

Interior of Sam Houston Hall, Houston, Texas, where Smith was nominated by the Democratic Party on the first ballot. The convention was marked by wild enthusiasm and spontaneous parades and outbursts of song. Sam Houston Hall was built for the occasion in 64 days.

FIGHTS PART OF COLORFUL LIFE OF GOVERNOR SMITH

(Continued from page 1) in pushing through many important legislative measures.

He has had many fights with William Randolph Hearst, the publisher, and had a few tilts with the late William Jennings Bryan. His last important fight with Hearst, when he stubbornly declined to run on a ticket with the publisher, marked the decline of the latter's influence with the state Democratic party.

Smith's own attitude regarding fighting is shown in his speeches. In the 1926 gubernatorial campaign, when he defeated Ogden L. Mills, later under-secretary of the treasury, the Republicans asserted that Mr. Mills would "get along with the legislature like a cooing dove." The governor said in reply:

"It is known to everybody in the state of New York from Montauk Point to Niagara Falls that I am no cooing dove and what is more I never will be. Everything I ever got in this world I had to fight for. I did not have it handed to me on a gold platter."

Of Old Fashioned Stock

On another occasion, replying to criticism concerning his exercise of executive clemency, he said: "I was born on the lower end of the island and I come from the old fashioned kind of stock that never lets anybody put anything over on him."

Smith was born on Dec. 30, 1873, in the shadow of old Brooklyn bridge of Irish-American parentage. His father, who was in the trucking business, died when he was 15 years old, and he had to leave parochial school. He sold newspapers in Park Row, was an office boy in an oil factory, clerked in a fish market.

joined a Tammany Hall social club and soon came under the eye of the late Tom Foley, an old time Tammany leader. He got his political start when he was named a clerk in the office of commissioner of jurors. In 1903 he was elected to the lower house of the legislature and was re-elected again and again, becoming floor leader and then speaker of the House.

As speaker he was a leading figure in the constitutional convention presided over by Elihu Root and first began to be mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate. For a brief interval he left Albany, was elected sheriff of New York City and later president of the board of aldermen.

Governor First in 1918

He was first elected governor in 1918 when he defeated the incumbent, Charles S. Whitman, by 12,000 votes. Two years later Nathan L. Miller defeated him for re-election. He became president of a trucking corporation and apparently was through with public life, although Gov. Miller named him a member of the Port of New York Authority.

He was practically drafted as a candidate for governor again and defeated Miller for re-election. In 1924 and 1926 he defeated Theodore Roosevelt and Ogden L. Mills respectively.

As governor he sponsored many welfare measures, such as widow's pensions and child labor laws. He also championed legislation favorable to organized labor. He holds honorary union cards as a pressman, bricklayer, stone mason and steam shovel operator.

His most important work, as viewed by his friends, was the reorganization of the state government. After years of effort he was successful in abolishing more than 100 commissions and boards, and the vast work of the state is now done by a few departments and the governor's cabinet.

Storm Center Of Prohibition

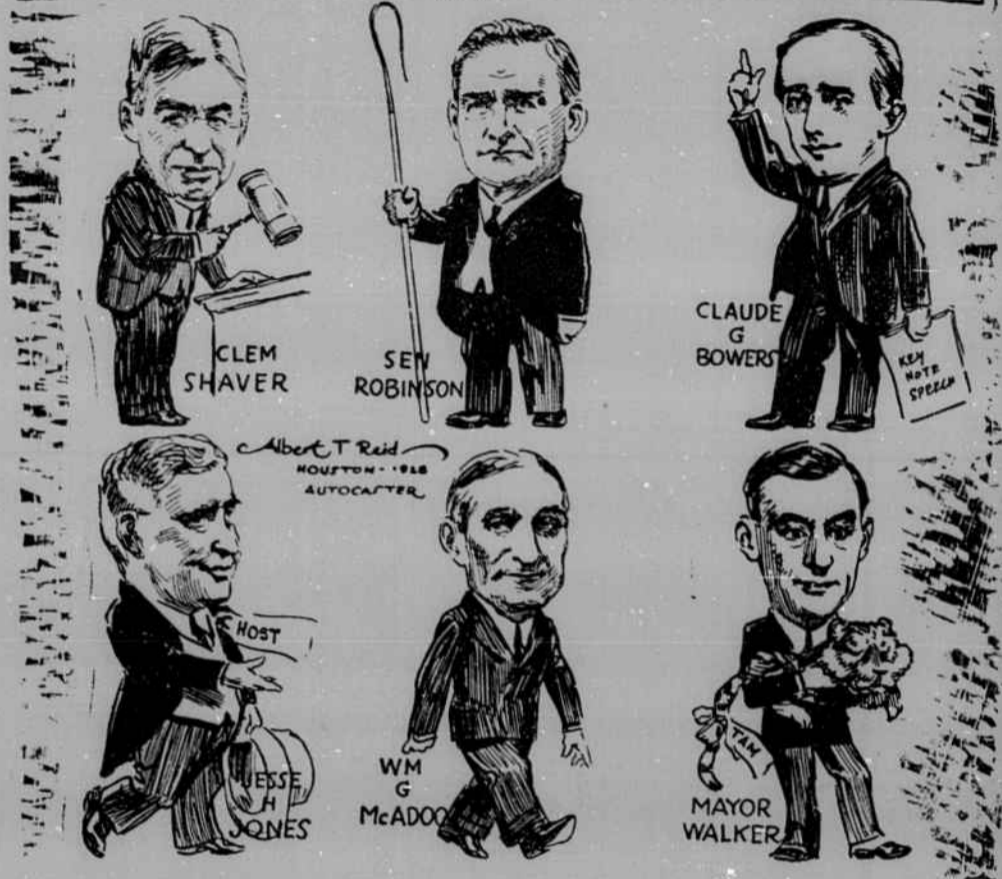
Smith has been a storm center on the prohibition question. He has frequently said he favored modification of the Volstead Act, but that he was opposed to the return of the saloon.

When the legislature decided to repeal the special state enforcement



Democratic Convention Highlights

By Albert T. Reid



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law known as the Mullan-Gage act he declined to veto it and was severely criticized in many sections of the country.

"I believe in enforcing the law," he said, "and I believe in personal liberty. I could have made a better-looking case by vetoing this repeal and talking about enforcement, but in my heart I believe the degree to which personal liberty is being interfered with in this matter is unwise, and I am going to take a position consistent with what I believe in my heart."

In a letter to Senator Fess of Ohio he said: "I have had enough com-

mon sense and experience in life to understand that the saloon is and ought to be a defunct institution in this country

Favors Modification

In 1926 he said: "It goes without saying that the modification of the Volstead Act is an issue," and he advised the electorate to vote "yes" on a referendum, indicating that it favored modification. The referendum was carried by a great majority.

On another occasion he said: "I am not discussing the wisdom or unwisdom of prohibition. The question is whether all vantage of the

rights of states guaranteed by the federal constitution is to be derived from our political theory of government. * * * The federal government has no right to impose upon the state any obligation to pass a statute affirmatively embodying a federal statute."

In 1900, when he was earning \$1 a month, Alfred E. Smith was married to Catherine Dunn, a neighborhood belle. They have five children: Emily, now Mrs. John Warner; Alfred E. Jr.; Catherine J. Quillinan; Arthur W. Walter J.