

John W. Dean

Warren G.  
Harding

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THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS SERIES

ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR., GENERAL EDITOR

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BOOKNOTES  
BRIAN P. LAMB  
C-SPAN AIR DATE  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

modest  
self-effacing  
great humility  
team player  
rebellious  
self-confident  
regular hi-man  
Amer. pop. in 1922  
(115 million)  
(5 million veterans)

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Did you talk to  
Bob Ferrell

761. John Dean  
Warren G. Harding  
Taped: 01/16/04  
Aired: 03/14/04  
Tape #: 179807

not the worst - his record has been overlooked

Oct. 2, 1865 - about of eight

George and Phoebe -

Caledonia Argus - father owned a portion - W.H. interned  
apprentice

McBuffy leader

Ohio Central College - Julius - last year started Julius' Speculator

moved to mansion - last yr. of college -

he grad. at 17 in 1882 at 19 bought mansion for \$400

1884 - went to Chi for the first BOP convention which

nominated James B. Blaine of ME. - When he got back

to mansion papers had been taken away because of cancelled

financial deal. p. 12

got newspaper back - six page daily - started weekly - more

parties - for govern. contracts

Amor Kling - was attacked by Harding as unethical

he married his daughter Florence - wanted a boy

July 8, 1891 - Florence and Warren marry

she had a child with Henry Arthur "Pete" de Wolf - didn't

marry - father Amor raised the boy (boy Marshall)

Amor circulated rumor that W.H. was a "nigger"

Free railroad pass

Jan. 1894 - clanked himself into Battle Creek, Michigan

heart problem

Florence takes over the financial books at Star

1895 - ran for county auditor and lost

1899 - ran for Ohio senate - won

1904 - elected St. Gov.

1905 - decided to leave politics because of Flo's health

kidney - floating - 5 months in hospital

Jim and Carrie Phillips - lose their 2 yr. old son

W.H. recommends Battle Creek for Jim - W.H. and Carrie begin

affair - Flo's note - not known till 1973 - letter

not out till 2014

1910 - ran for Gov. - lost by 100,000 vote

nominated Taft. who lost - discouraged W.H.

17th Amend direct election of Senate

with Harry Daugherty

Harding won 3 way primary  
88/76/52

Proviante - oriented its use.

George Christian became top aide

Marshall dir 1915

Harding takes seat in 1915

Albert Fall became friend / sat next to him / poker games  
started at Wyoming Avenue home.

WH. asked to make keynotes at 1916 convention

Charles Evans Hughes (1910 Sup. Ct.)

TR did not run as a Progressive - sat on dais at  
convention - endorsed Hughes who spoke for 1 1/2 hours -

Wilson 9,100,000 / Hughes 8,500,000 (277 to 254)

Rep. gained control of Senate in 1919

did not vote on 46% of ~~measures~~ measures

TR dir. - Jan 6, 1919

Harding had a confrontation with Wilson at ~~White~~ White  
House

Sept 11, 1919 - Senate speech on League - 10,000 words -  
could not vote for treaty

Sept 26, 1919 - Wilson's stroke

Dec 17, 1919 - WH. made low key announcement he was  
running for Pres. - Harry Daugherty was pushing

a man aspired to Pres. - WH. played low key

1920 - 16 state primaries

Sen. Leonard Wood

Harding's 'ambiguities' speeches - America First

won Ohio primary - trounced in Indiana - he wanted

to concentrate on Senate - Flo told not to give up

He lost Montana biggest

at convention - Wood has leading delegate - WH.  
keep low profile - Flo say if elected it will be  
a "tragedy" for him.

Booth says predicted he would die in office.

Blackstone Hotel - Chicago "smashed filled room"

Colonel George Patton McCallan Harvey



deadlocked - Lowden released his delegates  
saying they should use strength - two ballots later  
Wilson nominated - Will Hays didn't want to be Pres.  
Harding's preference for VP was Sen. Irvine Lenroot  
A lot of publication NYT mor - second class  
New York party back - The nation obedient errand boy  
Cox nominated - Will Hays - chair of GOP - Daugherty - advisor  
to campaign - Harding - front porch

July 22, 1920 - Campaign begins in front of 90,000 people  
Al Johnson goes Madison - p 12

He eventually left front porch - 600,000 had invited  
WH made 20 spins and 20 in Iowa - Missouri - Ok. etc  
Harding wouldn't mud sling - wouldn't attack Wilson  
on health issue

Wooten College Prof. William Chamblor lead campaign  
against W.H. for being allegedly black

Nov 2, 1920 - Flo became first wife to vote for Pres.  
W.H. played golf - nearly killed by Chaffee - almost  
hit her - Harding 55 won 37 states to Cox's 11

increased majority in House and Senate  
16 million to 9 million - 9,9,000 for debt -  
chap.

Had made no deal - no favor  
went fishing golfing in Texas / Cruise to Panama / back  
to Senate - standing O. Banned hatchet with Alca  
Lengworth / Flo with W.H. & Edith - pop pompous  
let Hoover give tour.

economy not good  
Henry "C" Wallace to Ag  
Hoover to Commerce  
Andrew Mellon to Treasury  
2nd richest man

John Davis to Labor (UMWA - 150,000) Davis / Deason  
Albert Fall - Interior

Harry Daugherty - Justice  
Edwin Denby - Navy  
War - John Weeks  
State - Charles E. Hughes  
Should have but didn't get high marks for cabinet

Chap -  
Jersey address - first ever electronically  
criticized those who profited over war  
called special sessions for tax reform  
Rep in control both houses - 1st time in 10 years  
opened W. H. - first time in 8 years.  
let Congress work its will

Cabinet meetings - closed / no record - V.P. a member  
Press conf. - no record kept - quote Pres. as  
"High Official"

instituted - question boy and writes questions practice  
Meyland story that he instituted this practice after a  
misstatement at Albramant conference on 21  
"Best relations with press in history" - while alive \$99  
His call for "Normalcy" was not a call to turn  
back clock

Harding's proposals for his Presidency P101 \*  
immigration & big issues  
tariffs - we were world's chief creditor  
he remained favorable to protective tariffs

Budget and Accounting Act of 1921  
Bureau of Budget - directly to Pres. (Charles Dawes)

ask to cut 1 Billion from Budget - 1 year  
Army Broom vs. Navy Broom.  
Dawes become Coolidge's V.P.

Advocated tax cut, 49% below 4000 / 87% above

Bonus for Veterans WWI / WH goes to Senate to block

President successful in backing down Senate -  
doesn't get credit for going against popular  
Veterans give - \$1.25 a day.

In 1922 Bonus passed in House and Senate -  
6 weeks before election W.H. vetoed it.

Got out of special session ① tariffs  
② farm legislation  
③ creation of Bureau of Budget

Union - not anti Union - main (at union)  
Railroads and Coal Miners

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WH got an injunction to stop Railroad strike -  
got him a label of being anti-labor

BOOKNOTES  
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John W. Dean served as Richard Nixon's White House counsel for a thousand days. He received a graduate fellowship from American University to study government and the presidency before entering Georgetown Law Center, where he received his JD in 1965. He is the author of two books recounting his days in the Nixon administration, *Blind Ambition* and *Lost Honor*, as well as *The Rehnquist Choice* and *Unmasking Deep Throat*. A native of Marion, Ohio, he lives in Beverly Hills, California.

Cont. Chap 7 -

W.H. appointed 4 to Sup Ct. -

W.H. App. Chief Justice 1921

George Sutherland 1922

Pierre Butler 1923

Edward Sanford 1923

Met with James Weldon Johnson 4 times

WH called to end lynching

Race - tokenism -

Went to Birmingham - spoke about civil rights to black and white - most controversial of his Pres.

W.H. released Eugene Selby from 10 year prison sentence

Nov 12, 1921 - International Conf  
in Washington - WID spoke

Hughes proposed freeze on ship  
building for ten years - p132

Most proposals accepted at disarmament conf

Harding had big role

Harding and Hughes got almost everything they  
wanted from Senate

Flo's kidney failed

Harding's reputation inseparable from Ohio friends

Chap 8

Strain of job tax. Harding -

Reads all his mail

Daugherty and Fall lose influence

1923 - virulent flu hit WH -

Can't sleep - blood pressure 175

Charles Forbes - head of Vt abuses his position  
gets backtracks - WH demands resignation

Dr. Sawyer (Flo's) makes pass at her

Feb 15, 1923 resign - he was a foolish crook

Charles Crane co conspirator commits suicide -  
had bought Harding's home

Harding seen checking Forbes - "You double crossing fackin"

Jose Smith of Washington Court House, Ohio was  
Daugherty's bag man -

Howard Mumford - Ohio Gang.

Smith supposed to go to Alaska was told by Harding he  
couldn't - depressed from unbearably appendicitis -  
committed suicide on May 30, 1923

supposed to result in "creeping malaise" for WH.

Interview with William Crawford - his biographer  
ignored it - spent a week watching him.  
8 1/2 hrs. week - 15 hour days

Dr. Sawyer concerned about Flo's health put a  
coffin aboard train

After Alaska - people noticed his health began  
to deteriorate

WH died at Palace Hotel 7:20 pm Aug 2, 1923 (57)

Cause - "apoplexy stroke"

a million brewed train

# Teapot Dome - oil leases

like Watergate a half century later

W. H. shifted control of leases to Fall

Fall (by Apr. 1922) had leased Teapot Dome in Wyoming  
Eck Hills and Buena Vista, CA P156

18 months later - Sen Thomas Wash, a Dem held hearings  
Fall testified -

Walsh wanted special prosecutor - Coolidge announced

a Reputation and Wilmont  
By Colo to 1 Senate voted to investigate Danferty

Forbes was a crook

govt tried Danferty twice

Colonel Thomas Miller - 18 months in prison

Fall Doherty and Sinclair acquitted - Sinclair  
went to jail for contempt in Senate

Fall was convicted 1931 - first Cabinet off to go to prison  
(9 months)

Flo's burns all Harding's papers

Nan Britton - 31 years - longer than W. H.

daughter - Elizabeth Ann -

Daughter's her story - think she got it from daughter  
of Carrie Phillips

Her papers were opened in 2000 at U of Calif @ LA

Cassie had 3, Elizabeth Ann had 3 sons - DNA tests possible

"May be they will find me"

Alec Sangworth - called him a slot  
He sewed liquor during prohibition

Prooks. Sam Adams Revelry

Nan Britton's The President's Daughter

P165 Boston means The Strange Death of Pres Harding

By mid-30's - maybe Mrs Harding didn't destroy papers

By 40's - papers did exist

However, years later sensational works have not been forgotten

George Christian left 100 cubic yards in basement of W. H.

Papers of Senate and Pres. remained in basement of Harding  
home - Dr. Sawyer rebuffed all requests



Ohio Historical Society

got papers in  
Apr. 1964

967 document

226 feet of rolls of paper

today - microfiche can

be found in 15 libraries