

# PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IS ONLY ANOTHER DAY FOR HARVEY W. THOMAS

## Veteran Edenton Newspaper Man Vividly Recalls Part He Played In Letting World Know About Dilemma at Taft Inauguration

To Harvey Thomas, dean of Edenton news writers, the presidential inauguration next Monday will be just another occurrence. Thomas has been an eye witness of every national inaugural from 1881 on to the first F. D. R. era in 1933, and, of course, views the one 31 years ago, when Taft was sworn in, as the most spectacular. And that, perhaps, because of the unconscious part he played in it by mingling luck and the radio, just then coming into first time use for commercial purposes, in saving the day for all the evening newspapers of the country by getting off a brief wireless message announcing that the inauguration proceedings

had been changed, because of a vicious blizzard, from the outside of the Capitol, as always heretofore and since to the more comfortable surroundings of an inside Senate chamber.

In 1909 Thomas was identified with the editorial department of the Newark N. J. Evening News, and had accompanied his New Jersey gubernatorial cousin, John Franklin Fort, and party to the Taft inaugural. The day before the inauguration was a comfortably clement day, Thomas says, but by the time the New Jersey special train reached Washington toward night a light, drizzly snow had commenced to fall. The next morning the local newspaper man found a foot of snow had drifted in through his open bedroom window at the Willard. Going downstairs to breakfast he found the inn filled with other newspaper men worried as to what to do. Outside the snow had drifted about in huge banks. All telephone and telegraphic service had been thrown out of gear. The highways were impassable to travel. Train service had been stopped from beyond Baltimore, and there was no way to get in or out of Washington by wire or journeying.

At least only one possible way, a newly established wireless service but recently established on top of the Willard. By 9 o'clock that morning the inclement weather had necessitated changing the plans for the inauguration to the Senate chamber. This was especially disturbing to the press service men who had, naturally, furnished the customary news releases chronicling the event as on the Capitol steps, and who were unable to make the wire changes correct this fact. There was a great scurrying of reporters to see what could be done in this direction. The A.P. chief offered a large bonus for an engine to get him north or south to the first point where wire service would be available, but failed miserably.

Around 10 o'clock, however, it was learned that the radio on the Willard roof offered a possibility, and all reportorial hands went there, about fifty news writers. The operator in charge said he, too, had been trying to get the outside world but without success. He was importuned to keep on, and agreed to take 30-word telegrams from each reporter. To show no favoritism he said he would place the offered messages before him and would try for three minutes to catch some radio point, and he admitted they were scarce in those days. If

he failed in the three minutes, he would try the succeeding three minutes with the next message, and so on down the pile.

The Thomas message merely saying something like this: "Heavy blizzard. All service cut off. Inauguration changed to inside Senate chamber", was down near the bottom of the heap and as the ones above were laid aside unsuccessfully there was a general feeling of unrest. But when the Thomas wire was sounded off there was a receiving click and it went through somewhere. The next day the newspapers spoke of the event saying the outgoing message had been received by a battleship equipped with government radio scooting around the Caribbean and had been relayed by it to a radio station in New Orleans from which it went on by telegraph to Chicago, then to Buffalo, then New York and so to the Newark destination. Quick to sense its importance, the Newark editor called up the A. P. offices in New York to see if any substantiating word had been received there, and learning negatively, the A.P. accepted the Newark information and quickly flashed a "Kill" order on its advance inauguration story and filled in a brief dispatch to the effect the rotund Taft had been sworn in in the Senate chamber.

Much space was given subsequently in the national papers as to the usefulness of the radio in commercial life, and it went on its way to the important post it holds today.

Thomas' first inauguration visit was that of Garfield in 1881. He went as a little tyke with his father and was in Washington again with his parent the morning the bewhiskered 20th President was shot in the railroad station. But his most vivid recollection of 1881 morning, he says, was having his father direct his eyes into the eastern heavens and seeing Halley's comet. That was something to remember, the veteran newspaperman says.

### Dr. Wm. Graham's Wedding Solemnized On Saturday Evening

The marriage of Miss Ermine deGraffenried Peek, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Meredith Peek, and Dr. William Alexander Graham, son of Mrs. William Alexander Graham of Edenton, and the late Dr. Graham of Hillsboro and Durham, took place Saturday evening, January 11, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Elmer Long in Forest Hills. The ceremony was performed by the Right Reverend Thomas C. Darst and the Reverend George W. Perry.

The home was decorated with calla lilies and cibodium ferns. Stringed music added to the beauty and solemnity of the ceremony.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her uncle, J. Elmer Long, wore a gown of blush satin with long train and a shirred bodice, having a Stuart collar of Carrickmacross lace, which followed the sweetheart neckline. Her tulle veil which fell from a Stuart cap, also of Carrickmacross lace, was worn over her face. She carried lilies of the valley and gardenias.

The maid of honor, Miss Eleanor Hope Peek, of New York City, sister of the bride, and the matron of honor, Mrs. William B. Duncan, of Raleigh, wore dresses of blue net designed with shirred bodices and full skirts.

John Washington Graham, of Edenton, was his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Charles Lee Smith and Robert Shepard, of Raleigh, J. Bryan Grimes of Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Isaac T. Manning, Jr., and Thomas Webb.

### CENTER HILL

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lane, of Elizabeth City, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Boyce Sunday.

Miss Mary Esther Belch has entered St. Mary's School, Raleigh.

Miss Sybil White, of Norfolk, Va., spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. White.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Byrum and

daughter, Doris Jean, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Lane and Mrs. W. H. Lane had as dinner guests on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. William Lane and daughter, Patricia, of Norfolk, Va., Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Winslow and family, of Whiteston.

Miss Tommie Goodwin has returned from Norfolk, Va., where she has been visiting her niece, Mrs. Rufus Garrett.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Smith and daughter, Betty, of Portsmouth, Va., spent Sunday with Mrs. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Goodwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Copeland and sons, Carroll and Harold, of near Edenton, were dinner guests of Mrs. Copeland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum and daughter, Shirley, visited Mr. and Mrs. Algie Hollowell, at Ryland, on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lane visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Lane, Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bunch and children, of Edenton, visited his mother, Mrs. Mollie Bunch, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nearest Jordan had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. George Jordan, of Gatesville; Wallace Jordan, of Henderson; Miss Tommie Goodwin, Mrs. Herbert Dale and children, Alene, Marguerite and Rudolph, and Miss Mary Frances Dail, of near Hertford.

Rev. Frank Cale visited Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Furry Monday evening. Mrs. J. S. Turner and daughter,

Peggy, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Byrum and daughter, Doris Jean, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Jordan and son, Oliver, Jr., visited Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum Monday evening.

Mrs. J. H. Byrum visited Mrs. J. P. Barnett Tuesday afternoon.

Miss Mary Goodwin and a friend from Green Hall, visited Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Furry Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum and daughter, Shirley, visited Mr. and Mrs. Rosley Ward Tuesday evening.

### MERRY HILL

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith and son, Cyril, attended the graduating exercises of their son, Paul, at the Apprenticeship School, Newport News, Va., on Friday evening.

Miss Ruth Hollowell spent the week-end at Aulander as the guest of Miss Ruth Hurdle.

Miss Virgie Coward, a member of the Askewville school faculty, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Coward.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bowen, Rev. and Mrs. M. R. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Keeter and Hazel Keeter, of Windsor, visited Mrs. T. E. Bowen and Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Winborne Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Earl Corbett, of Mt. Gould, spent Sunday with her sister, Miss Celia Phelps.

Mr. and Mrs. N. D. Dail and little daughter, of Edenton, visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perry Sunday evening.

Mrs. Hobson Taylor and daughter, and Mrs. Cecil Newbern, of Williams-

ton, visited relatives here Wednesday.

Mrs. D. A. Byrd, of Ahoakie, spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Pruden.

Mrs. Tommie Cobb, Mrs. Russell Cobb and daughter, of Edenton, were visitors with relatives here on Wednesday.

### EPIDEMIC OF COLD SYMPTOMS

666 Liquid or 666 Tablets with 666 Salve or 666 Nose Drops generally relieves cold symptoms the first day.

**FEATS OF POWER**

**HEAGENES**  
CHAMPION BOXER OF ANCIENT GREECE, SCORED 1400 CONSECUTIVE KNOCKOUTS!

YOU'LL WINEVERY START WITH **ESSO EXTRA** PUT MUSCLE IN YOUR MOTOR

**\$2.30 QUART** **\$1.20 PINT**

NOW This Whiskey is 5 YEARS OLD

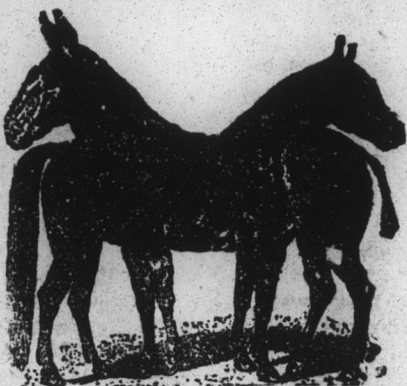
**CENTURY BONDED**  
Straight Bourbon Whiskey

Distilled and Bottled by CENTURY DISTILLING CO. Peoria, Ill.

BOTTLED IN BOND

CENTURY DISTILLING CO. PEORIA, ILL.

## FOR SALE HORSES and MULES



Acclimated to This Climate and Well Broken and Ready For Work  
PRICED TO SELL: No Deal Complete Until Customer Is Satisfied

**HUGHES - HOLTON HARDWARE CO.**  
Edenton, N. C.

## DOES FORD PAY GOOD WAGES?

HERE ARE SOME FACTS about Ford Labor.

During the year ended November 30th, 1940, the Ford Payroll throughout the United States averaged 113,628 hourly wage earners, not including office employees, students, or executives. They were paid \$185,105,639.12. On this basis, the average annual wage was \$1,629.05.

According to the latest available government figures, the annual average wage of all workers in employment covered by old age insurance law was \$841.00.

If the 45,000,000 workers of this country received the same average wage as Ford employees, they would have had additional wages of more than \$35,000,000,000, thus increasing the national income about 50%. Think what such an increase would mean to the workers of this country and to the American farmer, whose prices are based on the national income.

Wage scales in the Ford Rouge plants are divided into three classifications:

- Unskilled . . . Minimum hiring wage . 75c per hour
  - Semi-skilled . . . Minimum hiring wage . 80c per hour
  - Skilled . . . Minimum hiring wage . 90c per hour
- Higher wages are in consideration of ability and years of service.

Minimum wage scales for unskilled labor at the Rouge plant are the highest in the industry. Top wages for skilled labor compare favorably with, or are higher than, wages in other automobile plants.

Now some facts on Ford labor conditions:

Not only are sanitation and other health conditions the best in the industry, but Ford also leads in safety devices for the protection of employees. Proof of this is found in the following com-



**FORD MOTOR COMPANY**

parison of compensation insurance costs:

The national average rate in automotive manufacturing plants as computed by the National Association of Underwriters is in excess of \$1.50 premium on each \$100 payroll. The Ford cost of workmen's compensation is less than 50c.

This indicates that the chance of injury in a Ford plant is much less than in the average automobile plant.

The Ford Motor Company has no age limit for labor, and in fact deliberately attempts to keep older workers working. The average age of Ford workers at the Rouge and nearby plants is 38.7.

A recent check-up shows that nearly one-half the workers at these Ford plants were 40 or over, falling into these age groups:

- 25,819 between 40 and 50
- 14,731 between 50 and 60
- 3,377 between 60 and 70
- 417 between 70 and 80
- 12 between 80 and 90

In addition to the so-called regular employees, the Ford Motor Company has hired, and now has on the payroll, at the same regular hourly wage, thousands of workers who are blind, crippled or otherwise incapacitated for normal productive work. They are not selected for their ability to build cars or to maintain the plant. They are on the payroll because of Henry Ford's belief that the responsibility of a large company to labor goes beyond the point at which the unfortunate worker can no longer produce profitably.

The above are facts. They are open to anyone who really wants to deal in facts. Anyone who wants to get a job . . . buy a car . . . or place a national defense contract on the basis of fair labor treatment must place Ford at the top of his eligible list.

# Property Must Be Listed In January, 1941

## List Property to Avoid Last Minute Rush

### Chowan County Tax Supervisor