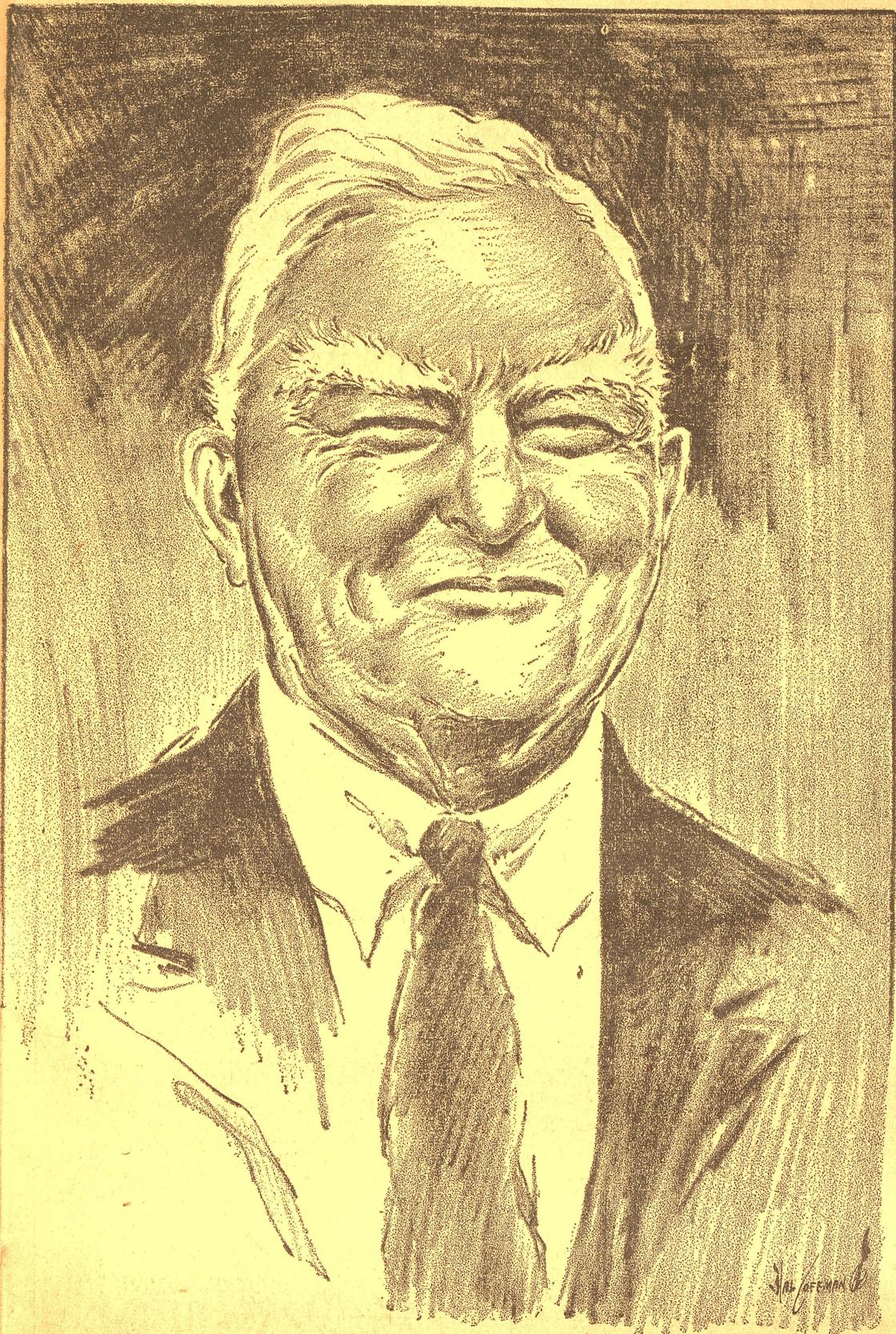


Today's Hal Coffman Cartoon



JOHN NANCE GARNER

Vice President of the United States, 1933-41; Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1931-33; Democratic Floor Leader, 1927-31; Member Ways and Means Committee, 1913-27; chairman, 1923-27; Chairman Democratic Committee on Committees, 1921-27; Representative in Congress from the Fifteenth Texas District, 1903-33.

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Amon G. Carter, President and Publisher

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An All-American Record.

THE close of the current year will bring to a distinguished American the moment to which logically he has looked forward for many years. The man is John Nance Garner, Vice President of the United States, and the moment is that of his release from the harness of public service which he has worn with honor to himself and advantage to his country for almost 38 years.

Dramatic and fruitful years they have been, witnessing the flowering of character and ability which made of the shy young Texan, first arriving in Washington in 1903 as Representative of the Fifteenth Texas District, a figure of national prestige, the acknowledged leader and master tactician of Congress. Of the qualities which led to his selection, first, as leader of his party's side in the House, then as Speaker of the House, and finally as Vice President, the chief undoubtedly was that combination of soundness in planning and practicality in acting which is sometimes called "Horse sense." John Garner took horse sense into public office with him, kept it all along through the 38 years of his service. And it may be observed that it is a quality as badly needed today as in 1903, and as much in Washington as at home, a quality which has not been improved upon and is not likely to be.

No man who knows John Garner will presume that his interest in public affairs and his concern for the welfare of his party and the Nation will be lulled to apathy at his long-delayed homecoming. There will be pleasant and peaceful days at Uvalde, of serene fishing and the heartening round of homely affairs, days rich with fellowship and neighborliness, quiet with the wordless communion of old friends. But the boundless grasp of national concerns, the keen understanding of trends and movements, all the special knowledge that is contained in the heart and mind of the elder statesman, refined by the fires and pressures of experience, will make themselves manifest, and the great talents which John Garner brought to the public service will not atrophy in disuse. His services in council will still be available to his country whenever and in whatever fashion they are called for. If there is need for John Garner at Washington, he will be there, and whether he is at Washington or at home he will continue to be at the command of his country. Texas' John Garner is not to be cast in the role of an Achilles sulking in his tent, but rather in that of a Nestor, his battles almost done, standing by for counsel and balance.

The mellowness of years has been added to the mental keenness, the hardy practicality, the inspired common sense that have marked Mr. Garner's public career. His friends anticipate, in the leisurely days that lie ahead for him under his own vine and fig tree (except that in Mr. Garner's case it is a pecan tree), an even greater flowering of the earthy humor and homely philosophy which are the hallmarks of his outstanding Americanism.

It is one of the ironies of fate and duty that two who possess so much of the American's traditional love of home and homely things as do Mr. and Mrs. Garner should have been caught up for half a lifetime in the all-consuming round of public life; that two whose dearest wish has been coolness and quiet should have found themselves unendingly surrounded by the hot glare that beats upon high position—should have been able, in 38 long years, to find time only for vacations at home. At last their release is at hand, and a grateful nation freely accords them the honorable retirement which long and faithful service has earned. May there be a fish for every cast in the cool streams about Uvalde, and may household cares be non-existent in the domain of the

gracious lady whose contribution to American public life has been in its own way as vital as that of her husband.

It is easy to analyse the qualities which have endeared Mr. and Mrs. Garner to the American people. They simply are "typical Americans"—if that term be defined as that which represents the best traits native to this soil of ours. In public as well as in private life, the Vice President and his gracious consort have exhibited that fundamental faith in the destiny of America and the worthiness of its people which renders them akin to every one of us. This, and an essential integrity, a trueness that controls every act and thought, shape the character of both to form an American ideal.

They are our own people, and it is with full hearts that Texans welcome them home, praying for them many years in which to enjoy the fulness of the homely comforts they have so long denied themselves in our service.

The President's Stand.

THERE was a time in this country when every public figure took an open stand on every important issue, but regrettably conditions have changed. Hence, it becomes appropriate under the new order to commend President Roosevelt for taking an open stand in favor of selective military training, a polite term for the draft, as a necessary step in national defense.

Significantly, candidates of both major parties had been silent about conscription, the major issue of the day, before Mr. Roosevelt's statement. Mr. Roosevelt may, of course, injure his position as a candidate but certainly not as a citizen and public official alive to his duties and responsibilities. It even may be possible that Mr. Roosevelt's open stand will hamper passage of a selective service bill before the November election, if his opposition feels a campaign issue has been raised.

One conclusion stands out in the delay in putting through enlargement of the personnel of defense forces—that American democracy can not afford to allow political considerations to invade and interfere with the processes of national rearmament in an emergency like the present. If this country ever falls before an invader, or is forced into the expediency of dictatorship, the primary reason will be the lack of men in public life who are not afraid to take a courageous stand on vital issues. Of course, such men incur the danger of falling victim to the popular election process, as often has been the case, and hence the American people share the blame with their leaders for failures.

There are two essential requirements in order that democracy may survive. One is an enlightened people; the other is voluntary self-discipline of the individual citizen. The very need for compulsory military service is evidence of failure of the American people, enjoying the privilege of free government, to realize their responsibilities for its preservation.

Forest and Range Fires.

AT this season when dry conditions prevail, forest and range fires are easily started by carelessness. The element of danger is aggravated by the fact that many more vacationists are touring the country than in the prewar years.

The larger number of tourists and campers in 1940 probably explains the substantial increase in forest fires throughout the country for the first half of this year over the same period in 1939. The United States Forest Service reports this alarming trend of destruction, and no doubt carelessness is causing similar damage to the ranges where livestock is dependent upon grazing. A heavy loss of property and wildlife is involved in wood and prairie conflagrations.

Texas has both forests and grass which should be protected against needless destruction caused by negligent tourists and campers. Two principal causes of forest and range fires are the tossing of lighted cigarets from the windows of cars and the failure of campers to extinguish embers after cooking in the open. Hardly anyone deliberately starts a forest or grass fire, but lack of caution produces the same results as does malice.

Every tourist and camper should carry on his vacation the same fire prevention methods that he uses at home and at work.

Nature's Marvels

BY EDGAR A. GUEST

By what imagination came
The rose's shape, the poppy's flame?
And who, in that dark earth below
Thought violets in the shade would grow?

Can anybody living tell
Who shaped the Canterbury bell,
Or had the genius to design
The lovely morning glory vine?

I know that things of wood and steel
The works of human hands reveal,
And round about me much I find
Created by the human mind.

But nothing man has ever made
Exceeds the peony's shape or shade,
Nor can the human mind conceive
Such mats as portulacas weave.