in his effort to obtain a second election to the governorship, those defeats were immediately crowned with the Democratic nomination for president.

It was in the first year of the telegraph, and when the name of Clay was ticked off as the nominee of the Whig convention at Baltimore those wisecracks of Washington who still regarded Morse as an impostor said that the trick was easy, since anyone could have guessed who the Whig nominee would be. Three weeks afterward, when the inventor at the capital spelled out the name of Polk as the Democratic nominee the doubting Thomases were convinced that he was a fraud. They scoffed at such an absurdity and were not persuaded of the truth until the arrival of a train from Baltimore.

The obscurity of "Jim" Polk, which that smug, insinuating, uninspired little man of respectable abilities had preserved on the eminence of the speaker's chair, was deepened by the shining fame of Van Buren, whom he had displaced at the convention, and of Clay, against whom he was matched before the people. Those two statesmen had taken it for granted that they were to be the champions of their respective parties. History suspects that they concocted in a friendly visit two letters which appeared suspiciously close together and which were suspiciously alike in discouraging the annexation of Texas at risk of war with Mexico.

Van Buren stood by his guns against annexation, going down in the Democratic convention under the displeasure of the southern slaveholders and the alarm of northern doughfaces. Clay faltered in the campaign. Quibbling, qualifying and taking a back track, he went down at the election under the indignation of the abolitionists, who polled enough votes for their third ticket to cause his defeat.

Polk lost Tennessee at the polls, and is the only man, with the sole exception of Wilson in 1916, who has been elected without his own state. For several days the national election was in doubt, with the result hanging on a complete count in New York. At last it was found that Polk had carried the state by 5,000—thanks to the Liberty party, which had drawn away more than that number of votes from "the great compromiser." Henry Clay had compromised his last chance for the presidency.

OLD ROUGH AND READY

1784—November 24, Zachary Taylor born in Orange county, Va.
 1785—Removed to Kentucky.
 1808—Lieutenant in the regular army.
 1812—Fighting Indians in Indiana.
 1832—In the Black Hawk war in Illinois.
 1836-7—In the Seminole war in Florida.
 1840-6—In command of the department of the southwest.
 1846—May 8, opening engagement with Mexico at Palo Alto.
 May 9, Battle of Resaca de la Palma.
 September 24, capture of Monterey.
 1847—February 22, 23, 24, Battle of Buena Vista.
 1848—Nominated for president by the Whigs.
 1849—March 5, inaugurated twelfth president, aged sixty-four.
 1850—July 9, died in the White house, aged sixty-five.

ZACHARY TAYLOR was the first army man to be president, the second being General Grant. A dozen presidents, from Washington to Roosevelt, had seen war service, but only as citizen soldiers.

At twenty-three he entered the army as a lieutenant, and he remained in it 40 years, until he was inaugurated president. Yet he had seen only a little fighting with the Indians before his campaign in Mexico, where he commanded perhaps not many more than 6,000 men and fought half a dozen engagements, ranging from the opening skirmish at Palo Alto to the battle of Buena Vista. In this last, his little army of raw troops was outnumbered four to one. But he spurred Santa Anna's demand for his surrender, and "with a little more grape" from Captain Bragg's battery, he defeated the Mexicans.

The commanders in the two Mexican campaigns, Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, were as unlike as their popular nicknames would indicate—"Old Rough and Ready" and "Old Fuss and Feathers." "Old Rough and Ready" remained throughout his army service a simple American soldier, a capable officer in peace and a resourceful one in war.

Obedient always to the civil authority, he retained a truly American dislike of military ceremonial and manners.

He was as plain in his private life and with a wife as unaffected as himself. This devoted companion made her home with him in military stockade and tents, sending her children as they came along back to the care of relatives, but refusing to be parted from her husband.

Like every man who has heard the seductive suggestion of his name for the presidency, Taylor was not long in yielding to it. Revising his own poor opinion of his qualifications in the light of their higher appraisal by others, he came to regard himself as



Zachary Taylor.

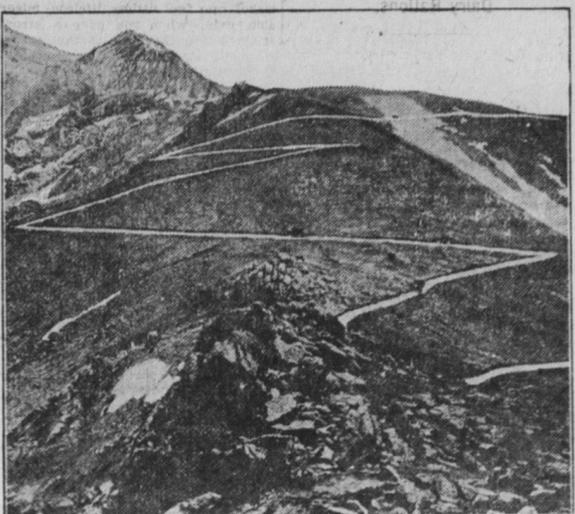
the people's candidate and he announced that he would run as such even if no party should nominate him.

The party preference of the old soldier was in doubt, with no other clue to it except his brother's illuminating remark that Zachary liked Henry Clay and American-made clothes. The Whigs nominated him without knowing where he stood on any question and they made no platform for him to stand on. It was a merry game with the great problems that confronted the nation.

After they had nominated Taylor, the Whigs became fearful for a time that the joke was on them. While they waited and no word came from their nominee at Baton Rouge, they took alarm lest he would not accept the honor from their party. But he had not received their letter of notification. For they had neglected to prepay the postage on it, and "Old Rough and Ready" was refusing to receive all unpaid mail.

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BIG AUTO RACES ON PIKE'S PEAK



This photograph shows the top of Pike's Peak, America's most famous and most widely known mountain, and the zigzag course of the automobile highway to the summit, whose curves and grades will test the quality of the cars contesting in the world's championship automobile hill-climb at Colorado Springs, Colo., on September 6. These races are the most spectacular and daring contests staged in this country.

ENGINE FOREVER BLOWS BUBBLES

Not Condensation of Gas, as Owner Thinks, but Lack of Vaporization.

LABORATORY TESTS AT AMES

Established That Carburetor Does Not Vaporize Gasoline, but Mixes It With Air—Adds to Tendency of Engine to Make Carbon.

If the motorcar owner could watch the flow of gasoline from the carburetor into the intake manifold, he would discover that his car, as one of the dittles of the day harmonizes it, is "forever blowing bubbles." He would find that what he thinks is condensation of gasoline is not condensation at all, but lack of vaporization.

The steam carburetor has a vital relation to this "blowing of bubbles" in the gasoline intake manifold, and it enables the intake manifold to accomplish a complete vaporization of the gasoline, eliminating what the owner thinks is condensation of gasoline. The steam carburetor, put to test at Ames, Ia., agricultural college, revealed there seemingly is no such action as condensation of gasoline in the intake manifold.

Merely Mixes Gas With Air. These laboratory tests, made by Ames engineers, established that the carburetor does not vaporize the gasoline. All it does is mix the gasoline with air. This mixture then passes into the intake manifold.

In the center of this stream as it passes into the manifold the engineers observed a bluish, cloud-like vapor, while to each side of this was gasoline in sprayed form.

The gasoline sprays at each side of the blue vapor cloud were drawn toward the cylinders by the suction of the motor. As they passed in they presently struck against the wall of the intake manifold. At this point the sprays turned into tiny globules of gasoline or air—in other words, into bubbles. These bubbles clung to the wall of the manifold, finally being drawn into the explosion chambers in that form.

Waste of Fuel. This bubble formation of the gasoline represents the average owner's waste of fuel. It also adds to the tendency of the motor to make carbon. The steam carburetor shoots hot, live steam into the manifold just above the carburetor proper, and this steam eliminates the bubble formation of gasoline and converts all the gasoline into vapor form.

HOOD OF CAR DULLS QUICKLY

Best Plan to Wipe Bonnet Off Carefully After Drive Through Rain to Hold Finish.

Because of the extremes of temperature to which it is subjected, the hood of a car dulls quickly. Hence it is well to wipe off the hood carefully after a run in the rain, because moisture dries rapidly on the bonnet and usually spots it, ruining the fine finish in time.

USING OLD LUBRICATING OIL

Filters Render Material Useful for Cups and Other External Lubricating Purposes.

Lubricating oil that has been used through an engine until it is dirty need not be thrown away. There are filters to be had which will clean the oil and permit of its being used for oil cups and other external lubricating purposes.

BROKEN AUTOMOBILE AXLE SOON REPAIRED

Job Can Be Done With Taper Punch and Piece of Board.

Majority of Accidents Happen in Out-of-Way Places and Usually Driver is Without Necessary Tools to Make Repairs.

If your automobile's axle, either right or left, breaks, a quick "get home" job can be made with a taper punch and a piece of board. Remove the differential case cover. Insert the punch in the hole to keep it from turning, and wire the board fast to the running board and the rear end of the spring or mud guard, as shown in the illustration. The board holds the axle in, and the punch keeps the



No need to wait for the repair car if you adopt the above suggestion for repairing your broken automobile axle.

axle and its gear from making the differential action, thus allowing the car to be driven home under its other axle.

Nine out of ten breakdowns occur in out-of-the-way places, and usually the driver is without the proper tools or parts to repair the break. By observing other motorists' methods of emergency repairs you will not be at a loss for a solution when your breakdown arrives.—P. P. Avery in Popular Science Monthly.

AUTOMOBILE GOSSIP

Sane driving means safe and economical driving.

Do not follow another vehicle too closely. It might stop suddenly.

Allow the clutch to engage easily, stop gradually, apply the brakes intermittently.

A cowl squeak may often be traced to a speedometer shaft which needs lubrication.

Few owners examine the frame for loose rivets, yet these often shake loose and fall out.

Look over your instruction book and become acquainted with all adjustments for wear.

The best way to avoid trouble when touring is to "Look out for the other fellow on the road."

Tires ought to receive more than the usual attention because of the increased cost this year.

Drive more carefully over rough roads. Do not speed on any kind of a road, especially a rough one.

Keep the carburetor adjusted at the least possible mixture—a lean mixture reduces carbon deposits.

Most car owners know that the use of felt washers under the iron washers in certain instances is a useful idea.

"ASPIRIN"

WARNING! The name "Bayer" is the thumbprint which identifies genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians for 20 years and proved safe by millions.



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Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets cost but a few cents—Larger packages. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocristallincenter of Balleitend

A Perfect Thirty-Six. G. S. Wyckoff, the Vigo county scout executive, is both very tall and very slender. The other day one of his young friends said laughingly, "Since uniforms make a person so much more popular, I believe I'll have to get me one. Oh, by the way," she continued, "do you happen to have an old suit of khaki like this one. I thought I might get it and have it cut down for myself."

The executive nodded. "Sure," he agreed, "you can have it. But you won't need to have it cut down. Just roll it up instead."—Indianapolis News.

Fitting Theft. "Where did the other actor steal your thunder?" "In his lightning change."

Pampered Individual. "What is Dolbin's income?" "I don't know; probably about a third of what he spends every year." "How long can a man keep up that sort of thing?" "In Dolbin's case he can keep it up as long as his rich wife thinks he's too precious to work."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

For speedy and effective action Dr. Peary's "Dead Shot" has no equal. One dose only will clean out Worms or Tapeworm.—Adv.

By Wear. Dibbs—"That's a worsted suit you're wearing, isn't it?" Dabbs (fighting the H. C. L., proudly)—"Badly."

In all exigencies or miseries, lamentation becomes fools, and action wise folk.—Sir P. Sidney.

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Gem Has Been Associated Through the Centuries With Some Remarkably Quaint Superstitions.

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The ruby is the birthstone of July. It was associated in ancient times with many queer superstitions. How these old fancies originated or how they could have been palmed off on the public it is difficult to imagine. The fact that the common people had implicit faith in them proves how very much more credulous the world once was than it is today.

For instance, the ancients believed that if a ruby were worn about the neck it conferred the power of seeing in the dark. One wonders what monumental faker started this absurd conceit and for what purpose. It was generally believed, however, possibly because rubies were costly and the common people could not test the matter for themselves.

The ruby also was supposed to be a talisman against evil spirits, the plague and poison. By the deepening of its color it forewarned its wearer against impending misfortune. If tied upon the forehead in a linen cloth it was believed to be a specific for disease of the eye.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Ferdinand Foch, marshal of France, will soon be the recipient of the most expensive baton ever presented to a marshal of France. At the base of the baton, which is 20 1/2 inches long, are embossed in gold the names of Marshal Foch's capital victories—Metz, St. Gond, the second Marne, Strasburg, etc. Above this, in gold on red copper, appears the legend: "Terror bell, deus pacis"—"Terrible in war, gentle in peace." Then beyond the field of blue and stars appears the inscription, "Marschal Ferdinand Foch, 1914-19," and this is surmounted by the golden arms of France, the United States, Lorraine's dual cross and the arms of the Knights of Columbus. The alloy of the metal parts of the baton is one from Pennsylvania.

James A. Flaherty of Philadelphia, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, will present the baton to Marshal Foch when the marshal unveils the statue of Lafayette which the Knights of Columbus will present to France.

Might Prejudice Him. "Does your fiancée know that you are a poet?" "Yes, but I am trying to keep it from her father."

Always His Leap. Hewitt—"The frog would take a wounding." Jewett—"Why not? It is always leap year for the frog."

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