

PRESIDENT HARDING DIES SUDDENLY CALVIN COOLIDGE NOW IS PRESIDENT

Stroke of Apoplexy Is Fatal When His Recovery Was Deemed Certain—Mrs. Harding With Him at the End—Whole World Is Shocked.

Washington.—Death claimed Warren G. Harding with shocking suddenness at 7:30 p. m. Thursday at San Francisco. In the midst of apparent recovery he was stricken with apoplexy while Mrs. Harding was reading to him. The end came quickly.

The special train left San Francisco at 7 p. m. Friday, routed directly to the capital by way of Reno, Ogden, Cheyenne, Omaha and Chicago.

The train made no stops en route except those necessary for its operation. The body of the President was borne in the rear car. The car was lighted at night, and at all times two soldiers and two sailors, a part of a naval and military guard of sixteen enlisted men, stood at attention guarding the casket.

The train carried the presidential party as composed during the trip across the country to Alaska, and also General Pershing, Attorney General Daugherty, and Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Rensberg and family. Mrs. Rensberg being a sister of the President.

Untold thousands of American citizens stood with uncovered heads, day and night, as the train passed.

Through Nevada in the hours of daylight and darkness there were mourners at the stations. Utah contributed its thousands the next day, Wyoming's citizens mourned en masse. And so on across the continent. At the cities, especially, large crowds assembled at the stations.

President Harding died of a stroke of apoplexy at 7:30 o'clock Thursday night (10:30 p. m., New York time). His exact age was fifty-seven years and nine months.

The end came suddenly while Mrs. Harding was reading to him from a magazine and after what had been called the best day he had had since the beginning of his illness exactly one week before.

Suddenly it was noticed that the President was shuddering and gasping. Mrs. Harding ran to him, but he was unable to respond to her inquiries. She then ran to the door of the sick room and called to the secret service man there to summon the President's physicians.

When General Sawyer reached the room the President was still alive, but he died almost at once.

Collapse Is Sudden.

In greater detail the facts of the death are related. With Mrs. Harding in the sickroom were two nurses. Due to the seeming improvement in the President's condition, members of his party, including the physicians who had remained in constant call, were confident they could leave the hotel for a few hours' relaxation. Many of them were at dinner.

Mrs. Harding, however, refusing to desert the post, was seated by the bedside, reading to her husband, when at 7:10 o'clock the President suddenly collapsed. His breathing, which had been quick ever since the illness overtook him, suddenly became spasmodic. Mrs. Harding, leaving the nurse to take whatever steps they could in the emergency, ran to the door of the presidential suite.

"Get the doctors," she called, as she ran part way into the almost deserted corridor. A secret service operative was seated about twenty feet down the hall. She hurriedly told the secret service man that the President had had a sudden and seemingly severe relapse, and begged the detective to try to locate Doctor Boone or any of the other physicians.

The secret service man took up the search for the physicians, while Mrs. Harding returned to the bedside. They located Doctor Sawyer at once.

Hoover Arrives Quickly.

Word of the President's sudden turn for the worse spread through the hotel and efforts were launched at once to try to locate the members of his official party.

Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce and one of the closest cabinet members to the President, was the first of the cabinet members to reach the bedside. He hurried into the corridor, already aware that the President's life was ebbing fast, and the door to the suite closed behind him. A short time after he came out. He was completely broken up and could not speak to the newspaper men as they gathered around him on his way down to his own quarters. Tears were running down his cheeks and he seemed to be stunned by grief as he made his way to the elevator.

Mayor James Rolph of San Francisco was the next to arrive, and he, too, after a visit to the death room, was inarticulate.

Official Statement.

It was about twenty minutes from the time Mr. Harding was stricken (7:10 p. m.) until he died (7:30). The circumstance is told briefly in the following formal announcement:

Old Stuff.

"As we understand the new book of etiquette," says the St. Joseph News-Press, "valet is now pronounced to rhyme with 'et,' the past tense of 'eat.' That's what our dictionary has been telling us right along, brother.—Boston Transcript.

The Hoe Cake Devourer.

"A lazy man," said Uncle Eben, "don't hab no respect fob a hoe 'ceptin' as it mebbe hab sump'n' to do wif hoe cake."

A Trick With Letters.

Here is a bit of cetch spelling from the Pathfinder: Ask your friend if he can spell "capitalization" with only seven letters. The answer is: "Ization," which is capital I-ization, isn't it?

Where Water Presses Hard.

With special diving apparatus depths of over 200 feet have been attained, but few divers can work at 150 feet, where the pressure is 65 pounds to the square inch.

Takes Oath of Office at His Father's Home in Vermont and Hastens to Washington to Assume Duties of Chief Executive.

HIGH SPOTS IN COOLIDGE'S CAREER

Born July 4, 1872, at Plymouth, Vt.

Graduated from Amherst college, 1895. Studied law Northampton, Mass.

Married Grace A. Goodhue, Burlington, Vt., 1905.

Councilman of Northampton; city solicitor; clerk of courts; chairman Republican city committee, 1899 to 1904.

Member general court of Massachusetts, 1907-08.

Mayor of Northampton, 1910-1911.

Member state senate, 1912-15.

President of senate, 1914-15.

Lieutenant governor Massachusetts, 1916-17-18.

Governor of Massachusetts, 1919-20.

Elected vice president of United States, 1920.

Washington.—President Calvin Coolidge has succeeded Warren G. Harding. He is the thirtieth president of the United States. He is the sixth vice president to succeed through the death of the president. The five other presidents were William Henry Harrison, Taylor, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley.

Calvin Coolidge took the oath as President of the United States at Plymouth, Vt., at 2:47 a. m. Friday, August 3. The ceremony took place in the living room of the residence of the new President's father, John C. Coolidge. The oath of office was administered by the father, who is a notary public. The text of the presidential oath had been telephoned to Mr. Coolidge at Plymouth from the White House.

Statement by New Chief.

President Coolidge received the news of the death of President Harding and of his own elevation to the presidency at ten minutes before midnight, standard time, Thursday.

Mr. Coolidge received the first news through telegrams from George C.



PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

Christian, Jr., secretary to President Harding.

Mr. Coolidge issued the following statement:

"Reports have reached me, which I fear are correct, that President Harding is gone. The world has lost a great and good man. I mourn his loss. He was my chief and my friend. It will be my purpose to carry out the policies which he has begun for the service of the American people and for meeting their responsibilities wherever they may arise.

"For this purpose, I shall seek the co-operation of all those who have been associated with the President during his term of office. Those who have given their efforts to assist him I wish to remain in office, that they may assist me.

"I have faith that God will direct the destinies of our nation."

The following telegram was sent to Mrs. Harding:

"Plymouth, Vt., Aug. 3, 1923.

"Mrs. Warren G. Harding, San Francisco, Cal.: We offer you our deepest sympathy. May God bless you and keep you.

"CALVIN COOLIDGE.

"GRACE COOLIDGE."

Message Tells of Death.

The telegram announcing the death of the President was as follows:

"Palace hotel, San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 3, 1923.—Mr. Calvin Coolidge, Plymouth, Vt.: The President died, instantaneously and without warning, while conversing with members of his family, at 7:30 p. m. His physicians

report that death was apparently due to some brain embolism, probably an apoplexy.

"GEORGE B. CHRISTIAN, JR., Secretary."

This telegram was brought to the Coolidge home at Plymouth Notch by W. A. Perkins of Bridgewater, who owns the telephone line running from Bridgewater to Plymouth. About five minutes later newspaper men arrived in Ludlow.

A drive of thirty miles through the mountains brought them to the Coolidge summer home.

Mr. Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge had retired about an hour before the death messages were received. Ten minutes after the arrival of the newspaper men Mr. and Mrs. Coolidge came downstairs into the sitting room of the Coolidge home. Mr. Coolidge was dressed in a black sack suit and wore a black necktie. Mrs. Coolidge wore a black and white gown, white shoes and stockings. Mr. Coolidge was very pale and showed deep regret for President Harding's death. He seated himself at a table, while Mrs. Coolidge brought a lamp and read the telegrams he had received.

He then called his assistant secretary, Irvin Geisser, and dictated to him his statement and the telegram to Mrs. Harding.

Mrs. Coolidge Weeps.

In the meantime people were arriving from all directions. Mr. Coolidge, seeing the house becoming crowded, gave orders that an adjoining house be opened for use as press headquarters.

Meanwhile, the new first lady of the land sat weeping softly and exclaiming in sympathy for the bereaved first lady in San Francisco.

"What a blow—what a terrible blow to poor Mrs. Harding," she said. "She had had such a heavy burden, in her own illness, to bear up under—and now this!"

Finally Secretary Geisser returned with the press copies of the statements, and pushing back the old photograph album and the Family Bible on the center table, Mrs. Coolidge busied herself with the work of helping distribute them.

The newspaper men had scarcely gotten out of sight when another telegraph messenger arrived with a copy of the presidential oath from Washington. In the same sitting room with its hand-branded rugs, its clutter of venerable colonial furniture, its old wood stove and its family Bible—Calvin Coolidge received the oath of office from his father, and became America's thirtieth president.

Calvin Coolidge is a quiet, taciturn man, known to his friends as "Silent Cal."

For more than twenty years prior to his election as vice president he had been in political life, starting almost immediately after finishing college. His first political office was in the city council of Northampton, Mass., where he had settled. For years he held various offices in that city, including those of city solicitor and mayor; then he was elected to the Massachusetts house of representatives. Later he won a seat in the state senate and was its president.

Coolidge was lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and in 1919 was elected to the governorship in the first campaign won by the Republican party in several years. It was during this term he first attained nation-wide prominence. This was in connection with the policemen's strike in Boston. He took firm control of the situation, ordered the state guard to patrol the streets, and kept down rioting, taking the stand that law and order must be preserved. The strike was a complete failure.

He was mentioned as a possibility for the presidential nomination prior to the 1920 campaign, but he made a public announcement that he would not consider the nomination. His nomination and election to the vice presidency followed.

Mr. Coolidge comes of a long line of New England ancestors who came to America in 1630, settling near Watertown, Mass. President Coolidge has two sons, Calvin, Jr., and John. Neither he nor his wife has been particularly active socially. A man of simple tastes, a thorough student, a hard worker, he is looked upon by his friends as a clear-headed, solid American. Although shy, he remains unperturbed no matter how exciting the situation may be. The keynote of his nature is dependability. In dress he is conservative, usually the opposite of extravagant, but always immaculate.

In Washington Mr. Coolidge has been ranked as a clear thinker, careful in speech, a fair mixer—as aggressive as any vice president can be.

HARDING'S BODY IN WHITE HOUSE

Silent Thousands Greet Funeral Party at End of 3000-Mile Journey

Millions Join In Services Throughout Nation While Rites Are Held In Capitol Rotunda—Mrs. Harding Bears Up Well.

Washington.—The White House Tuesday night received its dead.

The flag-draped casket of Warren Gamaliel Harding, twenty-ninth President of the United States, stricken while leading his country back from shell-torn fields to paths of peace, was drawn gently into the capital by a funeral train that had crossed a continent.

Nine hours late was the train, which east of Chicago crawled through great crowds reluctant to end their tribute. It was after 10 o'clock when it arrived, but tens of thousands who stood for hours beneath a blazing sun and through a humid evening still stood sorrowfully from railroad plaza to White House.

Tenderly the casket was carried from train through the terminal, past the new President and his cabinet, standing in silent salute.

Tenderly it was drawn on an artillery caisson.

Tenderly it was drawn through the lane of silent thousands to the great mansion that had been Mr. Harding's home.

The guard of honor—marines, seamen and soldiers—lifted it from the caisson under the portico of the White House and carried it for a night of rest into the East Room, in which had laid Lincoln and McKinley.

Then the new President, his cabinet, high officials of the Government and military escort withdrew, leaving to Mrs. Harding her dead.

For only one night will it be hers. Wednesday the nation makes its claim, carries the honored coffin to the rotunda of the Capitol, mourns during the funeral services in which millions from Atlantic to Pacific will join.

Arriving at 10:22, the train bearing the late President's body backed into the station, so that the funeral car with its flag-draped casket rolled in first, to stop where the little group headed by President Coolidge waited.

The lights in the funeral car cast a brilliant glow in the big train shed. Secretary Christian and Dr. Sawyer were on the back platform. There was no noise in the station but the throbbing of the air pump on a distant engine.

Mrs. Harding stepped off the car leaning on Secretary Christian's arm and with Dr. Sawyer on her other side. The band in the concourse began playing "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Mrs. Harding walked erect but slowly along the station platform. While her hand was on Secretary Christian's arm, she apparently needed support. Members of the party who came all the way said Mrs. Harding had stood the trip well.

The military guard of honor that had stood about the casket all the way from San Francisco also alighted.

As the solemn strains of the comforting old hymn filled the station, the casket was tenderly lifted down through the special door cut in the side of the car. It was placed on a rolling platform.

A single wreath that had been waiting at the station was laid on the great flag spread over the casket.

The military guard resumed its place about the casket. The uniformed men raised their burden and began moving slowly toward the double rank of non-commissioned officers who formed a corridor to the President's room.

President Coolidge gave his formal greetings to his dead chief as the casket reached the head of the aisle of soldiers before the President's room. He stood hat in hand as it passed, then turned to follow slowly with bent head.

Meantime Mrs. Harding had entered an automobile and had been whisked away through a side street to the White House. Her appearance and the reports of those who had made the trip with her from San Francisco set at rest widespread rumors that she had suffered a physical collapse. It was said she had borne up bravely from the first and shown no sign of breaking under the strain.

Secretaries Hoover, Wallace and Work, Attorney-General Daugherty and General Pershing walked slowly behind the casket as it was carried down the living corridor.

Speaker Gillett also walked with the party that alighted from the funeral train. The double rank of soldiers forming the aisle came to "present arms" as the casket was carried by their bayonet flashing in the bright light.

The slow, majestic strains of the old hymn filled the big building with soft music as the casket was carried through to the President's room.

Mrs. Harding reached the White House at 10:50 P. M. just as her husband's body was being taken into the President's room at the station. She walked into the house unaided.

Inside the Executive Mansion, which she had left six weeks ago as the First Lady of the Land, the widow was greeted only by old friends and members of the family. A plan to have Mrs. Coolidge and the ladies of the Cabinet present to meet her was cancelled at her own request.

The little group that were to console her while her dead lay in the East Room consisted of Mrs. George T. Harding, Jr., wife of the late President's brother; Dr. Heber Votaw, Mr. Harding's brother-in-law, and Mrs. Votaw; Clifford Kling, Mrs. Harding's brother, and Mrs. Kling; Governor Crissinger, of the Reserve Board, and Mrs. Crissinger, and Director F. E. Scooby, of the Mint, and Mrs. Scooby.

As Mrs. Harding stepped into the White House a shooting star dropped out of the heavens, shedding a brief but mellow light upon the scene. A crowd of a few score who had been admitted to the grounds stood at a considerable distance until Mrs. Harding had disappeared beyond the portals.

From the President's room at the station the flag-draped burden was borne through the long room to the plaza beyond and lifted to the black draped gun caisson. It was strapped in place as the troopers of the escort sat with sabers raised high in "present." A moment later, at a low command, the troops turned slowly away to lead the march to the White House.

Six bay horses, with two khaki-clad outriders, drew the caisson. The escort moved off across the plaza in platoon front, then halted while the motor cars took on their passengers. President Coolidge and Speaker Gillett were in the first car.

It was a few minutes before 11 o'clock when the sad procession began moving toward the Capitol grounds where it would swing into Pennsylvania avenue. The hidden flooded lights that usually bathe the Capitol with a white glow had been extinguished and the great dome stood against a moonless sky as if in mourning, a thing of mysterious beauty lifting above the great pile it surmounts.

Behind President Coolidge in the cortege rode Chief Justice Taft and Secretary Hughes in a second car, then Secretaries Weeks and Denby riding together. The newspaper men of President Harding's party walked beside President Coolidge's car and the Secret Service men flanked it on the other side. A picked guard of honor from the headquarters company of the District of Columbia walked beside the caisson.

"WAR DECLARATION."

Drye So Interpret Vote For League Investigation.

New York.—Directors of the Anti-Saloon League of New York warned state legislators a vote for investigation of the League would be considered "an overt act constituting a declaration of war on approximately 5,000 Protestant churches of this state committed to dry enforcement."

The statement said the probe recommended by the Grand Jury which indicted Superintendent William H. Anderson for grand larceny, forgery and extortion, is for political purposes only.

TWO BOYS HIT BY TRAIN.

Run On Track in Tugging Wagon Away From Rescuer.

Camden, N. J.—Two little boys tugging their toy wagon from the hands of a flagman who was trying to save their lives ran on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad crossing here and were swept away by the fast "Shore Flyer." They were Isadore Wanuk, 7, and his brother, Alexander, 5.

Isadore was killed outright. Alexander probably will die. They were going to get ice that their mother might make ice cream.

BISHOP SCHREMS SEES POPE.

Head Of Cleveland Diocese Given Private Audience.

Rome.—Pope Pius received in private audience the Rt. Rev. Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, who was passing through Rome. His Holiness inquired minutely with regard to the conditions of the Cleveland diocese and congratulated the bishop on its flourishing state.

COMPLETE FAILURE.

Washington.—Complete failure of another attempt to bring about a settlement of the Ruhr reparations crisis, is the interpretation placed by officials and diplomats here on the statements by Premier Baldwin, of Great Britain, in the house of commons.

NEW DIABETES CURE.

New York.—Intarvin, a synthetic fat, has been developed as a cure for diabetes, according to Beth Israel hospital officials who give Dr. Max Kahn, associate in biological chemistry at the Columbia University School of Medicine, credit as the discoverer.

At the Head of Everything.

At the head of all the sciences and arts, at the head of civilization and progress, stands—not militarism, the science that kills, not commerce, the art that accumulated wealth—but agriculture, the mother of all industry, and the maintainer of human life.—Garfield.

How to Hang Old Glory.

When the flag is hung on a wall or against a building, the blue field should be to the left of an observer. If the flag has no background—hanging in the street or out in the open—the field should be to the north or east.

Of Indian Origin.

Our word for that malodorous animal we call a skunk is an abbreviation of the Indian word seganku. In England the animal is known as a polecat.

Stray Bits of Wisdom.

Give me health and a day and I will make the pomp of emperors ridiculous.—Emerson.