

# Some Other American Flags



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
**T**HINK of the American flag, as all of us do on June 14, which is Flag day, and we naturally think of the national emblem with its thirteen alternate red and white stripes and its 48 white stars on a field of blue. But this flag, which is variously and affectionately known as "Old Glory," "the Stars and Stripes" and "the Star Spangled Banner," is not the only banner which calls for the respect and loyalty of all Americans. For there are "some other American flags" which have their place in our national tradition, even though they are not so well known as "the Red, White and Blue."

First of all, there is the President's flag, the personal banner of the Chief Executive of the nation. Some day, if you see flying from a short staff attached to the radiator cap of an automobile, a blue flag, edged with white and yellow silk fringe, bearing the United States coat of arms in the center, with four white stars in each corner of the flag, you won't need the cheering of the crowds to tell you that the President of the United States is riding in that car. Or if you see a flag of the same design, with perhaps a slight difference as to the fringe, floating over a house or snapping in the breeze from the bow of a ship, it will bring the same message—that the President is in that house or is riding on that ship.

But the President is not the only high official who has his own personal flag. If the secretary of war is making an official visit, there is displayed a red flag, bearing the United States coat of arms (with some minor differences from that shown on the President's flag) and four white stars in the corners. If it's the secretary of the navy, it's a blue flag with a white anchor in the center and the four stars. If it's the secretary of the treasury, you will see another blue flag but the design on it is even more complicated. Two crossed anchors are surrounded by a ring of thirteen white stars. In front of the intersection of the anchors is a shield bearing in the top half a pair of scales (of the balance type) and in the lower half a key. The symbolism of these is, of course, clear. The secretary of the treasury holds the key to the nation's strongbox and from the earliest days the balance scales were used in weighing precious metals. The secretary of commerce also has a blue flag with the four white stars but in the center is a white shield, at the top of which sails a three-masted vessel and below a lighthouse casts its beams abroad.

The Presidential flag has had an interesting history, insofar as the question of a proper design for it has resulted in a series of heated controversies over several points of heraldry involved. Its history has been one long record of changes and restorations until finally in 1916, under President Woodrow Wilson, there evolved the President's flag as it is today. Before that time each president had the right to select the design for his own flag and most of them did. But the Presidential flag used by President Wilson has been used by our Chief Executives since that time.

A distinctive flag for the President had its origin in the navy. On April 18, 1805, Gideon Wells, secretary of the navy, issued a set of naval regulations, prescribing that on the occasion of the visit of the President on board a man-of-war, the American ensign should be displayed at the main. This was the first official order to designate a flag denoting the presence of the President aboard a national ship. A change was made the next year when the rectangular Union Jack of dark blue, bearing horizontal rows of white stars, one for each state, was adopted as the President's flag when on board a national vessel. Although this was the first distinctive flag for the President, it was an unfortunate choice. In the navy the Union Jack at the foremast is a signal for pilot. Thus in the case of a ship with only one mast, the display of the Union Jack might mean either the President or the pilot; in the case of a two-masted the signal would be confusing; and since, at that time, a Jack at the rigging was a signal of distress,

**PATRIOTIC NEGLIGES!** The photograph shows, left to right, Elizabeth Vivial with the secretary of war's flag; Helen Appello with the Coolidge flag; Mary Devenny with Old Glory; Helen Basqui with the Taft flag; and Anna Corcoran with the Roosevelt flag. These Presidential and army flags are all manufactured at the quartermaster's depot in Philadelphia.

its use for the President was hardly one complimentary to the highest officer in the land.

In 1809, however, the national ensign was again designated as the President's flag and it remained thus until 1882, when William E. Chandler, secretary of the navy, issued an order, which was approved by President Chester Alan Arthur, that "the flag of the President of the United States shall consist of a blue ground with the arms of the United States in the center." It was not until 16 years later, however, that the army followed the lead of the navy by adopting a distinctive flag for its commander in chief, and when it did its action marked the beginning of a series of controversies which were to last for nearly two decades. Under a general order, issued March 28, 1898, from the adjutant general's office by direction of the secretary of war, the President's flag for the army was designated as a flag of scarlet bunting with white stars in each of the four corners and in the middle of the field a large blue star, outlined in white and bearing in the center the United States coat of arms. Around this central star were other white stars representing the states of the Union.

During the Spanish-American war the army Presidential flag was hung upon the wall of the cabinet room in the White House, symbolizing the position of President McKinley as commander in chief of the army and was the first war flag of its kind that had thus ever been used. But for some unknown reason the navy Presidential flag, which would symbolize his position as commander in chief of the navy, was not thus displayed. The army Presidential flag was first exhibited publicly at the peace jubilee celebration in Chicago in 1899 and again at a similar celebration in Philadelphia. Later both the army and the navy flags were twice hung in the main hallway of the White House during army and navy receptions but the army flag was never hoisted until March 4, 1901, when it flew over the Presidential reviewing stand at the second inauguration of McKinley.

The first controversy over the Presidential flag came up in 1890. The War department order of 1898 had definitely directed that the official coat of arms on the central star should be "as determined by the State department" and the arms referred to are those shown on the great seal of the United States, which is in the custody of the Department of State. The shield thereon had always displayed seven red and six white bars, alternately red and white, which was strictly in accordance with the act of congress of June 20, 1782, establishing the great seal. In 1899 when the equipment officers at New York and Mare Island, where flags for the navy are made, were furnished their flag books for the year, they called attention to the fact that the shield on the President's flag erroneously displayed seven white and six red stripes, instead of the reverse. It was discovered that the design had been copied from a publication of the State department, entitled "The Seal of the United States."

The matter was taken up unofficially with the State department and ended with an admission from officials of that department that "there was no logical reason for the reversal of the colors which was presumed to be the result of an arbitrary heraldic license." In 1902 the acting secretary of the navy issued a memorandum that "the State department certifies that the shield has seven white and six red bars, alternating white and red, and it is ordered that such shall be the seal on the President's flag."

Meanwhile the army continued to make its flag with the seven red and six white stripes on the shield. In November, 1902, it was decided that

something should be done to reconcile the differences in the design on the shield. A committee from the War department and the Navy department called on President Roosevelt and suggested that since other nations had but one flag for its chief, it was not consistent for our President to have two. So it was decided to adopt a new flag, closely patterned after the older navy flag, but with several modifications. A short time later orders were issued by the secretaries of the two departments that the colors on the shield, as certified by the State department (seven white and six red bars) be followed and on November 21, 1902, it was officially announced that the controversy between the two departments over the design of the President's flag was at an end. The only other change was to make the eagle white, heavily stitched in black. Despite the agreement, however, the flags used by the two branches of the service were not yet the same. True, both used the same device as to the eagle and the shield, but the navy clung to its blue field and the army to its red field. It was not until the next administration that decided steps towards uniformity were taken. On June 24, 1912 and again on October 29, 1912, President Taft issued executive orders that "the color of the field of the President's flag shall be blue," but the army did not immediately conform and a difficult situation arose at the inaugural ceremonies of President Wilson in March, 1913. The reviewing box in front of the White House was decorated with two President's flags, provided by the War department and the Navy department. The Navy department's was blue, but the War department's was red!

This revived the old controversy and when again in 1915 there was a double display of colors the matter assumed a serious aspect. It was pointed out to President Wilson that an agreement should be made and a standard flag adopted for both branches of the service. The President called in Lieutenant-Commander Byron McCandless, aide to the secretary of the navy, and requested him to prepare a design for the Presidential standard. The new flag was to consist of a blue field with four white stars in the corners, since the flags of an admiral and of a general bear four stars as a sign of command, and the President is the highest ranking admiral and general. Instead of an exact reproduction of the great seal, President Wilson expressed a desire to have his personal seal, a modification of the great seal used on the President's stationery in the White House, on the flag. This seal differs from the great seal in that the eagle's head is turned to the sinister (its left) and the stars above the eagle are differently arranged.

The new design was prepared by the bureau of construction and repair under the direction of Commander McCandless and was approved by the President in an executive order dated May 29, 1916. So at last the controversy was ended and a President's flag, uniform for both branches of the service, came into being.

But though the army-navy controversy over the President's flag was thus ended, there are those who are not yet satisfied with the President's flag. They point out the fact that the seven white and six red bars on the shield, even though it does have the indorsement of the State department, is not in conformity with the arrangement of these colors as prescribed in the act of congress of June 20, 1782, adopting the great seal of the United States, nor as prescribed by the act of congress of April 4, 1818, prescribing alternating red and white stripes in establishing the American flag.

But more serious than this, according to heraldry experts, is the fact that on the President's flag the eagle's head is turned towards the sinister, that is, away from the flag pole. It is one of the ancient rules of heraldry, they say, that no bird or animal ever look away from the staff, for if such a flag is carried into battle, the head thus turned would make it look as though the bird were retreating from the enemy. On all other flags on which the eagle appears, it head always faces the staff, regardless of which side of the flag one looks at

## Scraps of Humor

**HUSH**  
 The passerby stopped and looked at the man struggling vainly with his broken-down motor car.  
 "Excuse me," said the stranger, "but perhaps I can help you. There are one or two things I can tell you about your make of car."  
 The owner straightened himself up and looked at the other.  
 "Please keep them to yourself, old chap," he remarked, warningly; "there are ladies present."



**ON THE BEACH**  
 "May's gown makes a perfect fright of her."  
 "Yes; but outside of her costume she's a shapely and beautiful girl."

**Inequality of Things**  
 Full of some dog of stunning style  
 And pedigree without a fault  
 Is worth a thousand dollars, while  
 Its owner isn't worth his salt.

**Taking an Awful Chance**  
 Dolly Dimples (coquettishly)—Did you read Dr. Blueborn this morning, when he stated that kissing is absolutely dangerous to health?  
 Dapper Dan (recklessly)—Well, what do you say, Miss Dolly? Let's start an epidemic!

**The Old Standing**  
 First Poor Inventor—I saw Briggs today. He looked happy, prosperous, well fed. Success must have come to him.  
 Second (sadly)—It has.  
 First—What's he been working on?  
 Second (more sadly)—A salary.

**S. G. T. J.**  
 "What do you know about cooking?" asked Mrs. Snapp of the applicant for position of cook.  
 "Nothing much, ma'am," came the answer, "but Ah knows a terrible lot about de private affairs ob most ebody in town."—Pathfinder Magazine.

**Woman's Cunning**  
 A—I've always noticed that a woman always lowers her voice when she begs for something!  
 B—Yes; and raises it sky high if her desire is not gratified!



**They All Do**  
 I'm an easy going party  
 But I'd like to take a knock  
 At the shoe clerk who exposes  
 The toe hole in my sock.

**Was an Early Bird**  
 "Yes, I'm sorry I married you; so there!"  
 "Oh! You were no young bird when I married you."  
 "No. But considering what I got, you must admit I was an early bird."

**Feeling Audience**  
 Gazonda—Did the audience show any feeling when she sang?  
 Gazoof—Yes, about half of them began feeling under the seats for their hats.

**Joy of Ill Health**  
 Mrs. Blabber—You're looking very happy this morning. Have you had good news?  
 Mrs. Gabber—Just wonderful. My husband has just had a nervous breakdown and we're going to Europe for the summer.

**Try Umbrella Test**  
 "That man is so honest he wouldn't steal a pin."  
 "I never thought much of the pin test. Try him with an umbrella."

## Condor Outclassed in Combat With Airplane

A huge condor battled with a trimotored passenger airplane 17,000 feet in the air over the foothills of the Andes recently. L. H. Garriott, the pilot, flies the passenger ships between Mendoza in the Argentine and Santiago, Chile, for the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires line. With six passengers Garriott was flying over the foothills trying to rise to pass between two peaks, one 22,000 feet high and the other 24,000 feet high. When at an altitude of 17,000 feet a giant condor spotted the ship and came on to battle the strange wide-winged creature that persisted in roaming over its exclusive hunting domain. The condor wheeled and came straight toward the ship—heading right into the nose. Garriott swerved the ship aside a little and with a crash the bird hit the wing and dropped to the earth like a plummet. When the ship landed at its destination one wing covering was dented but not broken. A cloud of feathers followed the bird like a puff of smoke from an exploding shell.

## FAMILY DOCTOR LEARNED THIS ABOUT CONSTIPATION



Dr. Caldwell loved people. His years of practice convinced him many were ruining their health by careless selection of laxatives. He determined to write a harmless prescription which would get at the cause of constipation, and correct it. Today, the prescription he wrote in 1885 is the world's most popular laxative! He prescribed a mixture of herbs and other pure ingredients now known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. In thousands of cases where bad breath, coated tongue, gas, headaches, biliousness and lack of appetite or energy showed the bowels of men, women and children were sluggish. It proved successful in even the most obstinate cases; old folks liked it for it never gripes; children liked its pleasant taste. All drug stores today have Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin in bottles.

**Girls' Mothers Favor Golf**  
 Mothers of young school girls in London are favoring golf for their daughters in the hope of keeping them from hockey. Hockey is condemned by many parents because it thickens ankles, damages teeth, encourages stooping and is useless in after-life. Many girls in their early teens are taking up golf, and at some clubs mother-daughter contests are held.

**Parish House Made Modern**  
 Rev. E. J. S. Teviotdale, rector of Bury St. Edmunds, England, has startled old-timers there with innovations in the parish house. There are a dance hall, writing room where youths and maidens may indite love letters undisturbed, a tobacco shop for men and a tearoom for the gossiping old women.

**Didn't Need Help**  
 Schoolmaster—Did your father help you with this problem?  
 Boy—No, I got it wrong myself.—Answers.

Probably the easiest way to acquire wealth is to inherit it.

**Flies carry sickness**

It is sold only in this yellow can with the black band.

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Kills Flies Mosquitoes Noths Bed Bugs Roaches Ants

Spray clean smelling

**FLIT**

because it's airless vapor KILLS QUICKER

The World's Largest Selling Insect Killer

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Never too young to start using Cuticura

From Dr. Ointment Co. and Dr. Tablets Co., Proprietors; Cuticura Drug Chemical Corp., Malden, Mass.

## HEADACHE?

Why suffer when relief is prompt and harmless:



Millions of people have learned to depend on Bayer Aspirin to relieve a sudden headache. They know it eases the pain so quickly. And that it is so harmless. Genuine Bayer Aspirin never harms the heart. Look for the Bayer Cross stamped on every tablet.

## BAYER ASPIRIN

ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT GROVES in Rio-Grande Valley of Texas make big profits. Write for information. Arroyo Citrus Groves, Box 218, Harlingen, Texas.

**A Household Remedy**  
 For External Use Only  
**Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh**  
 Money back for first bottle if not suited. All dealers.

**PARKER'S HAIR BALM**  
 Removes Dandruff Stops Hair Falling Imparts Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair for men and women.  
 (Hancock Chem. Wks., Paterson, N. J.)

**FLORESTON SHAMPOO**—Ideal for use in connection with Parker's Hair Balm. Makes the hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at druggists. Hiscoc Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. Y.

"Cause of Hard Times," new book, tells how you can get a job. 25c (silver). Modern Pub. Co., 315 N. 4th St., St. Paul, Minn.

Something Different; Fruitamine; makes delicious pies; 5 fruits instead of 1; rich, wholesome, delicious pie filling prepared at the farm from sun-ripened fruits and cane sugar; ready for use; 5 lb. balls \$1 with order. Highland Fruit Farm, RFD 2, Ovid, N. Y.

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Towanda, Pa.—"I was working in a silk mill and got so tired and rundown that I weighed only 89 pounds. I was not well enough to do my work. As soon as I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I began to pick up. After being married for thirteen years, I had a baby boy and the next year I had another boy who now weighs 37 pounds and is healthy as a bear. The Vegetable Compound has helped me in a dozen ways and I hope others will try it too."  
 —Mrs. C. B. JOHNSON, Webb Street, R. D. #6, Towanda, Pennsylvania.

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 22-1930.

**Parish House Made Modern**  
 Rev. E. J. S. Teviotdale, rector of Bury St. Edmunds, England, has startled old-timers there with innovations in the parish house. There are a dance hall, writing room where youths and maidens may indite love letters undisturbed, a tobacco shop for men and a tearoom for the gossiping old women.

If a friend really wants to lend another money, he will offer it without being asked. And often a dear friend does—just that.