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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, the son of Nellie Wilson Reagan and John Reagan. He was educated in Illinois public schools and was graduated from Eureka College (Illinois) in 1932, with a degree in economics and sociology.

Following a brief career as a sports broadcaster and editor, Ronald Reagan moved to California to work in motion pictures. His film career, interrupted by three years of service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, encompassed 50 feature-length motion pictures. He served six terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild and two terms as president of the Motion Picture Industry Council.

In 1952 he married Nancy Davis. They have two grown children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott. President Reagan has two other children, Maureen and Michael, by a previous marriage.

From motion pictures he went into television in the 1950's as production supervisor and host of "General Electric Theatre." In 1964-1965 he was host of the television series "Death Valley Days."

In 1966 Ronald Reagan began his public service career with his election -- by nearly a million-vote margin -- as Governor of California. Mr. Reagan was Chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 1969. He was elected to a second term as Governor of California in 1970. After completing his second term, Mr. Reagan began a nationally syndicated radio commentary program and newspaper column and undertook an extensive speaking schedule, speaking to civic, business, and political groups. In 1974-1975 he served as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the CIA.

In November 1975 he announced his candidacy for the 1976 presidential nomination. He lost narrowly, but campaigned vigorously for the Republican ticket and for scores of local candidates in 1976. After the election, he renewed his radio commentary program, newspaper column, and national speaking schedule. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee on the Present Danger and founded the Citizens for the Republic. In the 1978 elections he campaigned on behalf of 86 candidates.

In November 1979 Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for the 1980 presidential nomination. At the Republican National Convention in July 1980 he was nominated unanimously on the first ballot. On

November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected to the Presidency, by an electoral vote of 489-49, and on January 20, 1981, he was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States.

After nearly four years as the nation's chief executive, Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for re-election in a nationally televised address on January 29, 1984. He was renominated unanimously on the first ballot at the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas, in August 1984. On November 6, 1984, Ronald Reagan was re-elected by more than 59% of the popular vote and an electoral vote of 525-13. He was officially sworn in to serve a second term on January 20, 1985 in a private ceremony at the White House. He was ceremonially sworn in on January 21, 1985 at the United States Capitol.

The President has received a number of awards, including: National Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews; City of Hope "Torch of Life" Award for Humanitarian Service; Horatio Alger Award; Distinguished American Award from the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame; American Patriots Hall of Fame; and Medal of Valor of the State of Israel. He has also received honorary degrees from St. John's University (1985); the University of Galway, Ireland (1984); the University of South Carolina (1983); Seton Hall (1983); Notre Dame University (1981); Azusa Pacific (1973); Pepperdine University (1970); and Eureka College (1957).

#

A Nice Guy's Nasty Policies

By ROBERT SCHEER

I liked Ronald Reagan, despite the huge divide between us politically. Reagan was a charming old pro who gave me hours of his time in a series of interviews beginning in 1966 when he was running for governor, simply because he enjoyed the give and take. In fact, I often found myself defending the Gipper whenever I was confronted with an East Coast pundit determined to denigrate anyone, particularly actors, from my adopted state. Yet, looking back at his record, I am appalled that I warmed to the man as much as I did.

The fact is that Reagan abandoned the Roosevelt New Deal — which he admitted had saved his family during the Great Depression — in favor of a belief in the efficacy of massive corporate welfare inculcated in him by his paymasters at Warner Bros., General Electric and the conservative lecture circuit. Though Reagan the man was hardly mean-spirited, Reagan the politician betrayed the social programs and trade unionism he once believed in so fiercely.

Let's start with his leadership of California, where he launched attacks on the state's once-incomparable public universities and devastated its mental health system. Foreshadowing future trumped-up invasions of tiny Grenada and Nicaragua, he sent thousands of National Guardsmen to tear-gas Berkeley.

It also became increasingly clear that although the man wasn't unintelligent, his ability to mingle truth with fantasy was frightening. At different times, Reagan — who infamously said that "facts are stupid things" — falsely claimed to have ended poverty in Los Angeles; implied he was personally involved in the liberation of Europe's concentration camps; argued that trees cause most pollution; said that the Hollywood blacklist, to which he contributed names, never existed; described as "freedom fighters" the Contra thugs and the religious fundamentalists in Afghanistan who would later become Al Qaeda; and claimed that fighting a "limited" nuclear war was not an insane idea.

But to see him as only a bumpkin — as some did — was to very much underestimate him. Like Nixon, the Teflon president was a survivor who'd come up the hard way, and many journalists and politicians who didn't understand that invariably were surprised by his resiliency and

savvy. Although he generally was compliant with his handlers, whenever the campaign pros or rigid ideologues got in the way of his or Nancy's instincts, they were summarily discarded.

Even when his ideas were silly, his intentions often seemed good. For example, one of his dumbest and costliest pet projects, the "Star Wars" missile defense program, which he first announced when I interviewed him for the Los Angeles Times in 1980, was touted by Reagan as a peace offering to the Soviets.

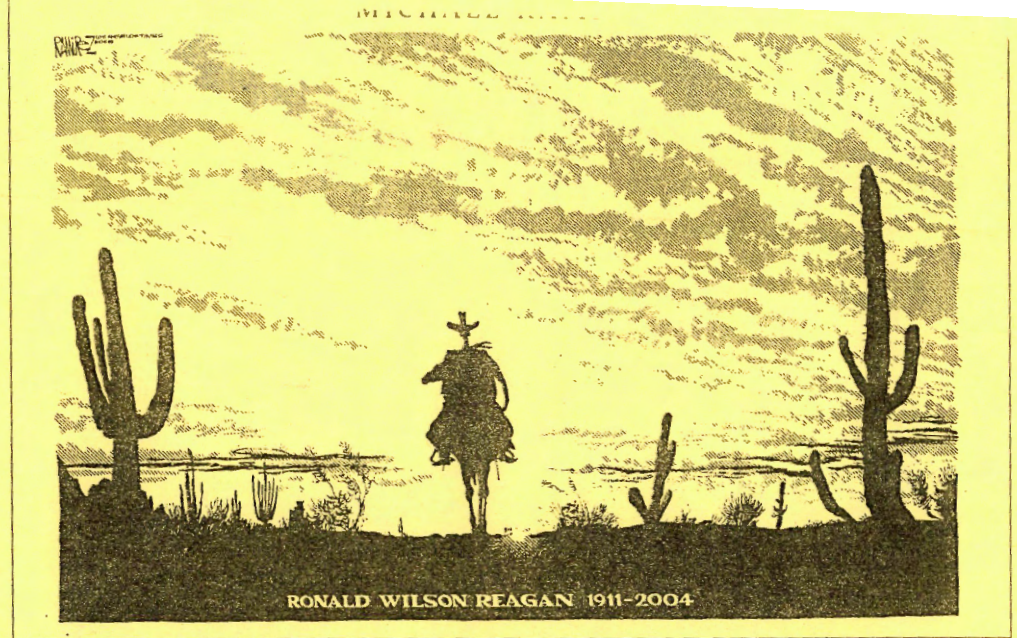
And his legendary ability to effectively project an upbeat, confident worldview managed to obscure many of the negative consequences of his policies. For example, he made the terrible mistake of willfully ignoring the burgeoning AIDS epidemic at a time when action could have saved millions. Unlike many conservatives, however, he was not driven by homophobia. Instead, Reagan allowed AIDS to spread for the same reason he pointedly savaged programs to help the poor: He was genuinely convinced that government programs exacerbated problems — unless they catered to the needs of the businessmen he had come to revere.

In the White House, he ran up more debt than any earlier president — primarily to serve the requests of what Republican President Eisenhower had, with alarm, termed the "military-industrial complex." (George W. Bush has broken that record.)

Apologists for this waste argue that throwing money at the defense industry broke the back of the Soviet Union and ended the Cold War. But the Soviet Union was already broken, as Mikhail S. Gorbachev acknowledged quite freely when he came to power in the 1980s. Rather, what Reagan does deserve considerable credit for is ignoring the dire warnings of the hawks and responding enthusiastically to Gorbachev in their historic Reykjavik summit, where the two leaders called for a nuclear-free world.

Let it be remembered, then, that in the closing scene of his presidency Reagan embraced the peacemakers, rejecting the cheerleaders of Armageddon and was then loudly castigated by the very neoconservatives — most vociferously Richard Perle — who have claimed the Reagan mantle for the post-Cold War militarism of the current administration.

Robert Scheer writes a weekly column for *The Times*.



Actually, It Was the Inept Empire

By ANDRÁS SZÁNTÓ

In the current orgy of commemoration, Ronald Reagan's steely resolve in the face of the communist threat is taken as an article of faith. The Great Communicator, we're reminded, put the world on notice that he was serious about bringing down the "Evil Empire." And that he wasn't afraid to spend big to win.

But the burnished vision of Reagan as St. George, single-handedly slaying the fire-breathing dragon of totalitarianism, is an exaggeration. In fact, communism's epic meltdown was more of a suicide than a capitulation.

I was there. As a 19-year-old conscript in the army of the Hungarian Socialist People's Republic, I saw firsthand, in early 1983, that the days of superpower equilibrium were numbered.

My reconnaissance unit was housed in one of the Eastern Bloc's westernmost barracks — you could almost see Austria from our windows. Older officers recalled that they had been the first to cross into Czechoslovakia during the 1968 revolt. In 1981, our soldiers had been put on trucks to wait for a signal to head to Poland, where martial law had been imposed after Wojciech Jaruzelski's crackdown on the Solidarity movement.

Our superiors didn't like to dwell on such things, but it was clear that "the brotherhood of socialist nations" was more or less a sham. We didn't see the end coming, but we were starting to connect the dots: Budapest, 1956; Prague, 1968; Warsaw, 1981 — the numerology of dissent added up to a vague presentiment that, sooner or later, the center would not hold.

In any event, in January 1983, I was on a train bound for a major Warsaw Pact military exercise in western Hungary. The logic of the "war game" was starkly simple. Since Austria was politically neutral, NATO and Warsaw Pact forces would, in the event of World War III, invade that country from two sides. We would end up fighting Italian troops somewhere south-west of Vienna.

What I observed in those frostbitten days was logistical disarray and utter ineptitude.

We were dropped off in a valley somewhere; old trucks dressed up as enemy targets awaited our attack. But the ammunition supplies were late in reaching the artillery units behind us. Hours later, when the cannons unloaded their ordnance, they hit everything but their intended targets. One shot took out a nearby canteen.

Then helicopters came

swooping down, launching missiles. Amid the chaos, I saw a tank filled with soldiers go up in flames. Central command issued an order to switch from live ammo to dummies.

Soon we were headed in our armed amphibian vehicles into "enemy territory." We couldn't fire out from them, even if we had been allowed to use live bullets — the gun holes were sealed shut. Not much later, we ran out of gas. This, then, was the formidable adversary that threatened the free world.

But it wasn't just that the military prowess of the Warsaw Pact was less than stellar. In other realms of life, too, change was in the air. From the hard-scrabble shipyards of Gdansk to the clandestine soires of Vaclav Havel's Prague, the stirrings of democracy and individualism were everywhere in evidence.

After my year in the army, I attended Budapest's Karl Marx University, and I remember photocopies of Milton Friedman's paens to unfettered free markets being shared by the students. When Reagan started his second term, private enterprise was already mushrooming, at least in Hungary, forming a vast black and gray pseudo-economy.

The United States had already won the culture war. Some people in my crowd shared a passion

not only for Coke and Pepsi but also for such decadent indulgences as poppy tea (a crude form of heroin) and hashish. Kids swapped bootlegged tapes of the latest Western albums. Adults lined up to see movies by the likes of Woody Allen. The Young Artists Club of Budapest in 1984 was a hotbed of social and sexual transgression. Religion too was thriving alongside the bubbling subcultures. Tourists lucky enough to travel to the West would return home with that ultimate trophy — a pair of Levi's or Wrangler jeans.

All this was unfolding with little awareness of the Gipper. For East Europeans, Reagan was a somewhat whimsical figure, better known for his Hollywood roots than for his shrewd handling of the Kremlin. The spotlight was on the Politburo chiefs who followed Leonid Brezhnev, above all Mikhail S. Gorbachev — it was he, the unlikely reformer, who, in our eyes, got things moving in Russia.

No great man deserves credit for the fall of communism. Ronald Reagan played his cards well, but in Eastern Europe, as elsewhere, history was one step ahead of the politicians.

András Szántó is director of the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University.



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THE TAKE

The Magazine of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

Summer 2004

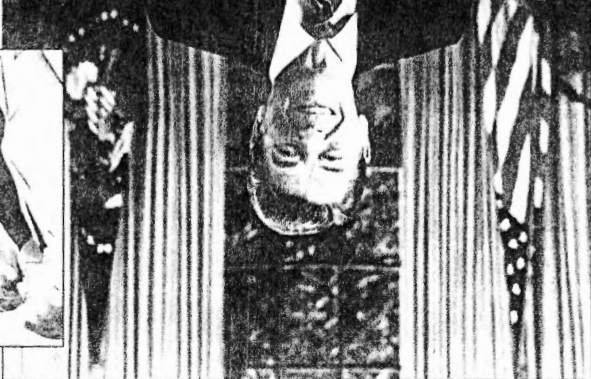


Ronald W. Reagan
1911 - 2004

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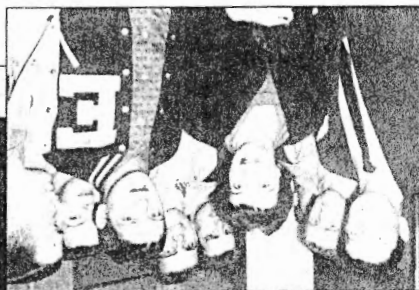
TAU KAPPA
LIFE I
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LAMBDA
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Remembering Reagan A TRIBUTE



"When the Lord calls me home, whenever that may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

-Ronald W. Reagan, in his final letter to the American people



By Heather Redeske
Director of Communications

In our hearts, we knew it was not a matter of if, but when, we would come to realize that heroes do sometimes fall. It was indeed the long good-bye when Frater Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th president of the United States, entered the Chapter Eternal by ending his decade-long battle with Alzheimer's disease on June 5, 2004. He died peacefully in his home with his family by his side.

For those of us who may have been still too young to adapt a party affiliation during his best-known political years, it took the unfortunate passing of one of the greatest presidents our nation has known to fully understand the impact Frater Reagan had on this country, the world, and our beloved Fraternity. Through all the pomp and circumstance, funeral processions and memorials, we were given a history lesson like no other and learned about a man the country and the world adored and admired.

"We were reminded that Frater Reagan spoke of America voicing the words that pilgrim John Winthrop used ... 'a city on the hill' ... this is what this country we know now as the United States must become. It is our duty to shine faith. The Reagan message, if it can be described in just one phrase, was that of a vision of hope. He said he was never a 'great communicator' as so many pegged him; no, he just communicated great things from the heart," Mark Romig, TKE Grand Prytanis said. "At the end of his life, his triumph was a victory of light over darkness. As his son, Ron, said ... he is now home, free."



Ronnie on the steps of Iota chapter house with Grand Grammateus Lyle Straight (second row, right) and some Iota Fraters.



Reagan during one of his many return visits to his home chapter on September 26, 1947. (L-R): Fraters John A. Grueling, Prytanis; G. C. Josseck, Pledge Earl E. Cunion, Frater Reagan and Dana M. Eliot.

Transcending ever changing times, differing ideologies and critics alike, Frater Reagan gave hope to so many Americans – sharing a lifetime vision of a brighter tomorrow, a country we could all be proud of and a world without walls.

A native of Tampico, Illinois, Reagan had attended public schools in Galesburg, Monmouth and Tampico, eventually graduating from Dixon High School. While in high school and college, he won varsity letters in swimming, track, basketball, and football. In addition to being captain of the swimming team at Eureka, he worked for seven summers as a lifeguard and is credited with saving over 77 lives – a proud memory to which Reagan reportedly held onto tightly until his final days.

Frater Reagan was initiated into the Iota Chapter at Eureka College in Illinois on February 25, 1929, as scroll #169. Reagan's college years came at a very difficult time for the country. His affinity and loyalty for the Fraternity were permanently fixed during the very trying times of the Great Depression.

At Eureka College, he was active not only in Tau Kappa Epsilon but in campus activities as well. He served as president of the Student Senate, as a cheerleader, and participated in numerous activities with the Speech and Drama

Department. As an undergraduate member of Iota Chapter, he served as the chapter's kitchen steward, rush chairman and Prytanis.

Decades later, during a special luncheon held at the Omicron Chapter house at The Ohio State University, President Reagan was given

"Eureka had some 250 students ... I arrived in the fall of 1928, which was the period marking the end of raccoon coats ... thanks to friends, I wasn't making a cold entrance but was already slated for the Teke house – Tau Kappa Epsilon ..." – Ronald Reagan

an apron which read: "TKE Dishwasher-in-Chief." When presented with the gift, he laughed heartily and began telling the story of how he used to wash dishes to help pay his way through college at the TKE Iota Chapter house and later at a sorority house in Eureka, reminding his audience once again how he had fond memories of his fraternity days in college.

In his sophomore year at Eureka, he persuaded his older brother, Neil Reagan, to enroll at the college. T. J. Schmitz, Executive Vice President Emeritus of TKE, remembers, "At one of the committee meetings in Indianapolis he spoke of his recruitment of his older brother Neil to join TKE at Eureka. Neil did join and one of Frater Ron's greatest memories was seeing his brother initiated as a Teke."

It would be during his college years that



While movie stars Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman (then his fiancée) were appearing on stage in Philadelphia, Alpha-Kappa Tekes entertained them at the Teke house at a dance.

Reagan developed his taste for oratory and becoming comfortable in front of audiences. In one of his

many letters to THE TEKE maga-

zine, Reagan speaks about his strong views on the benefits of joining a fraternity:

"... I recalled the first time our Prytanis named me (a freshman) to ask the blessing at dinner. It seems silly now to think of this simple Christian duty as frightening, but it was. The idea of uttering a prayer out loud in front of some forty fellows left me limp and shaking. Once upon a time, joining a fraternity was one of the extra luxuries that went toward making college life pleasant. Today, I believe a college man could look at fraternity life as a vital part of his education – a part the college officially does not have time for, but a part more necessary than ever before if he is to take his place in modern professional or industrial life armed with all the required tools. There is one thing about your 'after-college days' that is certain – you have to live with people.

Learning to do that in college makes sense and I know of no better way than by joining forty or fifty of your fellow men and living together in a fraternity house."

A pivotal event that gave Reagan an early taste for using his budding oratory skills to influence people happened when Eureka College's new president attempted to cut back the faculty; Reagan immediately helped organize a student strike. He eloquently spoke from his heart when he presented a motion to the student body. "There was no need for parliamentary procedure," he told a reporter, "they came to their feet with a roar."

Reagan graduated from Eureka in 1932 with degrees in sociology and economics. Coming from a border-line middle class home, he admitted on several occasions that he was only able to finance his education at Eureka College due to the support of TKE.

After college, Reagan was bitten by the Hollywood bug, but he always seemed to find the time

would frequently appear at TKE chapter social functions, bringing a taste of Hollywood to whichever chapter they visited.

The next 20 years would see Reagan appearing in over 53 feature length movies, giving him the nickname of "Mr. Hollywood." His acting career blossomed and by the beginning of World War II, Reagan was one of the best-known Hollywood actors. Reagan served in the U.S. Army Calvary Reserve during World War II, obtaining the rank of captain by the time of his discharge in 1945.

During his years in Hollywood, Reagan also served six terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild. In recognition of his successful acting career and steadfast devotion to TKE, he was presented with the Top Teke Alumnus Award in 1958.

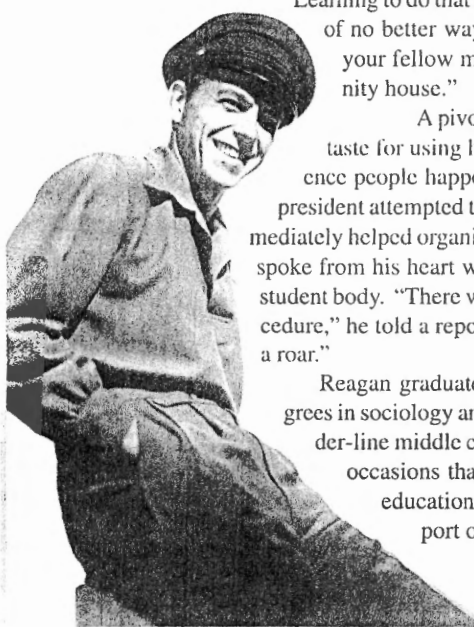
In March 1958, Frater Reagan continued providing his intellectual insight and thoughts about divisive topics when he presented THE TEKE magazine with a report about the Cold War in Hollywood from a speech he delivered at the 1957 Eureka College commencement ceremonies. The speech was a clear example that Reagan had already begun to form the groundwork for his "Tear Down This Wall" speech that he delivered in Berlin – the same strong voice speaking the same ideas that would eventually shake the foundations of the Communist system. This would not be the first time Frater Reagan exercised his eloquence for a captive audience expressing well-informed, strong opinions which challenged the status quo.

In 1965, although in the third of his newborn political career, Reagan found time to narrate the 16mm TKE rush film produced by the International Fraternity entitled "The Fraternity for Life." With this film, Reagan became synonymous with the slogan that became the film's title and the Fraternity's catch phrase to this day: "Tau Kappa Epsilon ... The Fraternity for Life."

In November 1966, Frater Reagan was elected as California's 33



In this scene of "The Fraternity for Life" rush film, shot at the University of Southern California chapter, Reagan summarizes the benefits of membership in TKE.



1911

Born February 6, - Tampico, IL (to Nelle Wilson and John Edward)



1920

Reagans settle in Dixon, IL, Reagan's hometown

1924

Enters Dixon's Northside High School

1926

Begins work as lifeguard at Lowell Park, near Dixon



1928

Graduates from Dixon High School



1928-1932

Enrolls in Eureka College (successful as both an actor and a football player)

1929

Became a Teke on February 25, Iota Chapter #169

1932

Receives temporary sports broadcasting job with WOC, small radio station in Davenport, Iowa



1937

Enlists in the Army Reserve as a private; promoted to 2nd lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry

Agent for Warner Brothers discovers him in Los Angeles and offers him 7-year contract

His first screen credit with the starring role the 1935 movie Love is On the Air

governor and was subsequently re-elected in 1970 for a second term. In 1975, Reagan starred in the TKE rush slide show, "My Brother, My Friend." Before he became president, Reagan also served three years as chairman of the Grand Prytanis' International Advisory Committee.

After leaving gubernatorial office in early 1975, he began a daily radio commentary program and a weekly newspaper column. That following November, Governor Reagan announced he was a candidate for the 1976 Republican nomination for president.

Frater Gregory Jessup (Omicron-Rho) remembers his first encounter with Reagan.

"I first met Mr. Reagan in 1976 after a campaign breakfast at the Lubbock Inn. He was running against Gerald Ford in the Republican primary and had just won the contest in South Carolina." Jessup goes on to recall how he and his Fraters had a most interesting, and heart-pounding experience as young college men.

"I was with a bunch of Fraters that morning and we lined up near the podium in our bright red fraternity jerseys – all ready to greet him when he left the stage. Well, here he came, but the dad-gum Secret Service guys blocked us out of his vision; however, we were determined college men and we immediately put into play our plan B ... we yelled "DUTCH!" as loud as we could in unison. At about 20 feet past us, he immediately whirled around, saw us and almost ran toward us. In fact, the Secret Service took two or three steps before they realized what he'd done and then they turned and came running toward us ... it was actually kind of scary at first, but when he got to us it was something great. He shook each of our hands and actually stood there for several minutes talking to us about school, our chapter, his fraternity thoughts and the West Texas dust storms. It was special then, but even



Reagan with Beta-Phi Chapter while visiting the Louisiana State University campus to speak at graduation.



Frater Ronald Reagan is greeted at the airport by Gamma-Omega Tapes of Eastern Illinois University. He accepted an honorary paddle and TKE can for good luck in the presidential race.

more so now thinking back on it."

A deep commitment to love, charity and esteem remained with Frater Reagan throughout both his personal and political life. On the eve of his 1980 election, a reporter asked Reagan what he thought the American people saw in him. Reagan humbly said, "Would you laugh if I told you that I think, maybe, they see themselves, and that I'm one of them?"

It would be this same humble demeanor that President Reagan showed while remaining so loyal and dedicated to his Fraternity, no matter what political or celebrity status he attained – even during times when, for so many others before him, it became too easy to forget or even deny affiliation with a college social fraternity.

The 1980 presidential campaign gained him the opportunity to serve as the nation's chief elected official for two terms. However, this revered title did not stop Frater Reagan from remaining involved in Tau Kappa Epsilon, as he hosted several special fraternity events at the White House, and managed to visit TKE chapters whenever his schedule allowed. Even as the leader of the free world, he wanted to share his extraordinary experience with other Fraters, and much like the American people, show them the limitless possibilities in a new America.

"In early March of 1981, he sent in his annual gift [to the TKE Educational Foundation]. On the business-reply envelope, he checked the box to indicate that he had a new address and then dutifully wrote in '1600 Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C.,'" said Gary LaBranche, CAE, Past Grand Prytanis. "He checked the box saying he had a new address – as if we wouldn't know. He had a total lack of pretension, and he just wanted to make darn sure that he'd still receive his mail from TKE at the White House."



1940
Plays Notre Dame football legend George Gipp in his most acclaimed film, Knute Rockne, All American (earns him nickname "the Gipper")

January 24 - marries actress Jane Wyman, whom he met while making the movie Brother Rat

1941
January 4 - daughter Maureen is born. (Also in January, father Jack dies of heart attack at age 58)



1942
Called to active duty by the Army Air Force (assigned to the 1st Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, CA, where he makes over 400 training films)

January 1 - King's Row opens (his performance as Drake McHugh is highlight of his film career)



1945
After the war, resumes acting career, which continues for 20 years (makes 53 motion pictures and one television movie during his career)

Michael Edward Reagan is adopted

1947
Elected president of the Screen Actors Guild for first of five consecutive terms



Writes articles for THE TEKE magazine offering advice on a motion picture career



Only weeks later, Reagan was hit by a would-be assassin's bullet, nearly ending his life. A man of character and strength, he was still able to find some light of humor during this most trying time when he joked to his wife Nancy, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

As president, he approved the creation of and supported the Ronald Reagan Leadership Award in 1983 (now given annually by the TKE Educational Foundation), as well as accepted a personal invitation for lunch at the TKE Omicron Chapter house during a stop at The Ohio State University that same year.

The initial invitation to lunch came from Frater Jim Ripke, who worked as a page on the staff of the Ohio Senate and was a volunteer for the Reagan-Bush campaign. Frater Ripke met up with a member of Reagan's campaign staff (also a Teke) and casually mentioned that if Reagan wanted to stop by for lunch "that would be fine." Always willing to go the extra mile, Reagan gladly took them up on their offer.

Being with his Fraters meant more than just simple political 'face time' for Reagan. While at the Omicron Chapter house, Reagan asked Prytanis John Bretz if there was anything else he could do for them.

"Yes, Frater," said Bretz, "Frater Gary Sharp's father passed away two days ago. He couldn't be here today because he had to attend the funeral. It would mean a great deal to us if you could give him a call."

The next day, the president made good on his word and called Frater Sharp to extend him condolences and to express his sorrow to the Sharp family.

Reagan took his promise to be a Frater for life seriously and was proud to call himself a Teke - so much so that after the swearing in ceremonies of his second term, his presidential limousine donned license plates which read: "A TEKE."

During the early years of his presidency, Reagan gave a promise that his new 'home' would be open for the Fraternity and, in typical fashion, he kept his word by sponsoring a TKE alumni luncheon at the White House in 1984. As many as 60 Tekes were given invitations to attend the formal luncheon, where Reagan sat side by side with and enjoyed the brotherhood of his Fraters - much as he did in his earlier years of stardom when he would return to the Iota Chapter and sit with his Fraters at the dinner table, recalling his glory days at Eureka College.

William V. Muse, Past Grand Prytanis, was in attendance for this momentous event. "I sat at a table with Reagan and four to six others and was only one chair removed from him. I was able to hear all of the conversation. Reagan was very excited that two of his fraternity brothers from Eureka were there and had an extensive conversation with them about people and events in the chapter when he was there. He had an amazing recall of information, including who lived in which rooms in the fraternity house. While I value the tremendous leadership that President Reagan provided for our nation, I most admired him because he exemplified the values we stand for in TKE - charity, esteem, and love. He was a great Frater and a great man," Frater Muse said.

In 1984, he received the Fraternity's highest honor, the Order of the Golden Eagle Award.

In August of 1987, Frater Reagan prepared a special videotaped message to all Fraters attending Conclave. One year later, Reagan personally presented the Ronald Reagan Leadership Award to Frater Alan Friel in a special White House Ceremony.

"When President Reagan was presenting the Ronald Reagan Leadership Award in the Oval Office to Frater Alan Friel, one of the alumni attendees forgot to give Frater Reagan the recognition handshake. Frater Reagan said, 'If the alums don't give the handshake, how can we expect our collegiate Fraters to do so!'" Schmitz said. "Whenever he greeted a Frater he would give the recognition handshake."

"If asked what the Oval Office looks like, I couldn't answer," Friel wrote of the moment to THE TEKE magazine, "... all I saw was the tall Norman Rockwell figure that to millions of Americans personifies patriotism, homespun values and the very spirit of the country."

Friel, along with his parents, sat alone in the Oval Office with Reagan as he recalled his fond memories of TKE, making reference to the opportunities that our Fraternity affords its members.

When he left office on January 20, 1989, Reagan held the highest



(L) Grand Prytanis Dwayne R. Woerpel, CFC, congratulates President Reagan on the Order of the Golden Eagle Award; (R) Frater Reagan with Alan Friel and his parents.

1948

Supports Harry Truman for president



1949

June 6 - Reagan and Wyman divorce

1952

Campaigns as a Democrat for Eisenhower
Weds movie actress Nancy Davis

Daughter Patricia (Patti) is born

1954

Is hired to host the General Electric Theater on television, a job he holds for eight years. (tours country giving speeches as a GE spokesman)



1956

Campaigns as Democrat for Eisenhower's re-election

Visits Beta-Xi Chapter in July (Arizona State University)

Reagan visits with Beta-Xi Prytanis Cliff Jensen and Histor Ted Fio Rito Jr. Inscribed on back of photo, "Frater Reagan is one of the most friendly and cooperative celebrities in Tekedom. His visits are welcomed by chapters all over the nation."

1958

Son Ronald Prescott (Ron) is born

Selected as TOP TEKE ALUMNUS for a successful acting career

1960

Campaigns as a Democrat for Richard Nixon for president



1962

Officially changes his party registration to Republican

1964

October 27 - gives a television address supporting Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, which launches his political career



Several Tekes in the Ronald Reagan Peace Garden, attending the memorial service for President Reagan June 12 at Eureka College.

popularity rating of any retiring president in U.S. history.

The appreciation and admiration of his fraternity brothers across the country was solidified long before he gained national prominence. "The role that our Fraternity played in Frater Reagan's life will be discussed for years to come. I can assure you we will always embrace the belief that the essence of Tau Kappa Epsilon, which he first experienced at Eureka College - not for wealth, rank or honor, but personal worth and character - echoed in his thoughts and actions, as it does for all of us, throughout his life as one of America's great servant leaders," said Romig.

Reagan always had our Fraternity on his mind and in his heart - even to the final day he was laid to rest at the sunset service with close friends and family in attendance. In the final requests that presidents carefully and methodically plan out for their funeral services, Reagan requested that the current student body president of Eureka College and Prytanis of the Iota Chapter both be flown to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library near Simi Valley in California for the memorial services.

History will forever remember Ronald Reagan as "The Great Communicator," as the president who defeated Communism, and as an honorable man who always remembered his humble beginnings. All of these attributes were mirrored in Frater Reagan's 75-year relationship with Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Now more than ever, Fraters of Tau Kappa Epsilon need to be valiant in our efforts to help rid society of the devastating disease that robbed Frater Reagan and countless others of a lifetime of memories and the chance to live without limitation. Through our international philanthropy, the Alzheimer's Association, we have committed to donating \$240,000 by 2005 to fund a special research project at UCLA.

Last summer, in a letter addressing the entire membership of TKE,

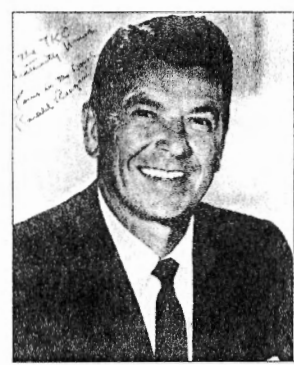
Nancy Reagan expressed her gratefulness. "On behalf of my husband, a lifelong Teke from the Iota Chapter at Eureka College, I would like to thank you for your extraordinary commitment to Alzheimer's research. We are honored by your generous pledge to the Alzheimer's Association to raise funds for research that will, one day, end this terrible disease," said the former first lady. "My husband is a proud member of your fraternity."

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity embarked on a mission in 2002 to sponsor a research project in *The Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute for Alzheimer's Disease*, a project selected by the Reagan family. The Reagan Research Institute is a portfolio of funded projects within the Alzheimer's Association Grant Program that serves as a paradigm for one key principle of the entire research effort - a commitment to innovate basic science by exploring the broadest possible spectrum of approaches in developing Alzheimer's treatments.

TKE has embraced this same mission by raising awareness through community service and helping develop a clearer understanding of this disease through research. A partnership with the Alzheimer's Association is a fitting tribute to our devoted alumnus and fellow Frater, Ronald Reagan.

"Not only are we giving something back to a Frater who gave so much during his lifetime to TKE, but we are affecting the lives of thousands and thousands of people around the globe who suffer from this dreadful disease," said Kevin Mayeux, TKE's Chief Executive Officer.

For the past 10 years, Reagan has been gone from the public's eye, fighting the good fight. It is said that in the late 1990's he would come to only remember pieces of the beginning of his remarkable life - time and precious memories slipping away as the years went by. But gratefully, American History and Tau Kappa Epsilon have forever stood witness to his legacy and will never forget the remarkable man - our beloved Frater, Ronald Wilson Reagan.



As history reflects on Ronald W. Reagan, the man and the leader, many of us will remember him as he had always been - a man full of grace and humility; a man with an infectious smile; and a man who wanted to be remembered as a president that made Americans believe in themselves again.

We did, and we still do so today. God bless you, Frater Reagan. Thank you for being a very special part of the Fraternity for Life. May you enjoy a well deserved rest in your special place in the eternal city on a hill.

1964
Reagan's final big-screen appearance came in the 1964 film *The Killers*, in which, uncharacteristically, he portrayed the heel

1965
Recorded the narration & appeared in the 16mm TKE rush film entitled "The Fraternity for Life"

1965-66
His final regular acting job was as host and performer on *Death Valley Days*

1967
January 2 - became the 33rd Governor of California



1970
Re-elected November 3 for a second, four-year term as California governor

Chairman of TKE International Advisory Committee

1975
November 20 - announces his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president



1975
Starred in TKE Rush Slide Show, "My Brother, My Friend"

1976
Loses Republican Party's nomination to Gerald Ford (works on his ranch, gives speeches, does radio commentaries and writes weekly newspaper column)

"My Brother, My Friend" (produced by then Regional Officer Ray Franklin) premiered at the '77 Conclave in New Orleans. The slide and tape show highlighted the advantages of membership in TKE. Portions were narrated by former Governor Reagan.

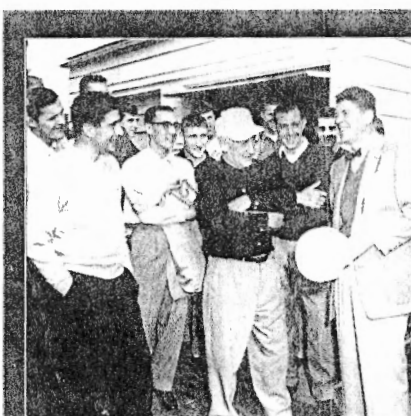
Farewell "Dutch" ... 75 years with TKE

"As I sit here in my office and gaze upon the pictures and words of Frater Reagan from years gone by, it is hard to hold back tears. He exemplified the very meaning of Tau Kappa Epsilon. He embodied the words Love, Charity, and Esteem. He represented all that was potentially possible to undergraduates in the program and his passing is very difficult to bear. I will always remember his soft-spoken words, his relaxed posture, and his bright, endearing smile, leading the nation and fostering the dreams of a generation of Tekes. Although I never had the honor of meeting Frater Reagan in person, I will miss him deeply. Frater Reagan will always have a place in the hearts of the people of our nation."

— Eric Lloyd, Iota-Pi #401, Kent State University

"For so many Americans, President Reagan represented that which best exemplifies our country — honesty, loyalty, and integrity, but his ideals and principles are also reflective of the basis of the bond we all share together as members of Tau Kappa Epsilon. I take great pride in knowing that we as members of this organization shared that bond with President Reagan and hope for generations to come new members think of his example when they join the Fraternity. I hope they [the family] know their loved one not only gave hope to a country but continually gives hope to the members of TKE across the world." — Barrett Zachary McCormick, Gamma-Theta #665, University of Florida

"I was blessed to have had the opportunity to meet with Frater Reagan twice in my lifetime. The first was during his campaign and the second after he had left office. He always made everyone he spoke to feel extremely special and he truly loved the Tekes. He was a great man, a great Frater, and a great President. We are all better off today because of him. My prayers go out to Nancy and the rest of his family. Thank you for sharing him with us." — James Wayne McHodgkins Jr., Pi-Kappa #13, Mesa College



"The fraternity builds its prestige by encouraging each individual member to become an uncommon man. Those who place their faith in regimentation and mass movements decry this but theirs is not the way of freedom."

I challenge that our educational institutions (growing ever larger) would be hard put to find a substitute for the fraternity in its contribution to individuality and freedom of choice."

— Ronald Reagan

"When I joined TKE in 1988, it was only fitting that I joined the fraternity which my childhood hero belonged to. You have permanently etched leadership, determination and self-reliance into my character." — Ryan Martin, Pi-Theta #181, University of Texas San Antonio

"Every member of Tau Kappa Epsilon appreciates Ronald Reagan's contributions to our membership. Long ago, during the presidency of President Nixon, I served as an aide to one of Florida's U.S. senators. My first chance to meet Ronald Reagan was at a typical political event. He was being introduced to various people and when he came to me, I gave him our fraternity grip in shaking his hand and said, 'A pleasure to meet you, Frater Reagan.' His face beamed with genuine emotion. It was like he had met a long lost friend." — Kevin W. Johnson, Grand Chapter #36, Portsmouth, Ohio

"What a proud moment when President Reagan visited Southeast! No sleeping or doing anything but getting ready for this visit. Fraters took great pride in making banners and crowded several feet in front of the podium as President Reagan began to speak; except first, he had to ask us to be quiet. 'Well, I'd like to acknowledge my brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon,' spoke Reagan. Did we get quiet? Heck no. This was our brother, the President of the United States." — Randal S. Long, Delta-Zeta #687, Southeast Missouri State University

"Frater Reagan was not just a great American, not just a great Teke, but a great man ... one that future generations of Americans and Tekes should look up to, to learn what it means to live life by a set of values, to live an honest life as a devoted and caring individual. Frater Ronald Reagan defines American pride, and what it means to be a Teke. He was a man who loved this Fraternity to his death, because he recognized that this truly is a fraternity for life." — Stewart Christopher Darling, Epsilon-Kappa #680, Loyola University Chicago

1981

January 20
Sworn in as 40th president of the United States



March 30
shot in the chest upon leaving a Washington hotel, but makes full recovery after surgery

1983

Approves Ronald Reagan Leadership Award

September 30 - signs 1983 proclamation making November National Alzheimer's Disease Month



1984

March 23 - Sponsors TKE alumni luncheon at White House; is awarded Order of the Golden Eagle and Gold Medal of the NIC (Reagan is the first Teke and first President to receive this award)



October 24 - Attends special luncheon at Ohio State University TKE chapter house.



As a token of appreciation from TKE Fraternity and Omicron Chapter, Greg Thompson, an Ohio State alum, designed and produced a 3' diameter etched glass seal for the president.

1985

January 20 - at 73, begins a second term, making him oldest president ever to be sworn in

1987

June 12 - in speech at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, demands Gorbachev "tear down this wall."

December - Reagan & Gorbachev sign Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty

August - Prepares special videotaped greeting for Conclave 1987.

"Like many undergraduates entering college, fraternities played an important role in the development of men. There are certainly plenty to choose from and we often are confused. I was one of these undergrads. TKE was my choice for one reason – the men involved. When I was told Ronald Reagan was a Teke, I knew this was my home. Ronald Reagan to me symbolized everything that means TKE ... its men, its integrity, its Love, Charity, and Esteem. "Dutch" shall surely be missed." – Howard K. Ng, Tau-Alpha #004, New York University

"Frater Reagan, throughout his distinguished life, embodied the three ideals which our bond holds highest. His leadership created a new world order, where ability, rather than rank, defines greatness of men. Without his steady hand, America may have sunk into a morass of apathy and lethargy. He led a new revolution that reaffirmed the values of America, and of Tau Kappa Epsilon. – Eric Brunton, Xi-Lambda #728, University of Georgia

"On Wednesday, I received the phone call that I had been asked to attend [with Alan Knobloch, Prytanis of Iota Chapter] Reagan's burial service on Friday night in Simi Valley, California. I spent the next two days making arrangements and talking to several press people. I constantly told interviewers that Ronald Reagan was a man I had admired not just because of his core traditional values (which he always stuck with and followed through) but his ability to successfully convey to the American people that they too could be successful. I feel especially grateful that I am walking in the footsteps of this great man; indeed, I am attending his alma mater, Eureka College, and a member of the greatest fraternity which he was a member of – Tau Kappa Epsilon. All along the way to the library there were thousands of people lined up along the streets in chairs with hundreds and hundreds of American flags and signs that had nothing but good things to say about President Reagan. It struck me that someone who had been out of the public eye for the past decade could be so well loved by the American people, but this was no ordinary person. This was Ronald Reagan." – Jeremy LaKosh, Iota Chapter, Eureka College

The Great Communicator

It was the Fall of 1979. I was a sophomore at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Dennis "Buckwheat" Perry had come to our campus to reactivate the Gamma-Rho Teke chapter.

Less than one week after our initiation Buckwheat came to us with exciting news. Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan was coming to Terre Haute for a fund-raising dinner. And more importantly, arrangements had been made for our fraternity to meet with Frater Reagan before the dinner. He had also agreed to sign our new charter. What a privilege and an honor for our chapter.

The evening that Reagan was scheduled to arrive we were told to gather in a meeting room near the banquet area where the fundraiser was being held. Before I describe what it was like meeting Ronald Reagan, I want to preempt my comments by saying that over the years I have been fortunate enough to meet several important/famous people. However, no one has ever impressed me as much as Ronald Reagan did that evening. The only way I can begin to describe his personality is that there seemed to be an aura that surrounded him. And even though you felt awestruck by his presence, he had the gift of making you feel very comfortable. Perhaps this is why he came to be known as the "Great Communicator." He will walk right up to you and with a warm smile and a cock of his head reach out to shake your hand and make you feel like you have known him for years! Best of all, when I shook his hand he gave me the Teke handshake I truly believe that Ronald Reagan was genuine in his love for his fraternity.

He stayed for about 20 minutes. He shared a couple of short stories about his life as a Teke. He then signed our charter and took a group photo with all of our chapter. Then he was quickly whisked away by his Secret Service agents.

The world is a better place today because of Frater Reagan. I will always cherish the memory of meeting him.

– Scott D. Stites, Gamma-Rho #947, Indiana State University



1988

June 8 - personally presented the Ronald W. Reagan Leadership Award/Scholarship to Frater Alan L. Friel in a special White House Ceremony. Bruce Melchert presents Reagan with Order of the Silver Maple Leaf.



1989

January 11 - gives his farewell address to the nation

January 20 - leaves White House with highest approval rating of any president since FDR

(Retires to California, travels, meets with various world leaders and gives public speeches in support of charitable organizations, Republican candidates and causes)

Visits Alpha-Omega Chapter at UCLA

1990

November - Reagan sponsors luncheon to benefit Fraternity and TEF, held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Los Angeles. Presented the 1991 Ronald Reagan Leadership Award to (undergraduate) Frater Darren L. Smith, (Texas A & M University)



1994

Discloses in a letter that he has Alzheimer's disease



Grand Prytanis Mark C. Romig and Chief Executive Officer Kevin M. Mayeux at D.C. funeral services.

2004

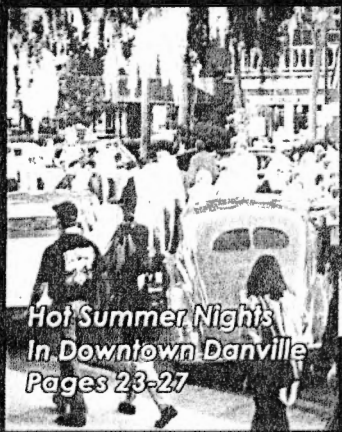
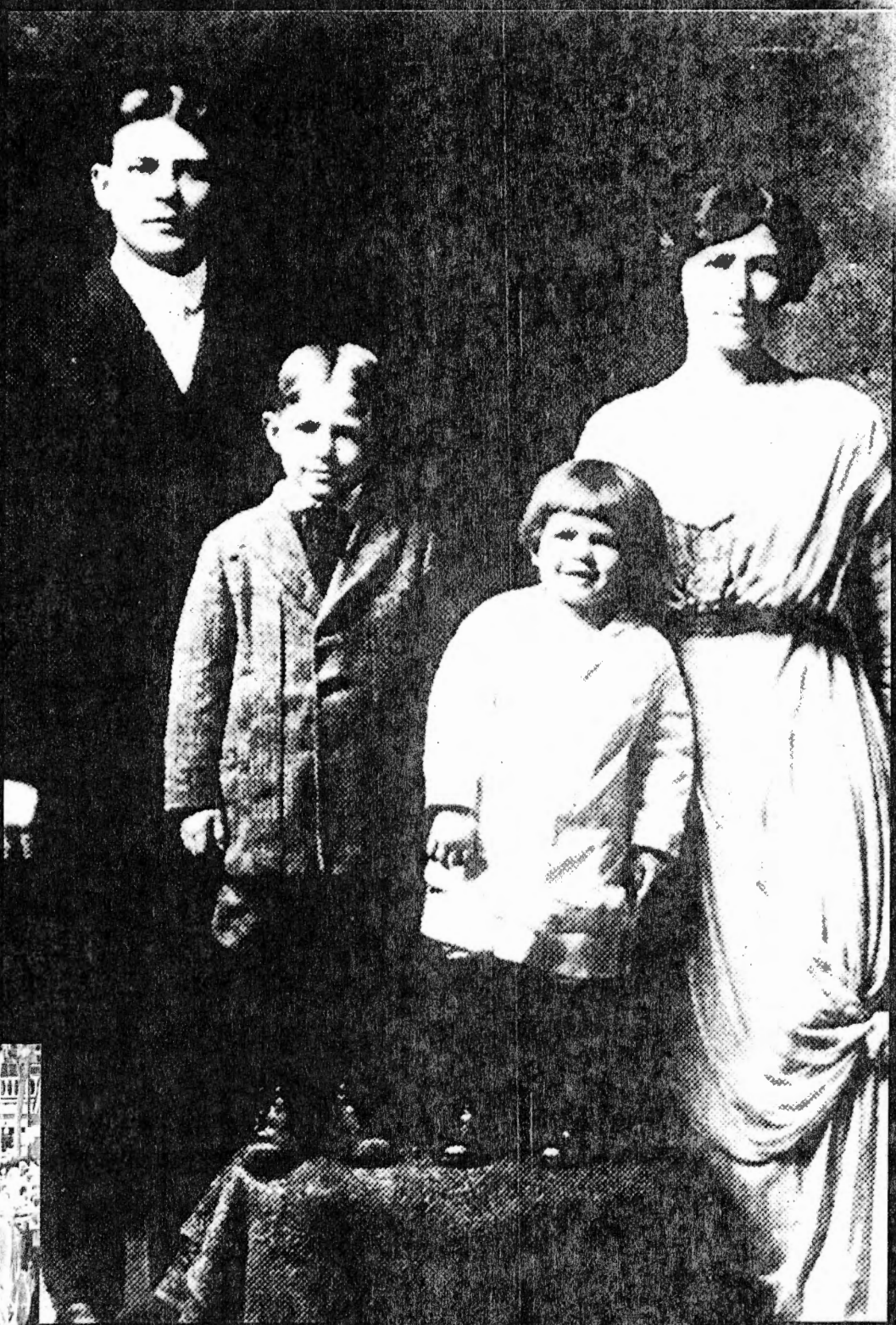
June 5 - dies in California at the age of 93



The Valley Citizen

JULY 2004

Remembering
Ronald Reagan
1911—2004



Hot Summer Nights
In Downtown Danville
Pages 23-27



Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library

Remembering

Ronald Wilson Reagan seems to have been just the right man for the times, not only in his life, in playing a major role in destroying communism in the Soviet Union, in ushering in the conservative movement and reducing taxes and restoring patriotism in the U.S., but also in the timing of his death. Just when the media was in high gear beating the drum of anti-U.S. sentiment and people were having doubts about our mission in Iraq, the nation spent a full week in reflecting on the achievements of Ronald Reagan and the moral foundations of our nation. The recurring message was principle over politics, Reagan's faith in God and the direct impact it had in his actions.

Michael Reagan's Reflection

The following statement was released by Michael Reagan on the day of his father's death.

I remember with great clarity my father's emotion when Nelle Reagan, my grandmother, passed away. Until today I didn't understand the feeling of loss and pain which comes when a parent leaves you. For this reason I will not be making any public statements at this time.

I pray that as America reflects on the passing of my Dad, they will remember a man of integrity, conviction and good humor that changed America and the world for the better. He would modestly say the credit goes to others, but I believe the credit is his.

What I will remember is a man that changed my life. He was always there for me when I needed him. He had a way of putting everything into perspective, and I believe that his determination and perseverance came from his relationship with the Lord. He played an important role in pointing me to God.

I am secure in the knowledge that he is with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven. The greatest gift my father ever gave me was the simple knowledge that I would see him in heaven one day.



Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library

Sanctity Of All Human Life... Judge William Clark Remembers

The following statement was released by Judge William Clark on the day of Reagan's death. Judge Clark served as National Security Advisor and Secretary of the Interior in the Reagan Administration, and was a Justice on the California Supreme Court.

Ronald Reagan's record of public service reveals throughout that no moral issue was of greater importance to him than the dignity and sanctity of all human life. His beliefs were established early in life, in the spiritual environment inspired by his devoted and devout mother Nelle, with the backing of Jack Reagan, his fiercely humanitarian father.

While he often challenged the words and actions of his political adversaries, I cannot recall an unkind word that the President uttered against another person. I cannot think of any personal attack he ever made on anyone in the many years I worked with him, again, out of respect for each human being.

"The real question today," he would say, "is not necessarily when human life begins, but what is the true value and meaning of human life." And in his famous March 1983 "Evil Empire" speech, which most remember simply as an indictment of Communist Russia, he inveighed strongly against all government denigrating the value of innocent human life, again referring specifically to legalized abortion, over the objection of his political advisors. "The issue will not go away," he stated, "until the American people—not the Courts—decide it."

The assassination attempt in 1981 was considered by the President a wake-up call, driving him onward even more forcefully in his spiritual role. Thereafter, the world witnessed his increasing courage and action in the war of good against evil, the basis of his policy of peace through military and moral strength. Aggressively implemented, that policy led, as he predicted, to our shift from Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) to his Nuclear Zero Option, to the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately to the dissolution of the Soviet Empire itself.

The American public, which he frequently asserted is far wiser than the government, will remember Ronald Reagan for what he truly was: a champion of all that is right and true and just; a firm believer in and practitioner of all that makes America great; and a defender of the innocent, young and old alike.



g Ronald Reagan

Ronald Wilson Reagan—His Spiritual Roots

In his recent book, "God and Ronald Reagan," Paul Kengor traces Reagan's spiritual life which he says peaked in intensity in the bookends of his life—during his youth in Dixon [Illinois] and again in his mature years as president and former president of the United States." Although both of his parents, Jack and Nelle, shared an overriding concern that their two boys should believe in God and go to church, his mother Nelle, was the driving spiritual

force in the family and "became the formative figure in making Ronald Reagan a Christian." Nelle "gave religious readings, both outside the church and within—a service for which she was in great demand." She acted in many church plays, was a firm believer in prayer and led mid-week prayer meetings. She visited the sick in the tuberculosis sanitarium every Thursday and made weekly visits to the jail, "equipped with apples, cookies and her Bible." Some prisoners—mostly

in jail for theft or drunk-and-disorderly citations—were released to Nelle's custody and ended up sleeping in the family's sewing room until they found another situation.

As an adult, Reagan would refer to the Bible as his favorite book and "the greatest message ever written." That its words were of divine origin and inspiration, he said he "never had any doubt."

Interestingly there is another book that influenced young "Dutch" Reagan, as he was called in those days. He recalled that one book "made a lasting impression on me at about the age of 11 or 12, mainly because of the goodness of the principal character."

The book was "That Printer of Udell's" written by Harold Bell Wright. Reagan picked up the book after seeing his mother reading it. It is about a young man who becomes a "practical Christian," one who honestly stood up for his convictions, actively helping those in need. In the book's final scene, after

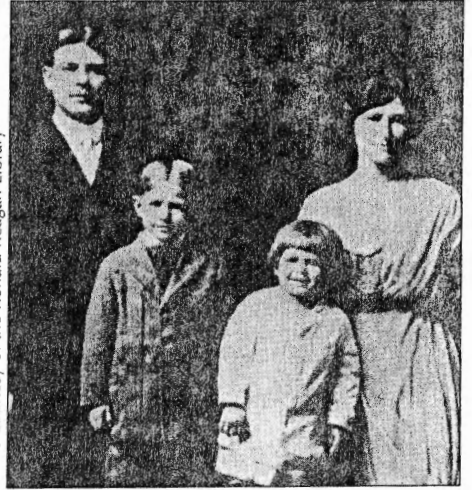
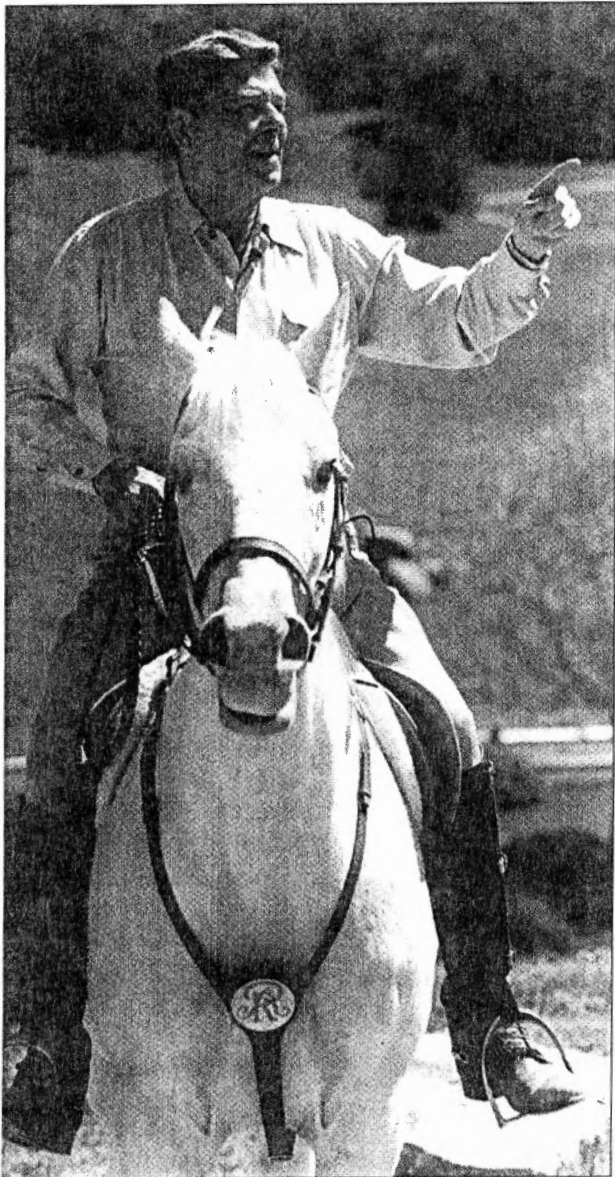


Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library

he has cleaned up Boyd City, with its "low standard of morality," the central character is on his knees in prayer before heading off to Washington, D.C. as a new congressman. After finishing the book Reagan recalled that he walked over to his mother and said, "I want to be like that man...and I want to be baptized." A few weeks later, Dutch and his mother walked the seven blocks to the Disciples of Christ Church, where he and his brother Neil were baptized.

At fifteen, Reagan began teaching his own Sunday school class. Interviewing some of his students fifty years later, his biographer Norman Wymbs was startled to find that they remembered specific lessons that Reagan taught. He didn't stop teaching until he went off to Eureka College and even then he made the hundred mile trip back from college for the three remaining Sundays in September. As a teenager, "young Reagan was already so advanced in his faith, and so serious about his church role, that congregation members thought he might become a minister." He didn't...but he did become a practical Christian and changed the world! As Reagan said in his farewell speech, announcing to the world that he had Alzheimer's disease..."Not bad, not bad at all."

The above was extracted from "God and Ronald Reagan" by Paul Kengor, Harper Collins Books 2004.





Thomas Sowell

**Ronald Reagan
(1911-2004)**

There are many ways to judge a President or anyone else. One old-fashioned way is by results. A more popular way in recent years has been by how well someone fits the preconceptions of the intelligentsia or the media. By the first test, Ronald Reagan was the most successful President of the United States in the 20th century. By the second test, he was a complete failure. Time and time again President Reagan went against what the smug smarties inside the beltway and on the TV tube said. And time and again he got results.

It started even before Ronald Reagan was elected. When the Republicans nominated Governor Reagan in 1980, according to the late *Washington Post* editor Meg Greenfield, "people I knew in the Carter White House were ecstatic." They considered Reagan "not nearly smart enough"—as liberals measured smart. The fact that Ronald Reagan beat President Jimmy Carter by a landslide did not cause any re-evaluation of his intelligence. It was luck or malaise or something else, liberals thought. Now the media line was that this cowboy from California would be taught a lesson when he got to Washington and had to play in the big leagues against the savvy guys on Capitol Hill.

The new President succeeded in putting through Congress big changes that were called "the Reagan revolution." And he did it without ever having his party in control of both houses of Congress. But these results caused no re-evaluation of Ronald Reagan. One of his first acts as President was to end price controls on petroleum. The *New York Times* condescendingly dismissed Reagan's reliance on the free market and repeated widespread predictions of "declining domestic oil production" and skyrocketing gasoline prices. Within four months the price of gasoline fell by

more than 60 cents a gallon. More luck, apparently.

Where the new President would really get his comeuppance, the smart money said, was in foreign affairs, where a former governor had no experience. Not only were President Reagan's ideas about foreign policy considered naïve and dangerously reckless, he would be going up against the wily Soviet rulers who were old hands at this stuff. When Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," there were howls of disapproval in the media. When he proposed meeting a Soviet nuclear buildup in Eastern Europe with an American nuclear buildup in Western Europe, there were alarms that he was going to get us into a war. The result? President Reagan's policies not only did not get us into a war, they put an end to the Cold War that had been going on for decades.

Meanwhile, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, who was the media's idea of a brilliant and sophisticated man, had a whole Communist empire collapse under him when his policies were put into effect. Eastern Europe broke free and Gorbachev woke up one morning to find that the Soviet Union that he was head of no longer existed—and that he was now a nobody in the new Russian state. But that was just bad luck, apparently.

For decades it had been considered the height of political wisdom to accept as given that the Soviet bloc was here to stay—and its expansion was so inevitable that it would be foolhardy to try to stop it. The Soviet bloc had in fact expanded through seven consecutive administrations of both Republicans and Democrats. The first territory the Communists ever lost was Grenada, when Ronald Reagan sent in American troops. But, once again, results carried no weight with the intelligentsia and the media. Reagan was considered to be completely out of touch when he said that Communism was "another sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages even now are being written." But how many "smart" people saw the end of the Soviet Union coming?

Ronald Reagan left this country—and the world—a far better place than he found it. And he smiled while he did it. That's greatness—if you judge by results.

Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University. His website is www.tsowell.com



Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library

RONALD REAGAN

The *Journal's* first "freelancer"

When *California Journal* published its inaugural issue in January 1970, the entire magazine was written by editors and contributing editors with one exception — a letter from Governor Ronald Reagan, wishing it well. That made the governor our first "freelance writer."

The *Journal* covered Reagan extensively over the next four years. Included in that coverage were several exclusive interviews and a November 1974 analysis of Reagan's years as governor, written by Reagan biographer Lou Cannon, then a political reporter for the *Washington Post*. In January 1990, a year after leaving the White House, former President Ronald Reagan wrote an essay for the magazine on California's future.

What follows are Ronald Reagan's words taken from the pages of *California Journal*. The illustrations also are from the *Journal*, but the photos are from other sources, since *California Journal* did not use photographs during the 1970s.

Letter, January 1970:

"CALIFORNIA JOURNAL accepts what is perhaps the highest obligation in our society: to convey to the people — accurately, reliably and fairly — the conduct and actions of their representatives.

"I applaud any new effort to perform this task, which is really as much of a public trust as that held by those who hold public office. Your trust is to report on how those in office meet their responsibilities and to keep the people informed so that they can better judge performance.

"Ours is an administration that believes, without any question, in the people's right to know; that means your right to tell them. You will be kept well informed of all that we are trying to do."

RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNOR

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95834



Gentlemen:

CALIFORNIA JOURNAL accepts what is perhaps the highest obligation in our society: to convey to the people — accurately, reliably and fairly — the conduct and actions of their representatives.

I applaud any new effort to perform this task, which is really as much of a public trust as that held by those who hold public office. Your trust is to report on how those in office meet their responsibilities and to keep the people informed so that they can better judge performance.

Ours is an administration that believes, without any question, in the people's right to know; that means your right to tell them. You will be kept well informed of all that we are trying to do.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan
RONALD REAGAN
Governor

This letter by Governor Ronald Reagan appeared in *California Journal's* inaugural issue, January 1970.



Ronald Reagan on the phone in Los Angeles hearing that he has taken the lead in the 1966 gubernatorial primary election. Photo: Bettman/Corbis, 6/7/66.

Interview, December 1970 (excerpts):

[Ronald Reagan was interviewed by *Journal* editors a month after winning a second term as governor.]

"Government has tended to grow further from the people and more centralized in authority — on up from the local government to the state, from the state to the federal government. We keep striving to get the federal government to return more autonomy to the state, but I feel we can't do that without, at the same time, our returning it more to the local government."...

"Government is so spoiled that the first reaction to any crunch is that we will get more money from the people. I think the people are as hard-pressed as anyone with inflation, and I think the time has come for government to say, 'If there is any belt-tightening going on, we match the citizens in the belt-tightening, too.'"

"Welfare should be divided,



Illustration by Hugo, CJ March 1970

and you should take the permanent dependents — the aged, the disabled, the blind — and set them aside, not as welfare dependents but as pensioners who, as I say, through no fault of their own must depend on the rest of us. Let's put them on a basis similar to Social Security, where with the least administrative overhead, they are provided with what they need, not only to just stay alive,

but with as much comfort as we can

provide. [With the rest of welfare] our goal should be to solve the problems of those people who are physically able but not now capable of going out into the competitive market to sell themselves in the labor market.

"We have too many people who are the second and third generation of their families on welfare. It has become a permanent way of life for a whole segment of our society. It never should be. And it isn't enough to think that our only goal and purpose is to continue to fill their bellies. There is a spiritual side to man, and we also are just destroying the moral fiber of man."

"Our problem is simply to be realistic in imposing controls on the makers of fuel and the makers of automobiles that meet the tenuous line where we force them into creating what they have to create, and yet not be so unrealistic ... like saying that if they can't do it by x number of years, throw them off the road."

"California is ahead of the whole nation, including the federal government. ... We have done

more to force Detroit to make cars to meet our requirements. They have to help clean up the rest of the country, too, because we are a big enough market that they have to make their cars to meet our standards."

Interview, April 1973 (excerpts):

[Governor Reagan was interviewed about a tax limitation proposal he planned to put to voters as Proposition 1 in the November 1973 election. The proposal was defeated.]

"Now, when we look at 44.7 cents as the government's share of the citizen's dollar, that is the biggest single expense item that any citizen has. We think that someplace, every branch of government has got to start facing up to whether there is a percentage of the private sector earnings above which the government cannot go without adversely affecting the economy. There is no question we are beyond that point." ...

"When I say 'special interests,' you see, most people think in terms of some business or organization or group that wants a favor. Now, I'm talking about a cause. I'm talking about people who believe there is something lacking in the social structure that there should be a government program for it. What is wrong with calling all the attention of the people to this, instead of bulldozing it through the Legislature with a great lobbying effort?" ...

"When I think over the years, [the principal legacy of the Reagan governorship] has been a new awareness of state government on the part of the people. I think there is more participation by the people, more knowledge about it, more interest in it, more participation. ... And, summing it all up, this would be the thing I am

California Journal



November 1974

CJ cover, November 1974

California Journal



Complete election returns and analysis

Special section: Guide to Democratic fund raising

CJ cover, December 1980



A Ronald Reagan cowboy hat from the Republican national convention, 1980.

happiest about."

Interview, November 1974:

[Contributing Editor Lou Cannon wrote an analysis of the Reagan governorship, which included comments by the governor on his relationship with the media.]

"I don't think I've converted the liberal members of the press who are ideologically opposed to me — to my beliefs. But I hope they realize that for one thing I made myself accessible. We tried to level with the press on everything that we were trying to do. I know that guys with the Capitol press corps who come into these press conferences have a job to do, and I've tried to make that job as easy as I could. I didn't throw any roadblocks in the way. And I think that we've developed an understanding on that basis with many members of the press." ...

"Even though ideologically they may still totally disagree with what I'm trying to do, I think that for the most part they recognize they can get answers, and they acted in that way."

Essay, January 1990 (excerpts):

[On its 20th anniversary, the Journal asked the state's former governors, including former President Ronald Reagan, to



CJ editorial cartoon, December 1960

write an essay on California's future in the next 20 years.]

"When I became governor of California in 1967, I had a vision of the kind of government and state I wanted to work toward. I called that vision the "Creative Society." ...The Creative Society promised to turn loose the dynamic forces of free men and women to create, build and produce; it provided the framework to solve California's problems and bring out the full potential of its people. ...

"The ability of a free people to build and achieve through voluntary cooperation will always out-pace command or totalitarian economies. Success after success among the nations of the world attest to the genius of the marketplace." ...

"In the past, and more so in the future, California will continue to hold a special place in the hearts of freedom-loving men and women around the globe. We symbolize the full flowering of democracy, the true trust of the everyday citizen. California's provision for direct democracy through the initiative process, ballot propositions, and recalls of government officials are but a dream to those suffering under the iron boot of repression."

"Just as the dynamic forces of free enterprise are the foundation of

our economic prosperity, so it is the private sector that may provide some of the most creative solutions to our current problems in the future. The challenges posed by congested transportation, environmental problems, and the need for improved education will frequently be met by the private sector and government working together."

"In the decades ahead, American and the world will continue to look upon California as the land of opportunity. ... People are drawn to California by the tremendous opportunities that stem from our diverse and balanced economy."

"California will continue to be the focus of the hopes and dreams of men and women across America and around the globe. That will especially be true during the coming 20 years of progress, development and growth. It will hold out for people everywhere what I've always liked to call 'the magic of California.'" 🏡

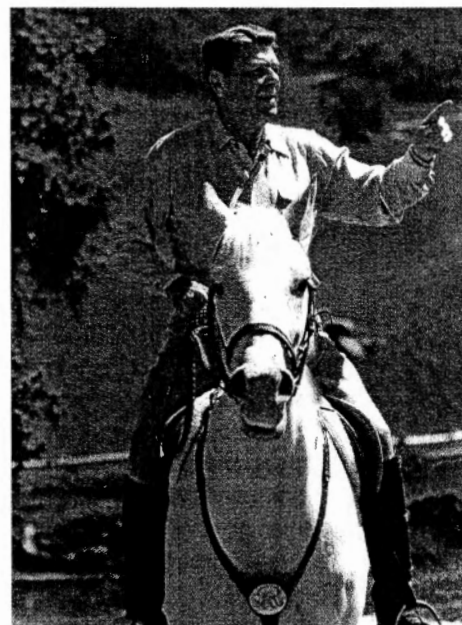
California Journal

The Monthly Journal of State Government and Politics

Vol. 10, No. 1, May 1980



CJ cover, May 1980



Reagan at his ranch in Santa Ynez

Where have all the candidates gone?

Much has been made — for better or worse — of Ronald Reagan's influence on the nation and the world. For Californians, this much is clear: As the sun set over the West Coast following Reagan's burial last month, an era of Golden State influence on the White House drew to a close.

Reagan's eight years as president crowned a remarkable half-century in which at least 10 Californians sought the presidency. Tapped to provide balance and electoral muscle to the East Coast-dominated parties, Californians were on the ticket in eight of the 10 presidential elections that followed World War II, starting in 1948 when Earl Warren was Thomas Dewey's running mate.

California today is a Democratic stronghold, but Reagan's passing reminds us that Republicans once depended on the state. Republicans had a Californian on every winning presidential ticket from Herbert Hoover's election in 1928 though Reagan's reelection 56 years later.

Meanwhile, California Democrats, including former Gov. Jerry Brown and former Sen. Alan Cranston, aggressively sought the presidency, though none has ever made it onto a ticket. (Adlai Stevenson was born in Los Angeles but raised in Illinois and hardly qualifies as a Californian.)

Today, 15 years after Reagan left office, Californians are all but out of the picture. The state's Democrats are too old, too young or too liberal. And the Republican governor, certainly the state's best-known political figure, is barred from the presidency by the U.S. Constitution.

"California has become less typical of the country," explains Michael Barone, author of the "Almanac of American Politics." "With the high immigrant population, the big 'left coast' vote ... the people who have been generated in California for higher office have become less suited to be national candidates."

Three Californians sought the presidency as recently as 1996, though the campaigns of Gov. Pete Wilson, former Rep. Jack Kemp and Rep. Bob Dornan never got off the ground.

Yet no Californian joined the presidential contests in 2000 or 2004. Sen. John Kerry's short list of running mates includes no Californian. Nor is anyone talked about — barring a constitutional amendment to allow Gov. Schwarzenegger to run — as a serious presidential candidate in 2008.

For Californians like Richard Nixon, who was

catapulted into national prominence in 1952 when he was selected as Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's running mate, California represented only a small part of their national identity. By the time Nixon ran for president in 1968, he had lived several years in New York, where he retired after resigning from the White House.

For Reagan, California was a central part of his presidency. Over a five-year span, Reagan named Californians to run the departments of Justice, State, Defense, Interior, Energy and Agriculture.

When California lawmakers of either party needed something done for their district, they knew where in the administration to turn.

"The Californians in the White House ... were the appeal body of last resort for this state," former U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio (D-West Sacramento) told *The Sacramento Bee* 20 years ago.

California's size and electoral clout make it impossible for any president to ignore. Former Pres. Bill Clinton visited the state more than 40 times during his presidency, and Pres. George W.

Bush has appointed Californians to run the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Veteran Affairs. Yet when Bush traveled last month to Reno for a campaign speech he made no plans to stick a toe over the border.

There is no doubt that California's Democratic leanings have made it more difficult for Republican candidates to emerge from the state, which now accounts for more than one-fifth of the electoral votes needed to win the presidency. But there are other factors, including a string of governors who found their presidential campaign skills did not match their ambitions.

"We had an incredibly dry streak of anti-charismatic ... people in the governor's office," said Bruce Cain, director of the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley.

Cain also noted that California's brand of television-heavy, wholesale politics does not necessarily work in small states like Iowa and New Hampshire. "There's nobody on the horizon right now who really looks like a star," Cain said.

Of course, the same thing could have been said 40 years ago, before Reagan stunned the experts by winning the governor's seat and embarking on his meteoric political climb. 🏛️

Contributing Editor Marc Sandalow is Washington bureau chief for the San Francisco Chronicle. Send comments to comments@californiajournal.org

by Marc Sandalow



d.c. perspective

Reagan's radio days dawned on river's edge

This is the fourth in a five-part USA TODAY series in which historians Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley write missives from the Mississippi while researching their National Geographic book *Mississippi: River of History*.



The fall 2002 release marks the next year's 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and tells the saga of what T.S. Eliot called the "great brown god" — from Thomas Jefferson's land bargain to the river's modern role as America's lifeblood.

Ambrose and Brinkley are spending much of 2000 exploring the Mississippi, from the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana to its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn.

By Douglas Brinkley
Special for USA TODAY

DAVENPORT, Iowa — On a sultry August day in Davenport, the sun is beating down on the cathedral-like grain elevators that dot the banks of the Mississippi River. I'm conversing in an asphalt parking lot with columnist Bill Wundram, who has spent his past 55 years writing for the *Quad-City Times*. We are standing on the site of the old Perry Apartments building, which was demolished in 1992, and Wundram is showing me a treasured artifact: the wooden medicine cabinet door from Room 510, where Ronald Reagan lived in 1933 while working as a radio announcer for station WOC (World of Chiropractic).

"His tiny fifth-floor apartment used to look out on the Mississippi River," recalls Wundram, a Davenport native. "I took this door from his old quarters just before they tore the building down. The river was an integral part of his boyhood years, and this door is the only souvenir from his Davenport days."

A seldom-realized detail is that Reagan was born

gan imitating the president's Hyde Park accent on the air.

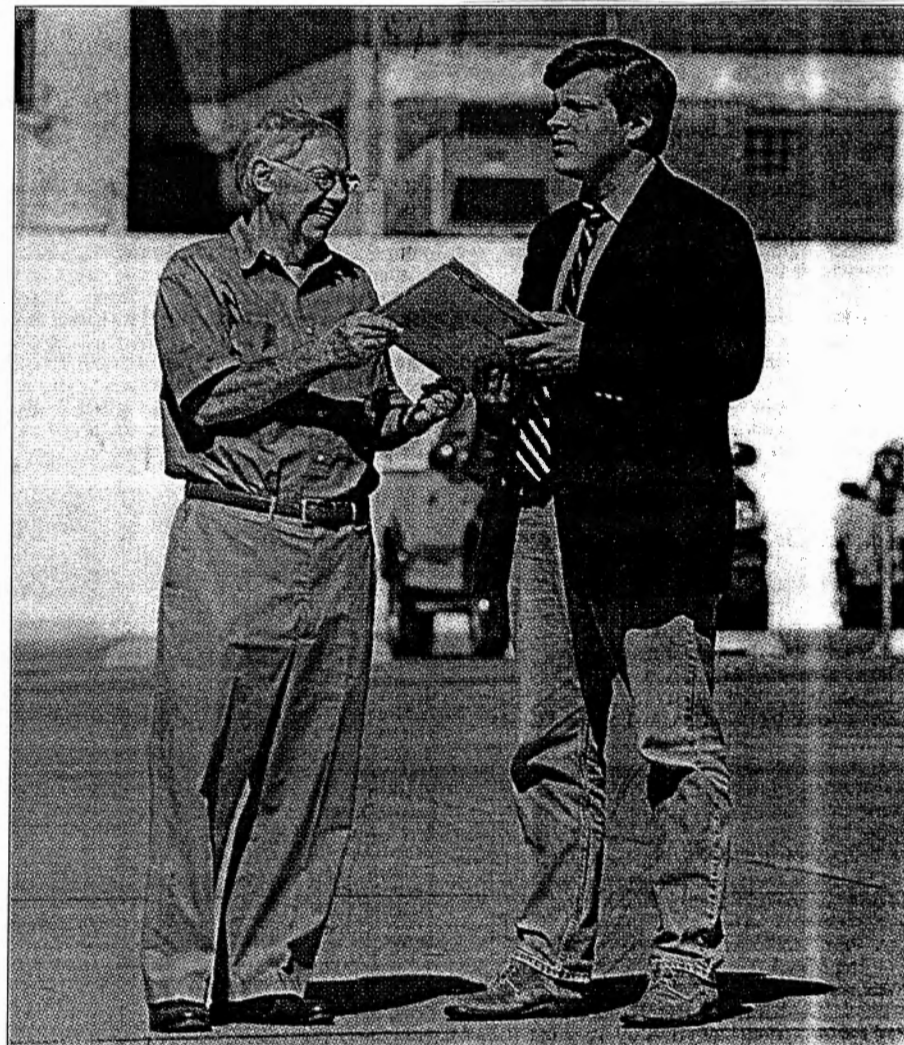
The primary purpose of WOC was to promote the Palmer School of Chiropractic, and owner B.J. Palmer was a regular P.T. Barnum of spinal alignment in this regard. Whether it was parading a huge papier-mâché spine down Brady Street, running "tallest corn" contests or writing catchy jingles about bones, Palmer had a knack for garnering attention for

his school and profession. Therefore, it's little wonder that Reagan was dismissed from his job and ended up at a sister station in Des Moines because he refused to read a mortuary advertisement after spinning the song *Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes*. He had broken the cardinal sin of WOC: mistreating a sponsor.

Reagan left Davenport in May 1933 and never looked back, always heading west. But he did return in 1988 during his presidency. He jokingly ate only the right wings and breasts of chickens at Riefe's Restaurant, gave disc jockey Mark Minnick a 10-minute interview on WOC, spoke to 1,400 people at the Palmer Auditorium, and went by his old living space at the Perry with his beloved Mississippi River in view.

Like Buffalo Bill, Reagan was embraced as a local folk hero. Now, with Room 510 demolished, all that is left of Reagan's stint in Davenport is Bill Wundram's medicine cabinet door and the flow of Old Man River. Perhaps someday a historical marker will be erected in front of the parking lot, next to the old Opera House and across from the Blackhawk Hotel, proudly proclaiming: "Ronald Reagan lived here."

Douglas Brinkley is director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans.



By Jeff Cook for USA TODAY

Just a memory: Columnist Bill Wundram, left, shows Reagan's medicine cabinet door to Douglas Brinkley.

A seldom-realized detail is that Reagan was born and raised closer to the Mississippi River than any other U.S. president. It was the river that shaped his patriotic values and optimistic sense of adventure. Reagan, in fact, ignoring the gloomier aspects of Mark Twain's murky Mississippi, calls his entire coming of age "one of those rare Huck Finn-Tom Sawyer idylls."

Reagan's father, Jack, was born in Fulton, Ill., in 1883, a year after Twain first steamboated up the Mississippi. Raised as an orphan, just like Huck, Jack married near the river, then moved to Tampico, Ill., situated along the Rock River, a tributary of the Father of Waters, where Ronald was born Feb. 6, 1911.



Palmer College of Chiropractic

Dutch on the air: Ronald Reagan is shown during his days at Davenport, Iowa, radio station WOC.

"The Reagans were under the spell of the Mississippi, of all the muddy bright promises it meant to break," historian Garry Wills writes in *Reagan's America*, in a chapter titled "Huck Finn's World."

Upon graduating from Eureka (Ill.) College in 1932, Reagan, following Twain's notion of "lighting out" for the territories, made the 65-mile westward trek that autumn to Rock Island, Ill. He rode the ferry across the Mississippi and got off at the Davenport dock, looking for work as a radio broadcaster. Reagan, 21, equipped with radiant optimism and an effervescent smile, was hired to announce sports at WOC, located on the top floor of the Palmer School of Chiropractic.

In early February, he returned to Davenport — which Twain called a "beautiful city crowning a hill" — with a tattered suitcase and black trunk and moved into Perry Apartments, a well-maintained residential hotel where vaudeville circuit stars such as Sarah Bernhardt and Al Jolson once stayed. More impressive to Reagan, who was captivated by Wild West lore, was that William "Buffalo Bill" Cody grew up 15 miles upriver in Le Claire, Iowa, and lived for a brief spell in Perry Apartments. (Buffalo Bill's brother Sam is buried nearby in Longrove Cemetery.)

Though Reagan lived in Davenport for only three months, they were extremely crucial ones in his professional development. WOC — 10 years old when Reagan was hired — was the radio voice of the Quad Cities and beyond, its motto being "Where the West begins and in the state where the tall corn grows." Not only did WOC have a 50,000-watt signal when Reagan arrived, one of only 17 lucky stations licensed with that range capacity, but it was one of the first stations to relay broadcasts from New York as part of the development of NBC. Davenport gave Reagan a shot at being a big-league broadcaster.

The Great Depression, however, had ravaged Davenport, and from Reagan's window he could see families living in shanty boats along the river and black soot billowing at the city dump at the foot of Gaines Street. The screeches and flapping of river bats, which infested the Perry's walls, kept him awake at night. Lucile Mauget, a WOC retiree, recalls Reagan's biggest worry in those days: "Dutch always joked that he was afraid the Murphy bed would close him up inside."

Every morning, he would walk six blocks uphill, past hungry beggars, to the Palmer School, where he could eat hot meals free at the cafeteria. It was on the cafeteria's radio that Reagan heard his hero, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, tell the American people that they had "nothing to fear but fear itself." Wildly impressed by FDR's patrician self-confidence, Reagan be-



Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

HOW A WOMAN CAN BECOME PRESIDENT

Time

RONALD REAGAN

THE LIFE OF THE
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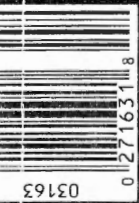
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BILL CLINTON'S
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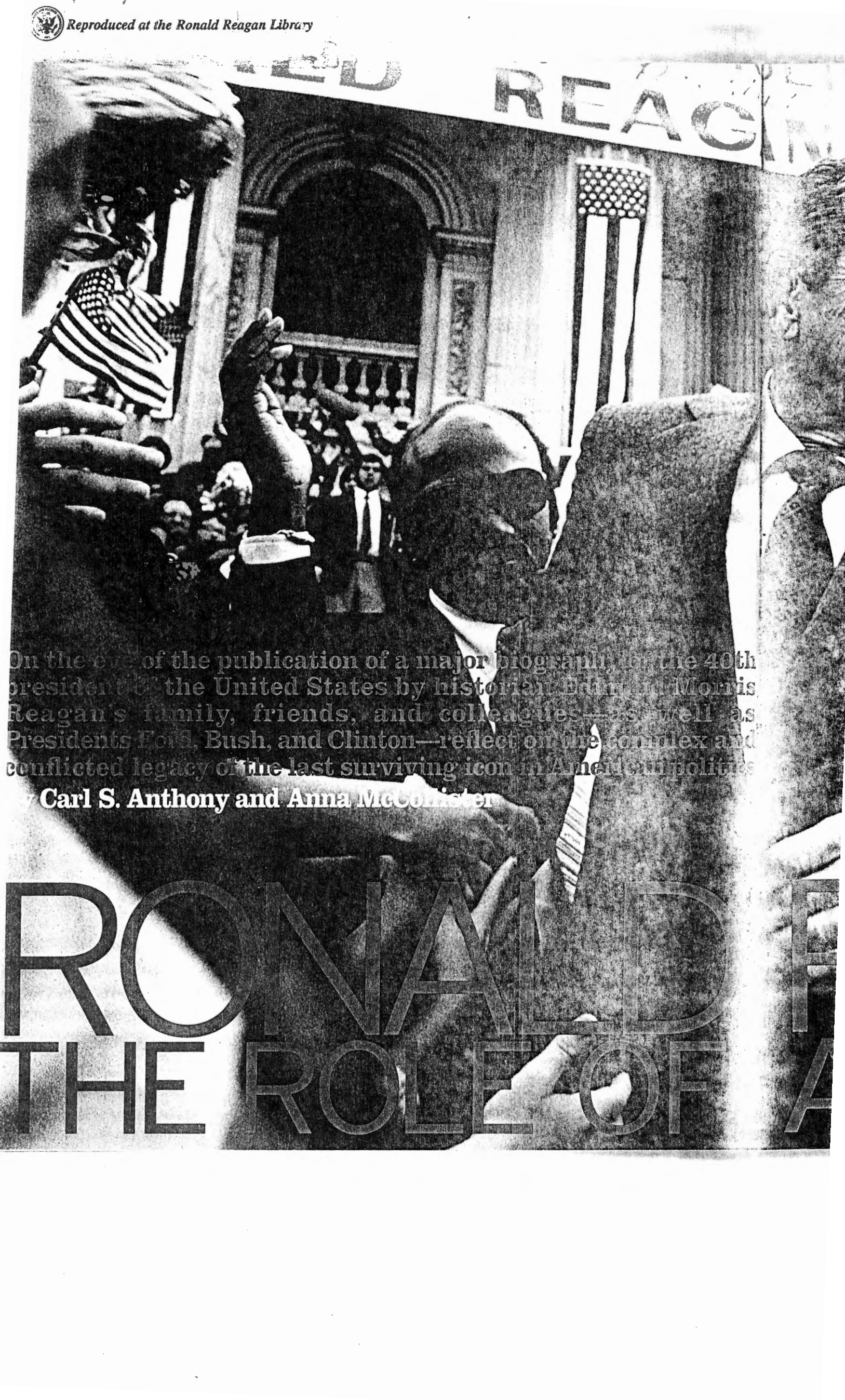
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TOP 10 MOST CORRUPTING POLITICIANS
PLUS: INSIDE MURDOCH'S NEW GLOBAL EMPIRE



Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library



On the eve of the publication of a major biography of the 40th president of the United States by historian Edmund Morris, Reagan's family, friends, and colleagues—as well as Presidents Ford, Bush, and Clinton—reflect on the complex and conflicted legacy of the last surviving icon in American politics

by Carl S. Anthony and Anna McClinton

RONALD REAGAN THE ROLE OF A



Eyes on the prize: The **Reagans** are welcomed at North Carolina's State House during the 1980 presidential campaign.

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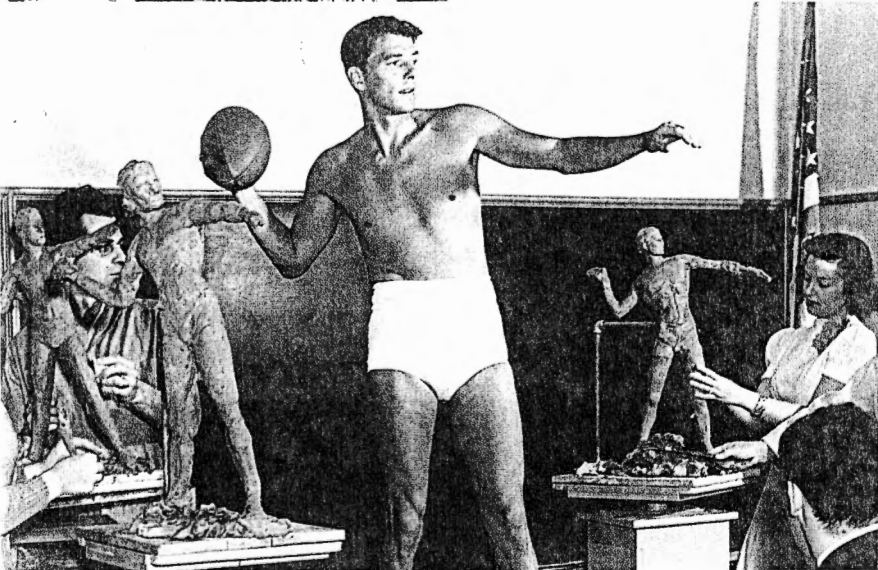
REAGAN A LIFETIME



“Ron gave me a peace pipe,” Ford recalls

Reagan to sit in. One of the club's requirements was that you had to tell a joke that nobody had heard before and also remember everyone else's jokes. So he developed an ability to memorize jokes and carried that facility throughout his life. His humor was not just strategic; it was a genuine part of his personality.

A.C. LYLES (Reagan friend) When Ronnie was running for governor in the 1960s, he campaigned door to door. At one house, a nice lady answered. “I just wanted you to know I’m running for governor,” Ronnie told her. “And I wanted to say hello.” She said, “If you’re running for governor, what do you do for a living?” “I’m an actor,” he said. “Oh God, sure I know you,” she said. “I know all you actors. I read all about you. My friends like to play a game. They give me initials, and I tell them who it is. J.W.—that’s John Wayne. J.C.—that’s James Cagney.” Ronnie intervened: “I’m R.R.” “I know who you are,” she exclaimed. “Can I call my husband to the door and ask him to shake hands with you?” Ronnie agreed, and she yelled to her husband, “Honey, come to the door. Roy Rogers is out here.”



Opposite page: **Ronald Reagan** making his bid for governor of the Golden State in 1966. This page, from top: The new governor of California with **Nancy** and their two children, **Ron Junior** and **Patti**, at home in Los Angeles in 1967; a young Reagan posing as Adonis for a sculpture class.

THE RISE TO POWER

LYN NOFZIGER (Political and communications adviser, 1981 to 1982) Reagan held a weekly press conference when he was governor, and on one occasion a group from Cesar Chavez's farmworkers union—then at the height of their hell-raising days—had gathered outside the room where the sessions were held. A security man came up to me and said, “A bunch of people are out there, so why don't we take the governor out the back way when he's finished?” I agreed. So at the end, we grabbed the governor. “Let's go out the back way,” I told him. We got about ten steps before he stopped and said, “Why are we going this way?” I informed him that there were some union people outside, and they were causing problems. “No,” Reagan retorted. “They're not going to run me out of my capital.” And he turned around and walked right through them to his office. The union workers parted like the Red Sea, and off he went.

THE EARLY YEARS

JEANE KIRKPATRICK (U.S. representative to the U.N., 1981 to 1985) I think that Reagan was proud of having been president of the Screen Actors Guild. He was the only president of the United States who was elected seven times as a union president. In later life, Reagan would often remember the years when he had been, like me, a former Democrat. He campaigned for Harry Truman in southern California in 1948. And as a result, Reagan felt that he had a greater understanding of Democrats than most Republicans, or even the Democrats. It was, he thought, one of his political strengths.

EDWIN MEESE III (U.S. attorney general, 1985 to 1988) He had an amazing capacity for remembering jokes, which he developed during his movie days. A group of joke writers for radio guys like Jack Benny and Bob Hope formed a club that would meet at a restaurant. Every once in a while, they would invite

MARGARET HECKLER (Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1983 to 1985) Although I had not been impressed with Reagan during the 1980 Republican primaries—I was a Bush supporter—I asked to meet with him at the convention to discuss the equal rights amendment, which I strongly supported. It was an interesting showdown. I sat at one end of the table, Reagan sat at the other. I argued that the party must continue to support ERA. “I'll support changes in state laws to support women,” he said, “but not an amendment.” I retorted, “This is a negative signal to women.” But Reagan was insistent: “I'm very supportive of the recognition, advancement, and respect for women. And I will show it in my appointments. What is it that I can do?” “You can begin by naming a woman to the Supreme Court if you are elected.”

After he became president, I was in a receiving line at the White House. “Remember what you said during the convention?” I asked. He winked. And on the first occasion that a seat on the Supreme Court opened up, he appointed Sandra Day O'Connor.

” Ford recalls, “as amends for running against me.”

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LEFT PAGE FROM TOP: DAVID HUME KENNEDY/ONYX; UPI/COBIS BETTMANN, RIGHT PAGE: G. ANTHONY/BLACK STAR





THE PRESIDENCY

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD (38th president of the United States) In March 1980, I decided I was not going to be a presidential candidate in that year's election. The Republican convention was held in Detroit, and Betty and I flew there, as I had to give a speech to the delegates. We got to our hotel, and there was a message from Ronald Reagan. He wanted to know if he and Nancy could come say hello. I rang back and said yes, and shortly afterward they arrived. Ron presented me with an Indian peace pipe. He was making amends for running against me in 1976. Following the presentation, Ron said that he and Nancy wanted me to be his running mate in 1980! I was overwhelmed and flattered. In deference to his request, I said I would think about it and talk to Betty. I knew it was not a good idea and called him a day or so later to say, "Ron, it's very thoughtful, but I'm going to decline your suggestion. On the other hand, I want you to know I'm going to campaign for you as hard as I can."

MARTIN ANDERSON (Chief domestic and policy adviser to the president, 1981 to 1982) Early in Reagan's first administration, one of the big issues was whether everyone in the nation should be required to carry an I.D. card. The attorney general, the CIA, and the FBI all wanted it. I thought it was a terrible idea, and finally we got to discuss the issue in the cabinet. I was a staffer, so I was sitting along the back wall, directly across from Reagan. We started going around the room. Some people spoke out strongly for it, others just shook their heads, but nobody seemed to think it was wrong. So I broke protocol and raised my hand. Reagan looked over and said, "Marty?" "There's a better way to do this than issuing a card," I began,

"a way that will save millions of dollars, and it's even waterproof. All we have to do is roll up the sleeves of every American and tattoo their inner arms." There were gasps. Jim Watt, the secretary of the interior, said, "My God! We're talking about the mark of the beast." Everybody then looked around, shook their heads, and asked what the mark of the beast was. Reagan smiled and said, "To hell with that. Why don't we just take all the babies and brand them?" Everybody looked at him in stunned silence. They then took a vote and not a single person voted in favor of the card. This was Reagan's way: He had never wanted an I.D. card, and although he had the whole cabinet telling him why he had to have it, he told a joke that killed the whole thing. It's one of the things that Reagan did that appeared to be of little significance. But it had enormous implications.

LARRY SPEAKS (White House press secretary, 1981 to 1987) Occasionally, Reagan would show his temper. At a press conference, he had to make a definitive statement about taxes. Although he wanted to stick with his mantra "No more taxes," we knew we were going to have to raise a few and felt that the president ought to leave himself a little breathing room. So chief of staff Jim Baker, deputy chief of staff Mike Deaver, and I went into the Oval Office before I met with the press. Baker went at him, and Reagan said no. Then Deaver tried, and he got the same reply. Everybody then looked at me, as I had written a tactful statement that said we probably would have to raise some taxes. Reagan took a few seconds and started reading it, and he reached for a pen on his desk. He pulled up the pen so forcefully that a nearby pen stand flew across the room. He wrote across the statement I had written, "NO NEW TAXES," and handed it to me. He looked at us and said, "Darn it, that's what I want to say."

HELEN THOMAS (UPI White House reporter) When it looked like we might go to war with Nicaragua, Reagan gave a news conference that, by agreement between the White House and the networks, was on prime time but was limited to 30 minutes. I always wore two watches, and as we got to the half-hour mark, I would say, "Thank you, Mr. President," and the news conference was over. Well, at this particular conference, every question was on the military buildup, and Reagan was really sweating through it. He had a timer on the podium, but he peered over and looked at me pleadingly. I held up my hand with the watch to let him know, "Not on your life—you've got five more minutes!"

ROBERT MCFARLANE (National security adviser, 1983 to 1985) After working for the Reagan White House for about three years, I became frustrated by the job because of the terrible rivalry between Defense Secretary Cap Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz. It paralyzed almost every issue, and I had offered to resign so the president could appoint somebody who would be better able to bring things together. After the 1984 election, I met with the president for a private session on Air Force One. We were traveling back to Washington from the ranch at Santa Barbara. "Mr. President, you can achieve incredible things in this second term," I began. "But I think you would be better off if you built your team around Cap or George. The disharmony is making it very hard to get anything done." Reagan said, "I know that, but if I build the team around Cap, I would not get policy that would achieve anything, and if I build it



Why don't we just brand all the babies," Rea

LEFT: TONY THOMAS FOR THE PHOTOFEST; RIGHT: PHOTOFEST; BOTTOM: PHOTOFEST

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Opposite page: The Reagan style circa 1966, prior to his gubernatorial victory later that year. This page: The **president** and **first lady** celebrate his 73rd birthday in February 1984 by campaigning in Illinois for his reelection.

around George, I would lose a good friend in Cap. So I want you to carry on, because you are the only person I have really worked with who is truly indispensable." He reached across the table and took my hand, and I was kind of startled by it. I was a marine for 20 years, and I was never used to familiarity, and I had never known Ronald Reagan to be a very emotional person.

JAMES BAKER (Secretary of the treasury, 1985 to 1988) The Democratic Congress passed a bill imposing sanctions on South Africa for its apartheid policies. Reagan believed it would be better to engage the South Africans, so he vetoed the bill. But the Democrats overruled the presidential objection. It was the first time Reagan had been defeated on the Hill, and he was sore. After a couple of weeks, we went in and said that he really ought to start seeing some of the more moderate South African leaders. "Well, who do you think I ought to see?" he asked. "Archbishop Desmond Tutu," we replied. Although he didn't really want to, he agreed to our recommendation, and Tutu was duly invited to the White House. We brought all the press in. Reagan and Tutu were sitting in the Oval Office in the winged chairs, and the archbishop proceeded to trash the president up one side and down the other. Reagan was sitting there, biting his lip, seriously disappointed by the advice he had received from his aides. When the meeting ended, Tutu went out to the West Wing driveway and trashed the president even further.

The next day, at a photo-op, the press couldn't wait to ask Reagan for his reaction to Tutu's remarks. "Mr. President, what about Tutu?" Reagan looked up at them. "Tutu?" he said. "So-so."

ROWLAND EVANS (CNN commentator) In November 1986, just after the news broke on the Iran-contra story, I lunched with the president at the White House. Two other reporters were there, Jim Lehrer of PBS and Bernie Shaw of CNN. Pat Buchanan, who was then working as a Reagan speechwriter, and Don Regan, White House chief of staff, also attended. The occasion was held in the little dining room just off the Oval Office, where the current occupant had so much fun with Monica Lewinsky.

Reagan was all duded up in a fresh suit, and his hair was per-

fectly combed. I had the first question. "Mr. President," I said, "what the hell happened? Is it real? Did we sell weapons to the Iranians to get cash for the contras?" He paused, then gave Regan a quizzical look, as if to say, "Go ahead, Don." The next question was asked by Lehrer, and he too wanted to know about the arms and the money. Reagan listened, thought about it gravely for a moment, and turned to Regan with the same quizzical expression. Shaw asked his question, and precisely the same thing happened.

Two things were very clear to me: One, he didn't want to answer the question and, two, he really didn't know. They kept him in the dark. The credibility of not knowing anything is a very important thing in government. He had

been in the hospital. The buck obviously stopped at the head of that table where he was sitting, but he obviously did not know.

HOWARD BAKER (Chief of staff, 1987 to 1988) We were at the Washington summit between Reagan and Gorbachev in 1987, and there was a luncheon after the first round of talks. We had just sat down when Gorbachev whipped out his black leather notebook and started reciting his agenda. He was dominating the conversation so much that I was becoming concerned, wondering when Reagan was going to take the initiative. In the middle of Gorbachev's presentation, Reagan interrupted and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, I heard a funny story the other day that I want to tell you. I heard you were at your dacha in the countryside on a Sunday afternoon when you got word that you had to get back to the Kremlin. As you were driving along, you tapped on the window and told your driver to speed up. But the driver said, 'I can't.' So you said, 'Well, why not?' He said, 'Well, sir, you issued an edict against speeding.' So you replied, 'Well, let me drive. They won't bother me.' You started zinging along the road, and the police stopped you and pulled you over. They came to the window, and you rolled it down and talked to one of the officers. You talked for a minute, and then the officer walked over to his partner. 'Did you give that man a ticket?' his partner asked. 'No, I didn't,' the officer said. 'Well, why not?' 'He was too important.' 'Who was he?' 'I don't know who he was, but Gorbachev was driving him.' " The amazing part about the story was that it survived translation. Funny stories almost never survive translation. I thought it was marvelous that Reagan used his humor for a practical and important purpose. He had gained control of that meeting.

SAM DONALDSON (ABC News White House correspondent) One day, an ABC courier went to the White House to pick up the president's daily schedule from the pressroom. The guy at the desk called me immediately. "There's something funny here! This is a script! It looks like the president's schedule, but it's not the usual one page we get. There are ten or 12 pages here! It says that he's meeting at 9:30 with Senator Byrd and other members of a delegation that have just come back from

ies," Reagan said. The cabinet was stunned.



'Fire her,' Reagan said. "But Mr. President,

Moscow. 'Bob, welcome back from Moscow,' it reads. 'What did you learn?' " "Send that thing right over here!" I said. The script was the president's schedule for the entire day—opening lines and closing lines—and we put the story on the air that night.

Many months later, chief of staff Howard Baker told me that the president was furious about the episode. Baker investigated and found out that a young girl, a junior member on the press staff, or maybe an intern, had mistaken the script for the real schedule. When he told the president of his findings, Reagan said to Baker, "Fire her! I want her fired!" But Baker said, "Mr. President, she's a young person. She didn't mean to harm you in any way. She loves you."

Baker would later say that the two toughest things he had to do as chief of staff were, first, convince the president that he had to give a speech on March 4, 1987, admitting that he had sold arms for hostages, and, second, convince him not to fire that woman.

RALPH REGULA (Republican congressman from Ohio) I had told my son Richard that Reagan liked to build fences on his ranch. At a meeting we had with the president in the Cabinet Room, Richard piped up and said, "Mr. President, my dad and I were building a fence yesterday, and we could have used you." Reagan really took off on this. As various people were surging into the meeting, Reagan was going on about how he built a

fence with old telephone poles. That winter at a party, he danced over to me and asked, "How are you coming with your fence?" Later, I wrote to him that I got hold of some poles and asked how exactly to do it. He handwrote another letter, and in this one he described exactly how to build it, how many inches from the ground, how high the poles had to be, how long the rails, how you notch them and keep them together like Lincoln Logs. Then, on the back, he drew a sketch. This was during a period of international crisis. After he left the White House, he arranged for me to go up to the ranch to see his fence for myself. You could tell how wonderful he felt about his life at the ranch, how important it was to his body and soul. He used to say, "My ranch may not be heaven, but it's got the same ZIP code."

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH (41st president of the United States) My fondest memories of Ronald Reagan come from the weekly lunches we would have on Thursdays—just the two of us, no staff, no agenda. They gave me the opportunity to truly see his compassion. He was constantly considerate of the other guy; no one was too unimportant to be on the receiving end of his kindness. I learned many lessons from him, but none had as great an impact on me as did his treatment of his fellow man. And Ronald Reagan was the best joke-teller (all kinds of jokes) I have ever heard.

Opposite page: **Reagan** returns to Tampico, Illinois, in 1976 during his first campaign to win the presidency. (The apartment where he was born is above the First National Bank.) Below, from left: Reagan takes in the news on the White House porch in 1981; a snapshot of Reagan the actor.

THE TWILIGHT YEARS

GROVER NORQUIST (Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project) We're trying to get things named after Reagan. I was the guy to get National Airport named after Reagan and then to get the idea through Congress. We're doing that in all 50 states. The goal is to get as many things named after Reagan as there are named after John F. Kennedy, which is around 600. We're at about 40 now. They just decided to name a school in Puerto Rico after Reagan. It's part of making sure that the '80s are correctly explained. Sixty years from now, people will be at Ronald Reagan National Airport, and little kids will ask, "Who was Ronald Reagan?" And their parents will say, "He's a former president who saved the world, and he was a friend of Grover's."

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (42nd president of the United States) The moment that best reflects President Reagan's character was the way he reacted to being shot on March 30, 1981—with humor, strength, and optimism. These qualities were the secrets to his success as a leader. The Reagan legacy is the American belief that any challenge can be met, and the conviction that America must lead the world toward peace and freedom.



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Opposite page: The **Reagans** at the 1954 Ice Follies. This page, clockwise from top: President **Richard Nixon** and Governor Reagan at the West Coast White House in 1969; Ronnie and **Nancy** at their Santa Barbara ranch in 1981; President Reagan campaigning in California in 1984.

TO SIR WITH LOVE

Patti Reagan Davis,
President Reagan's youngest
daughter, paints an
all-too-human portrait of the
man who shined in
public but, in private, was a
forever enigmatic father.

Long before America reached for Ronald Reagan, his children did. Long before America found itself captivated by him, his children were. Elusiveness does that: We reach out for but never really grasp that person we want to know. Someone said to me years ago that he thought Clinton had probably studied my father. Maybe. But he couldn't learn that mystique, the distance that makes people think, He must know something I don't.

The first time I saw my father in the Oval Office, the day after the 1981 inauguration, I could tell he was still absorbing his surroundings. To him, it was a sacred place—all that history. Truman pacing the same carpet. Johnson staring out that same window at the manicured lawns and perfect flower beds, weighed down by thousands of deaths in a distant jungle, deciding that he couldn't seek a second term. People didn't always understand reverence. But they were drawn to it. With his genial elusiveness, he moved people, stirred their hearts, and sparked their imaginations. His charisma was a whispered secret among those who opposed him politically. "You know, even though I think he's wrong, I like the guy," they'd say, shaking their heads and checking to make sure they weren't overheard by too many.

Before Ronald Reagan parented America, he was a father to his children—an elusive father, always a bit in shadow. He was a brilliant storyteller, but often I thought he hid behind those stories. I ached to see him more clearly. Now, deep into my own adulthood, I still feel a touch of that ache, but I understand that I was never meant to completely know him.

His displays of affection were powerful but indirect. When I was about eight, I had a black fish, which I imaginatively named Blackie. One day, Blackie was lying in the bottom of the tank. At first, I insisted that he was asleep, but once he floated to the top my father said, "Well, he's dead." To make the impact a little lighter on

me, he gave Blackie a fish funeral. We went out in the backyard, and my father dug a little grave for Blackie. He tied two sticks together with string to make a cross, and he delivered a eulogy for the fish. I was so into this ceremony, and I was having so much fun, that when it ended, and after my father had asked me if I felt better, I said, "Yeah, can we go kill another one?"

A few years later, I heard my father in the kitchen on a Saturday morning, searching everywhere for breakfast cereal. It was the maid's day off, so he was fending for himself. As I approached the kitchen door, his search became more agitated. He was banging the cupboard doors, slamming drawers, and cursing. Fascinated, I stopped and listened, spying on a side of him that was unfamiliar to me. My father never got angry, never swore—not around us, anyway. It seemed a rare opportunity to have him be like everybody else—angry that he couldn't find something that he wanted.

A childhood friend once said to me, "When your father comes into the room, I never have a sense of where he came from. It's like he just appears there, from somewhere far away." I never told my father that I heard him in the kitchen that morning. He would probably have been embarrassed. I never told him what my friend said, although I don't think he would have minded or been surprised. He understood the sense of mystery he inspired.

"It's been said that Clinton studied my father's

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1111 PAGE 4, CLOTHES FROM TOP LEFT: T. D. BRACKENBACH, STAR, NOROVICOM, P. 5027/ARWITT, HOUSE, CAMMA (MASON, RIGHT PAGE, FRINGE) ONE PHOTOS



my father. But you can't learn mystique."

THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

RONALD REAGAN 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, the son of Nelle Wilson Reagan and John Reagan. He was educated in Illinois public schools and was graduated from Eureka College in 1932, with a degree in economics and sociology.

Following a brief career as a sports broadcaster and editor, President Reagan moved to California to work in motion pictures. His film career, interrupted by three years of service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, encompassed 53 feature-length motion pictures. He served six terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild and two terms as president of the Motion Picture Industry Council.

In 1952, he married Nancy Davis. They have two grown children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott. President Reagan has two other children, Maureen and Michael, by a previous marriage.

From motion pictures, he went into television in the 1950's, as production supervisor and host of "General Electric Theatre." In 1964-65, he was host of the television series "Death Valley Days."

In 1966, Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of California, by nearly a million-vote margin. He served as Chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 1969. He was elected to a second term as Governor of California in 1970. After completing his second term, he began a nationally syndicated radio commentary program and several newspaper columns. He also undertook an extensive schedule of speeches to civic, business and political groups. In 1974-75, he served as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the Central Intelligence Agency.

He sought the Republican Presidential nomination in 1976. Although he lost narrowly, he campaigned vigorously for the Republican ticket and for scores of local candidates. After the election, he resumed his radio commentary program, newspaper column and national speaking schedule.

Ronald Reagan was unanimously nominated as the Republican candidate for President on the first ballot at the Party's 1980 National Convention. On November 4, he was elected to the Presidency with an electoral vote margin of 489 to 49. He was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States on January 20, 1981. In 1984, President Reagan was again unanimously chosen as the Republican candidate for President. On November 6, he was re-elected, carrying 49 states, and was sworn in for a second term on January 20, 1985.

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Following the completion of his second term in 1989, President Reagan returned to Los Angeles, where he maintains an office. He has written two books, Speaking My Mind (a collection of major speeches) and his autobiography, An American Life. He is active on behalf of many charitable and civic organizations, and travels extensively throughout the United States and abroad, where he addresses government, civic, business and student groups.

President Reagan was installed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Honorary Knight Grand Cross Order of the Bath. He was also awarded the Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, he was presented a medal by President Gorbachev for his efforts on behalf of the Armenian people following the earthquake and received the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, he has received the Medal of Valor from the State of Israel.

He is one of twelve foreign associate members of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the Institute of France and is the recipient of many other awards, including the National Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the City of Hope "Torch of Life" Award for Humanitarian Service, the Horatio Alger Award, the American Newspaper Guild Award, the Freedoms Foundation Award and the Distinguished American Award from the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.

* * *



Ronald Reagan



40th President of the United States

Born: February 6, 1911, Tampico, Illinois.

Occupation: Actor, public official.

Wives: Jane Wyman, Nancy Davis.

Children: Two boys, two girls.

President: 1981-1989. Republican party.

Vice-President: George Bush.



Ronald Reagan was born above a store on Main Street, Tampico, Illinois, the son of a shoe salesman. It was in this small-town atmosphere that his mother introduced him to the world of reading through the Bible and where he formulated the values to which he would always adhere.

In high school, he was a star in the junior class play

and on the football team, talents he was able to combine successfully at the height of his acting career.

By working as a lifeguard, swimming coach, dishwasher and busboy, he managed to earn enough money to enter Eureka College in Peoria, Illinois in 1928. There he had his first taste of political activism, when, as a freshman, he was elected leader of the student body to protest a cutback in programs that threatened to prevent the graduation of upperclassmen.

There too, along with pursuing his passion for the stage, he became fascinated with the role radio played in politics, which led him to embark on a radio broadcasting career.

Several years later, in 1937, a Hollywood screen test landed him a \$200-a-week contract with Warner Brothers. Thus began his respectable, though not spectacular, movie career. "Knut Rockne—All American" in which he played Notre Dame football hero, George Gipp, and the highly dramatic "Kings Row" were among his most popular films. These were followed by several World War II films, after which Reagan found himself gradually being replaced by younger actors.

In an effort to right this injustice, he turned to the Screen Actors Guild, where he was elected president six times during the 1940s and '50s—his first real political leadership role. His involvement with the SAG contributed to the dissolution of his eight-year marriage to actress Jane Wyman and, ironically, introduced him to a young actress named Nancy Davis, whom he later married.

By this time, Reagan had become more familiar to the television audience than to the movie audience, serving as the host of "General Electric Theater" and "Death Valley Days." With the change in his career came also a change in party politics—one which had been evolving for years. He had always been a Democrat, but in 1952 and 1956, he supported GOP candidate Dwight Eisenhower.

By 1964 he was recognized as a solid Republican and was appointed state co-chairman of Citizens for Goldwater-Miller. His refusal to concede defeat in the waning days of that campaign brought him to the attention of his Republican colleagues, who approached him to run for governor of California in 1966.

He did so and overwhelmingly defeated incumbent Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, and was resoundingly re-elected four years later. His first act as governor was to impose a hiring freeze, but his prize accomplishment was passage of the 1971 Welfare Reform Act which significantly narrowed the eligibility rules for welfare recipients while increasing the benefits and cost-of-living allotments available to those who still remained eligible.

He was lured to Washington, however, and after fighting Richard Nixon in 1968 and Gerald Ford in 1976, Reagan attained the GOP nomination in 1980. Advocating a "return to the values of neighborhood, peace, family and work," Reagan took his campaign to the blue-collar American. He described his followers in the November '80 *Post* as:

... people who get up every day and go to work, look after their children, support their churches, and schools, believe in standards of right and wrong and ask nothing more of government than simply to be kept safe in their homes.

In that same month he swept the country off its feet, amazing pollsters and voters alike with 489 electoral votes to President Jimmy Carter's 49.

Reagan's term of office began on a positive note that continued throughout his presidency. On the day of his inauguration in 1981, the nation also celebrated the release of the 52 Americans who had been held hostage by the Iranian government for 444 days.

The release of the hostages left Reagan free to deal with what he saw as his biggest challenge—a galloping inflation rate. By 1984, his simple strategy had succeeded in slowing inflation to a crawl. The average citizen's real

spending power had increased by more than 10 percent. But meanwhile, the national debt had climbed to \$174 billion, an all-time high for a peacetime economy.

When questioned about the large federal deficit, Reagan replied:

When I was elected I promised to do five things. Cut taxes. Reduce civilian spending. Restrain and stabilize monetary growth. Get rid of excessive regulation. And balance the budget. Now, I'm batting four out of five so far. And that's .800—pretty good hitting in any league that I know about.

Simple strategy—that was the key to Reagan's success in foreign policy as well. He placed his trust in the nation's strength. If America remained strong, then, according to Reagan's philosophy, it followed that all would be right with the rest of the world.

Reagan followed this policy despite seemingly adverse circumstances, such as when 241 members of a Marine peacekeeping force in Lebanon were killed by a terrorist bomb in 1983.

Although Reagan abhorred terrorists and their tactics, on March 30, 1981, he fell victim to one. As he was leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel after giving a speech, Reagan was shot by John W. Hinckley Jr.

The first boy in the second row from the bottom grew up and became famous. The name is Ronald Reagan, man of many careers. "Knut Rockne—All American" (far right) and "Kings Row" (bottom) were highlights of his movie career. Pictured below is his wife Nancy, who Reagan says, "made up her own mind that marriage was a career in itself."





1980 campaign buttons support a 1968 prophecy made by the National Review: Ronald Reagan "may become a part of American History."

At the time, Reagan didn't realize he had been wounded and thought the pain he felt was from a rib that had cracked when secret service men threw themselves on top of him and pushed him into the White House limousine. After he reached George Washington University Hospital, the doctors on the trauma team removed an undetonated explosive bullet from his chest. Two months later, Reagan was back on his feet.

Hinckley's trial, held in Washington, D.C., was not so speedy. Hinckley entered a plea that had been successful for the would-be assassins of Andrew Jackson and Teddy Roosevelt—insanity. More than a year later, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was interred in a mental facility from which he may be released when, and if, he is deemed cured.

Reagan's remarkable recovery seemed to allay any fears the American public may have had regarding the ability of an older man to keep up with the hectic pace of the presidency. Age was not a factor in the 1984 presidential campaign despite attempts by the Democrats to demonstrate that for Reagan, who would be 78 by the end of a second term, old age was all ready a problem.

But the American public stood firmly behind the country's most popular president since FDR in the face of potentially embarrassing memory lapses and off-the-record remarks, such as "My fellow Americans, I am pleased to tell you that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." Even this "innocent joke," told before his weekly radio broadcast, could not dampen public enthusiasm.

In the 1984 election, the Reagan-Bush team received an unprecedented 525 electoral votes and won 59 percent of the popular vote. This time the answer to Reagan's infamous query of the 1980 campaign, "Are you better off today than you were four years ago?" was a resounding yes. Ronald Reagan's optimism and faith in the country had restored belief in the American dream.

Ronald Reagan's Greatest Role

For more than two decades Ronald Reagan has been the conservative's conservative—preaching to the choir, seeking new converts to the cause, spreading the gospel of self-reliance at home and military strength abroad. Reagan still delights in light-hearted self-deprecation, still retains the polish and urgency which have always marked his platform presence; his public appearances are as adroit and smooth as ever.

If Reagan has not changed, though, the nation surely has. After nearly five decades of liberal Democratic rule, a time in which Republicans have controlled Congress for only four of 50 years, America's voting pulse has veered sharply to the right. Today apostles of the ultra-left no longer speak for the genuine values and concerns of America; nearly twice as many citizens labeled themselves "conservative" as "liberal" in several 1979 Harris and Gallup polls. "To many people, conservative used to be a dirty word," Reagan reminisces, "but liberal mistakes—and people realizing that government cannot solve all our problems—have helped to purify it."

Because his is a centrist conservatism, one that incessantly speaks of economic productivity and spiritual rebirth, Reagan emerged in 1980 as the man who startled reporters by attracting traditionally Democratic blue-collar support; the leading spokesman for the Middle America that feels itself abandoned, a spokesman—Reagan says—"for which it urgently yearns."

Reagan's call for tax reduction, for national security and national strength; his ability to articulate what others feel—"Government doesn't cure inflation, government causes inflation . . . If we can get the federal government out of our nation's schools, maybe we can

The Candid Camera

Since he began his political career, Ronald Reagan has endured an onslaught of adverse comments concerning his former profession as an actor. His response to the accusation that his ability to "act" on television enhanced his political image was, "Let me reveal something known to all actors—you can't lie to the camera. When it rolls in for that bigger-than-life close-up, you'd better mean what you say, for insincerity will show up like a putty nose."

get God back in . . . I don't care if we're liked around the world. I just want us to be respected"—have stirred a large part of an electorate tired of being bullied by officials who ignore the very constituents they purport they are serving.

Asked to profile varied issues and personalities, Reagan responded as follows:

- Inflation. "We have to reduce the cost of the federal government, cut down its influence and size. We have to restore productivity. We have to renew incentive. We can lessen federal spending by returning functions to state and local governments."

- National defense. "Never have we been weaker abroad. If we are to command respect overseas we must have a military which *deserves* respect. We have to increase the pay scale in all our armed services so that military service becomes a profession young people can afford to enter."

- Energy. "Conservation is fine—we're all for it—but you can't conserve when there's nothing to save. Instead, we have to get the federal government out of the energy business—and we have to let private enterprise produce the domestic reserves that will end once and for all our crippling dependence on foreign oil."

- The Shah of Iran. "He has been viciously maligned. For years he was a friend of ours. And how did we treat him? We stabbed him in the back. Two years ago I was in Iran; I saw what the Shah was trying to do. He was striving to ensure freedom of worship, to guarantee that women's rights were upheld in a country where they had been denied. He was pushing land reform, low-cost housing, increased education for the young. Our betrayal of him is a sin we will not soon forget."

George Washington University Hospital's trauma team just happened to be on hand when Reagan walked into the emergency room for treatment after Hinckley's assassination attempt. "I hope you're all Republicans," Reagan quipped to the surgeons as he was wheeled into the operating room.



Michael Evans/White House

- Richard Nixon. "His problems arose from an unwise attempt to protect others under him in his administration. But he was—and is—a brilliant man. I have met with many heads of state around the world and almost invariably they praise the Nixon foreign policy as perhaps the most visionary we will see in our lifetimes. He, quite simply, understood the world as it was—not as he wished it were."

- Jimmy Carter. "All he really had was a compulsion to be president. He had no program, no ideas, no vision of what he would do when he became president."

- Nancy Reagan. "She has been," he says, "the most important influence on my life."

"The old ways *can* be best," he is fond of saying. Reagan celebrates traditional values—"The Republican message shouldn't consist of big economic theories or complicated details," he once claimed in a 1978 speech. "Instead, it should consist of five words: family, work, neighborhood, freedom, peace."

If Reagan's vision is derided in Georgetown, Manhattan and Harvard Yard, it is applauded in Albuquerque, Peoria and the farmlands of Ohio. What he offers is a philosophy for the future—a philosophy, he believes, whose time has come.

—excerpted from a November '80
Post article written by Curt Smith.



Earl Schumacher/White House

Biographical Sketch of Ronald W. Reagan

- Feb.6, 1911 Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in Tampico, Ill. to Nelle Wilson and John Edward ("Jack") Reagan. The Reagan's had one previous son, Neil ("Moon") Reagan.
- 1920 The Reagan's moved to a succession of rural northern Illinois towns until they settled in Dixon, Illinois, the place Reagan considers his hometown.
- 1926 Beginning in 1926, Reagan was employed as a lifeguard at Lowell Park in Dixon. He was credited with saving seventy-seven lives during the seven summers he worked there.
- 1928 Reagan graduated from Dixon High School. He served as student body president and participated in football, basketball, track, and school plays.
- 1928-1932 Reagan attended Eureka (Illinois) College, a small liberal arts institution, and majored in economics and sociology. During his sophomore year, Reagan became interested in drama. Reagan also served as student body president.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt's populist rhetoric attracted Reagan to him and later influenced Reagan's speaking style.
- 1932 Reagan received a temporary sports broadcasting job with WOC, a small radio station in Davenport, Iowa. After WOC consolidated with WHO in Des Moines, "Dutch" recreated Chicago Cubs baseball games from the studio. WHO, an NBC affiliate, gave Reagan national media exposure.
- 1937 Reagan enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private but was soon promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry.
- An agent for Warner Brothers "discovered" Reagan in Los Angeles and offered him a seven year contract. Reagan played George Gipp in his most acclaimed film, Knute Rockne--All American (1940).
- Jan. 24, 1940 Reagan and Jane Wyman married. They met while making the movie, Brother Rat.
- Jan. 4, 1941 Maureen was born.

1942 The Army Air Force called Reagan to active duty and assigned Lt. Reagan to the 1st Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, California, where he made over 400 training films.

July 22, 1943 The Army promoted Reagan to the rank of Captain.

Dec. 9, 1945 The Army honorably discharged Capt. Reagan.

1945-1965 Reagan resumed his acting career after the war. Reagan made fifty-three motion pictures and one television movie.

Mar. 18, 1945 Birth of Reagan and Wyman's adopted son, Michael.

1948 Reagan supported Harry S Truman for President.

1949 Reagan and Wyman divorced.

1950 Reagan campaigned for Helen Gahagan Douglas for the Senate.

1952 Reagan campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower.

Mar. 4, 1952 Reagan and Nancy Davis wed.

Oct. 21, 1952 Patricia was born.

Reagan accepted a job as spokesman for the General Electric Company which allowed him to tour the country giving speeches.

1956 Reagan again campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower.

May 20, 1958 Ronald Prescott was born.

1960 Reagan campaigned for Richard Nixon for President.

1962 Reagan officially changed his party registration to Republican.

1964 Reagan's television address for Goldwater, "A Time for Choosing," launched his political career. A group of California businessmen soon afterward supported Reagan's candidacy for Governor.

1965 Publication of Reagan's autobiography, Where's the Rest of Me?

- 1966 Reagan defeated incumbent governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown. His success in the election and as governor made him a leading contender for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1968.
- 1968 Reagan made a tentative run for the presidency, waiting until the Republican National convention to announce his candidacy. He later joined in unanimously supporting Richard Nixon.
- 1970 The voters of California reelected Reagan Governor.
- 1974 For several months after leaving the governorship, Reagan wrote a syndicated newspaper column and provided commentaries on radio stations across the country.
- Nov. 20, 1975 Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President. Reagan lost the party's nomination but his strong showing laid the groundwork for the election in 1980.
- Nov. 13, 1979 Reagan announced his candidacy for President. After winning the party's nomination, he chose George Bush as his running mate. The platform called for "a new consensus with all those across the land who share a community of values embodied in these words: family, work, neighborhood, peace, and freedom."
- Nov. 4, 1980 Reagan was elected the 40th President of the United States in a landslide victory over the incumbent, Jimmy Carter.

THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY

- 1981
- Mar. 30 Assassination attempt by John W. Hinckley, Jr.
- July 20-21 Economic Summit, Ottawa.
- Aug. 13 Economic Recovery Tax Act.
- Sept. 21 Sandra Day O'Connor confirmed as Justice of the Supreme Court.
- 1982
- June 5-6 Economic Summit, Versailles.

	1983
May 28-30	Economic Summit, Williamsburg, Virginia.
Oct. 25	U.S. invasion of Grenada.
	1984
June 7-9	Economic Summit, London.
Nov. 4	Reagan re-elected President in landslide victory over Walter Mondale.
	1985
May 2-4	Economic Summit, Bonn.
Nov. 19-21	Reagan-Gorbachev Summit, Geneva.
	1986
May 4-6	Economic Summit, Tokyo.
Sept. 17	William Rehnquist confirmed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Antonin Scalia confirmed as Justice of the Supreme Court.
Oct. 10-11	Reagan-Gorbachev Summit, Reykjavik.
Oct. 22	Tax Reform Act.
Nov. 6	Immigration Reform and Control Act.
	1987
June 8-10	Economic Summit, Venice.
Dec. 8	Reagan and Gorbachev sign the Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty at the Summit in Washington, DC.
Dec. 8-10	Reagan-Gorbachev Summit in Washington, DC.
	1988
Feb. 3	Anthony Kennedy confirmed as Justice of the Supreme Court.
May 29-June 2	Reagan-Gorbachev Summit in Moscow. The leaders exchanged ratifications of the INF Treaty.
June 19-21	Economic Summit, Toronto.
Sept. 28	U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.
Nov. 18	Anti-Drug Abuse Act.
Dec. 7	Final meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev.

11/1991

Biographical Sketch of Ronald W. Reagan

- 1911 Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on February 6 to Nelle Wilson and John Edward ("Jack") Reagan in an apartment above the general store on Main Street in Tampico, Illinois where his father sold shoes. His parents had one older son, (John) Neil ("Moon") Reagan who was born in 1909.
- 1920 The Reagan's moved to a succession of rural northern Illinois towns until they settled in Dixon, Illinois, a town of 10,000 inhabitants 100 miles west of Chicago. Reagan considers Dixon to be his hometown.
- 1926 Beginning in 1926, Reagan was employed as a lifeguard at Lowell Park in Dixon. He saved seventy-seven lives during the seven summers he worked there.
- 1928 Reagan graduated from Dixon High School, where the student body elected him president. Reagan also played football and basketball, ran track, and acted in school productions. He read for pleasure and spent many hours in the local library.
- 1928-1932 Reagan attended Eureka (Illinois) College, a small liberal arts institution, twenty miles from Peoria. Eureka College, affiliated with the Christian Church, was the oldest co-educational college west of the Alleghenies. He joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. As a freshman, Reagan spoke for a strike committee that successfully protested an administration plan to reduce the curriculum for budgetary reasons. During his sophomore year, Reagan became interested in drama. In 1931, Eureka College entered a one-act play competition at Northwestern University where it won second place for its production of Edna St. Vincent Millay's fantasy, Aria da Capo. The judges selected Reagan's performance for individual honors and the head of the Northwestern Drama Department suggested that Reagan consider a career in drama. Reagan also served as president of the student body, won letters in track, basketball, and football, and coached the swimming team.

In 1931, Jack Reagan lost his partnership in a shoe store he had opened and on Christmas Eve lost his job as a traveling salesman. During this period, Ronald helped his family out financially.

The economic depression of the 1930s was especially influential in Reagan's young adult life. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's populist rhetoric attracted Reagan to him and later influenced Reagan's speaking style. Reagan graduated from Eureka College in June, 1932, with a B.A. in economics and sociology.

1932 During the autumn after graduating from college, Reagan received a temporary job broadcasting University of Iowa home football games over WOC, a small radio station in Davenport, Iowa. In January, 1933, WOC hired Reagan as a staff sports announcer. He assumed some of Neil's college expenses. When WOC consolidated with WHO in Des Moines, "Dutch" (the nickname given to Reagan by his father at birth) recreated Chicago Cubs baseball games by reading Western Union reports from the studio. Reagan obtained nation-wide exposure while working at WHO, an NBC affiliate.

1937 Reagan enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private because of his desire to ride the horses in the Cavalry. About a month later, the Army appointed him 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry.

An agent for Warner Brothers "discovered" Reagan in Los Angeles while "Dutch" covered Cubs' spring training on Catalina Island off the coast of California. After Reagan returned to Des Moines, he received a wire with the news that Warner Brothers offered him a seven year contract. Reagan played the lead as a crusading radio announcer in his first picture, Love is on the Air (1937). By his own assessment, Reagan was "the Errol Flynn of the B's." In addition to the noteworthy movies, Brother Rat (1938) and Dark Victory (1939), Reagan fought for and won the part of George Gipp in Knute Rockne--All American (1940). This movie established him as a serious actor, a reputation reinforced by his portrayal of Drake McHugh, a small-town playboy whose legs were needlessly amputated by a vengeful surgeon in King's Row (1941). King's Row, according to Reagan, brought him stardom and was his finest picture. The movie inspired the title of his autobiography, Where's the Rest of Me? Reagan's acting career spanned almost 30 years.

- 1938 Reagan became a member of the board of the Screen Actors' Guild (SAG) and was "a rabid union man ever since." He resigned from the board when called for military service.
- 1940 Reagan and Jane Wyman married on January 24 after meeting during the making of Brother Rat. Their first child, Maureen, was born on January 4, 1941 and their adopted son, Michael, on March 18, 1945. Reagan and Wyman divorced in July, 1949.
- 1942 The Army called Reagan to active duty although he was disqualified from combat duty due to his nearsightedness. In 1942, the Army Air Force assigned Lieutenant Reagan to the 1st Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, CA. Reagan made one non-military film during the war; he was sent to the Provisional Task Force Show Unit to make This is the Army, the proceeds of which went to Army Relief. On July 22, 1943, the Army promoted Reagan to the rank of Captain. Except for a brief stint in New York City, Reagan remained in Culver City until the end of the war. During Reagan's service, he made over 400 training films. On December 9, 1945, the Army honorably discharged Captain Reagan. His reserve commission automatically terminated on April 1, 1953.
- 1945 Reagan resumed his acting career after the war, making movies for Warner Brothers and for other studios. Among his most well-known movies are The Voice of the Turtle (1948), The Winning Team (1952), Bedtime for Bonzo (Universal, 1951) and Hellcats of the Navy (Columbia, 1957) which also starred Nancy Davis. Reagan made fifty-three motion pictures and one television movie, The Killers (Universal 1964), the only production in which he played a villain.

The postwar period witnessed a shift in Reagan's politics from the left to the right. Although "the first crack" in Reagan's staunch liberalism occurred in the last eighteen months of his military career, he maintained liberal associations after the war including the United World Federalists and Americans for Democratic Action. He became increasingly disillusioned with Communist infiltration of two other groups to which he belonged: the American Veterans Committee and the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences, and Professions. During his

presidency of the SAG, which lasted from 1947 until 1952, Reagan cooperated with the Hollywood blacklist and with the investigation by the House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities into Communist influence in the motion picture industry. He did, however, come to view Rep. J. Parnell Thomas and his committee as "a pretty venal bunch" and was wary in his testimony of naming names. Reagan supported Harry S Truman for President in 1948 and campaigned for Helen Gahagan Douglas for the Senate in 1950. By 1952, however, Reagan campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower, which he repeated in 1956.

1952

Reagan and Nancy Davis wed on March 4. Their first child, Patricia, was born on October 21, 1952 and their son, Ronald Prescott, on May 20, 1958.

Reagan resigned as president of the SAG (although he remained on the Board of Directors) because of a possible conflict of interest when he took a job as spokesman for the General Electric Company. While touring the United States for GE's personnel relations program, Reagan visited over 100 GE plants and addressed over 200,000 workers on the merits of free enterprise. During this period, Reagan became more conservative politically, from enmity toward big business to championing American free enterprise. Until 1962, he appeared as host and occasionally as a performer on the weekly network television dramatic series, General Electric Theater. From 1965-1966 Reagan hosted, and occasionally performed in, the network television western series, "Death Valley Days". In 1966, Reagan gave up his acting career in order to devote his time to politics.

1959

The SAG reelected Reagan president and he led negotiations in a strike that resulted in pay raises and improved working conditions. He resigned in June 1960 to prevent a conflict of interest after "acquiring an ownership interest in a TV program."

1960

Reagan campaigned for Richard Nixon in the 1960 Presidential election and officially changed his party registration to Republican in 1962. During the early 1960s, Reagan had become a fervid crusader for conservative causes. He narrated anti-Communist television programs, appeared at rallies for Dr. Fred Schwarz's Christian Anti-

Communist Crusade, sat in on planning sessions of Project Alert, and joined the advisory board of Young Americans for Freedom.

1964

Reagan co-chaired the group Californians for Goldwater. In October, he made a television address for Goldwater, "A Time for Choosing," which was said to have drawn more contributions than any other single speech up to that time. Although Goldwater lost by a landslide to Lyndon Baines Johnson in the Presidential election, conservatives viewed the positive response to Reagan's speech as an indication that they might have a possible candidate in future elections. Whereas many Americans characterized Goldwater as an extremist, they felt reassured by Reagan's populist style. One day after the speech, a group of conservatives formed the national "Republicans for Ronald Reagan." Two months later in California, a group of businessmen headed by Holmes Tuttle formed "Friends of Ronald Reagan" in order to support Reagan's candidacy for Governor.

1965

Publication of Reagan's autobiography, Where's the Rest of Me?

1966

On January 4, Reagan formally announced his candidacy for governor of California. In the June primary election he won handily over moderate Republican George Christopher, a former mayor of San Francisco, and defeated incumbent governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown by almost one million votes in the November election. Reagan used the populist rhetoric of the "ordinary citizen" to "bring the fresh air of common sense to bear" on the problems created or exacerbated by big government. He concentrated on such issues as high taxes, wasteful spending, the growth of bureaucracy, the rising crime rate, welfare costs, and the student revolt on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. Reagan ran as a non-politician who believed that "much of what troubles us has been brought about by politicians." His success in the election and as governor made him a leading contender for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1968.

Reagan's first term of Governor, from 1966 to 1970, turned out to be more pragmatic and restrained than his conservative campaign rhetoric would have suggested. Reagan took a hard line

against "dissident" students and "permissive" administrators at UCB, froze state hiring, and proposed a multibillion dollar tax increase while reducing expenditures in social services, education and other areas. Reagan's fiscal policies, along with a prospering state economy, changed California from a state with a deficit to one with a substantial budget surplus which led to a 1973 income tax rebate and property tax relief. Lastly, he supported tax reform which shifted California's regressive revenue raising system to a progressive one.

- 1968 Reagan made a tentative run for the presidency, waiting until the Republican National convention to announce his candidacy. He later joined in the convention's unanimous support for Richard Nixon.
- 1970 The voters of California handily reelected Reagan Governor in 1970 over the challenge posed by the State Assembly speaker, Jesse Unruh. During his second term, Reagan signed a welfare reform bill which became his major achievement. The California Welfare Reform Act of 1971 reduced the welfare rolls while boosting payments to recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.
- 1974 For several months after leaving the governorship, Reagan wrote a syndicated newspaper column and provided commentaries on radio stations across the country. Additionally, he spoke to many political and civic groups.
- 1975 Reagan looked forward to running for President in 1976 but Nixon's resignation in 1974 as a result of the Watergate affair gave Gerald R. Ford the advantage of incumbency. Nevertheless, Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President on November 20, 1975. In July of 1976, one month prior to the Republican National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, he chose Sen. Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania as his vice-presidential running mate. Reagan lost the party's nomination to Ford, 1187 to 1070 with 1130 delegate votes needed to win the nomination. His strong showing forced Ford to accept a conservative platform at the convention and laid the groundwork for the election in 1980. After the election he formed Citizens for the Republic, a political action committee, with the remaining

funds from the campaign.

1978 During the 1978 elections, Reagan campaigned for a number of state and local Republican candidates. He continued his radio program, newspaper column and speaking schedule.

1979-1980 On November 13, 1979, Reagan announced his candidacy for President, becoming the tenth and last Republican candidate to enter the race. After winning the party's nomination during the convention in Detroit, Michigan, he chose George Bush as his running mate. The party's conservative platform called for "a new consensus with all those across the land who share a community of values embodied in these words: family, work, neighborhood, peace, and freedom."

On November 4, 1980, Reagan was elected the 40th President of the United States in a landslide victory over the incumbent, Jimmy Carter.

RONALD REAGAN
Governor of California

Ronald Reagan is a phenomenon on the American political scene. As a citizen politician making his first try for public office, he was elected California's 33rd governor in 1966 by a majority of nearly one million votes. Four years later he was reelected to a second term which ends December 31, 1974.

As the architect of "The Creative Society," Governor Reagan brought to government the creative talents of non-politicians to find ways of making the country's largest state operate more efficiently and economically.

"Dutch" Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois, February 6, 1911. In 1932, he earned a degree in Economics and Sociology from Eureka College, where he captained the college swimming team, played varsity football and was elected student body president. After graduation, he became a radio news and sportscaster, and later a motion picture and television actor and served as an officer of the Screen Actors Guild and the Motion Picture Industry Council.

A second lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry Reserve, Reagan was called to active duty in World War II and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain after intelligence service with the U.S. Air Force. In 1952 he married the former actress Nancy Davis. They have two children, Patricia and Ronald.

In 1967, his "creative society" inherited a financial crisis of monumental proportions. Reagan immediately instituted a policy of "cut, squeeze and trim." He ordered a ten percent across-the-board cut in spending in all departments, reduced the holdover budget by \$127.6 million and blue-penciled \$43.5 million out of the final budget as approved by the legislature. Despite these and other economies, it was necessary to increase taxes.

Meanwhile, a blue-ribbon task force of business and professional leaders appointed by Reagan submitted some 1,500 specific recommendations aimed at cutting away deadwood and increasing efficiency. By 1968, more than 850 of these were implemented, at a savings of more than \$202 million, and it was estimated the recommendations would save more than \$600 million over a 10-year period. By 1969, the State was "back in the black," and Californians were given a 10 percent refund on their income taxes.

In 1970, Governor Reagan was successful in obtaining passage of programs to control narcotics, drug abuse and crime, and give greater protection to the environment. He considers the anti-crime bills written into law during his administration the most significant in a decade. A new State Department of Narcotics and Drug Abuse Coordination was established and tough measures became law to punish pushers, control drug traffic and provide for the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. California during his administration enacted the nation's toughest air, water and noise pollution control laws and was the first state to establish a Department of Consumer Affairs.

The governor's welfare reform program, now acclaimed nationwide, was approved by the legislature in 1971. His reforms called for raising welfare grants for the truly needy. California entered 1974 with more than 400,000 fewer persons on welfare and general relief. Savings to taxpayers amounted to more than \$1 billion. He signed into law a minimum state income tax bill the same year.

Property tax reform-school financing plans of the Reagan Administration highlighted the 1972 legislative session. As a result, homeowners and renters received \$1.283 billion in relief, and every California youngster was granted an adequate education regardless of living in a rich or poor school district. The same year the governor shared a "withholding tax windfall" with the taxpayers, granting them a 20 percent tax credit on 1971 personal income taxes.

Tax relief for Californians continued in 1973 as the income tax for that year for families earning \$8,000 or less was eliminated and rebates ranging from 20 to 35 percent were provided from a surplus. Forty-five of the state's 58 counties reduced basic property taxes, most for the second year in a row.

A record amount of state funds for public schools was allocated by Governor Reagan in the 1974-75 budget he proposed to the legislature early in January 1974. This is in keeping with his administration's establishment of education as its first priority.

Ronald Reagan was elected 1969 Chairman of the National Republican Governors' Association and is a sought after speaker for the Republican Party. He will not seek a third term as governor.

February 25, 1974

RONALD WILSON REAGAN

Background Information

Date of Birth: February 6, 1911 (2:00 a.m.)

Place of Birth: Tampico, Illinois
Born over the store where his father sold shoes.
Nicknamed "Dutch" by his father.

Family Information: Married former Nancy Davis on March 4, 1952.

Children: Maureen (b: January 1941)
Michael (b: March 1946)
Patricia (b: October 1952)
Ronald Prescott (b: May 1958)

Father: John Edward Reagan (Irish)
b: July 13, 1883; Bennett, Iowa
d: May 18, 1941

Mother: Nelle Wilson Reagan (Scotch-English)
b: July 24, 1883; Fulton, Illinois
d: July 25, 1962

Brother: Neil Reagan (resides in California)

Grandfather: John Michael Reagan (Irish)
(Paternal) b: County Cork, Ireland

Grandmother: No information available
(Paternal)

Grandfather: Thomas A. Wilson (Scotch)
(Maternal) b: Unknown

Grandmother: Mary Ann Elsey (English)
(Maternal) b: Essex England

Religion: Christian (Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, CA)
Member: Disciples of Christ

Education: B.A. (Economics & Sociology), Eureka College (1932),
Eureka, Illinois

Childhood/Youth: Reagan was raised in a variety of small towns and cities in northern Illinois. His family moved five times before settling in Dixon, Illinois, when Reagan was nine. The Reagans lived modestly. Most of Reagan's youth was spent in Dixon (100 miles west of Chicago, population 10,000 in 1920, population about 20,000 today).

Childhood/Youth:
(Cont.)

In high school, Reagan was student body president with above-average grades. He spent his summers as a lifeguard (saved 77 people) and in try-outs for the varsity football team. He made the team in his junior year.

At Eureka College he majored in economics and sociology. He won letters in three sports (track, basketball, and football). He was active in school drama.

Career:

After college, Reagan spent a final summer of lifeguarding at Lowell Park before landing a part-time job at WOC radio in Davenport, Iowa. Reagan broadcast college football games for \$10 a game.

By 1933, Reagan was a full-time staff announcer for WHO Radio in Des Moines, Iowa. He read Western Union accounts of the Chicago Cubs baseball games from the studio and recreated the games for the radio audience.

In 1937 Reagan was sent to California to cover spring training for the Chicago Cubs. While there, he auditioned at Warner Brothers for acting parts. After a successful screen test, Reagan signed a Warner Brothers contract for about \$200 a week.

Reagan appeared in several movies during the next four years (50 films).

Reagan has said that his two favorite film roles were as George Gipp ("The Gipper") in Knute Rockne - All American (1940) and Drake McHugh in Kings Row (1942).

Reagan enlisted in the Army in April 1942. Bad eyesight kept him out of active combat, so he made training films for the Air Corps. He was discharged honorably with the rank of captain in 1945. After the war, Reagan returned to Hollywood and continued his film career with Warner Brothers. He made many more films.

Reagan turned toward television in the 1950s. After Hellcats of the Navy (1957) he made only one more film, The Killers (1964).

From 1951 to 1962, Reagan worked for General Electric. He visited more than one hundred GE plants and addressed more than 200,000 GE workers on the merits of free enterprise over big government.

Reagan also served as host of General Electric Theatre. In 1964, he became host of Death Valley Days and remained until entering politics in 1965.

Politics:

Reagan first took an active interest in politics shortly after the close of WWII. At the time he was, by his own account, a "liberal Democrat." He voted Democratic until 1952 when he worked as a "Democrat for Eisenhower."

Reagan was elected president of the Screen Actors Guild in 1946. In 1947, he was a cooperative witness before the House Committee on Un-American Activities as it investigated communism in Hollywood.

Reagan formally became a Republican in 1962. In 1964, he was co-chairman of Californians for Goldwater and in October of that year cut a televised address on behalf of Goldwater. The speech was said to have drawn more contributions than any other single speech up to that time.

Reagan ran for Governor of California after being persuaded by friends to run. He easily won the Republican nomination in 1966 and scored a decisive victory over California Governor Pat Brown. Four years later in 1970 he won re-election by a comfortable margin.

Election History:

<u>1966</u>	Governor	Edmund G. Brown (D)	2,749,174 (42%)
		Ronald Reagan (R)	3,742,913 (57%)
<u>1970</u>	Governor	Jess Unruh (D)	2,938,607 (45%)
		Ronald Reagan (R)	3,439,664 (52%)

Details of the accomplishments of the Reagan Administration are available in a reference book (printed during the 1980 campaign) entitled, The Reagan Record.

Reagan left the governorship in 1975. During the next several months he wrote a syndicated newspaper column and broadcast radio commentaries on radio stations across the country. He also spoke to many political and civic groups.

Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president on November 20, 1975. He chose Senator Richard Schweiker (R-Pa) on July 26, 1976, as his vice presidential running mate. He lost the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 1976.

Balloting for Republican Nomination:

Gerald R. Ford	1187 (1130 needed to nominate)
Ronald Reagan	1070

Politics:
(Cont.)

After the 1976 election, Reagan formed Citizens for the Republic (a political action committee) with left-over funds from the campaign. During the 1978 elections, he campaigned for 86 candidates for national, state, and local offices. He also continued his radio program and newspaper column and speaking schedule.

Reagan announced his candidacy for a second run for the presidency on November 13, 1979. At the Republican National Convention in July 1980, Reagan was nominated unanimously on the first ballot. He selected Ambassador George Bush as his vice presidential running mate. On November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected 40th President of the United States by an electoral vote of 489 to 49.

Personal:

Height:	6'1"	Nonsmoker
Weight:	184	Wears glasses & contacts
Hair:	Brown	
Eyes:	Blue	
Waist	36"	Wrote autobiography:
Shirt:	16"	<u>Where's The Rest Of Me?</u>
Sleeve	33"	(published by Best Books,
Overcoat	44	Inc., New York City, 1965)
Inseam	30½"	
Shoe Size	10½B	
Hat	7	

Favorite TV Shows: Little House on the Prairie and The Waltons.

Favorite Physical Activities: horseback riding and ranch work.

Favorite Books: fiction and historical.

Favorite Magazine: National Review

Favorite Food: macaroni & cheese

Favorite Dessert: carrot cake

Size of House: 9 rooms (Pacific Palisades residence).

Ranch Information: Pancho del Cielo (Ranch in the Sky), Santa Barbara, CA
688 acres; purchased in late 1974.

Names of Dogs: Fuzzy (Belgian Shepherd); Lady (Shepherd); Muffin (Cockapoo); and Victory (Golden Labrador).

Miller - black hair
hound
Tara - Female
Horse

Names of Horses: Little Man (Quarter; his favorite); No Strings (Quarter; her favorite); Catalina (Arabian); and Gwalianko (Arabian).



The
PRESIDENTS
and
THEIR WIVES

from
GEORGE WASHINGTON
to
RONALD WILSON REAGAN



REFERENCE

BORN February 6, 1911, at Tampico, Ill., older son of John and Nelle Wilson Reagan.

He was graduated from Eureka College in 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology. He served in the Army Air Corps from April 1942 to December 1945, rising to the rank of captain. A member of the Christian Church.

MARRIED Jane Wyman on Jan. 25, 1940; divorced in 1948. Married Nancy Davis on March 4, 1952. Children are Maureen, born in 1941; Michael, born in 1945; Patricia, born in 1952, and Ronald, born in 1958.

1980 ELECTION VOTES
Electoral: 538 Popular
Ronald W. Reagan, R. 489 42,797,153
James E. Carter, D. 49 34,434,100
John B. Anderson, Ind. 5,533,927
VICE PRESIDENT: George H. Bush of Texas



Ronald Wilson Reagan won the presidency by carrying 44 of the 50 states. With his big victory came the first Republican control of a house of Congress—the Senate—since the Eisenhower years.

Reagan had been president of his union, the Screen Actors Guild, for six terms and he was twice elected president of the Motion Picture Industry Council. His earlier career included stints as sports broadcaster and editor, and a film career that includes 53 feature-length motion pictures. He was also a television actor and series host in the 1950s and '60s, and he was a featured General Electric Co. speaker.

He began his quest for public office after he had made a very successful speech on behalf of Republican presidential nominee Barry M. Goldwater in 1964. Reagan was elected governor of California in 1966 by a million votes, and he was reelected by a large majority in 1970.

Reagan sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1976, losing by only a handful of delegates to President Gerald Ford. In the years afterward, he remained in the public eye by writing a syndicated newspaper column and by broadcasting commentary five times weekly over hundreds of radio stations.

Reagan's theme has been a conservative form of government. He has consistently called for reducing the size of government and of balancing the federal budget. He is an ardent anti-communist and early in his administration criticized the Soviet Union for that nation's interference in the affairs of other countries.

Reagan called for substantial cuts in the budget and in federal programs. He urged more deregulation and less government control over the affairs of business, and he proposed an individual tax cut that would amount to 30 percent in three years.

Reagan is unusual in that he appeals to both Republicans and Democrats and is making a point of working closely with the Democrats in Congress. Even though he won the presidency by a substantial margin, he improved his popularity after taking office.

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Thirty years ago Ronald Reagan visited a professor at Northern Illinois University. He also stopped to visit his Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers. At that time in the mid 1950s, Kappa Deltas of Gamma Alpha Chapter were working on a homecoming float with the TKEs and these KDs had their photograph taken with the then-actor. The lucky coeds include (left to right) Terry Moscinski Horvath, Marilyn Archibald, now President Ronald Reagan, Audrey Kohnke Tofano and Pat Morgano Recka. THE ANGELOS thanks Audrey for sharing this momento with our readers.

Directory

The complete Official Directory was printed in the Fall, 1982 issue of THE ANGELOS. Correspondence may be addressed to any Council member or the Sorority's National Headquarters.

National President—Jean Tucker Stradley (Mrs. Henry E., Jr.), 3894 S. Niagara Way, Denver, CO 80237

National Vice President—Corre Anding Stegall (Mrs. Richard), 3422 Aspen Bend Dr., Houston, TX 77068

National Collegiate Vice President—Diane LaFerney McDowell (Mrs. Scott), 7125 Blackwood, Dallas, TX 75231

National Alumnae Vice President—Carol Musser Coordt (Mrs. Robert), 329 Second St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

National Secretary—Beverly Leet Sibley (Mrs. Benjamin), 2060 Thunderbird Tr., Maitland, FL 32751

National Treasurer—Ruth Rouse Dolberg (Mrs. Richard), 5503 E. Utah Pl., Denver, CO 80222

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2211 South Josephine Street,
Denver, CO 80210

Telephone: AC 303/777-4900

Executive Secretary—
Marian A. Griffin

Campus Sights & Sounds

OHIO STATE'S College of Veterinary Medicine is encouraging vets to stimulate interest among high school students. Veterinary students have been on the decline for about 10 years.

FOUNDED in 1878, the Johns Hopkins University Press is the oldest university press in continuous operation in the country.

CHAIN RESTAURANT managers will be trained at Michigan State's School of Hotel Restaurant and Institutional Management under a five-year grant of \$375,000 from the PepsiCo Foundation. It is said to be the first undergraduate and graduate program in chain restaurant management. (*Chronicle of Higher Education*)

THE FIRST WOMAN to be head coach of a men's swimming team at a major university has been named at the University of Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC RELATIONS. The infant son of the Prince and Princess of Wales received an honorary scholarship and a blue football jersey from Auburn University. The athletic director pointed out the jersey was similar to ones that orbited the earth in the space shuttle Columbia

as the crew, Mattingly and Hartsfield, are Auburn alumni. (*Chronicle*)

WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK, students at the University of Colorado monitor the university's satellite which is designed to study how the sun creates and destroys ozone in the earth's upper atmosphere. It orbits the earth more than 300 miles up. (*Chronicle*)

A FOUR YEAR Toxicology program has been established within the School of Pharmacy at Northeast Louisiana University. It is one of only five such programs in the nation. Authorities estimate 5,000 bachelor degree toxicologists will be needed in the 1980s but only about 100 are graduated annually.

REPORTED IN ERROR

The Fall, 1982 issue of THE ANGELOS incorrectly reported the death of Lillian Mildred Woodberry Carlton, a member of Kappa Alpha chapter. Mildred telephoned us to report the error and says she is doing just fine, living in Wauchula, Fla. THE ANGELOS regrets this error and any embarrassment resulting from the previous publication.



Ronald
Reagan:

40th President
of the
United States



During his Presidential campaign, Ronald Reagan often quoted John Winthrop, a leader of some early American colonists who landed on the rocky Massachusetts shore around 1630. Winthrop told the men and women in his small flock that the eyes of all mankind were on them and that they could be as “a shining city on a hill.”

Ronald Reagan asserted that the eyes of all mankind are still upon America, posing a challenge to its people to keep their rendezvous with destiny and give hope to all who yearn for freedom and cherish human dignity.

“Let us pledge to restore, in our time, the American spirit of voluntary service, of cooperation, of private and community initiative...to build a new consensus with all those across the land who share a community of values embodied in these words: family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom.”

With these words, America's new President, Ronald Reagan, set forth new policy directions for the United States aimed at decentralizing federal programs, reducing the size and spending of government, strengthening national defense, restoring economic prosperity through private enterprise, and fostering individual initiative instead of dependence on government.



Ronald Reagan's successful campaign for the presidency began with a solid victory in the New Hampshire primary. Here, he and wife Nancy visit a downtown voting precinct in Manchester.



At the core of President Reagan's political philosophy is the belief that the best government is a strictly limited government. "The federal government has taken on functions it was never intended to perform and which it does not perform well," President Reagan says. "There should be a planned, orderly transfer of such functions to states and communities."

In economic affairs, the President takes a consistently conservative approach that stresses balanced budgets, curbs on government spending, and reliance on a free market to encourage economic growth. Along with reducing the size of government, President Reagan has called for substantial tax cuts for individuals and businesses.

By reducing federal taxes, spending and regulations, President Reagan believes the United States can reduce inflation and unemployment, and stimulate economic growth and industrial productivity. To combat unemployment, for example, the President argues that it is better to spend money on "incentives to business to hire more people" than to spend money creating public jobs. He seeks to relieve the sometimes excessive tax burden on small businesses.

In energy matters, the President has advocated an end to price controls and other federal restrictions in order to encourage private development of coal, oil and natural gas reserves. He sees solutions to energy problems in the genius of industry and the imagination of management, not in a Cabinet office in Washington.

In foreign affairs, President Reagan stresses the need for firm alliances and a strong national defense. He believes that relaxation of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union can evolve only from a position of military security and clear, constant policies on the part of the United States. While critical of aspects of SALT II, he supports "a treaty that fairly and genuinely reduces the number of strategic nuclear weapons."

The American people responded to this program and philosophy by electing Ronald Reagan their 40th President.



economics and sociology primarily, and displayed a continuing flair for politics.

At 17, as president of the freshman class, he made a dramatic speech on behalf of a student strike protesting the elimination of certain courses. As a result, the courses were restored and the college president resigned. Reagan has described the experience as “heady wine.” He later ran for and won the top post in student government. Also, as in high school, he played on the football team and was the leading man in several plays.

After graduation in 1932, in the depths of the Great Depression, the 21-year-old Reagan set his

sights on a career in show business. Since Broadway and Hollywood, he says, “were as inaccessible as outer space,” he compromised on radio. Within five years, “Dutch” Reagan was the best-known sports announcer in the Midwest, broadcasting major league baseball games over radio station WHO in Des Moines, Iowa.

In 1937, a friend arranged a screen test with Warner Brothers in Hollywood. The test proved successful, starting a 27-year career that included 55 feature films, several of them box-office hits.

Reagan was good enough to graduate to modest stardom in first-rate films. His popularity in

westerns and in comedy parts won him the opportunity to play more demanding roles such as a football player who dies young in *Knute Rockne—All American*, and a man whose legs are amputated in the film *King’s Row*. (His famous line from that movie also served as the title for his autobiography, *Where’s the Rest of Me?*, published in 1965.)

Poor eyesight (now corrected with contact lenses) prevented Reagan from engaging in combat during World War II. Instead, he became a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and narrated military training films.

After the war, Reagan served six one-year terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild, whose membership numbered 15,000. On one occasion he led a successful strike of actors to win improved pension and medical benefits, and a larger share of television revenues.

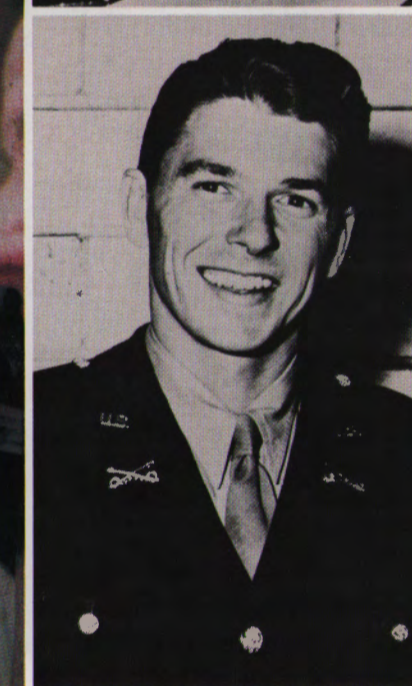
His experiences with labor unions crystallized part of Reagan’s conservative political philosophy. “I owe it to that period that I managed to sort out a lot of items in my personal life. From being an active—although unconscious—partisan in what now and then turned out to be Communist causes, I little by little became awakened,” he has said.



The media avidly pursues presidential candidates. Here, Reagan fields questions from reporters at a news conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Reagan first achieved public recognition as a popular sports broadcaster for radio station WHO in Des Moines, Iowa.



During World War II, Lieutenant Ronald Reagan narrated training and combat films for the U.S. Army.

He resisted what he perceived as a Communist threat to the motion picture unions and received several awards for his union activities. President Reagan is the first labor union member to occupy the White House.

His administrative ability was recognized in 1949 when he was elected chairman of the Motion Picture Industry Council, which represents 35,000 members of nine major acting, labor and management groups, and is the film capital's most prestigious organization. He served for 10 years on the Council's board of directors.

Life magazine summed up this part of his life: "Reagan was an extremely capable labor leader and the guild's esteem for him is evidenced by the fact that he was recalled to the union presidency in a 1959 emergency, to lead a successful strike against the studios over the issue of TV residual pay for actors."

Ronald Reagan has said the most important benefit of his union presidency was meeting a young actress from Chicago named Nancy Davis. (Reagan and his first wife, actress Jane Wyman, were divorced in 1948 after eight years of marriage.



They had a daughter, Maureen, born in 1941, and adopted a son, Michael, in 1945.)

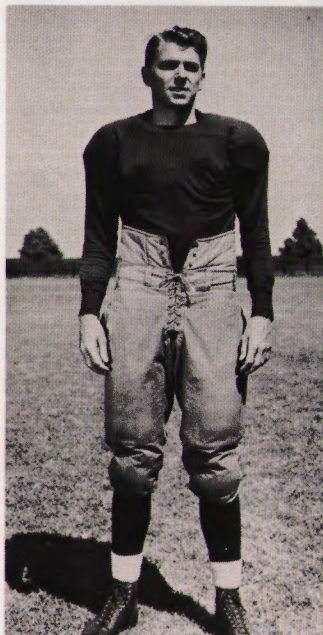
Ronald and Nancy were married in March 1952 with actor William Holden as best man and Mrs. Holden as matron of honor. Nancy stopped acting (she had appeared in eight films), explaining that "if you try to make two careers work, one of them has to suffer. Maybe some women can do it, but not me." They have two children, Patricia Ann (Patti), 26, a songwriter in California, and Ronald (Skipper), 20, who dances with the Joffrey Ballet in New York City.

Nancy Reagan has encouraged her husband's political career and speaks out firmly on his behalf:

"He shows tremendous courage, integrity and strength... Ronnie has always stuck to his principles and has never gotten personal or vindictive. If your position is strong, you don't have to indulge in that kind of thing."

In 1954, Reagan assumed a new role which revitalized his career and completed his transformation from liberal Democrat to conservative Republican. Hired by General Electric as host of its weekly television series, *GE Theater*,

Reagan's film career lasted more than 25 years and included over 50 films. In "Knute Rockne—All American" (far left) he played George Gipp, a legendary football player who died young. He won acclaim for his role in the 1941 movie "King's Row" (center). In "Hellcats of the Navy" (right), in 1956 Reagan costarred with his wife, Nancy.



On a flight from New York to California, Ronald and Nancy Reagan review and analyze the day's events with a campaign aide.

he became one of the first movie actors to make the transition to television. The program lasted eight years and for seven of them was the most popular in a prime viewing spot—9 o'clock Sunday nights. In addition, he toured General Electric plants throughout the country, discussing the strengths of free enterprise and the dangers of big government. From 1954 to 1962, he talked to 250,000 General Electric employees and other Americans in 38 states, sometimes making as many as 14 speeches a day. It was a national political campaign in miniature, and an unparalleled opportunity for Reagan to articulate his increasingly conservative political philosophy and sharpen his speaking skills.

In an age of omnipresent assistants and anonymous speechwriters, Reagan researched and wrote his own speeches—and still does much of his speechwriting today. He personally scripted many of the daily radio commentaries he broadcast between his 1976 and 1980 Presidential nomination campaigns.

In 1960, after several years of comparative political inactivity, Ronald Reagan campaigned as a Democrat for the Presidential nominee of the Republican Party—Richard Nixon. In 1962, when

Nixon ran for governor of California, Reagan again began campaigning for him, but as a Republican.

He gave the following explanation of why he changed parties: "I was a Democrat when the Democratic party stood for states' rights, local autonomy, economy in government and individual freedom. Today it is a party that has changed, openly declaring for centralized federal power and government-sponsored redistribution of the individual's earnings."

In 1964, when Barry Goldwater was nominated for President by the Republicans, Reagan (an old friend of the Arizona Senator) was named co-chairman of California Citizens for Goldwater-Miller. The appointment set the stage for a dramatic event which was to make Ronald Reagan a national political star overnight. On October 27, only one week before election day, he delivered a 30-minute, nationally telecast address, "A Time for Choosing." The address encouraged contributions of well over 600,000 dollars, shifted countless votes, and prompted more than a few people to wonder what would have happened if Reagan had been on the GOP ticket. *Time* described the speech as "the one bright spot in a dismal campaign."



After accepting the Republican Party presidential nomination in Detroit, Ronald Reagan and members of his family acknowledged delegates' ovation. From left are: son Ronald, daughter Patti, son Michael with grandson Cameron, daughter-in-law Colleen, and daughter Maureen.

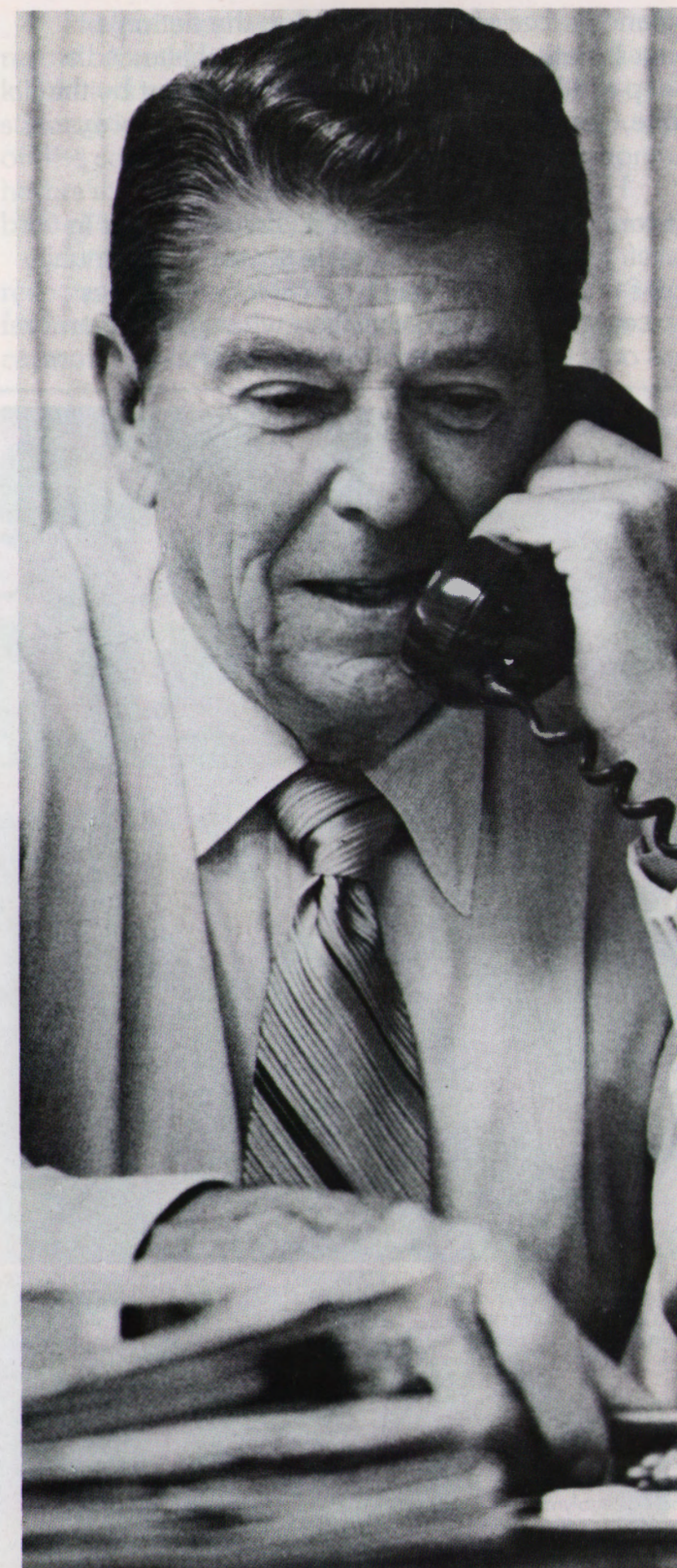
In early 1965, influential leaders in the California Republican Party asked Reagan to consider running for governor. After several months of soundings, Reagan announced his candidacy—with a 30-minute TV program carried on stations throughout the state. It was an audacious step for a man who previously had not held public office, and Reagan endured the inevitable laughter and jokes about being an actor-turned-politician.

He met the criticism about his lack of experience directly: "I am not a politician. I am an ordinary citizen with a deep-seated belief that much of what troubles us has been brought about by politicians; and it's high time that more ordinary citizens brought the fresh air of common-sense thinking to bear on these problems." He said, "If we ordinary citizens don't run government, government is going to run us."

When the votes were counted, he had defeated two-term governor Edmund Brown by almost a million votes. Reagan easily won reelection to a second four-year term in 1970.

The Reagan administration was controversial and effective. The assessment of writer Richard Whelan is shared by many: "Twice elected governor of the nation's most populous and arguably most complex state, he proved an innovative and surprisingly able executive. Some of his major reforms have survived. By contrast to other large states, California's fiscal condition is outstanding, a legacy of the Reagan years."

Newsweek described his two terms as "on



As governor of California, Reagan kept in close touch with the government officials who administered the state's multi-billion dollar budget.

balance successful years running the nation's largest state—a passage in which he balanced a deep-red budget, held down employment by the state, pared the welfare rolls, and in other ways demonstrated his competence to govern.”

He was the biggest tax-cutter in the state's history, enacting more than 5.7 billion dollars in tax relief. He kept the size of state government virtually the same, with the number of state employees (excepting in higher education where the governor has only indirect control) rising only 7,000—from

108,090 to 115,090 in eight years.

He reformed the state's welfare program, cutting the caseload by an estimated 126,000, saving 1 billion dollars in two years while increasing the benefits for the neediest by 43 percent.

It is true that the total state budget increased from 4.6 billion dollars to 10.2 billion dollars during his two terms, but most of this increase was caused by new or expanded state programs ordered by the federal government, over which Governor Reagan had no control. A fairer criterion is the state's

operations budget, which in eight years increased from 2.2 billion dollars to 3.5 billion dollars, two-thirds of it due to inflation.

Reagan also pushed for tougher anti-crime legislation, helped maintain order on the state's college campuses, acted quickly to ease the energy crisis of 1973-74, consolidated all the consumer bureaucracies into a single department, and appointed more blacks, Hispanics and other minorities to positions in the state government than any governor before him.

He compiled an enviable environmental record. A total of 59,000 hectares, including 65 kilometers of ocean frontage, was added to the state park system. Two underwater park preserves off the coast were set aside. Bike trails, boat harbors and urban parks were improved. He backed a major bond issue for park development.

In sum, he set an example of efficient, responsive state government that earned him a 3-2 favorable rating with the public when he left the capital in Sacramento.

Black leaders met with Governor Reagan in July 1967 to discuss racial turmoil in California's cities.

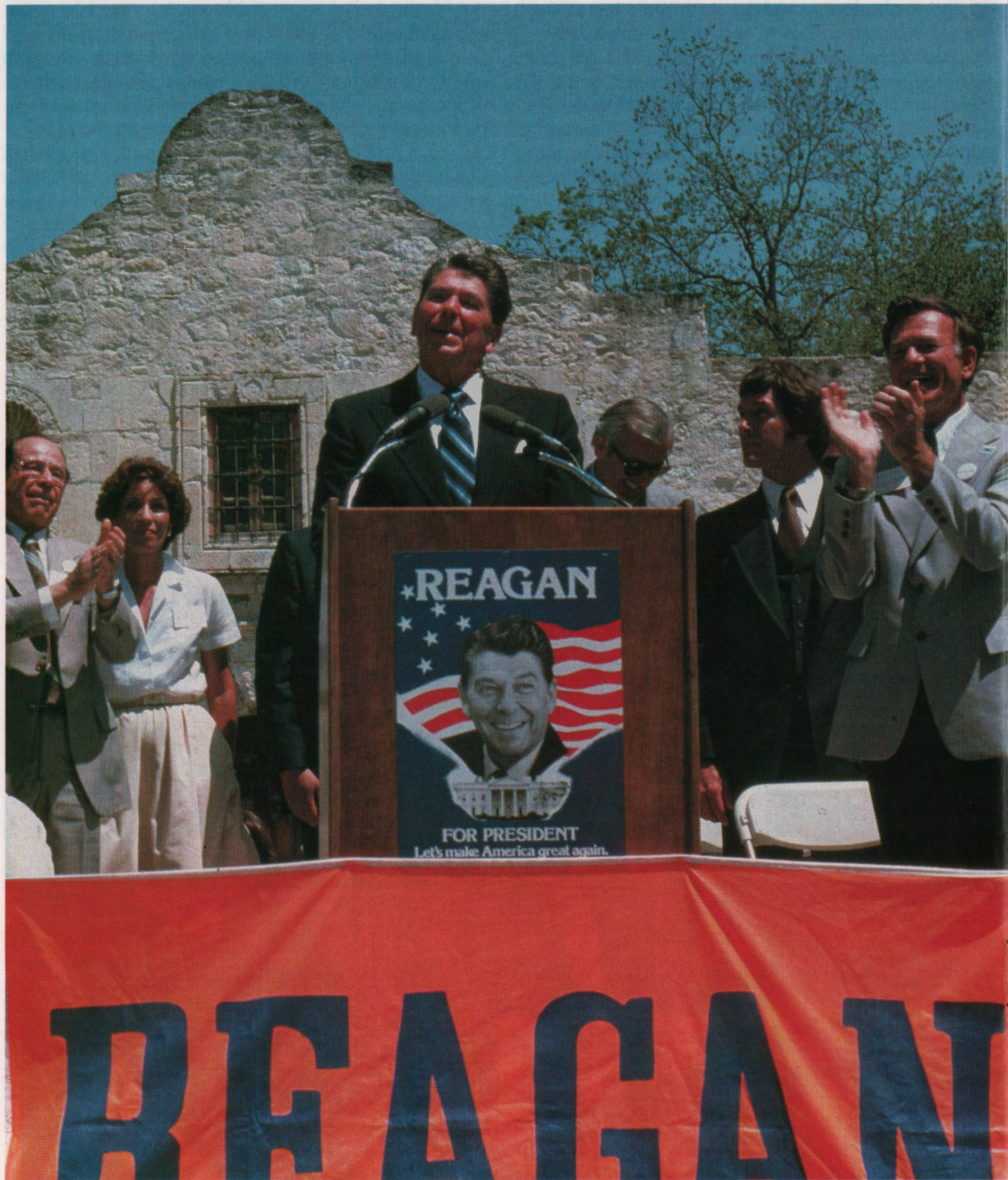


After an earthquake in Los Angeles, Reagan surveyed area damage to determine if state emergency relief aid is needed.

Governor Reagan signed into law a welfare reform bill which was supported by Democratic Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti (center) and Assemblyman William Campbell, author of Reagan's Medi-Cal reform.



In Houston, Texas, Reagan discusses campaign strategy with pollster and confidant Richard Wirthlin (right) and aide Ed Gray.



Campaigning at the historic Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, Reagan responds to questions from an enthusiastic crowd.



PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Reagan left the governorship in 1975, but not the political spotlight. In the intervening years, he remained the conservatives' most commanding and visible representative through a whirlwind of activity: daily five-minute radio commentaries for 200 stations, a weekly syndicated column for more than 170 newspapers and an average of eight speeches a month across the country. In 1975, *Newsweek* magazine said he "has become, at least for a season, the most kinetic single presence in American political life—scold to the powerful, a missionary to the aggrieved."

A year later, Reagan challenged the incumbent President, Gerald Ford, for the Republican Presidential nomination, and lost a close, hard-fought contest. He campaigned energetically for Republican congressional candidates in 1978. Two years later, he defeated a crowded field of aspirants for the Republican nomination (including George Bush, the man he later selected for Vice President).

On July 17, 1980, at the Republican National Convention in Detroit, Ronald Reagan accepted his

party's nomination for President, making what *Time* called "the most important—and very likely the best—speech of his career."

Big government, he warned, is "never more dangerous than when our desire to have it help us blinds us to its great power to harm us... High taxes, we are told, are somehow good for us, as if, when government spends our money, it isn't inflationary; when we spend it, it is... We must have the clarity of vision to see the difference between what is essential and what is merely desirable and then the courage to bring our government back under control." He emphasized that such a government would help all Americans who share a "community of values" based on "family, work, neighborhood, peace and freedom."

He assured the tens of millions of Americans watching and listening that creating new jobs was vital: "It's time to put America back to work ... For those without skills, we'll find a way to help them get new skills. For those without job opportunities, we'll stimulate new opportunities, particularly in the inner cities where they live."



Gerald R. Ford, the previous Republican President, confers with candidate Ronald Reagan about political issues.



Ronald Reagan outlines his goals after being overwhelmingly nominated as the presidential choice of the Republican Party convention (shown above).

He spoke directly to the disadvantaged in America, promising: "We have to move ahead, but we're not going to leave anyone behind. I ask you to trust that American spirit which knows no ethnic, religious, social, political or economic boundaries; the spirit that burned with zeal in the hearts of millions of immigrants from every corner of the earth who came here in search of freedom."

Candidate Reagan stressed that while America needed a more vigorous foreign policy, it would operate within a framework of peace through strength. "We're not a warlike people. Quite the opposite... We resort to force infrequently, and with great reluctance—and only after we've determined that it is absolutely necessary."

Said Iowa Governor Robert Ray (who had not supported Reagan in the primaries): "He touched the soul of America."

Apparently, Ronald Reagan succeeded in winning over many American voters during a long-awaited nationally televised presidential debate with Jimmy Carter. Only seven days before the election, Reagan and Carter confronted each other



More than 100 million Americans, almost half the nation, watched the 90-minute nationally televised debate between Reagan and Carter.

for 90 minutes discussing a wide range of foreign and domestic issues.

Following the debate, several polls showed that Reagan had impressed many viewers and was leading Carter by a significant margin. However, just before the election, most public opinion analysts predicted a close race.

On November 4, election day, Americans continued to support Reagan. Less than 18 hours after most polling places opened, Jimmy Carter conceded the election to Ronald Reagan. Reagan dominated the election by winning 44 states and 51 percent of the popular vote. He swept the electoral votes, winning 489 to Carter's 49.

Another change took place on election day, partly because of Reagan's immense popularity. For the first time in 26 years, the Republicans wrested control of the U.S. Senate from the Democrats. The Republican victory means a change in the Senate leadership and in the committee structure. In the House of Representatives, Democrats retained a majority, but Republicans made substantial inroads, gaining more than 30 seats. Republicans also picked up four governorships and 200 legislative seats around the country.

What kind of President will Ronald Reagan turn out to be?

Judging from his record, he will appoint sound, experienced people as his aides and advisers in the White House and as the heads and subheads of the various federal departments and agencies. When he was governor of California, he selected people who had demonstrated experience and effectiveness, not just those who performed well in a political campaign or party.

He will strive to work with both parties in both houses of Congress to make the best decisions for the general good. In his first news conference as President-elect, two days after the election, Reagan announced his intention to institute a bipartisan foreign policy and named two Democrats among his advisers. He noted that of all candidates who won office in the election, only he and George Bush had been chosen to represent all the citizens of the United States. ■



Vice President George Bush

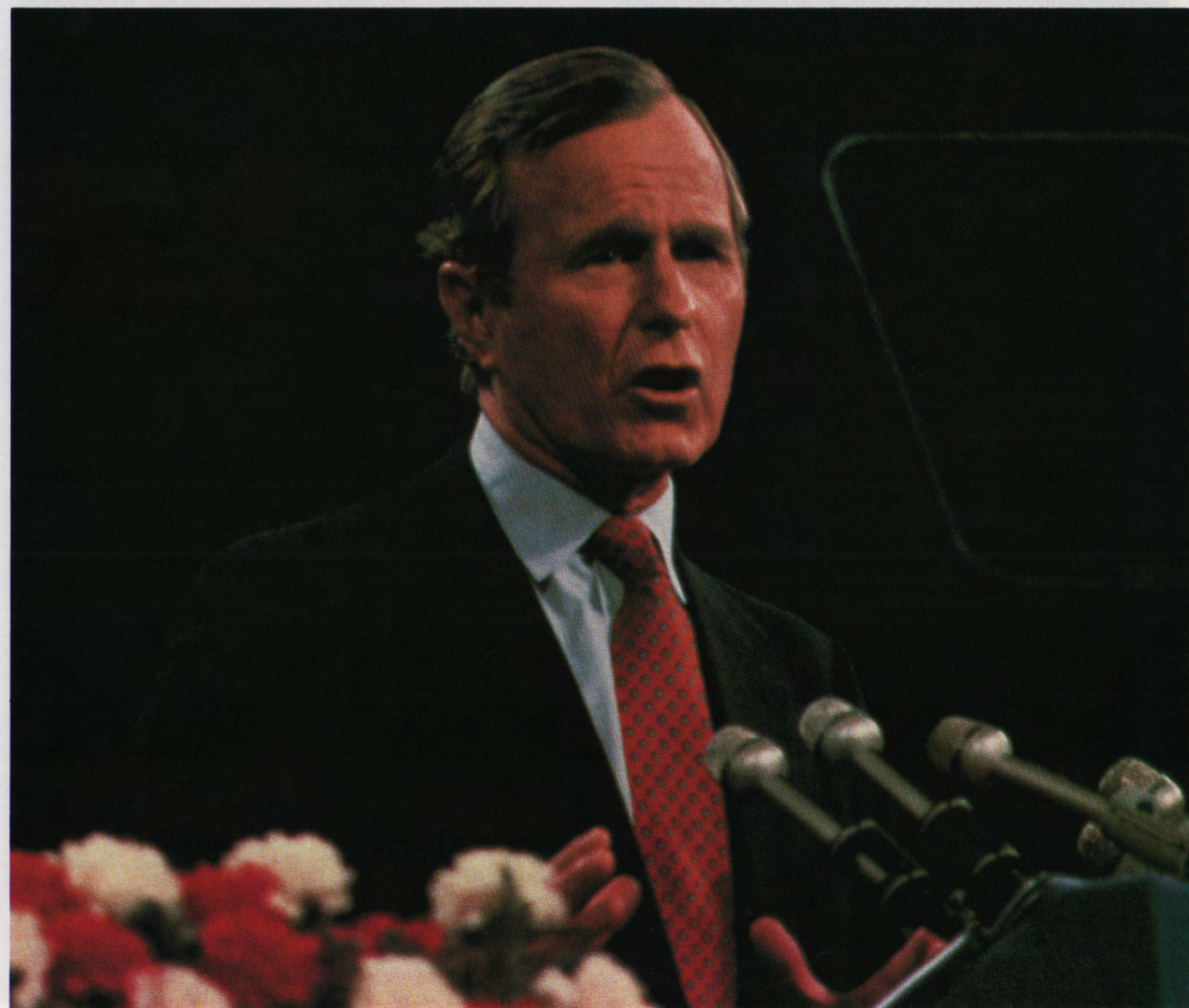
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George Bush has always sought the tough jobs and done them well. He now has the most demanding job of his life—the Vice Presidency of the United States.

Like President Reagan, Vice President Bush is a conservative who believes that the growth of government must be curtailed, taxes cut, excessive federal regulations eliminated and stepped-up energy production by the private sector

encouraged. He advocates increased defense spending to insure a stable U.S.-U.S.S.R. military balance but he also has stated: "We welcome negotiation and reduction, verifiable reduction, in strategic weapons."

"When I say I am conservative," Bush said recently, "I am talking about what I think is economic sense. That should not be interpreted as a lack of sensitivity when it comes to social change."





G

George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, the second son of five children of Prescott and Dorothy Bush. His father was a Wall Street banker and later U.S. Senator from Connecticut, who expected his children to be hard-working and self-disciplined. Young George always responded.

He graduated from the prestigious Phillips Academy at Andover in June 1942 and immediately signed up for naval flight training. He won his wings at 18, making him one of the youngest commissioned aviators in the Navy. As a pilot in the South Pacific, he earned three Air Medals, plus the Distinguished Flying Cross for "heroism and extraordinary achievement" when he was shot down over the Bonin Islands.

In 1945, he entered Yale University where he earned his economic degree in just two-and-a-half years. At Yale, he was captain and first baseman of the championship baseball team, president of his senior class and a member of the national academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

Rejecting numerous offers to work in financial firms on Wall Street, he moved with his wife Barbara and their young son to the Texas oil town of Odessa. He co-founded the Zapata Petroleum Corp. and the Zapata Offshore Co., which pioneered offshore drilling for oil. He regards his business success as among his most prized accomplishments as he did it on his own, starting from scratch and without inherited wealth.

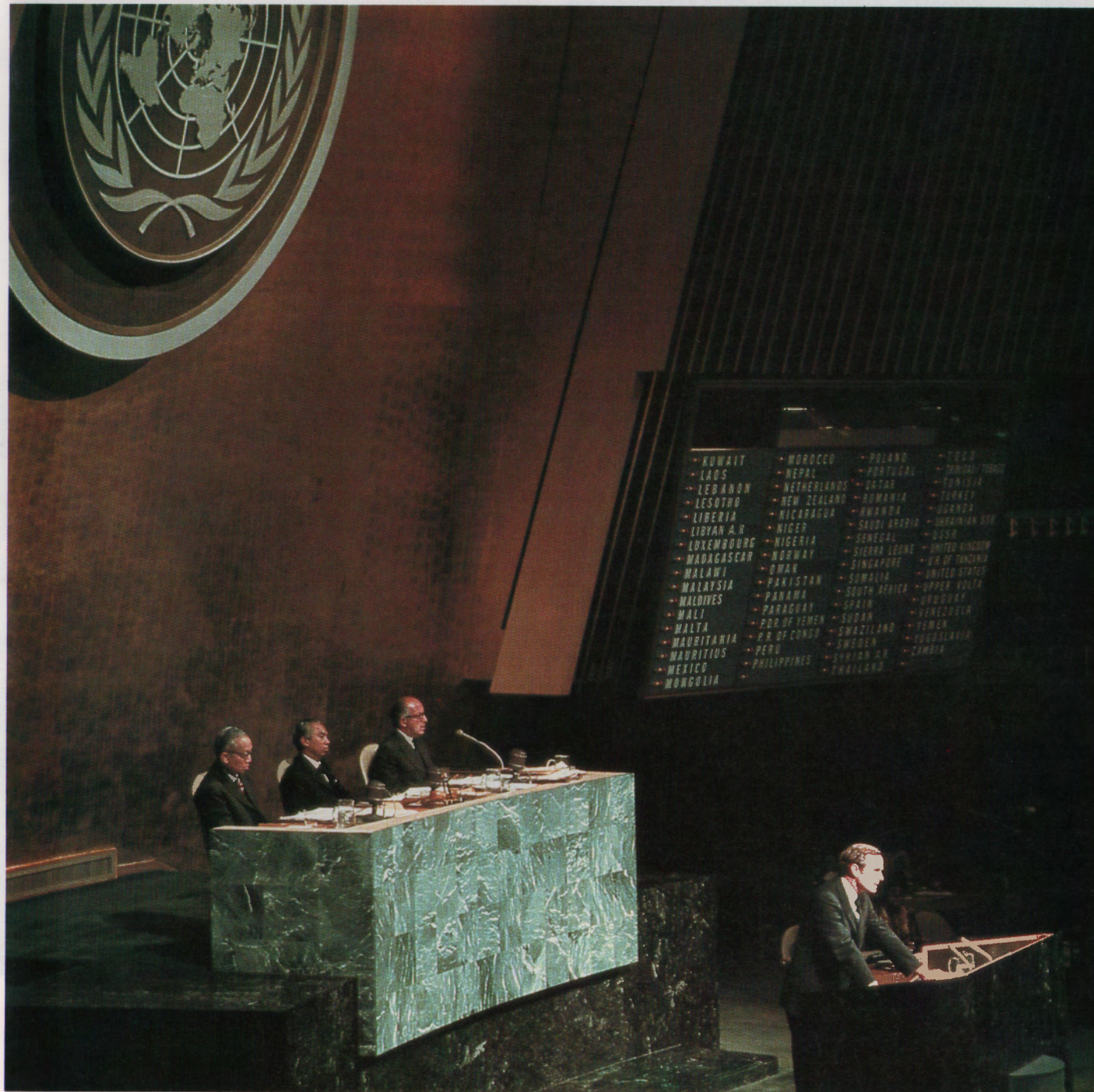
In 1959, he moved to Houston where he became a leader in Republican politics. In 1964, he ran for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Ralph Yarborough, a liberal Democrat. His chances of winning were very slim, but he campaigned tirelessly, piling up more votes in his losing effort than any Republican in Texas history.

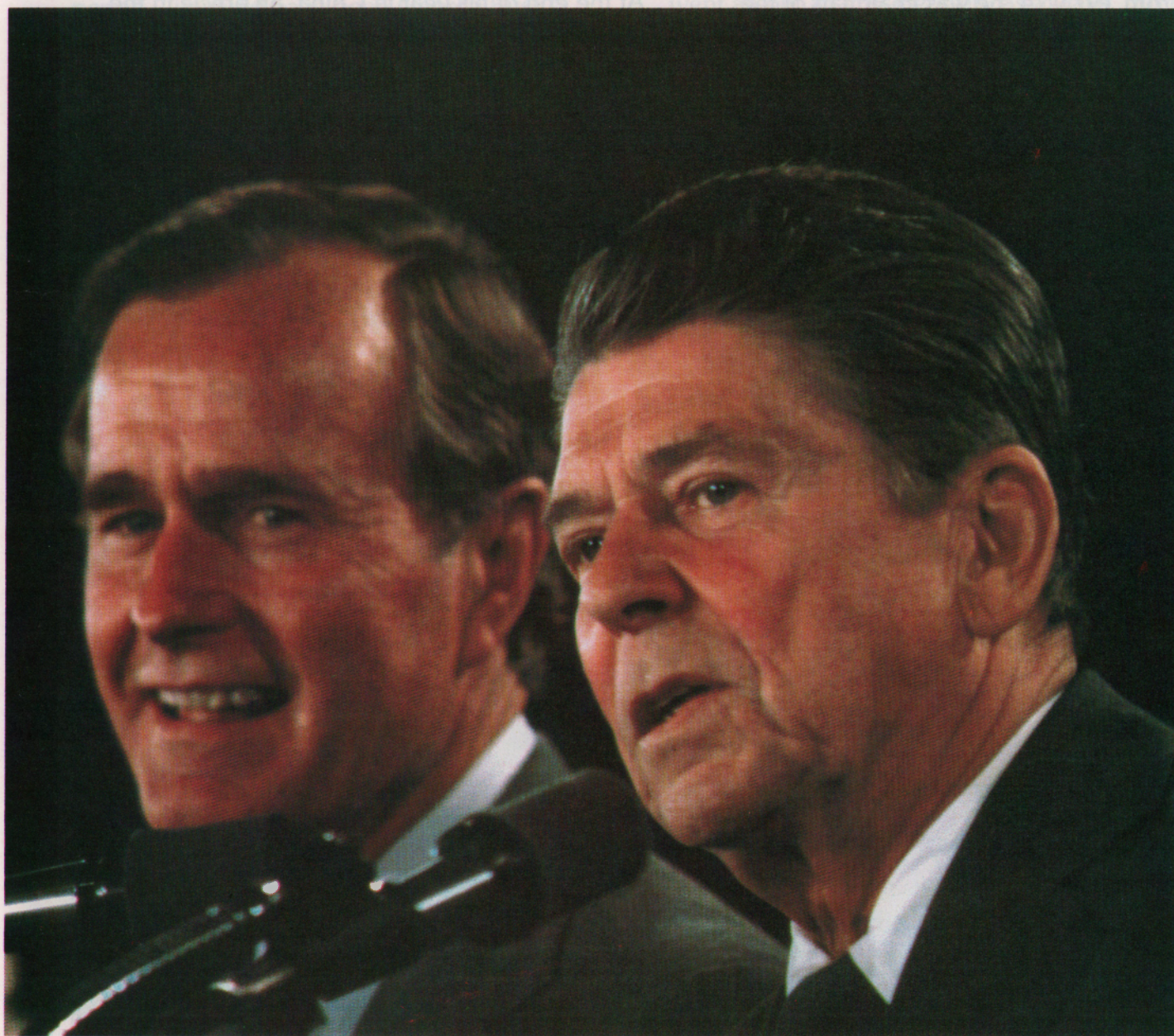
Two years later, he ran again—for Congress from Houston's 7th District—and won, becoming the first Republican that Houston had ever elected.

New to the Capitol as a Congressman in 1966, Vice President George Bush now will preside over the U.S. Senate.



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations George Bush addresses the General Assembly in 1971.





From 1976-77, he was director of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he rebuilt morale as well as public confidence in the institution. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), who voted against Bush's confirmation when he was chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said at the end of Bush's tenure that he "was one of the best [CIA directors] we've had."

On May 1, 1979, with his wife, Barbara, and their four sons and one daughter standing beside him, George Bush formally announced his campaign to seek the Republican nomination for President. He said then:

"To be effective, leadership in the Eighties

must be based on a politics of substance, not symbols; of reason, not bombast; on frankness, not false promises."

It was these leadership qualities that persuaded Ronald Reagan to pick George Bush, after a hard-fought primary campaign, as his running mate. It was these same leadership qualities that persuaded the American people to elect the Reagan-Bush ticket.

Which explains why a Connecticut Yankee from Houston, Texas, who has always displayed "true grit," is now the Vice President of the United States of America.

TEXT BY LEE EDWARDS

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RONALD REAGAN

From Dixon to Hollywood to the White House



An American Legend

January 19, 1989

A salute to the man who put America back on track

This week President Ronald Reagan steps down from his responsibilities as the nation's leader. He has given eight years of his life toward improving our country. From my perspective, his efforts have been rewarded with substantial successes.

I can remember a day, eight years ago, when many of us from Dixon assembled in front of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and proudly watched as our favorite son was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States. Things were not so rosy for our country at that time.

Economically, interest and inflation rates — the so-called misery index of the Carter administration — were so out of hand that businesses, including farm enterprises, were severely strapped. Many good businesses were failing, strictly because government had let the economy get out of control.

Our military seemed to be floundering as technology and morale were sagging. We watched helplessly as the Russians swarmed into Afghanistan and continued to threaten other parts of the world without fear of reprisal. Our nation was also being held hostage by terrorists who were taking advantage of a nation whose leadership was not inclined to fight back.

But there was an optimistic atmosphere of renewed hope on that Inaugural Day in 1981. Ronald Reagan could lead the battle to bring the economy back under control, he was going to strengthen America's military. He was going to force our adversaries to renew their respect for our position in the world.

Ronald Reagan gave us much during his presidential term. Our national self-esteem has in a large part been restored. There is a renewed respect for the presidency which has greatly enhanced our country. This is not to say that Reagan was infallible as president. Mistakes were made and serious problems still exist. But the general course of the country has been positive; on a track strong enough to withstand small setbacks. The President has returned to the country a stronger sense of self-esteem, unity and confidence.

Ronald Reagan has also given this community something wonderful — an identity. Although he moved away from our area many years ago, Dixon will forever be known as the town where Ronald Reagan grew up. No matter where you go, if you say you're

Publisher's Notebook

By William E. Shaw



from Dixon, Illinois, the chances are good someone will respond, "Oh, of course, isn't that the hometown of President Reagan?" It has happened to me time and time again, like I'm sure it happens to others.

It gives a certain exhilaration anytime that connection is made. I can't imagine anyone with whom I would rather share a hometown identity. The people of this area have eagerly followed his multi-faceted career. As he achieved one glowing success after another, the community came to realize we have a home-grown celebrity with whom we are honored to identify.

Every town looks for a hero, historical fact or geographical feature to "put it on the map." But to be known as a presidential hometown, especially the hometown of so popular and successful a man as Ronald Reagan, should give us all a stronger sense of community.

As Ronald Reagan steps down from the presidency, those of us at The Telegraph have taken the opportunity to present this special edition. It highlights the most remarkable chronology of his rise from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of his success as the national leader. Ronald Reagan has truly left a great legacy, not only to his country, but also to his boyhood home of Dixon.

So, to Ronald "Dutch" Reagan, thanks for meeting the nation's problems head-on. Congratulations on your tremendous successes in leading our country back on track. And God be with you as you step down from public office and continue your most important role, that of role model for America. We dedicate this special edition of our newspaper to you, in hopes that your personal attributes and achievements, as recorded in this publication, will continue to inspire all of us toward greater heights.



The Dixon Telegraph

Now in our 137th year

A newspaper can drop the same thought into a thousand minds at the same moment.

—Alexis de Tocqueville

Dixon is place where it all began



Photo courtesy of Lloyd McElhiney

IN TAMPICO — One of the earliest known photos of Ronald Reagan shows him at age three sitting on a wagon. The photo was taken at old Railroad Park — now Ronald Reagan Park — in Tampico.

A famous Dixon line

Perhaps no phrase ever uttered by Ronald Reagan is more appreciated by citizens of his hometown of Dixon than: "Everyone has a place to come back to, and for me that place is Dixon."

When President Reagan visited his hometown on Feb. 6, 1984, he addressed a crowd of some 3,200 persons in Lancaster Gym. During that speech, Reagan detailed how he came to speak the now famous line.

"I was in England making a picture called *The Hasty Heart*, Reagan told the anxious crowd in 1984. "It was a story in which we all were in a field hospital in Burma, India, in World War II, and talking about things like home. The line in the script and the famous Broadway play had me saying 'Everyone has a place to go back to, and for me it's Boston.'"

"Well, after almost four months of an English winter, I was so homesick. Now the funny is, I'd lived a great many years away from Dixon in California, but I found myself saying to the director, 'I would like to change the line,' and I changed the line... (to) 'Dixon, a place on the Rock River.'"

The explanation was greeted with thunderous applause from the president's hometown crowd. Since then, the quote has appeared numerous times, in magazine articles and books, and in various Dixon promotional literature.

Veil of pride covers town

By Lori Fagan
Telegraph staff writer

The immense shadow of one solitary figure drapes the community of Dixon like a light mist on an autumn night.

Although Ronald Reagan has not lived in Dixon for over 50 years, there is a certain legacy which remains — and a memory that will surely not fade, even after the president leaves office.

Is it some magic which keeps people coming to Dixon, to see the site of his boyhood home? Is it trying to hang on to the memory long after the dream has died?

Pure and simple, the answer is **PRIDE**. Pride in a hometown boy who never forgot his friends, or the values he learned in a small town where being rich was the exception and not the rule.

"Dutch" Reagan began as many other people did, in many ways just an ordinary lad. But what ultimately distinguished him from his peers was his extraordinary ambition and drive. He wasn't afraid to dream of lofty accomplishments; more importantly, he wasn't afraid to pursue those dreams.

IN LOOKING at the events of Reagan's life, it would seem he's done it all. Many people only dream of becoming a Hollywood actor, much less a governor and president of the United States. Yet Reagan managed to grow up following his dreams without losing sight of his midwestern roots.

"He didn't get where he is by sitting around. I think he pulled himself up by his bootstraps. It wasn't given to him on a silver platter," said Helen Lawton, a member of the Reagan Home Preservation Foundation in Dixon.

What is it about the man, the aura that hangs over the city of Dixon, long after the physical presence has gone? As you drive into town from any direction, the pride Dixon feels for its favorite son is evident, beginning with signs at the city limits which read "Dixon, Hometown of President Ronald Reagan."

"His basic values haven't changed. He has a secret ingredient that many young people don't have today — common sense," said Elwood Cruse, another member of the Preservation Foundation.

Cruse echoed Lawton's statement that Reagan is a "wonderful Christian man" — a fact which they believe accounts for the manner in which he governs his life, and ran the country for eight years.

Reagan's religious background is attributed to his mother, Nelle, who was seen as a warm and compassionate person. In a book by Norman E. Wymbs, titled *A Place to Go Back To*, he talks of Nelle as being "deeply involved in caring



Telegraph file photo

AGE 12 — Ronald Reagan stands in front of his Dixon home, at about age 12. The Reagan family moved frequently during his boyhood, but he lived in Dixon from 1920 until leaving for college in 1928.

for others in the community who were less fortunate.

"Although her church and her personal relationship with her Lord were of paramount importance to Nelle Reagan, she made no ostentatious display of her religion," Wymbs wrote. He said the family Bible was always on hand, but was not prominently displayed in their home.

Neil Reagan, the president's brother, recalled in Wymbs' book how his mother visited inmates at the county jail weekly. "My mother would conduct talk sessions with the prisoners; she called them 'my boys,'" Neil said.

Nelle also visited patients at KSB Hospital regularly, and was involved in many other community activities. She took her sons to church services weekly, and prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings.

Dutch Reagan developed a love for writing from his mother, who often read her poetry at various civic meetings. Her readings un-

doubtedly contributed to the young Reagan's interest in the dramatic arts.

But he enjoyed a very well-rounded boyhood in Dixon. He loved sports, and participated in rough-and-tumble sandlot football games, ice hockey battles on the Rock River, and tennis and swimming. He also loved to spend Saturday afternoons in the town movie theatre, watching with fascination as the western film stars of the day rode hell-bent-for-leather across the silver screen. And he loved to read the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of the Tarzan books and stories.

IN SEEMINGLY sharp contrast to Nelle's gentle nature, Wymbs described Jack Reagan, the boys' father, as "a handsome, rugged Irishman...gregarious, outgoing...popular with everyone."

Throughout the years, Ronald

See Early, page 4

Early

Continued from page 3

and his brother were known best as "Dutch" and "Moon," respectively. In his autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?*, Reagan wrote he was first called a little Dutchman at birth on February 6, 1911 by his father.

In Wymbs' book, Neil described how he came by his nickname.

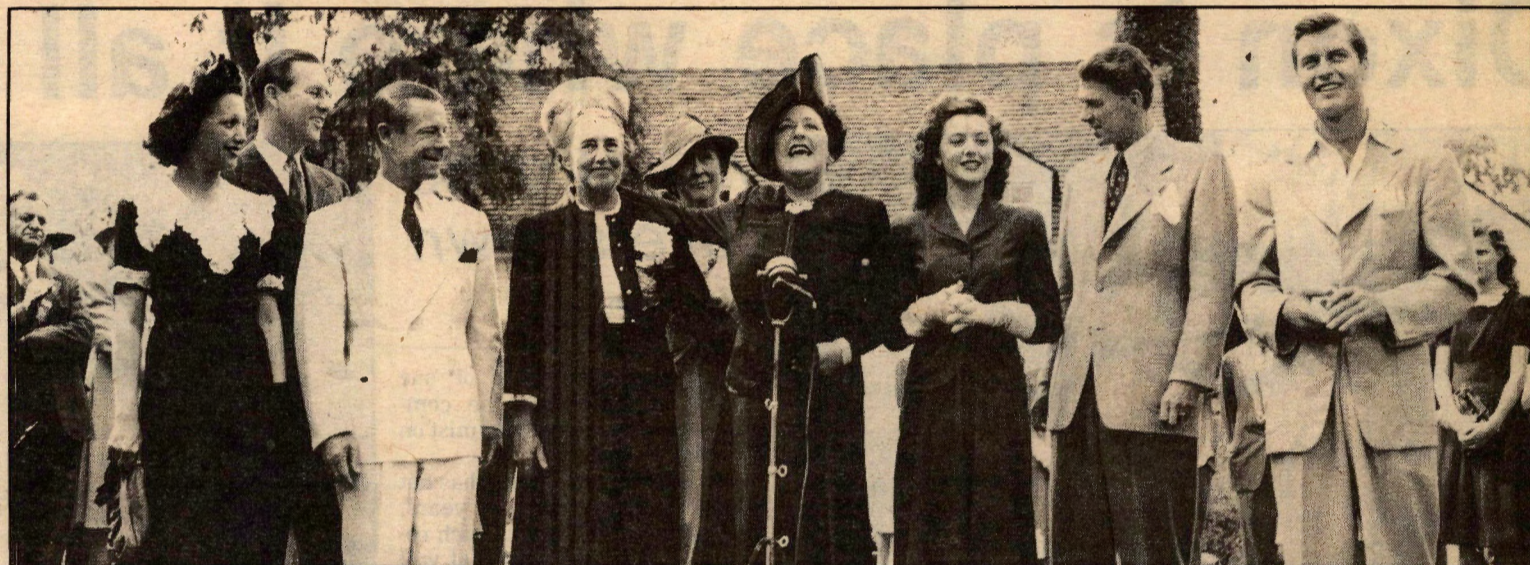
After the boys got haircuts one day, the family had snapshots taken. When the pictures arrived, Neil told his brother he looked just like a Dutchman. The story goes that Ronald was stung by his brother's teasing and said "Well, you look just like Moon Mullins (a popular comic strip character)!"

Wymbs wrote that the unfavorable portrait of Jack Reagan as an unreliable man with a drinking problem is simply not true.

Jack Reagan did have a string of jobs throughout the Dixon area, mostly in the field of retail sales, and consequently the family was frequently uprooted.

After a series of moves, it was H.C. Pitney who hired Jack to be in charge of his store in Tampico. Even though business was going well, Jack felt confined in the small town, which was Ronald's birthplace.

Pitney placed his faith in Jack and sold the Tampico store. He invested the proceeds in a new store



Telegraph file photo

LOUELLA'S DAY — Dixon turned out in style at the Charles R. Wagreen estate on Sept. 14, 1941, to honor Louella Parsons, a former Dixonite who had become the top gossip writer in Hollywood. With Louella (at the microphone) were (from left),

Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, Joe E. Brown, Mrs. Walgreen, Mabel Shaw, Parsons, Ann Rutherford, Ronald Reagan, and George Montgomery. All were Hollywood stars except Mrs. Walgreen and Mrs. Shaw, publisher of The Dixon Telegraph.

in Dixon, called the "Fashion Boot Shop."

"Obviously, Dixon met Pitney's criteria for a viable economic market for the shoe business while at the same time meeting Jack's need for a more urban environment," Wymbs wrote. The Reagans moved to Dixon in 1920, when Ronald was nine.

What impact did Dixon have on the future president?

"There was the life that has shaped my body and mind for all

the years to come after," he wrote in 1965.

Neil Reagan, two years his brother's senior, was referred to as a "chip off the old block" by Wymbs. "Like Jack, his father, Neil arrived in this world with a quick wit and every indication that he had kissed the old Blarney stone on the way."

In fact, of the two Reagan boys, Neil would have been the more likely candidate, based on their

early years, to have gone the direction his younger brother eventually did. In several references to Neil, Wymbs stated that if one of the Reagan brothers was going to be in show business or politics, Neil was the more likely choice due to his outgoing, carefree nature.

Once when the boys were growing up, Neil had acquired some illegal fireworks. He and his friends knew the consequences of setting them off and soon involved young Ronald in the act. "(Ronald) hap-

pily placed and lighted the fireworks," Wymbs said.

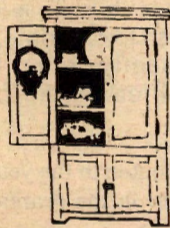
The younger Reagan was apprehended and taken to the local police station, while Neil casually strolled away like nothing had happened.

Not only did Dutch have to endure a stern lecture when his father came to get him, he also had to pay the tidy sum of \$14.65 — many days work at the time — as a fine.

See Early, page 6

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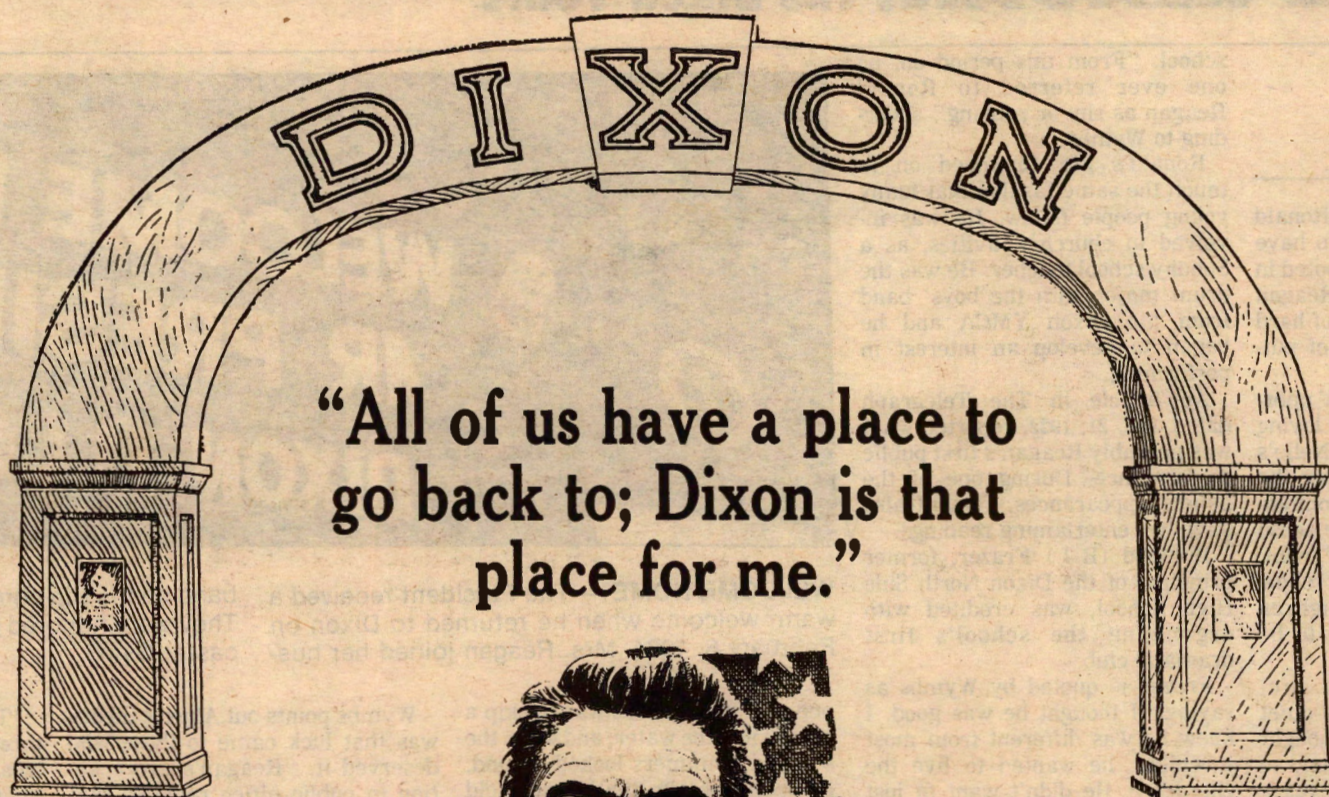
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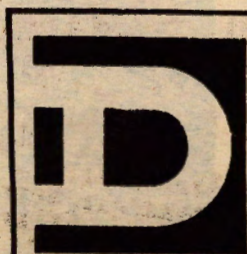
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RONALD REAGAN: The Dixon Years

Early

Continued from page 4

The family in which Ronald Reagan grew up appears to have been a family unit deeply rooted in tradition and values. The Reagan brothers learned the value of hard work, and the importance of putting faith in God.

Wymbs attributes the boys' upbringing to the concerned and loving efforts of their parents. "Nelle's deep faith in and reliance upon the salvation she saw in God, combined with Jack's irrepressible sense of humor, and, in the two of them, their compassion for their fellow men, begin to give us the insight as to how Ronald Reagan got to be what he is," he said.

Throughout his young life, Ronald was referred to as quiet and reserved. His parents thought it had to do with moving around so much. By the time he was 9 years old and the Reagans moved to Dixon, Ronald had lived in six different towns.

A change in his reserved nature came about when he tried on his mother's eyeglasses and realized with them he could see more clearly. After he had been fitted with a pair of his own, Wymbs said "history records what appeared to be a complete change in personality."

Ronald then became more outgoing, and his grades improved at

school. "From this period on, no one ever referred to Ronald Reagan as shy or retiring" according to Wymbs.

Ronald's life continued on in much the same fashion that many young people follow. He was involved in church activities, as a Sunday school teacher. He was the drum major with the boys' band from the Dixon YMCA and he began to develop an interest in performing.

An article in The Telegraph dated Jan. 21, 1922, reported what was probably Reagan's first public performance. During one of the band's appearances, Ronald also gave two entertaining readings.

Bernard (B.J.) Frazer, former principal of the Dixon North Side High School, was credited with organizing the school's first dramatic club.

Frazer is quoted by Wymbs as saying "I thought he was good. I knew he was different from most juveniles; he wanted to live the character. He didn't want to just parrot the lines; he gave a character feeling and dimension."

In addition to his band and acting interests, Reagan developed into an avid swimmer. It was a skill that eventually led him to a job as lifeguard at Lowell Park on the Rock River.

Dutch worked at the park as long as 12 hours a day. But he always found a way to leave early if he had plans, according to Mrs. Graybill, wife of the park operator.

Wymbs said Graybill reported



Telegraph file photo

WELCOME HOME — The President received a warm welcome when he returned to Dixon on February 6, 1984. Mrs. Reagan joined her hus-

band on his trip home to celebrate his birthday. They were honored by a capacity crowd at Lancaster Gym.

one of Dutch's tricks was to skip a pebble into the water, and when the startled swimmers looked around, he would say "Oh, that's just an old river rat!" It was a trick designed to clear the area so he could leave work.

Edward Graybill, park operator, gave Ronald an old log one day and jokingly suggested he notch it each time he saved a swimmer. At last count, the log contained 77 notches.

Ronald Reagan's life has been paralleled to a character in a Horatio Alger novel. Alger wrote of young boys who grew up learning an appreciation for hard work and had strong character.

Wymbs points out Alger's theory was that luck came to those who deserved it. "Reagan's every action in public office radiates that firm faith that we can all succeed if we apply ourselves in an honest and straightforward manner," wrote Wymbs.

With all the information available about Dutch Reagan's early years, it is not difficult to see why he was so well-liked as a boy and remains such a popular president.

Those most likely never to forget Ronald Reagan are the people who live in Dixon, where young Dutch spent more than 10 years of his life.

"He hasn't changed at all down through the years, in the way he treats other people," said Bill Thompson, owner of an extensive Reagan collection. "I knew him back in the Lowell Park days, and he's just as friendly and warm now as he was then."

"He's a remarkable human being, in that respect. How many others do you know who would keep everything in such great perspective, after becoming the most important person in the country?"

"We just knew him as Dutch. He's still Dutch to us," Helen

See Early, page 8

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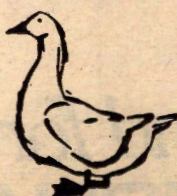
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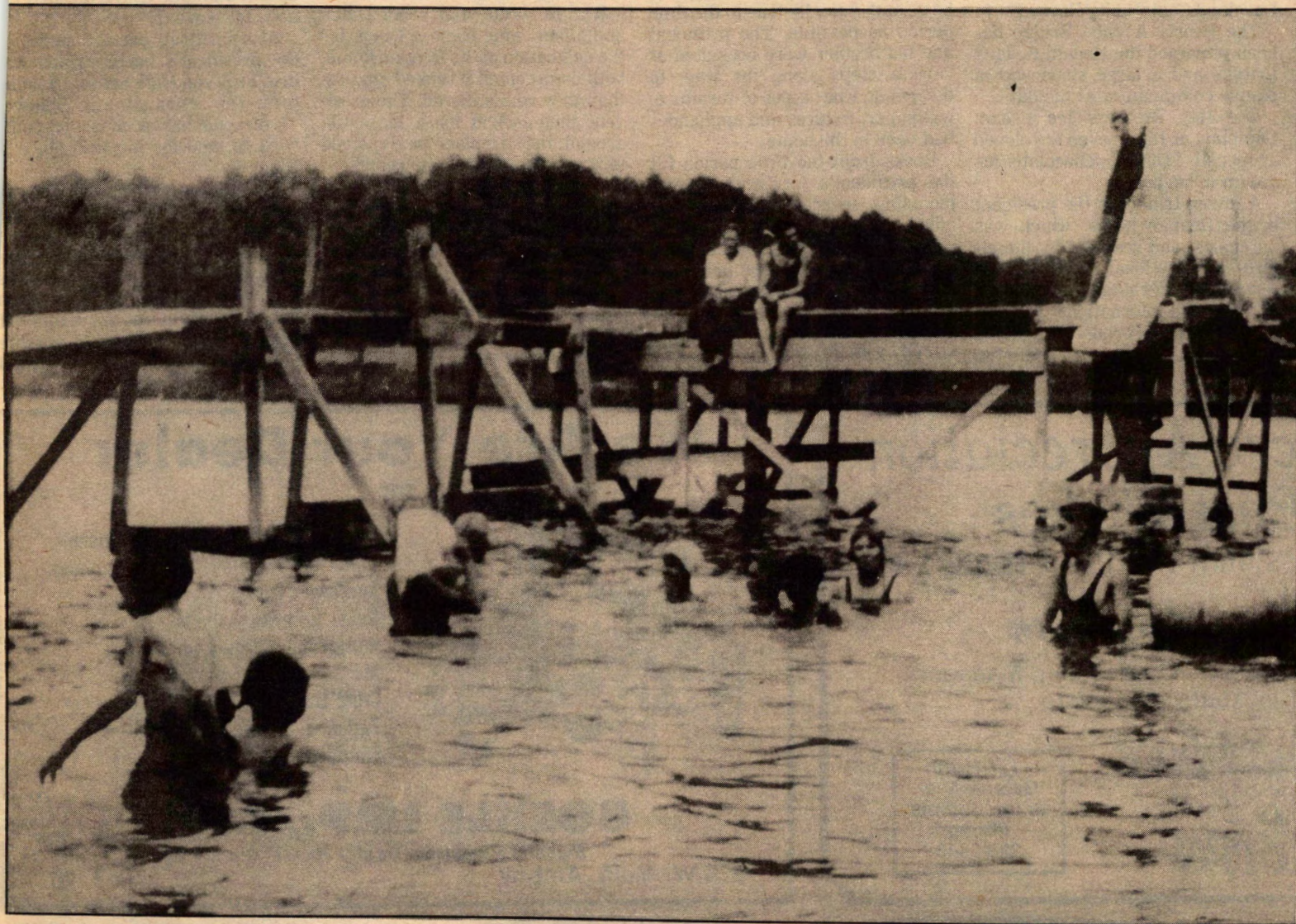
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Telegraph file photos

LOWELL PARK HERO — As just about everyone in the civilized world knows, Ronald Reagan was a lifeguard for seven summers at Lowell Park. In the top photo, he is seen standing next to the slide watching the swimmers in the Rock

River. At the right is a picture of Reagan taken during his lifeguarding days. The photo, owned by Alvah Drew of Dixon, was taken by his mother in 1927 and is considered by some experts to be the most published photo of any president.



Telegraph file photo

CELEBRITY FIREMAN — Ronald Reagan stands on the Dixon Rural Fire Department truck with his mother, Nelle, at his side during a visit to Dixon after he signed his Hollywood film contract. Reagan began his Hollywood career in 1937.

ing a visit to Dixon after he signed his Hollywood film contract. Reagan began his Hollywood career in 1937.



Telegraph file photo

LONG LOOK — Ronald and Nancy Reagan take a long look down the Rock River during a Dixon visit in 1976. The Reagans were standing near the spot where he was a lifeguard.

RONALD REAGAN: The Dixon Years

Early

Continued from page 6

Lawton said, with a familiarity that comes from a long-term association. Although she claims only to be an acquaintance of the president, she had a more lasting relationship with his mother, Nelle, since the Reagans lived next to Lawton's family in the late 1920s.

Many efforts have been organized to preserve Reagan's legacy in Dixon. Several plaques have been installed as tribute to Reagan, including one at the First Christian Church, the Dixon Public Library,

(his card number was 3692) and the Loveland Community House.

The Peoria Avenue Bridge has been re-named the Ronald Reagan Bridge, and a large stone with a plaque commemorates the date.

The Hey Brothers Ice Cream Company of Dixon even developed a special "Dutch" chocolate ice cream in his honor.

A loving tribute to the president is the Reagan home, which was purchased and restored by the efforts of many local residents. The restoration eventually became a national and international project, as people from around the world purchased shingles to roof the house.

The home has been recreated to be as authentically true to the time period as possible. The president and his brother were consulted at various steps along the way, to determine what types of furniture, wallpaper, fixtures and appliances had been in the home.

Books from the time period fill the president's former bedroom, including several Horatio Alger novels.

The modest home at 816 S. Hennepin was opened to the public on February 6, 1984, following a visit by the president, his wife and brother. By January of 1989, it had hosted over 115,000 guests — including visitors from all 50 states

and 79 countries.

Wymbs wrote that when Dutch and Moon came back to Dixon for the dedication of the Reagan home, both commented it looked smaller than they remembered. The president then looked for a loose tile around the fireplace and placed four pennies under it, to represent good luck, as his family had done many years ago. He even helped himself to a handful of popcorn which was sitting on a living room table.

The president's 1985 visit was in honor of his 73rd birthday. Thousands of Dixon residents lined the streets on that sub-zero day to catch a glimpse of "their" Dutch

as a motorcade drove through the downtown area.

At a birthday party that day in the president's honor, which was held at Dixon High School, Reagan told the enthusiastic crowd "Everyone has a place to come back to, and for me that place is Dixon!"

The legacy of Ronald Reagan does indeed hang lightly over the city of Dixon. It was here, in this main-stream midwestern community, that a president spent his formative years; and it was Dixon that molded him into the manner of person he was destined to become — the 40th President of the United States of America.

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'Reagan Corner' just keeps on growing

By Louise Brass
Telegraph staff writer

The face, the smile, the charm of the 40th President of the United States of America is reflected everywhere you turn in the Ronald Reagan Room in the home of Dixonite Bill Thompson.

There are many collectors of Reagan memorabilia in Dixon and around the nation, but anyone would be hard pressed to match Thompson's.

Photos of "Dutch" cover almost every square inch of wall space in the 10x10 foot first-floor room in Thompson's home on Brinton Avenue. From floor to ceiling Ronald Reagan in close-up, in conference with world leaders, or in love with Nancy.

Rare photos show Dutch as a schoolboy, Dutch in advertising, Dutch as Governor of California and Dutch as president.

But what makes the photographs so very special — and valuable — is the fact that most of them are signed by Reagan himself and sometimes also by his wife of 37 years, Nancy Reagan.

Piled on a table and couch are more photos, posters, campaign bumper stickers, Reagan-related license plates (one a gift from Illinois Governor James Thompson — no relation) old movie billboards and advertisements for tobacco, hair tonic and shirts — all featuring Reagan.

A large, yellow tablecloth — decorated with the signatures of almost every famous person to set foot in Dixon, including Reagan's — is part of the collection. The signatures have been painstakingly embroidered by Thompson's wife, Jean.

The cache started as a small living room corner display, called the "Reagan Corner," featuring some old movie stills of actor Reagan which were given to Thompson by his mother, Olive, who operated the Dixon Theatre in the 1930s to 1950s.

"In those days, it was a big thing to have a movie star from Dixon, so I started collecting," Thompson said.

He soon realized having a picture or other items autographed gives it an edge in the world of collectors. Thompson now owns about 600 signed pieces, including personal notes and Christmas cards from the president.

The collection is valued at \$70,000 and is lauded as the world's largest and most unique collection of Reagan memorabilia.

The "Reagan Corner" became a household word at the White House during the Reagan Administration, Thompson said.

Reagan often inquires about how the cor-

ner is coming along in his correspondence to the Thompsons and instructs his staff to routinely send important photos to the Thompsons.

Gifts from the president to the couple which now take places of honor in the "Reagan Corner" include tie tacks, tie bars, lapel pins, an official jar of jelly beans in a dark blue box bearing the presidential crest, a Republican Task Force medal and an etching of Reagan's boyhood home on Hennepin Avenue, created by Chicago artist James Swan and commissioned by famed Chicago Chef Louis Szathmary.

Ask Thompson which photograph in the grand gallery is his favorite and the spry 72-year-old has only to cast his eye over the parade of features for a brief moment before pointing out a sharp black and white image of Dutch, in riding garb, mounted on a palomino taken during an Indian Summer celebration in Dixon in 1950.

The collection includes Time magazine covers, carefully encased in the plastic pages of an album, spanning 22 years of almost unbroken chronological order testifying to the public and private, joys and woes of Ronald Reagan.

A 1968 Look magazine picture of what is believed to be the only portrait of the president by famed artist Norman Rockwell, was one of the hardest items to come by, said Thompson.

"I might pay \$25 for a magazine in order to get something that was in it. I try to pick things out for their historical value."

One letter that came from the president to the Thompsons is historical just because of the day it arrived. It was delivered March 30, 1981 — the day the president was shot during an assassination attempt in Washington D.C.

"It certainly has emotional value," Thompson said.

Emotional value is evident too, in a baby picture of the Thompson's granddaughter, Erin Thompson, daughter of John and Debbie Thompson of Dixon, which is displayed beside a note from the president that reads: "Welcome. I know your parents and your grandparents are very happy and proud. I also know your grandparents have already nicknamed you 'Dutchess'. I hope you won't mind too much. Happy days, Dutch."

Photos, of about 250 dignitaries, not always pictured with Reagan, have been added to the collection for historical value. Most are signed by famous hands.

The pictures include Anwar Sadat, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Queen Elizabeth II, and a snapshot of former Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev, whisper-



Bill Thompson photo

OLD FRIENDS — Ronald Reagan and Bill Thompson were caught by the camera many years ago in Dixon. Now, Thompson owns what may be the finest Reagan collection in the country.

ing into the ear of former United States President Richard Nixon.

Many of those also bear Dutch's signature.

In fact, there is not much in the collection that isn't signed by Reagan. But the treasury has a much greater value than money can buy for those who love history and who love Ronald Reagan.

The Ronald Reagan collection will keep growing, if the owner has his way.

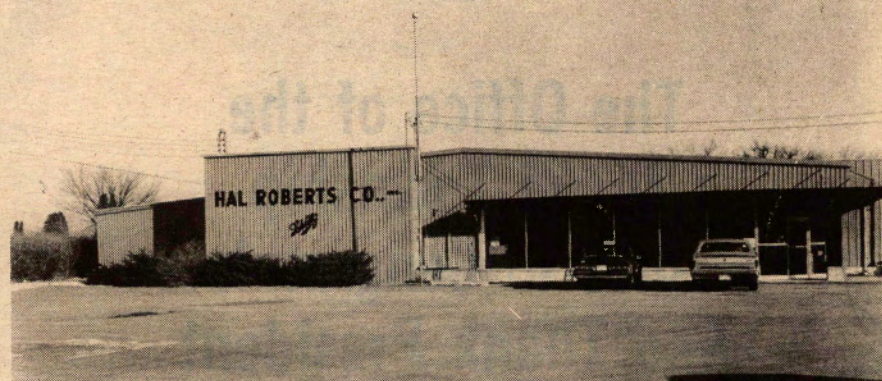
But most of all, Thompson hopes the collection will stay part of Ronald Reagan's boyhood hometown.

A lot of people have offered to buy some of the items. Thompson always resists.

The latest was an offer of \$3,500 for a photograph of the four living presidents — Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon, signed by each. That item was insured for \$500 when enroute to each president for signing — while Thompson kept his fingers crossed that it wouldn't go astray.

"They are hard enough to find in the first place, so I don't believe I would want to entertain the idea of selling the collection. I would like to think there will one day be a Reagan museum here, perhaps in Nachusa House, so people can come and see the collection, enjoy it and study it, even 100 years from now," Thompson said.

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Reagan truly found himself at Eureka

By Patty Gluntz

Telegraph staff writer

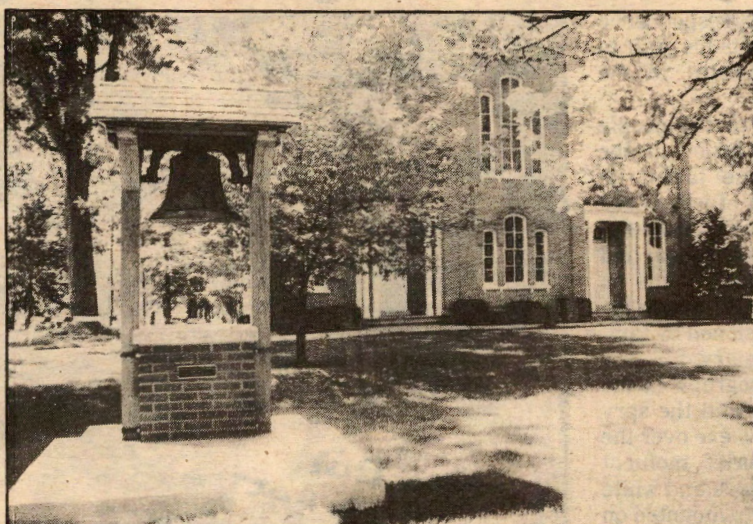
For many people, the college years are a time for testing their wings.

That was certainly true for Ronald Reagan, who came into his own at the small conservative Christian campus of Eureka College, located just 20 miles east of Peoria and about 113 miles southeast of Dixon.

From 1928-32, when Reagan attended the college, he could be described as a younger version of the man he is today.

"I can't see that he's any different now than he was then, except that there's more of him," said Lois Binkley, in a January, 1989 interview with The Telegraph at her Eureka home. "He was always — you know — for motherhood, apple pie and Chevrolet and 'God gave us the right, this is the way it is done.'"

Binkley, originally from Rock Falls, used to commute to Dixon on the weekends with Ronald and Neil "Moon" Reagan, where her mother would then pick her up to take her home to Rock Falls. She also worked part-time washing dishes at Lyda's Wood, the women's dormitory, with the Reagan brothers.



NOW AND THEN — Eureka College in 1989; Ronald Reagan in 1931.

The close-knit atmosphere at Eureka, with all its opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities, was just the kind of foundation that Reagan needed.

"I fell head over heels in love with Eureka," he wrote in his 1965 autobiography. "I still think, after years of crisscrossing the United States, that it is one of the loveliest colleges in existence. It seemed to me then, as I walked up the path, to be another home."

He has never really stopped feeling that way about the college. In a campaign stop at his alma mater in 1980, shortly after he secured the Republican nomination for president, Reagan told a rousing pep rally audience, "As far as I'm concerned, everything good that has happened to me — everything — started here on this campus in those four years that are still a part of me."

Eureka — Greek for "I have



Telegraph file photos

found it!" — could have very well been Reagan's motto because it was here he found his niche in life. Every career path he took after graduation — sports announcing, acting and later politics — had its foundation at Eureka College.

His beginnings in politics came when he had to convince school officials to award him an athletic scholarship.

"I wanted to get into that school so badly that it hurt when I thought

about it," Reagan wrote in autobiography.

"The obstacle was money — my marks. I had never bothered to do much more in Dixon than main eligible for the athletic team — but in those days a diploma was all you needed and I had that. I broke."

"Nevertheless, I had so reputation as a swimmer and so as a football player. The tuition was \$180 a year and I had brought with me about \$400 from my summers' earnings (at Lov Park). As it happened, things went my way. The officials gave me scholarship for half my tuition and a job for board."

The reason Reagan wanted much to attend Eureka was twofold.

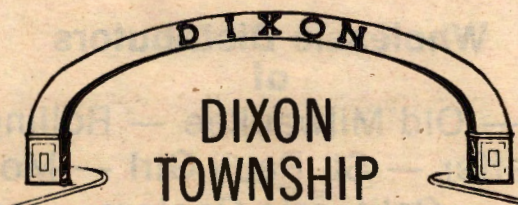
First, it was the college his former Dixon High School football star Garland Waggoner, had attended; and second, it was the college his high school sweetheart Margaret "Mugs" Cleaver, daughter of a Disciples of Christ minister, was to attend.

By the end of the summer of 1928 Reagan had not yet registered classes at the college he had heart set on because he lacked money.

See Eureka, page 11



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Eureka

Continued from page 10

When he drove Margaret down to Eureka to register for classes, he met with the college president and the football coach, Ralph "Mac" McKinzie. Using his communication skills, Reagan was able to persuade them to give him an athletic scholarship based as much on his swimming ability as on his DHS football record.

The scholarship and the job were the maximum awarded at Eureka because at that time there was a need for spreading the financial aid

to as many students as possible. Although the stock market crash was not to officially signal the start of the Depression until 1929, hard times had already hit the farm belt by the time Reagan entered Eureka.

Reagan would negotiate a similar scholarship for Neil Reagan a year later, as well.

But the politics did not end there.

Also in 1928, students banded with faculty against a proposal by college President Bert Wilson to cut classes and lay off faculty. The students formed a committee and planned to strike against the school to prevent the Board of Trustees from cutting the classes Wilson felt

were not needed.

In a midnight meeting at the college chapel on the eve of Thanksgiving vacation, Reagan was chosen to be the spokesman for the freshman class.

By all accounts, Reagan gave an emotional speech that night to his colleagues. It was his public speaking debut and Reagan rose to the occasion, electrifying the audience.

The students won their fight, with Wilson handing in his resignation within a week.

At Eureka, Reagan discovered he felt very much at ease in front of people and on stage. He joined Alpha Epsilon Sigma, the drama

club, and he and Margaret often had the leading roles.

He had the leading role in Edna Vincent Millay's, "Aria Da Capo," in which he played a shepherd who is strangled to death. Eureka entered the play in a one-act competition at Northwestern University. The play took second and Reagan won an individual acting award.

Although Reagan excelled in acting and politics at Eureka — the two career paths he would later tread — he did not shine on the football field as he had hoped.

Reagan had dreams of bringing the glory days back to Eureka.

"At Eureka, I was getting ready

to save the day," he wrote. "Eureka had gone through two disastrous seasons, so I anticipated quite a welcome."

But his freshman year found No. 80 more on the bench than on the field as one of "Mac's Golden Tornadoes." Reagan could not believe he didn't have what it took to be picked to start, and so he blamed McKinzie.

"I told everyone who would listen that the coach didn't like me, I was the victim of unreasoning prejudice. I needed a damn good kick in the keister, but how can you kick something that's permanently

See Eureka, page 12

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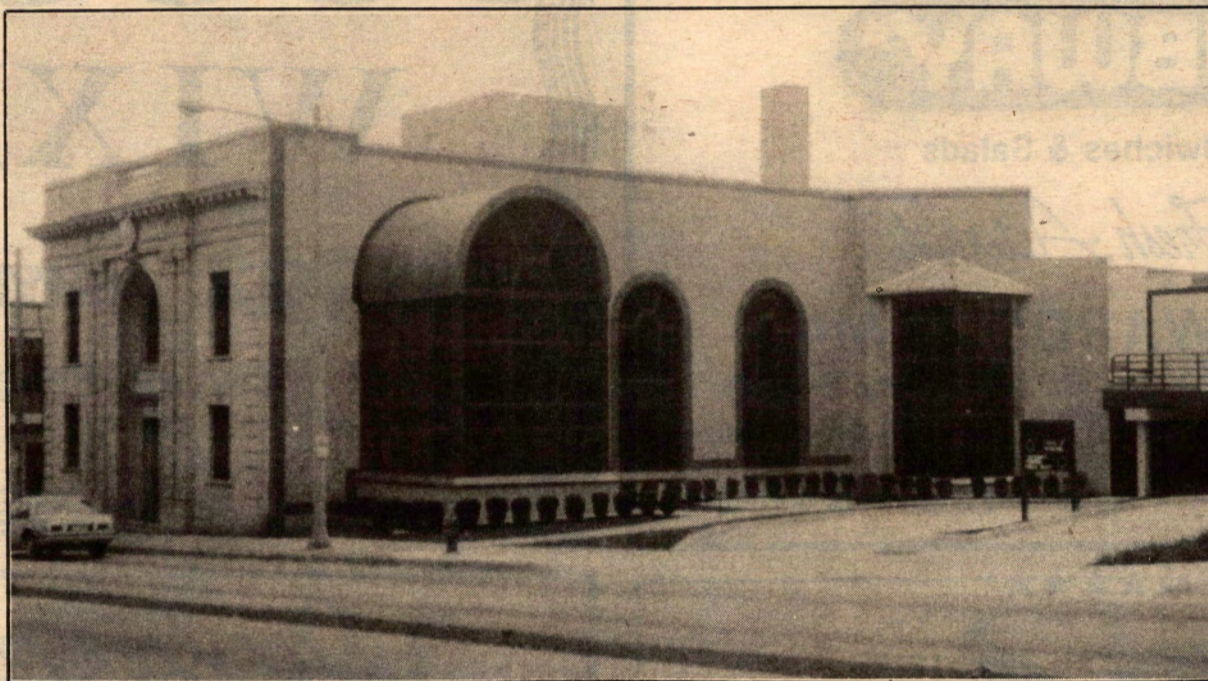


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The residents of Heritage Square, many of whom are personal friends of Mr. Reagan, wish him the best and thank him for his great 8 years in office.

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SWAT TEAM — Returning to Eureka College in 1941 as a Hollywood celebrity, Ronald Reagan took a swat from members of his old fraternity. Reagan has visited Eureka 11 times.

UPI photo

Eureka

Continued from page 11

planted on a bench?," Reagan wrote.

In an interview with the Telegraph Jan. 6 at his room at the Maple Lawns nursing home in Eureka, 94-year-old McKinzie clearly remembers Reagan's freshman year.

"He thought I had something against him and that's why I wouldn't play him. But it was far from that. He just wasn't ready for it then," McKinzie said.

Reagan did get his chance to start, however, as right guard during his junior year, and he started every game after that, with Neil at tight end.

"He had all the techniques, but he didn't have all the qualities that would have made him an outstanding player," McKinzie said. "But he was the kind of player that you liked to have on your team because he worked hard and he gave it all he had, on the field and off the field too."

In swimming, Reagan did excel — no doubt helped by his summers of work as a lifeguard at Lowell Park. At a big meet during his freshman year, he won every event except breaststroke, and ended up as coach his senior year.

Off the field, Reagan supported his fellow teammates. In particular, McKinzie remembers Reagan's efforts to spare the feel-

ings of one of the black football players, William Burghardt.

Hearing that a hotel would not accept the black player, Reagan offered to take him home to Dixon where he knew his family would welcome him.

Reagan would also entertain his fellow teammates by playing the part of a radio announcer and calling the plays.

"After practice, he used to pretend to be talking on the radio. He'd grab a broom and broomstick and he'd speak through it, running through most of the plays," McKinzie recalled.

Whatever transpired between coach and pupil on the football field, Reagan thought highly enough of his former coach that he travelled from California to DeKalb in 1965 to speak at a testimonial dinner for the retiring McKinzie.

By the time Reagan was to graduate, he would also serve two years on the student senate — including a stint as senior class president, three years as a basketball cheerleader, three years as president of the booster club and two years as feature editor of the yearbook.

Arguably, Eureka played a large part in the success Reagan has had.

"At Eureka, any talents that anyone had had a chance to come out because it was a small college," Binkley said. "Anbody who

See Eureka, page 14

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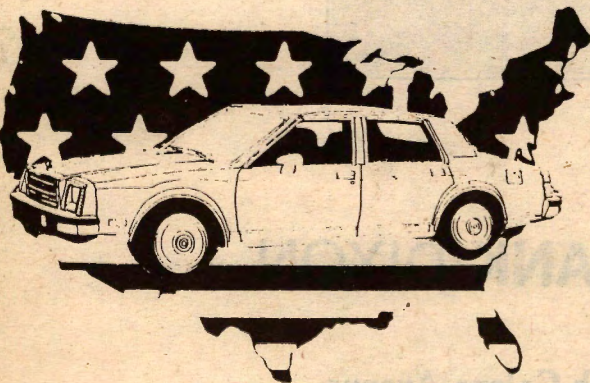
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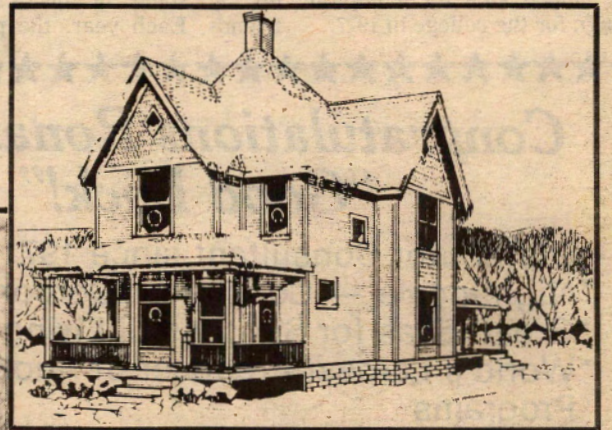


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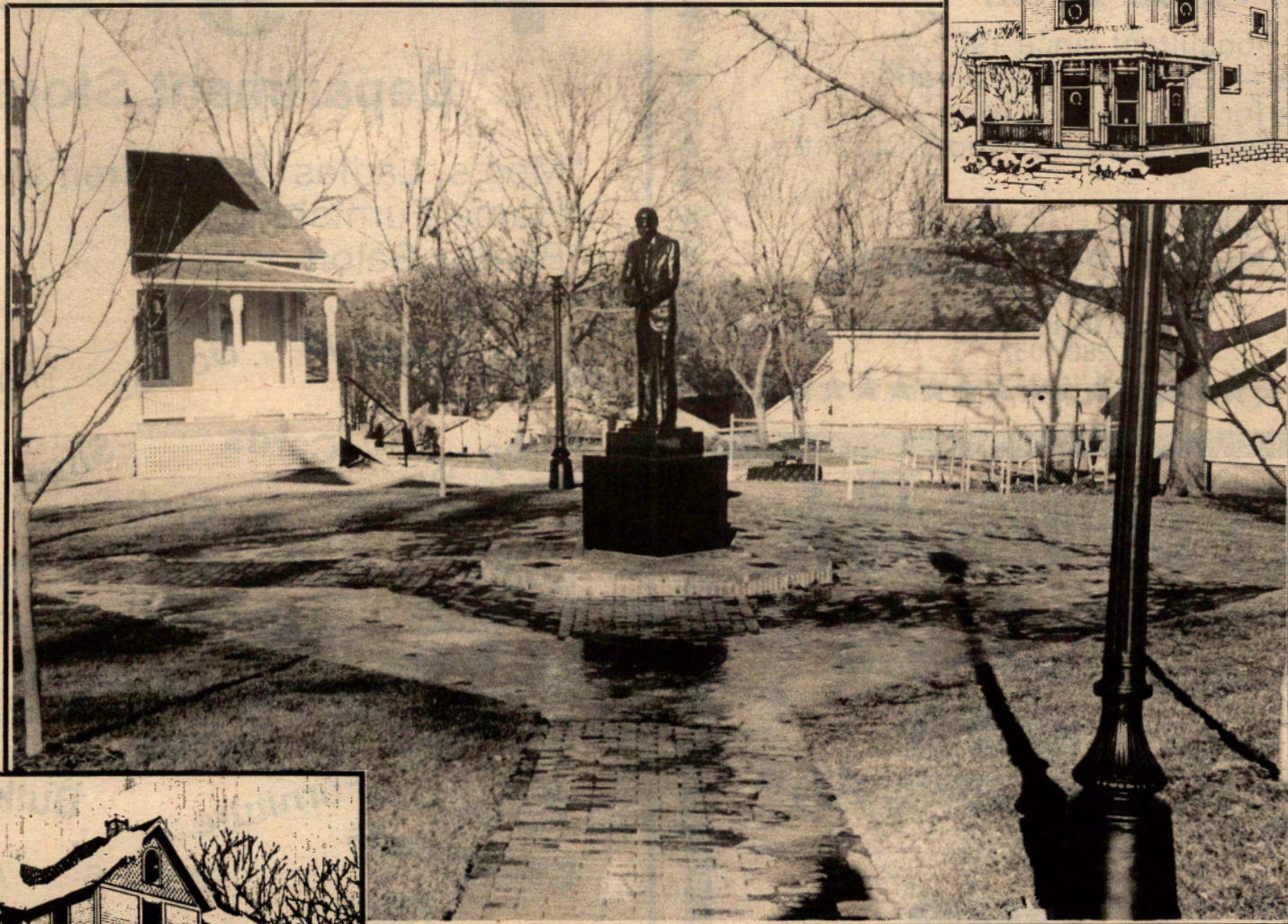
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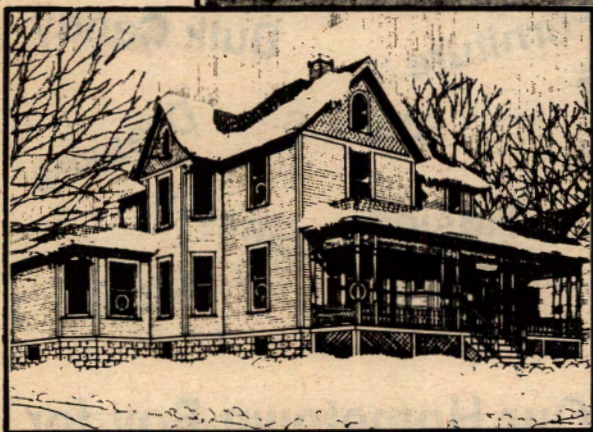
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Eureka

Continued from page 12

wanted to lead could do it. There were opportunities for doing things that you might not have at a larger school with larger competition."

Reagan, since his graduation, has given much back to Eureka:

- He has returned to his alma mater 11 times since graduation, including the dedication of the Reagan Physical Education Center which was named after both he and Neil.

- He helped kick off a capital campaign for the college in 1977.

- He served three, six-year terms on the Board of Trustees — the last one ending just before he took office as president.

"Not just since he's been president, but also as an alumnus all the way through his life, he has remained very interested in the college. He has come back on many occasions — when he was a Hollywood star, as governor of California and now since he's been president," said Eureka President George Hearne.

The greatest impact Reagan has had, however, is the Reagan's Scholars Program which was set up by some of his California friends. Each year, the program

awards five students with a four-year, fully-paid scholarship, based as much on leadership potential as on academic record.

Reagan "wants others to benefit from the educational experience he had. He felt he used the leadership ability he had at Eureka, and he wants others to have that opportunity," said Lynn Beer, director of college relations at Eureka.

Eureka College has also been the recipient of Reagan's vast memorabilia collection. The school has more than 800 items from Reagan's years as governor of California, and started receiving several shipments last summer of memorabilia he has collected dur-

ing his White House years.

Such items include more than 200 books given to Reagan by such notable people as Sen. Edward Kennedy, former Egyptian Prime Minister Anwar Sadat, Sam Donaldson, former President Richard Nixon, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and William Buckley.

Also in the White House collection are some items related to Reagan's experiences, such as a pair of cowboy boots depicting the presidential seal.

Eureka is currently in a fund-raising campaign to raise the \$3 million estimated cost of a student center it hopes will house the

Reagan memorabilia.

The school has grown from a student population of 220 when Reagan attended to more than 500 students now. Part of that growth, Hearne believes, is attributable to Reagan.

"Wherever I go and I say I'm president of Eureka College, people immediately know it's the president's college," Hearne said. "I don't think students come to Eureka just because it's the president's college, but it helps people know about it so they check into it."

"It probably does help our attraction to students and to friends who might provide financial support for the college."

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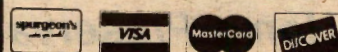
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Radio sets stage for Dutch Reagan

By C.A. Maronich
Telegraph city editor

It has been said there is a common thread that runs through those people who rise up from humble beginnings to achieve great success. They must no doubt possess some talent, and more than likely some intelligence. But the one attribute they will probably have in the greatest quantity is perseverance.

And it was perseverance that took Dutch Reagan from Dixon to the airwaves at WOC radio in Davenport, Iowa, on to WHO in Des Moines and eventually to Hollywood and a place in history.

Reagan graduated from Eureka College in 1932 — in the midst of the Depression — and returned to his home in Dixon. With no other job prospects on the horizon, Reagan returned to work as a lifeguard and odd jobsman at Lowell Park.

Through his years of work at Lowell Park, Reagan came to know many people and often gave swimming lessons to Dixon children. Two of the children he taught in the waters of the Rock River were the daughters of Sid and Helen Altschuler. Sid Altschuler was a successful

businessman from Kansas City who had married a Dixon native, and the family returned to Dixon for summer vacations. Sid Altschuler liked Reagan and asked him what he planned to do when the summer ended.

Reagan had been hoping that someday one of the well-connected people he met at Lowell Park would take an interest in his future and perhaps offer the name of a friend who could help find him a job.

Yet, when Altschuler asked about his career choice, "All I could think to do was say — 'I don't know,'" Reagan wrote in his autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?*

Altschuler did not balk at the young man's indecisiveness. "That is one thing I can't help you with," he told Reagan. "You'll have to come up with the answer to that one yourself. But, I have connections in several lines. When you determine what line of work you want to get in, let me know — and if it's in one of those areas where I can help, I'll get you a job."

Reagan got very little sleep the next few nights while trying to



UPI file photo

RADIO DAYS — A young Dutch Reagan prepares to broadcast a football game during his radio days at station WHO in Des Moines.

Radio provided an excellent communications background for the man who would someday be known as "The Great Communicator."

See Radio, page 16



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Radio

Continued from page 15

decide just what he wanted to do with his life.

"No longer did I speculate about a paycheck and security. I really wrestled with the problem of what I would be happy doing for the next few decades," he wrote many years later.

When Reagan was a child, he was exposed to the theater by his mother. She was involved in theater groups both in Tampico and Dixon and traveled the area giving dramatic reading and reciting poetry. Her youngest son often accompanied her on these outings.

In Tampico, the Reagan family did not own a crystal radio set, according to Anne Edwards in "Early Reagan." At Christmas, the family took the train to Morrison where they visited their friends, the Wilson family. The Wilsons did own a crystal set — and Reagan listened to it "with breathless attention, a pair of earphones attached tightly to my head, scratching a crystal with a wire. I was listening to raspy recorded music and faint voices saying, 'This is KDKA Pittsburgh, KDKA Pittsburgh.'" Edwards writes Reagan would then stand in the room of a dozen or so and repeat what he had heard. His efforts were usually met with

laughter, and he would repeat the routine.

These early brushes with performing left a deep mark on Dutch Reagan, who acted in both high school and college productions. He began to realize show business was the path he wanted to follow. That posed problems, however.

"Broadway and Hollywood were as inaccessible as outer space," he wrote in his autobiography. "I began to wrestle with the idea of some plan that would sound practical to a man like Sid. Remember, this was a time and place where announcing you wanted to be an actor could result in a sympathetic committee calling on your parents to suggest a suitable institution."

Reagan decided to set his sights on a middle ground of sorts and try to start a career in radio — in particular, sports broadcasting.

When he finally told Sid Atlschuler of his desire to get into radio, the Kansas City businessman did not discourage him, but admitted "you have picked a line in which I have no connections." The experience was good for Reagan, however, as he now knew what he wanted to do "with the next few decades."

As the summer ended and Lowell Park closed, Reagan returned to Eureka with his brother, Neil. From there, he hitchhiked to Chicago and visited all the major radio stations in hopes of landing a job in his new chosen field.

When he arrived at his first stop,

the NBC offices, he was told the program director only interviewed on Thursdays. That was a few days away so Reagan bunked with a former Eureka classmate living in Chicago and pounded the pavement to other stations in the city. Unable to get a single interview, he pinned his hopes on his scheduled return-trip to the NBC offices on Thursday.

When the day came, Reagan was greeted at NBC by a woman who sat with him in the station's reception area. Reagan wrote in his autobiography how the woman listened to his tale about wanting a job as a sportscaster and his college and stage experience, and then offered some advice, which the young Reagan welcomed.

"No one in the city wants to take a chance on inexperience. Go out in what we call the sticks...and try some of the smaller stations. They can't afford to compete with us for experienced talent so they are often willing to give a newcomer a chance." Reagan recalls as the woman left him in the reception area she added, "I think you'll make it. Come back and see me after you have some experience."

Reagan hitched the 100 miles back to Dixon and reported to his mother and father what had happened. His dad said he should take the advice of the woman from NBC and make a day trip to all the smaller stations he could find. Jack Reagan offered his son the family Oldsmobile to make the trip.

The journey began at its farthest point west — Davenport, Iowa — 75 miles from Dixon. There, Reagan called on station WOC — World of Chiropractic. The station was founded by Colonel B.J. Palmer of the Palmer School of Chiropractic, and was located on the top floor of the school.

When he arrived at WOC, Reagan met with the station manager and top announcer Pete MacArthur, who told Reagan they had just hired an announcer.

Reagan writes that frustration was too much. As he walked away he asked under his breath, "How in hell does a guy get to be a sports announcer if he can't even get inside a station?" It was the first time Reagan had indicated his interest in sports and as he headed out of the station, MacArthur chased after him.

As Reagan was about to get on the elevator, MacArthur caught up with him and asked him if he knew anything about football. Reagan explained he had played for eight years.

"Do ye think ye could tell me about a game and make me see it?" the Scotsman asked. The eager Reagan said he thought he could do it — and the next thing he knew he was standing in front of a microphone in a studio at WOC. MacArthur told him when the red light came on to speak in the microphone and make him "see" the game.

About to get a shot as a sport-

scaster, Reagan pondered what he should say. He decided to recap a game from his senior year at Eureka, when the team faced Western State University.

"We are going into the fourth quarter now," Reagan wrote about how he started that test. "A chill wind is blowing through the end of the stadium and the long blue shadows are settling over the field..."

Reagan went through the entire final quarter of the game, bringing the contest to a dramatic close, with Eureka winning.

MacArthur was impressed with Reagan's performance. "Ye did great, ye big S.O.B.!", MacArthur was quoted as saying in Reagan's autobiography. He hired Reagan to broadcast the next University of Iowa football game from Iowa City. He would be paid \$5 for the game plus bus fare. If he did a respectable job he would be hired on for three additional games.

When that Saturday arrived, Reagan took the bus from Dixon to Davenport and rode the 50 or so miles from Davenport to Iowa City with MacArthur and station engineers. Also along was a man Reagan would share the broadcasting chores with. In Where's the Rest of Me?, Reagan wrote that he saw this man as a "competitor." The other man had broadcasting experience, but Reagan's knowledge of the game won out and

See Radio, page 17

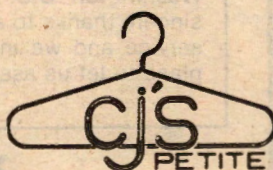
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Radio

Continued from page 16

as the fourth quarter of the game started, Pete MacArthur slipped a hand-written note into the booth on which he had penned, "Let the kid finish the game."

After that success, Reagan's salary was doubled to \$10 per game and bus fare. Dutch Reagan was now in the radio business.

When the football season ended, Reagan was eventually hired as a staff announcer at \$100 per month.

Lucile Mauget was an accountant in the station's bookkeeping

department when Reagan was hired. She retired from the station in 1983, and still lives in Davenport.

She recalls Dutch Reagan as an "all-American fella." Mauget says Reagan was very nice, good-looking and eager about his radio career.

"He was a fella out of college who wanted to learn the radio business."

After he moved on to WOC's sister station in Des Moines, WHO, and eventually onto Hollywood, Reagan would still make trips back to Davenport and the site of his first radio job.

In the summer of 1988, Reagan was again back in Davenport, this

time with all the pomp and circumstance that follows the president. He stopped in at WOC to dedicate a new broadcasting facility and while there he saw Lucile Mauget again.

"He seemed very happy to be back here," Mauget said about the president's summer visit. She met with him and spoke with him and he was still very nice...just like he had been over 50 years earlier in Davenport.

"He would make some little aside comments," while they talked, Mauget says. "He was very comical, just like he always had been."

Reagan found his new job as staff

announcer was not always as glamorous as he may have hoped. "Not all of this new life was so pleasant," Reagan wrote in his autobiography. "Being a staff announcer meant many hours of playing phonograph records, interspersed with the reading of commercials. Other hours were spent in lonely duty while the station carried network programs..."

The radio career hit one pothole. While playing a program of romantic organ music, sponsored by the Runge Mortuary, Reagan, who had not been told of need to mention the sponsor's name, did not give the mortuary a plug.

The following day Reagan's

bosses were not happy and neither was the mortuary. Reagan was told he would be replaced.

As fate would have it, however, Reagan was charged with the task of training the man taking his job. When the former schoolteacher learned what had happened to Reagan he demanded a contract. The station refused. The schoolteacher went back to the classroom and Reagan went back behind the microphone.

In the spring, WOC and WHO consolidated. When that move was made, Reagan was hired on as the chief sports announcer at twice his

See Radio, page 18

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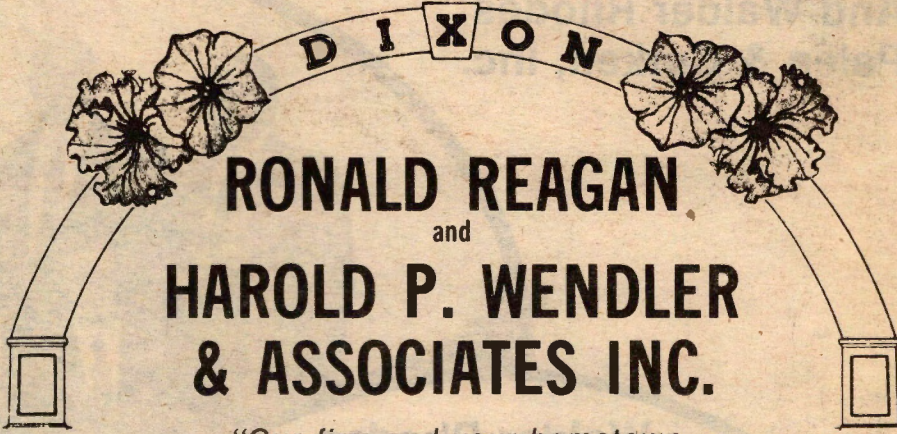
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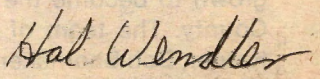
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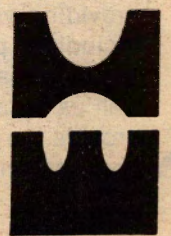
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Radio

Continued from page 17

former salary. Dutch Reagan packed his things and headed for Des Moines.

There Reagan's career really took off. Through his sports broadcasting and numerous speaking engagements he became a celebrity in Des Moines.

Not only was Reagan enjoying his own celebrity status, but he liked brushing elbows with the famous men who passed through the studios of WHO.

"Through our city came the greats of the sports world and all of them found their way to WHO to be

interviewed," he wrote in his autobiography. Those who Reagan met included Doc Kearns (flamboyant manager of Jack Dempsey), Ed Strangler Lewis, Max

and it was that same perseverance that landed him in Hollywood.

Following through on the dream he'd been afraid to share with Sid Altschuler on the shores of the

Reagan got a telegram from the Hollywood agent saying Warners was making him an offer for a 7-year contract at \$200 a week.

Baer, Leslie Howard, James Cagney and the famed evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson.

It was perseverance that got Dutch Reagan into a radio career

Rock River at Lowell Park, Reagan planned a trip to Hollywood. In February of 1937, Reagan talked the radio station into sending him out to Catalina

Island to spend spring training with the Chicago Cubs, the team for which Reagan broadcast at WHO.

He had a month of vacation time saved up and Reagan was able to convince the station that if it paid the way to California, he would give up his vacation time. The station agreed.

While in California, Reagan got in touch with a former WHO employee Joy Hodges, who was now an actress in Hollywood. She put Reagan in touch with her agent. He met the agent, took some screen tests and returned to Des Moines.

It was back in Iowa where the young man from Dixon learned he

was going to have a Hollywood career.

Back at WHO, Reagan received a telegram from the Hollywood agent informing him Warner Brothers was making him an offer for a seven-year contract at \$200 per week.

Dutch Reagan, who would drop the "Dutch" once he reached Hollywood, took the offer.

Friday, May 21, 1937 was Dutch Reagan's last day at WHO. His friends at the station gave him a farewell party at a Des Moines night spot. The next morning, Reagan piled his possessions into his car and headed west — for his job in Hollywood and his date with history.

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Film career set process in motion



A studio portrait of the young actor from Dixon, Illinois.

As a boy in Dixon 'Dutch' loved the cowboy movies

By Mike Chapman
Managing Editor

It can be effectively argued that it was his film career which ultimately provided Ronald Reagan with the forum to make his successful run at the most prestigious position in the world — and become the 40th President of the United States.

Reagan arrived in Hollywood in the summer of 1937 and began a film career which would span nearly three decades and include roles in 54 films. What his Hollywood years gave to Reagan were the following:

- Considerable exposure and name recognition all across the nation;
- A tremendous boost in the essential ability to communicate effectively and present a very positive image on television;
- An important training ground in political infighting while serving as president of the sometimes volatile and highly-visible Screen Actors Guild.

RONALD REAGAN'S interest in drama, like most other aspects of his life, was fashioned in Dixon, thanks to the impression left on him by cowboy movie legends like Tom Mix and a dedicated teacher named B.J. Frazer.

In her book *Early Reagan*, Anne Edwards says the young Reagan was "addicted to Western films." Though no one can pinpoint for certain when Reagan first became infatuated with movies, he provides a clue in his 1965 autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?*

Writing about his youth spent in such places as Tampico, Chicago, Galesburg and Dixon, he mentions movies for the first time on page 17, while reminiscing about his Dixon years:

"There was the life that has shaped my body and mind for all the years to come after. Sitting in the Family Theatre, watching the marvelous flickering antics of Tom Mix and William S. Hart as they foiled robbers and villains and escorted the beautiful girls to safety, waving back from their horses as they cantered into the sunset."

Mix and Hart were the top two cowboy stars of the 1920s, fabulous heroes to a nation of young boys searching for role models. They rode into a town, and meted out justice in a manner that helped young minds quickly separate right from wrong, justice from injustice, good from evil.

WHILE THE future president loved sports as a youngster in Dixon, he also grew passionate about drama. Reagan studied under B.J. Frazer, an English teacher at Dixon who exerted a strong influence on Reagan, and he continued in theater at college.



Tom Mix, great cowboy star of the 1920s who Ronald Reagan admired greatly as a youth.

"From him (Frazer) I learned almost all of what I know about acting today," wrote Reagan in 1965, even after spending almost three decades in Hollywood.

One experience in particular at Dixon provided him with a valuable lesson about roles. Cast as the villain in the play *Captain Applejack*, he learned "that heroes are more fun. As old Eddie Foy once said, 'Sing pretty, act pretty, pretty things they enjoy.' All of this commenced to create in me a personality schizo-split between sports and the stage.

"The fact was, I suppose, that I just liked showing off."

Reagan adhered to his goal of playing heroes all through his film years. In fact, it wasn't until his very last movie, *The Killers* in 1964, that he played a villain again.

He appeared in several plays at Dixon during his school years, but it was at Eureka College where Reagan really became smitten by the acting bug.

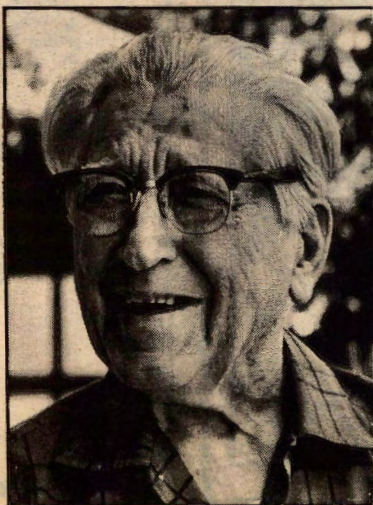
"I was investigating a new, wonderful world, possibly more fascinating than any other, the world of drama," he wrote of his years at Eureka.

During Reagan's junior year at Eureka, he and several other fellow actors competed in a drama contest at Northwestern University in Evanston. Not only did the Eureka group finish second in the rugged competition, but Reagan was one of six actors singled out for special praise. The director of the contest asked him if he had ever considered acting as a career.

From that point on, the notion bloomed and took flower.

"I wanted some form of show business," he wrote in his autobiography. "But the problem was how to go about it. Broadway and Hollywood were as inaccessible as outer space."

"From him I learned almost all of what I know about acting today," wrote Reagan of Dixon's B.J. Frazer



B.J. Frazer



John Loves Mary

Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson

John Loves Mary was a 1949 comedy by Warner Brothers about servicemen returning from the war. Ronald Reagan spent some time on the sofa, with a newly arrived actress named Patricia Neal (kneeling) in a co-starring role.

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Films of Ronald Reagan

1937

- 1 — Love Is on the Air
- 2 — Submarine D-1

1938

- 3 — Sergeant Murphy
- 4 — Swing Your Lady
- 5 — Hollywood Hotel
- 6 — Accidents Will Happen
- 7 — Cowboy from Brooklyn
- 8 — Boy Meets Girl
- 9 — Girls on Probation
- 10 — Brother Rat
- 11 — Going Places

1939

- 12 — Secret Service of the Air
- 13 — Dark Victory
- 14 — Code of the Secret Service
- 15 — Naughty But Nice
- 16 — Hell's Kitchen
- 17 — Angels Wash Their Faces
- 18 — Smashing the Money Ring

1940

- 19 — Brother Rat and A Baby
- 20 — An Angel from Texas
- 21 — Murder in the Air
- 22 — Knute Rockne: All-American
- 23 — Tugboat Annie Sails Again
- 24 — Santa Fe Trail

1941

- 25 — The Bad Man
- 26 — Million Dollar Baby
- 27 — Nine Lives Are Not Enough
- 28 — International Squadron

1942

- 29 — King's Row
- 30 — Juke Girl
- 31 — Desperate Journey

1943

- 32 — This Is the Army

1947

- 33 — Stallion Road
- 34 — That Hagen Girl
- 35 — The Voice of the Turtle

1949

- 36 — John Loves Mary
- 37 — Night Unto Night
- 38 — The Girl from Jones Beach
- 39 — It's a Great Feeling

1950

- 40 — The Hasty Heart
- 41 — Louisa

1951

- 42 — Storm Warning
- 43 — Bedtime for Bonzo
- 44 — The Last Outpost

1952

- 45 — Hong Kong
- 46 — The Winning Team
- 47 — She's Working Her Way Through College

1953

- 48 — Tropic Zone
- 49 — Law and Order

1954

- 50 — Prisoner of War
- 51 — Cattle Queen of Montana

1955

- 52 — Tennessee's Partner

1957

- 53 — Hellcats of the Navy

1964

- 54 — The Killers



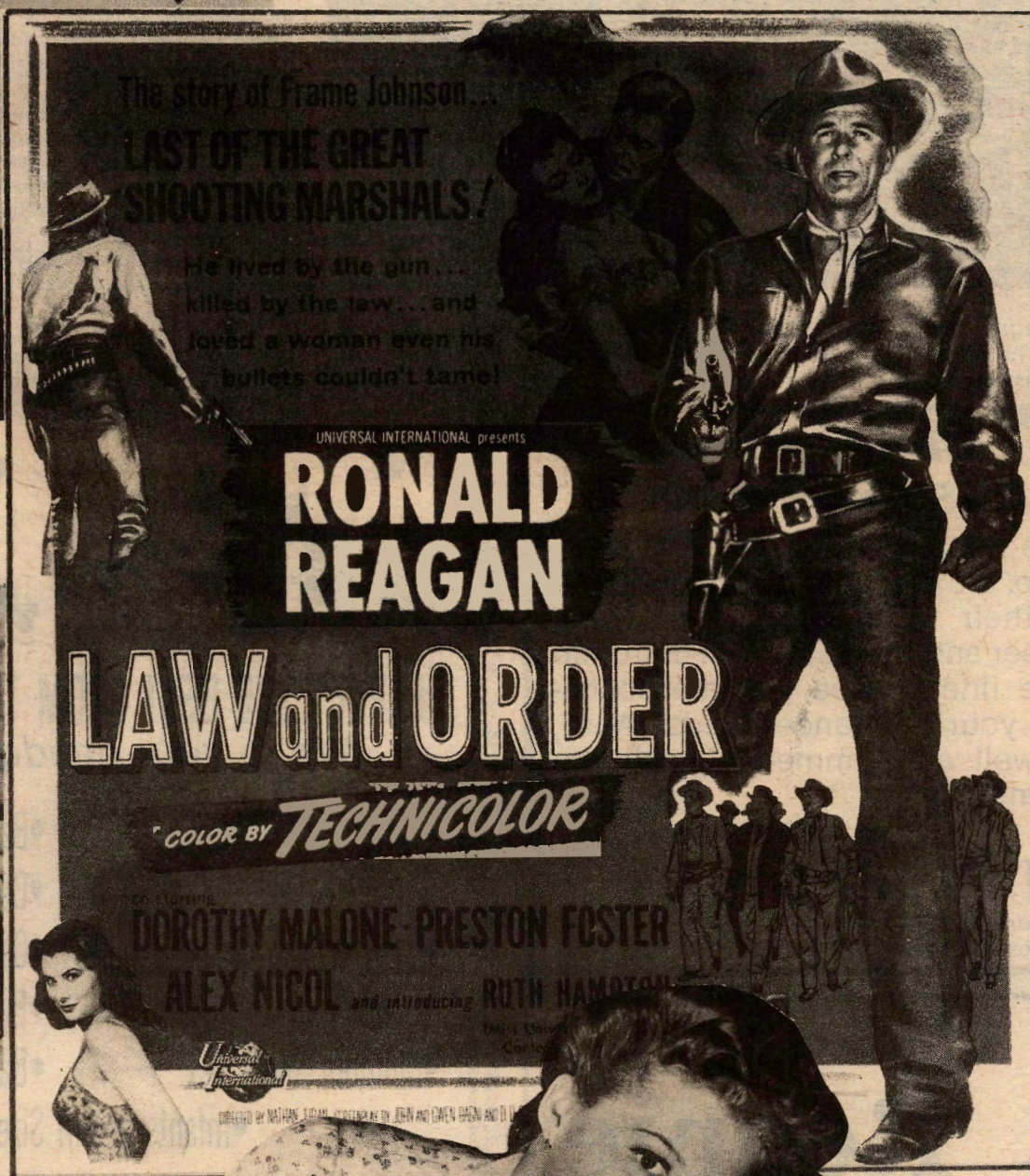
Reagan, as baseball star Grover Cleveland Alexander, holds co-star Doris Day, in 1952 movie, The Winning Team.



Bedtime for Bonzo, a 1951 film, had Reagan playing caretaker to a domestic chimp.



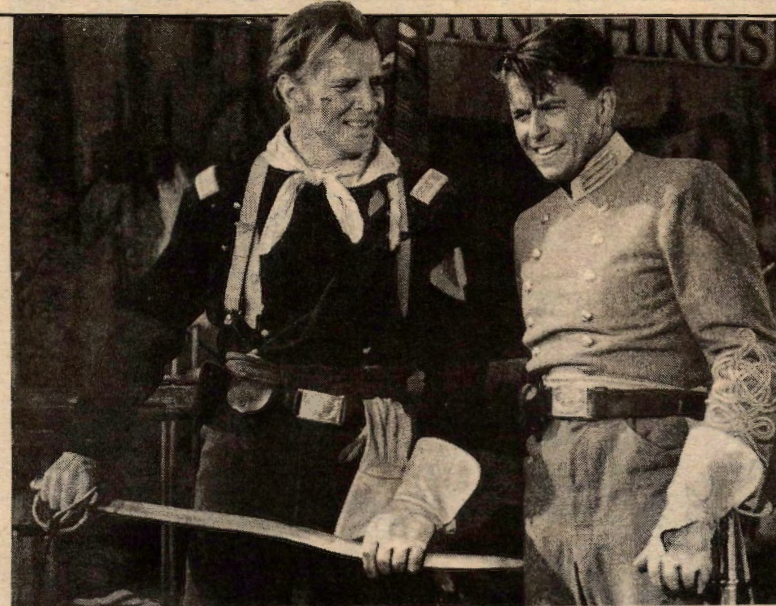
A dirty and unshaven Reagan in the 1954 movie Prisoner of War.



All photos courtesy of Bill Thompson



Ann Sheridan comforts Reagan in the classic film King's Row.



Bruce Bennett (left), an Olympic star and former Tarzan, played Reagan's brother in the 1951 movie, The Last Outpost.



Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson

TURTLE TALK — In 1947, Reagan found himself talking with Eve Arden in *The Voice of the Turtle*. Reagan was forced to pass up an of-

fer to play in the big hit *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* because he couldn't get out of his Turtle commitment.

Movies

Continued from page 19

A Ronald Reagan trademark has always been optimism and determination, and after graduating from Eureka he set off for Chicago. He was hopeful of finding a job in radio, and using that entertainment form as a launching pad into film. He landed a job on the radio in Davenport, Iowa, and quickly moved on to a bigger market in Des Moines. There, in the heart of Iowa, he became a polished sportscaster, working University of Iowa football games and, eventually, Chicago Cubs' baseball games.

While traveling with the Cubs to California for spring training in 1937, Reagan visited Joy Hodges, a former WHO employee who had a singing act and was playing bit parts in movies. He told her of his film aspirations, and she arranged a meeting with an agent.

Those who feel Reagan has led a charmed life have only to point to his Hollywood beginnings to support their contention. The agent quickly arranged for two screen tests...and within several days the Dixon product was offered a seven-year contract by Warner Brothers, starting at \$200 a week.

As simply as that, destiny had called; Ronald Reagan was on his way!

June 1, 1937, saw Reagan arriving in Hollywood. It would be home

for the next forty some years....and would provide the platform which would eventually catapult him into the highest office in the land.

Amazingly, he was immediately given the lead in a minor "B" film entitled *Love is On the Air*, playing a radio announcer. In his first 11 months in Hollywood, Reagan appeared in no less than eight films. After his success seemed assured, he sent to Dixon for his parents, Jack and Nelle, to join him. Jack soon began handling all the fan mail and press demands for his suddenly-famous son.

Life in the film capital took considerable adjusting for the young Midwesterner, and Reagan suffered through a few unneveering moments....including chaperoning a young starlet named Lana Turner to a press party.

Ironically, in his two most famous movie roles, Reagan wound up in bed, facing tragedy.

The first came in 1940, when he played George Gipp in *Knute Rockne, All-American*. Pat O'Brien starred as the legendary Notre Dame football coach, and Reagan had third billing, as the famous football star, George Gipp.

Reagan entered the film world with the dream of someday playing Gipp on screen. He had admired the young Notre Dame star ever since telling his life story on radio

See Movies, page 24

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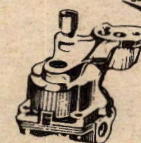
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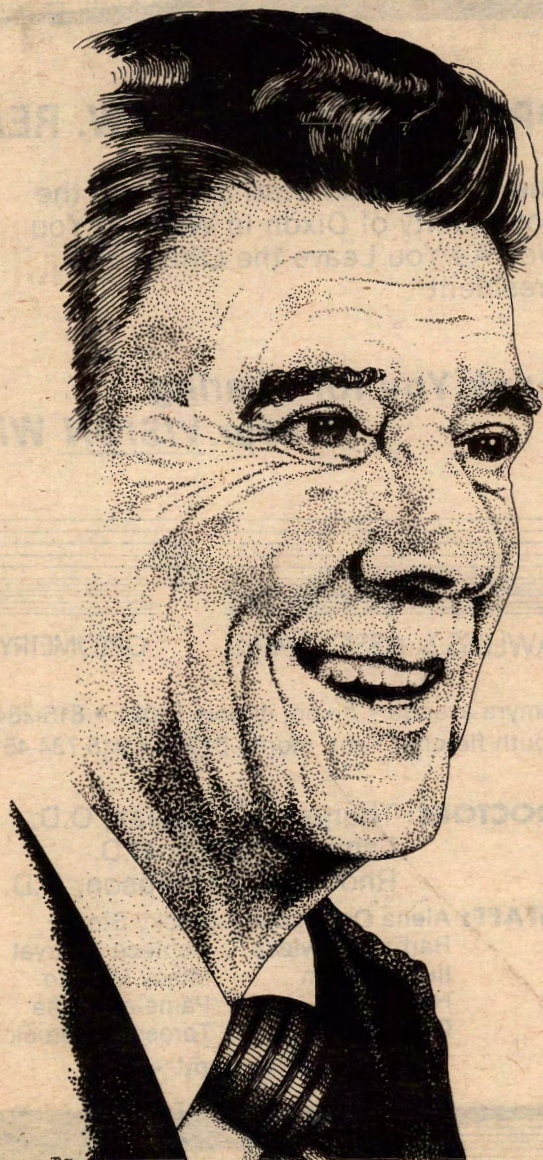
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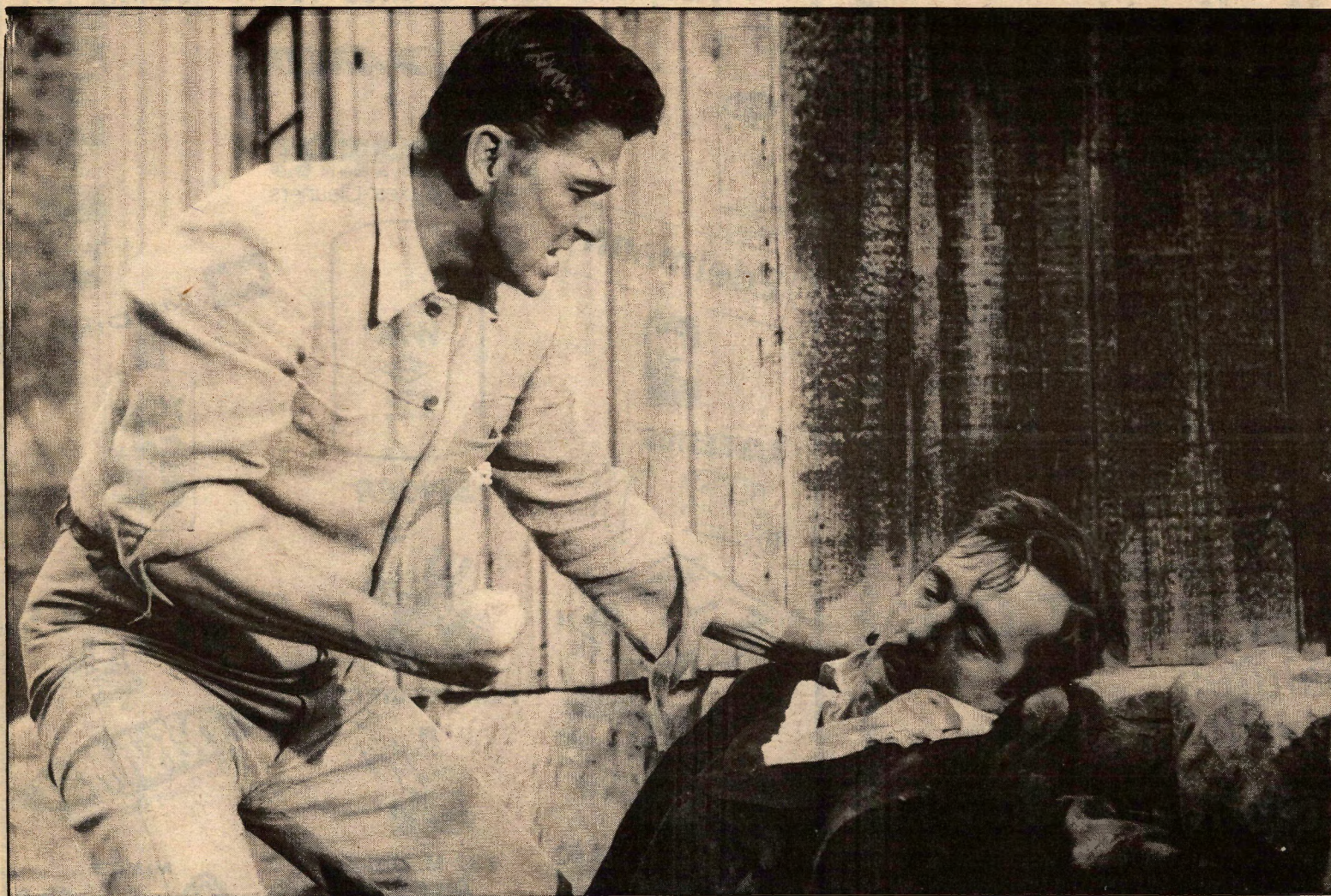


Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson

PAIN FOR PAYNE — That's John Payne on the receiving end of the Reagan anger — and fists — in Tennessee's Partner. Also

starring in the 1955 film, Reagan's 52nd, were Rhonda Fleming and Coleen Gray.

Movies

Continued from page 22

in Des Moines. When he discovered testing for the Gipp role was almost over before he even heard of the plans for the Rockne movie, he tore across town and ran into the producer's office, pleading for a chance to test for the part.

He finally got the role after showing the producer a picture of him in a football uniform from his Eureka days.

"I got the part. It occupied only one reel of the picture, but in that reel it was nearly a perfect part from an actor's standpoint," wrote Reagan years later. "A great entrance, an action middle and a death scene to finish up."

As a dying Gipp in bed with pneumonia, Reagan asked Rockne to have the team "win one for the Gipper" someday, when the going was tough. It was a moment thick with drama, and Reagan never shook the "Gipper" nickname. During the end of his presidency, he was presented a huge gavel with the word "Gipper" printed on it.

Though Reagan is only on screen for approximately 5½ minutes in the Rockne film, the power of the role was such that it made a lasting imprint on Reagan's career. In addition, a speech he gave early on in the film may have provided some insights into the impact the real

See **Movies**, page 26

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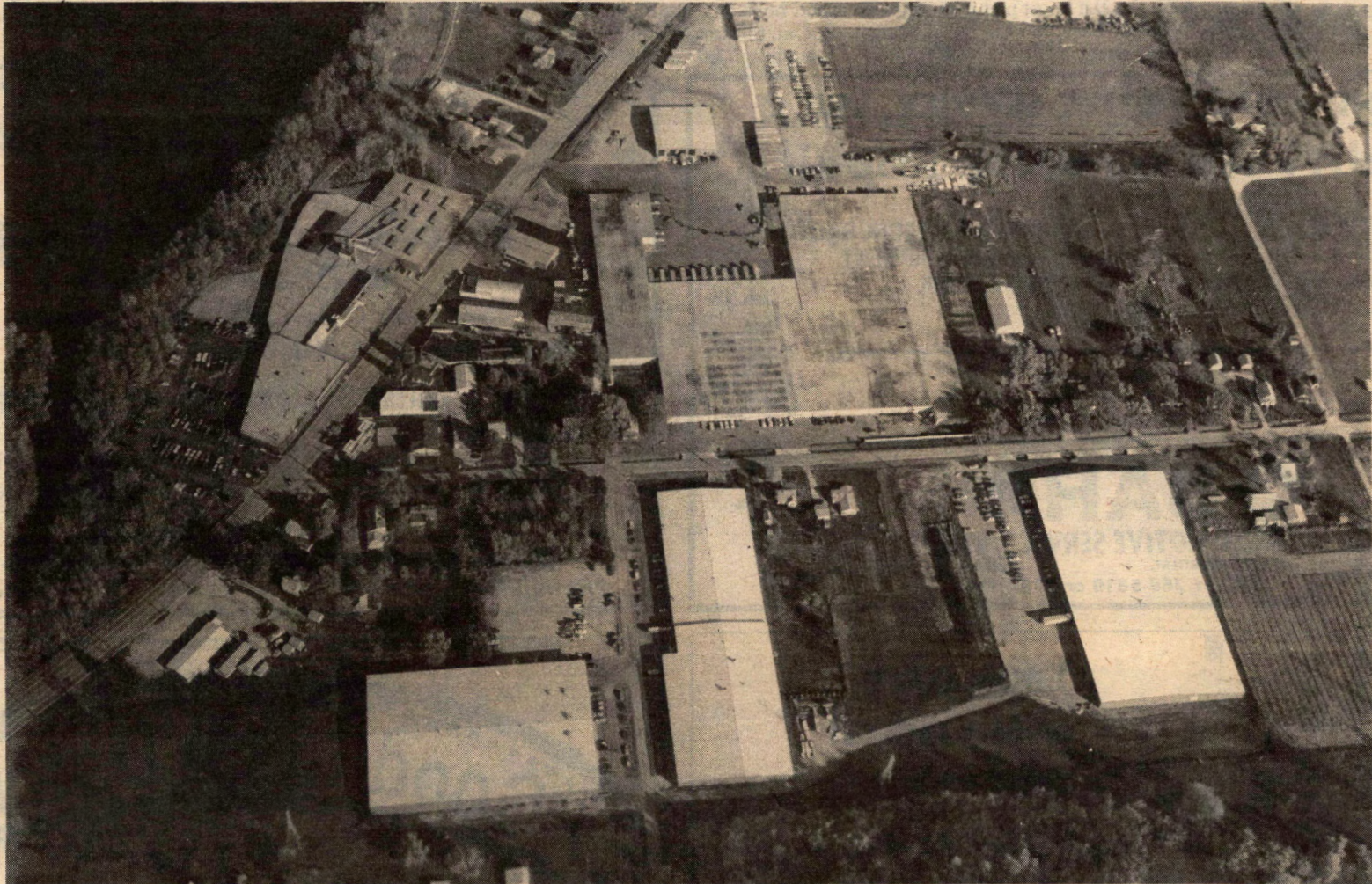
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Movies

Continued from page 24

Reagan was able to have upon his millions of followers.

Speaking to Mrs. Rockne about her husband, Gipp waxed philosophical:

"He's given us something they don't teach in schools. Something clean and strong inside. Not just courage, but a right way of living, that none of us will ever forget."

There are millions who would say Ronald Reagan, as president, had a similar impact on his followers.

In his next role, he played a young George Custer in *Santa Fe Trail*, and was in the second male lead behind Errol Flynn, a huge star of the 1940s. Reagan made five films in 1941, and then started off 1942 with the second famous "bed" scene.

In *King's Row*, Reagan's character, Drake, is horribly mutilated, and screams out the now-famous line, "Where's the rest of me?"

Twenty-five years later, Reagan called *King's Row* "the picture that not only meant stardom, but still remains the finest picture I've ever been in. Based on the novel of the same name by Henry Bellamann,

it was a slightly sordid but moving yarn about the antics in a small town, something I had more than a slight acquaintance with."

In the movie, Drake suffers an accident in the railroad yards where he is working and the town doctor, angry that Drake has jilted his daughter, amputates both his legs. Reagan's character wakes up to discover the horrible fate that has been dealt him.

Throwing himself into the role, Reagan spent days agonizing over how to play it. He couldn't sleep the night before the scene was to be shot, he had become so worked up. But at the last moment, all went splendidly. In his autobiography,

Reagan credited Director Sam Wood and co-star Ann Sheridan with helping him pull it off.

"It was a good scene and came out that way in the picture," wrote Reagan. "Perhaps I never did quite as well again in a single shot. The reason was that I had put myself, as best I could, in the body of another fellow."

World War II slowed down the careers of most actors and actresses, and Reagan was no exception. He was called to active duty. He made one film in 1943, entitled *This Is the Army*, and none in 1944, '45 or '46.

In 1947, he made three films, but missed out on a chance to be in the

classic *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, with Humphrey Bogart. The film won the Academy Award for best picture in 1947 — but Reagan couldn't work it into his busy schedule. Director John Huston offered him a key role in *Treasure*, but Reagan was locked into a picture called *The Voice of the Turtle*, and couldn't get free from that obligation.

A string of undistinguished films followed, including the now infamous *Bedtime for Bonzo* in 1951. There, Reagan and the rest of the cast were upstaged by a chimp. But he closed out the year in an out-

See Movies, page 28

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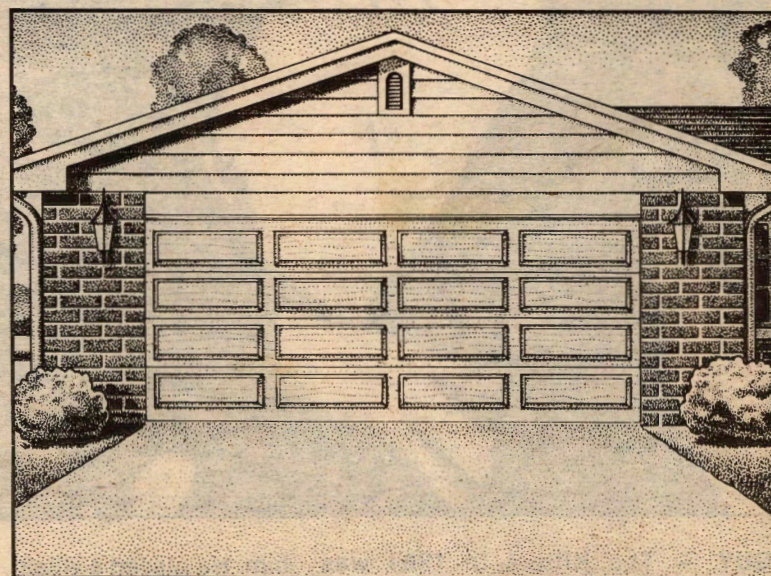
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Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson

NASTY GUY — The Killers in 1964, was Reagan's last film, and it showed a new side of

him. He played a villain, and wound up taking a backhand swing at Angie Dickinson.

Movies

Continued from page 26

door movie *The Last Outpost*, in which he and former Tarzan Bruce Bennett played brothers on opposite sides during the Civil War.

Reagan recalls 1952 fondly. He made one of his favorite movies, *The Winning Team* — which was the story of baseball pitching immortal Grover Cleveland Alexander — and he loved it. "Making this picture was as happy a chore as I'd had since playing 'The Gipper,'" he wrote.

But an even happier event transpired later that year when he married Nancy Davis. William Holden, a Hollywood superstar who worked closely with Reagan on SAG, was best man.

Reagan met his first wife, Jane Wyman, during the filming of *Brother Rat* in 1939, and that marriage dissolved in 1947. He met Davis, a young starlet at the time, when he was serving as president of SAG and went to her apartment to help her with a guild problem she had encountered.

While very busy at the outset of his career and on through the 1940s (except for the war years), there was a considerable slowdown in the middle 1950s, when the former Dixie became very selective over the roles he was offered. He turned down opportunities to work in Broadway and in a television series, but kept his income fairly

stationery with guest appearances on TV, and various speaking engagements.

In 1954, he starred with Barbara Stanwyck, and the great Montana landscape, in *Cattle Queen of Montana*, and also began the long-running TV series, G.E. Theatre. In the series, he served as host and starred in several of the dramas. He also served as the company's representative, touring the country to talk to G.E. employees at nearly 135 plants in 40 states.

It was a demanding, exhausting schedule; but in typical Reagan fashion, he enjoyed it immensely, and developed his skills as a speaker. The experience set the stage for the great political campaigns yet to come.

He made one film in 1955, and none in 1956. In 1957, he and Nancy teamed up for *Hellcats of the Navy*, the only time they acted together. There was a seven-year hiatus from movies after *Hellcats of the Navy*. In 1964, he made his last film, and he appeared as one of those nasty guys he had avoided ever since his days as a junior in Dixon. In *The Killers*, an Ernest Hemingway story which starred Lee Marvin and Angie Dickinson, he slaps Dickinson hard across the face....

The Gipper would not have approved!

Looking back over Reagan's film career, he seems destined to have moved beyond movies....and into

See **Movies**, page 30

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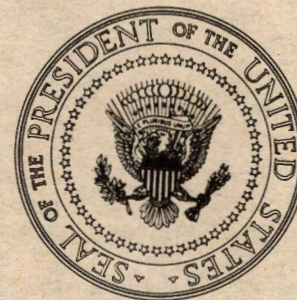
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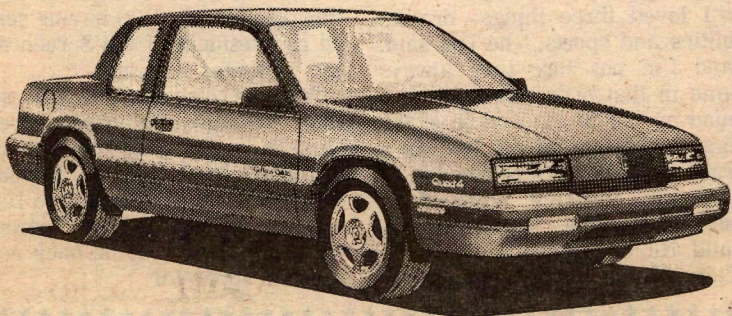


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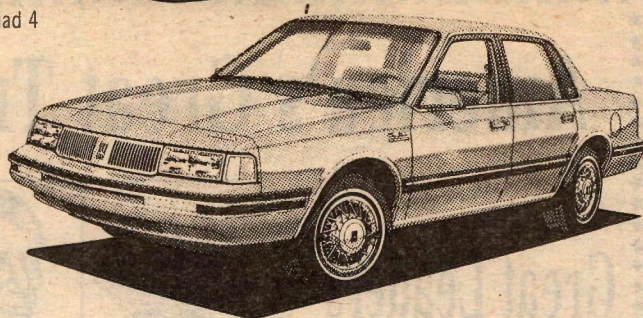
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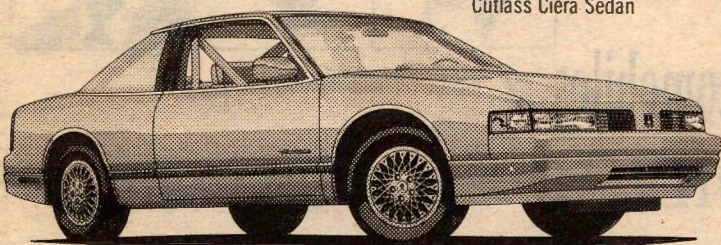
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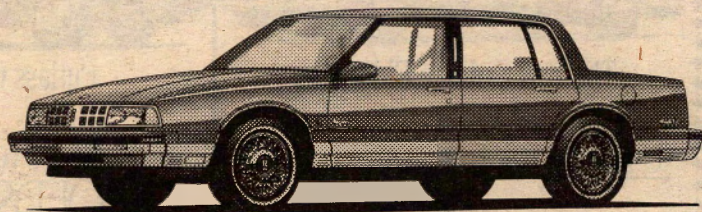
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Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson

HAPPY GROUP — Members of the Screen Actors Guild appear happy as they pose for a photo with their president, Ronald Reagan. This picture was probably taken in the early 1950s. Reagan was SAG president for six terms.

Movies

Continued from page 28

something even bigger. In his autobiography, he alluded to the self-deception that many actors must practice in order to become successful in Hollywood, and it is obvious he didn't enjoy that element of films.

"I began to feel like a shut-in invalid, nursed by publicity. I have always liked space, the feeling of freedom, a broad range of friends, and variety. Now I had become a semi automation, creating a character another had written, doing what still another person told me to do on the set."

He followed with a key insight for anyone hoping to gain understanding of Ronald Reagan.

"I could barely believe the colored shadow on the screen was myself."

Ronald Reagan had progressed from Dixon youth to college athlete, to radio announcer to movie actor. Now, he was looking for a larger field to conquer.

"I loved three things: drama, politics and sports," he has said, "and I'm not sure they always came in that order. In politics, I found myself in the middle of the biggest tohubohu of my life. As a first-line Irishman, I relished it."

He first became involved in politics via the Screen Actors Guild. He fought long and hard for actors' rights in the labor move-

ment, and carved out such a reputation as a fighter of communism that his life was threatened. He even took to wearing a gun for a brief period, when Warner Brothers was convinced he may be in danger.

The Guild also gave him the opportunity to expand his political horizons. He spoke in Washington D.C. before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and in Los Angeles at a special subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The Screen Actors Guild took its toll on Reagan's career, however. He poured so much time and effort into his presidency that he let his film acting suffer.

"I have been asked now and then if all the years of Guild activity hurt my career, and if I'd do it all over again, given a second chance. The answer doesn't come easy, but it has to be yes to both questions."

For that, the Republican Party will be forever grateful. It is unlikely that Ronald Reagan would have become the 40th President of the United States without (1) being a movie actor of considerable national repute, and (2) having served as president of the Screen Actors Guild for six terms.

With the release of *The Killers* in 1964, Reagan's Hollywood career came to an end. Like Tom Mix and William S. Hart, he was to fade into the movie sunset. But unlike Hart and Mix, his two childhood heroes, he would come roaring back as a political superstar.

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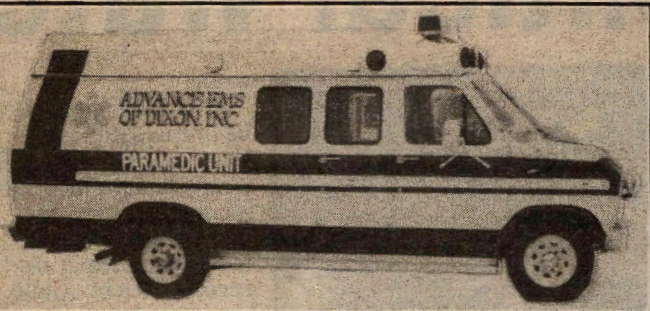
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Hetta joined Blackorby's in 1980 and is active in residential sales. Hetta lives in Amboy and in 1988 had sales of more than \$820,000.



Jo Ellen Haack

Jo Ellen received her real estate license in November 1988. She has completed the Coldwell Banker Fast Start Training Program and joined Blackorby's in November, specializing in residential sales.



Connie Pratt

Connie obtained her real estate salesman's license in April 1988. She joined Blackorby's in December and is completing Broker courses at Sauk Valley Community College. Connie and her husband, Doug, previously farmed in the Dixon area. She is active in residential and farm sales.



Kevin Smith

Kevin joined Blackorby's in January 1988 after being involved in the construction business and investment property for several years previously. In 1988, he sold over \$70,000 worth of real estate. He is currently completing courses at Sauk Valley Community College to obtain his Broker's license.



Evelyn Rapp

Evelyn received her real estate license in 1984 and joined Blackorby's in 1986. In 1988, she sold nearly \$500,000 worth of real estate.

Reagan tests the political waters

By Karen Warnke
Telegraph wire editor

Sincerity, stability, a strong sense of values.

It's no coincidence these types of descriptions are always used in connection with Ronald Reagan.

Fellow Dixonites, observers of his long Hollywood and political careers and co-workers alike remember Reagan for his 'everyman' attributes, his down-to-earth values and his ability to poke fun at himself.

These characteristics didn't just appear overnight. They were the products of a wholesome, honest upbringing, cultivated over the years by hard work and honesty.

But it was these characteristics which endeared him, first, to the people of California during his gubernatorial campaign and his eight years as the state's top legislator and, finally, to the American people as they chose him twice for the country's highest office.

Reagan served the two-term limit as California's governor and went down as the state's 33rd governor. Ironically, California was also the 33rd state to be admitted to the union.

Reagan's political career began in 1964 when, ironically, he made a speech for another candidate — Barry Goldwater, according to political reporter Joe Lewis, in his book "What Makes Reagan Run?"

"It was apparent that Reagan

was thinking about the 1966 (governor's) race when he made the 1964 Goldwater speech in an obviously hopeless cause," Lewis wrote. "Paragraph by paragraph, he soared to a bravura finale that sounded like Jimmy Stewart's oration in 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.'"

Lewis quoted Reagan's speech, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We can preserve for our children this the last best hope of man on earth or we can sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us, we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."

"The speech did nothing for Goldwater, but it made Reagan politically," Lewis noted.

In tracing Reagan's political beginnings in California, one finds patterns and similarities to his presidential career almost immediately.

Bill Boyarsky, a California reporter, followed Reagan's first campaign for governor from start to finish and chronicled the events in his book "The Rise of Ronald Reagan." Boyarsky notes that Reagan's popularity with the working people became apparent from the onset of his gubernatorial campaign. Reagan's belief in a non-interventionist government and Nancy Reagan's interest in political affairs were also there

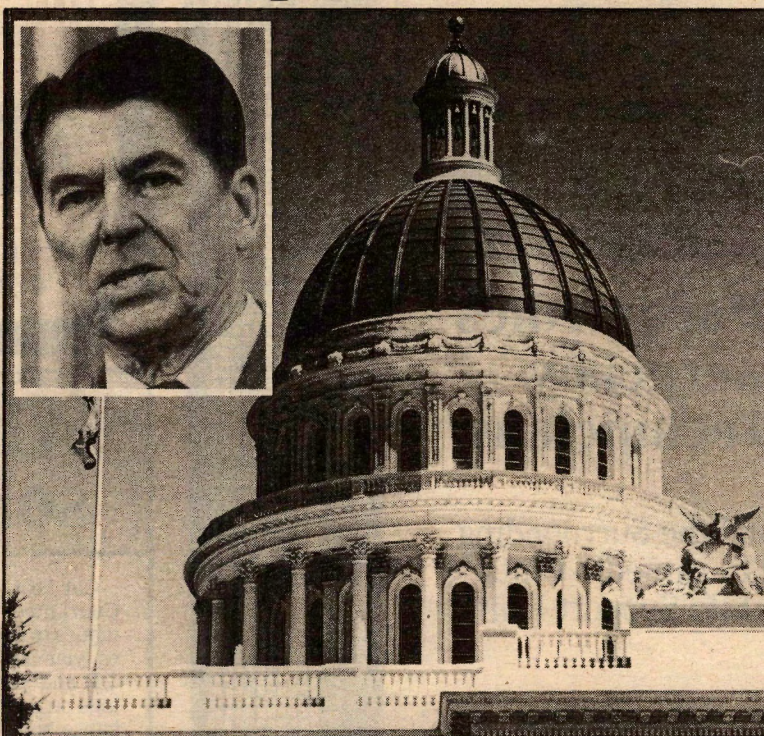


Photo courtesy The Sacramento Union

THE CAPITOL — Ronald Reagan presided over the California legislature as governor from 1966 to 1974. Above is the California Capitol building in Sacramento.

from the very beginning, Boyarsky notes.

Recounting Reagan's many campaign appearances, Boyarsky reveals the Reagan formula. "At night he spoke to a packed crowd at a dinner that followed what was becoming the typical pattern for a

Reagan appearance — show business personalities to warm up the crowd. Reagan made no secret of his movie background. In fact he advertised it. He was introduced by Andy Devine, the froggy-voiced comic sidekick in Gene Autry's cowboy movies..." Boyarsky

wrote.

After the fanfare, Reagan would be introduced and if the crowd wasn't sold already, his charisma would capture their attention and, more than likely, their votes. "He told stories about his days in the movies and about his work in the Screen Actors Guild. He even reminisced about broadcasting the Cubs' games. It was a show and the audience enjoyed it all, the jokes and the serious part," Boyarsky wrote.

His ability to warm up to the people and generate support fascinated critics and backers alike. The appeal of Reaganism is "its call to nostalgia and a return to the verities of a generation that believed in itself and the sound dollar," Lewis wrote.

Even the most hardened Democrats found themselves swayed by Reagan's straightforward style and easygoing demeanor.

"I wouldn't say I flipped over him, but he did seem awfully nice. Maybe a little square, but a nice square," Lewis quoted a California woman who attended a Reagan rally.

Despite his lack of political experience, Reagan quickly gained the public's respect with a strategy designed by campaign managers Bill Roberts and Stu Spencer.

"We decided not to show brilliant knowledge which he did not have,"

See Governor, page 33



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Governor

Continued from page 32

Boyarsky quoted Roberts as saying. "We tried to operate on the level that he is not a professional politician, that he is a citizen politician."

That everyman image cemented his position with the people, according to Lewis, who also quoted campaign adviser Roberts.

"When something came up that Ron didn't know, all he had to do was admit it. Everybody knew he was inexperienced and they admired him for admitting he didn't have enough knowledge on a given subject," Roberts told Lewis. "When he made a mistake people rallied around and forgave him. After all, he was one of them; they didn't think of him as a 'politician.'"

There's little doubt the strategy worked — Reagan clinched his first term as California's governor by just under a million votes, defeating his opponent Pat Brown and heading to the governor's mansion in Sacramento.

Reagan defeated his second opponent, Jesse Unruh, by more than 501,000 votes in the 1970 election.

The campaign had a simplicity and a homespun quality that was a big hit with the voting public. Reagan's skillful use of television became the standard by which other politicians designed their own campaigns and his down-to-



Photo courtesy The Sacramento Union

FAMOUS FRIENDS — Ronald and Nancy Reagan were greeted at the January, 1971 gubernatorial inaugural by some old

friends; (from left) Frank Sinatra, Vikki Carr, Dean Martin, John Wayne, Jack Benny and Jimmy Stewart.

earth qualities delighted staff members, the media and the public alike.

Boyarsky recounts flights in the campaign plane, a 22-year-old DC-3 dubbed "The Turkey" because the previous owner, Marvin Amerine, used the plane to transport baby turkeys to market. Amerine donated the plane to Reagan's gubernatorial campaign after the

primary and also served as the pilot.

"His plane was reliable but slow. Like all of the sturdy DC-3s, it wasn't pressurized and the ride was sometimes uncomfortable. Whenever the plane landed, all those aboard would yell 'gobble, gobble, gobble,' with Reagan joining in," Boyarsky wrote.

His experiences campaigning in

California were a good warm-up for the presidential campaign.

"A campaign in California is like a presidential campaign, because the population centers that must be covered are spread over a wide area — a morning in Los Angeles, lunch in San Francisco, an afternoon rally in Oroville, 150 miles to the north, dinner in Oakland across the bay from San Francisco. . .,"

Boyarsky wrote.

Reagan insisted he did not aspire to the presidency. On the night he was elected governor, Reagan dismissed any notions of a run for the White House, saying "I'm really not ambitious *that way*," Lewis noted.

Despite those protests, Reagan's

See Governor, page 34

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Governor

Continued from page 33

colleagues were looking to the presidency. "In the minds of some of Reagan's advisers, Sacramento appeared to be merely on-the-job training for the presidency," Boyarsky wrote.

Boyarsky quoted Reagan Adviser Henry Salvatori: "People criticize Ronnie for having no political experience. But he has a great image, a way to get through to people."

But it is Reagan's political colleagues who can best describe his

successes during his eight years as governor.

"I couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable experience. He was fun to campaign with. He is an extraordinary person," said Robert Finch, who served as lieutenant governor during Reagan's first term in office. Finch later went on to serve as secretary of health, education and welfare in the Nixon administration and is currently a California attorney.

Finch recalled his campaigning days with Reagan during a phone interview with The Telegraph.

"During those days we had to put together a slate of candidates. I was originally approached by

Mayor (George) Christopher of San Francisco to be a candidate with him but I said no, that I'd run on my own and support whoever the GOP elected," Finch recalled. "At that time Reagan wasn't given much of a chance. He was thought of as a good actor, but that's about it.

"The Goldwater-Rockefeller fight had split the party and we were trying to pull it together. Reagan came to see me and I told him my intentions and that established a basis on which we were able to run together. We ran as a team after that," Finch said.

Californians embraced Reagan as a strong and warm governor,

Finch said.

"People received him in a way resembling what's been true of his presidency. He had a strong value system and represented sincerity and stability," he said. "People enjoyed being around him because he showed qualities of great humanity and he was capable of kidding himself."

Reagan's work with California's financial problems was one of his biggest successes as governor and a good training ground for his work with the federal deficit, according to Finch.

"At that time California had very serious financial problems. Unlike the federal budget, we were re-

quired to balance (our budget) and he brought in a cadre of workers to work on alleviating the budget deficit. It set the tone for a series of actions consistent with his beliefs and set the stage for his career as president," Finch said.

What seems to stick with people who knew and worked with Reagan more than anything is his rise from humble beginnings to achieve the dreams of many small town youths. Finch summed up his memories of Reagan thusly: "He represented that a very decent, bright and committed human being, despite his background, can hold the most important elected office in the free world."

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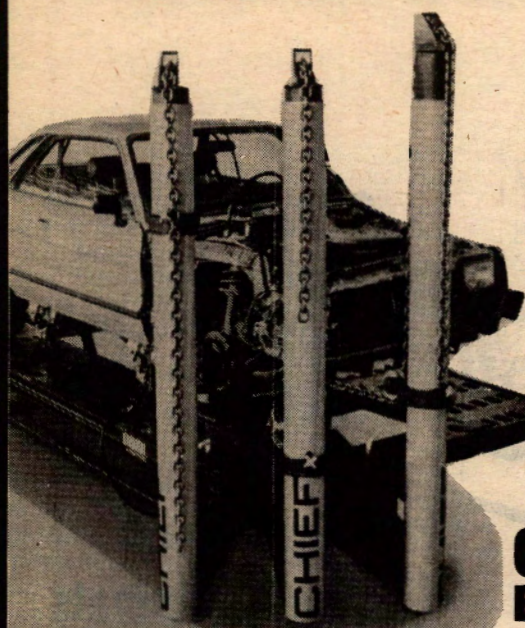
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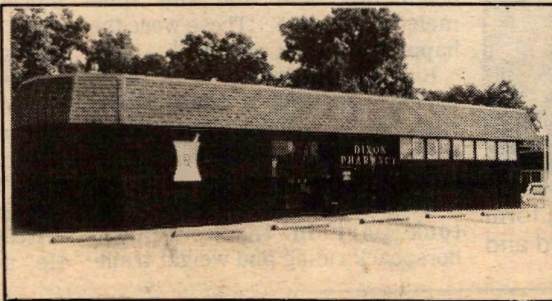
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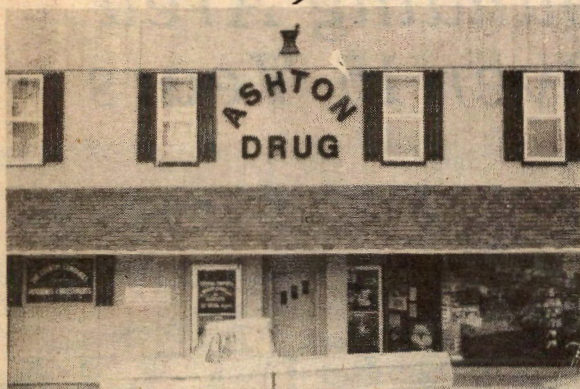


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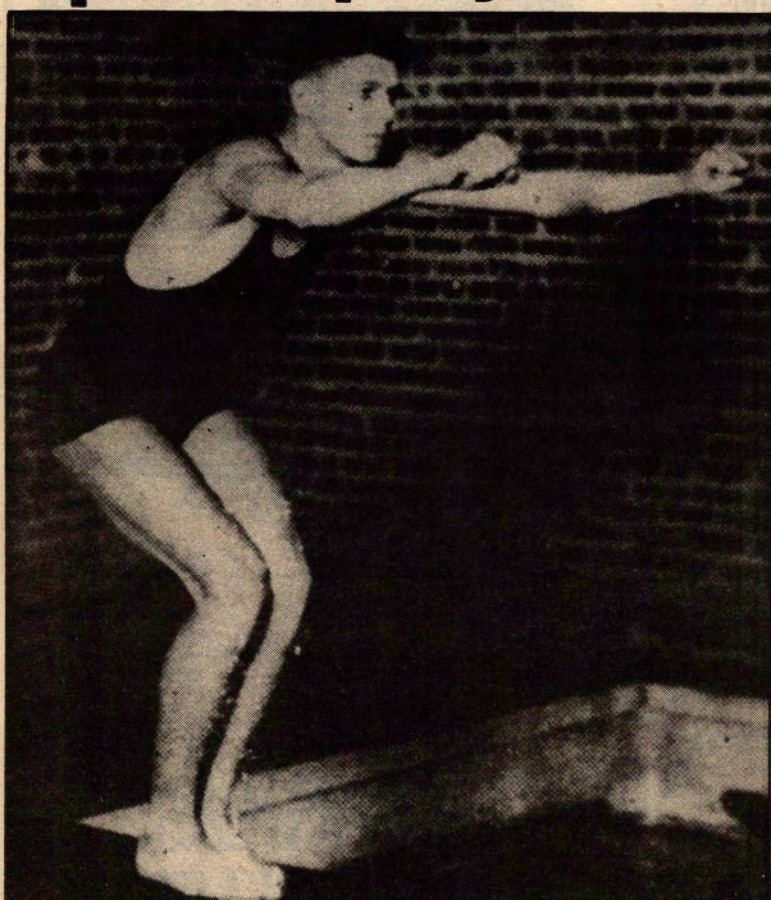
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Sports played key role in Reagan dreams



Telegraph file photo

SET TO GET WET — Ronald Reagan shows his swimming form during his days as Eureka College, where he both competed and coached.

By Chip Marshall
Telegraph sports writer

Sports — of the real and reel variety — have played a key role in the life of Ronald Reagan. From his days as a sandlot football player in Dixon to his roles as sports heroes in two popular movies, Reagan has always harbored a great affection for athletics and athletes.

"I loved three things: drama, politics and sports, and I'm not sure they always came out in that order," Reagan wrote in his 1965 autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?*

Although he was not an extraordinary athlete, Reagan was a dedicated and versatile performer who knew how to work hard and shoot for the top. In his book, he recalled with great relish playing football for the first time in Dixon just before turning ten years old.

"I worshipped the wild charge down the field and the final melee," he wrote. "Those were the happiest times of my life."

Reagan competed in a wide variety of sports at North Dixon High School. But he loved football the most and yearned to reach stardom on the gridiron.

He excelled as a swimmer and took part in track, tennis, horseback riding and weight train-

ing. He didn't care much for baseball because he was nearsighted and somewhat ball shy at the plate. But he spent many hours on the golf course at the Dixon Country Club (Hazelwood) as a caddy and engaged in ice hockey battles when the Rock River froze over during winters.

"I was one of the better ones in town at playing 'Little Al' on the ice of the river in winter," he wrote in *Where's the Rest of Me?* "The game was assassination hockey, to escape being tagged. It made me an excellent skater and even better at maneuvering my weight and sliding home free on my back or belly; in any scrimmage, I knew my way around."

Author Anne Edwards detailed many of his athletic activities in her book *Early Reagan, The Rise to Power*.

"In 1925, at the age of 14, Reagan saw a tremendous change in his appearance. He matured into a tall, muscular young man who, like many youngsters, enjoyed competing against others in several sports."

"He was the perfect specimen of an athlete — tall, willowy, muscular, brown, good-looking," Bill Thompson recalled in Edwards' book.

Reagan was an superb swimmer. He developed his skills as a

member of the local YMCA's supervised swimming program at Lowell Park. The large, scenic park situated on the west bank of the Rock River was named after the poet James Russell Lowell, author of "Ode to a Waterfowl" (supposedly written in the area), and Reagan spent the good share of seven summers there.

But it wasn't all leisurely fun. The Rock River's current could turn powerful — and very dangerous — at times.

"THERE WAS A DAM downstream which, when the sluices were opened, gave the ordinarily slow current a quicker tempo and deeper thrust," Reagan wrote in his autobiography.

"The bottom sloped swiftly and into deep water not too far from the edge. An additional hazard was the other bank, about 600 feet away; swimming across was a challenge — once started you had to go all the way, or else."

Edwards pointed out that Reagan honed his swimming skills at the Lowell Park beach, where he served as a lifeguard for many years.

"Because of Reagan's strong crawl and speed, no one could touch him in a race," she wrote.

See Sports, page 37



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Sharon U. Thompson
Lee County Treasurer

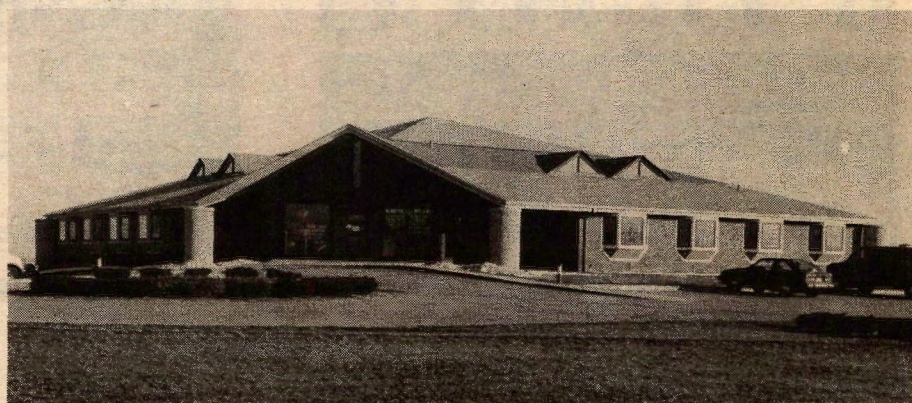
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Sports

Continued from page 36

"And in the spring of 1926, after several drownings, the Park Commission threatened to close Lowell Park that coming summer unless better safety precautions could be assured. Reagan thought what the park needed was a good lifeguard and applied to the concessionaires, Ruth Graybill and her husband, Ed, for the job."

The Graybills hired Reagan for \$18 a week and all the nickel root beers and 10 cent hamburgers he could consume. He worked from 10

a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. So good was Reagan at his job as lifeguard that he began making notches on an old log for those swimmers he had 'saved' the first summer. If pressed, he always knew the current total.

"He was with us six years (seven summers) and we never had a drowning in all that time," Mrs. Graybill wrote later.

Reagan, it has been said, saved a grand total of 77 lives during that time.

Among the leading sports figures of the day, Reagan admired a young Dixon athlete named Garland Waggoner.

Waggoner was a former South

Dixon High School standout fullback and captain of the football team. He later went on to star at Eureka College, a Christian Church school located about 100 miles from Dixon.

As a high schooler, Reagan's dream was to make the varsity team at Eureka and follow in the footsteps of his hero. He loved football, although he was nearsighted and it was tough to wear glasses on the field.

In the fall of 1928, the 17-year-old Reagan and his high school sweetheart, Margaret Cleaver, daughter of the Rev. Ben Cleaver, who had taken over the Dixon Christian Church in 1922, set out for

Eureka, where Margaret would be registering for classes. Reagan had not enrolled yet, due to lack of funds. Tuition at Eureka was \$180 a year, which did not include living expenses.

But he had an appointment with Dean S.G. Harrod. Reagan would have to talk the dean into giving him an athletic scholarship. At the time, Eureka competed fiercely for football talent.

"The last decade had seen college enrollments more than double at most universities and football had become a favorite college sport as well as a big business," Edwards wrote in her book. "Few schools could ignore the revenue

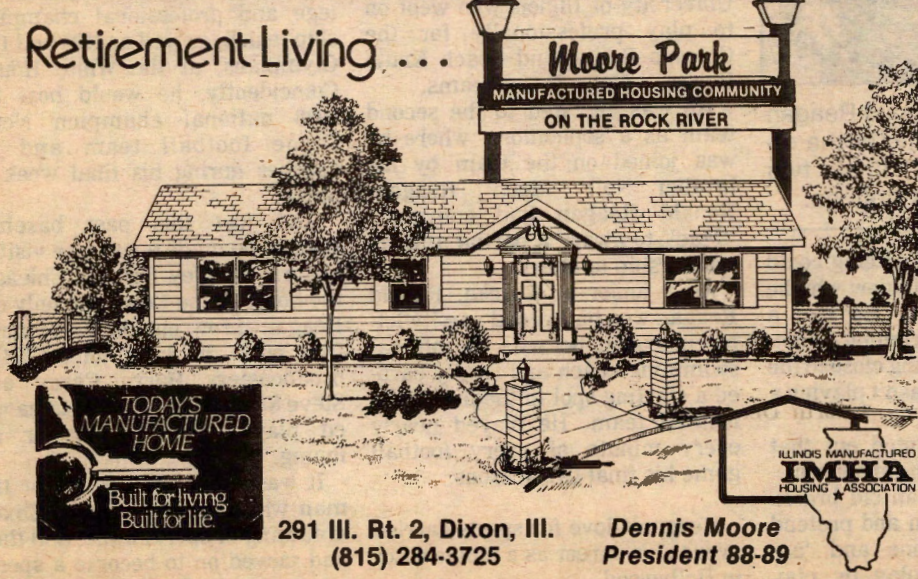
football brought to them. A star player and a winning team drew students."

Eureka had been having trouble replacing their last big star, Waggoner. So in his conversation with Harrod, Reagan pointed out he had played on Dixon's varsity football team, as had Waggoner. He even padded his accomplishments and Harrod sent him to speak to Eureka's coach, Ralph "Mac" McKinzie.

McKinzie, well up on scouting reports, knew Reagan had not been a star performer. But he liked his enthusiasm and considered his

See Sports, page 38

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Sports

Continued from page 37

potential to be good and convinced the school board to grant him an athletic scholarship for half of the \$180 tuition and membership to the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TEKE) fraternity. Harrod also secured Reagan a job washing dishes at the TEKE house for his meals.

McKinzie had been athletic director and coach at Eureka since 1921. He was a former Eureka standout in football and basketball and a fierce competitor despite his 5-foot-8, 145 pound frame.

"Dutch — I put him at end on the fifth string," McKinzie would tell Edwards. "Later he switched to tackle. But the first year I never let him on the field to play a game. Guess he hated me for it. But I had a team to consider. He was near-sighted, you know. Couldn't see worth a damn. Ended up at the bottom of the heap every time and missed the play because he couldn't see the man or the ball moving on him."

IN A RECENT interview with The Telegraph, McKinzie said Reagan "thought I had something against him and that's why I wouldn't play him (his freshman year), but it was far from that. He just wasn't ready for it."

"He had the techniques, but he didn't have all the qualities that would have made him an outstan-

ding player. But he was the kind of player that you liked to have on your team because he worked hard and gave it all he had."

In his autobiography, Reagan wrote about that first year.

"It's tough to go ... from first string (at North Dixon High) to the end of the bench before the whistle blows for the first game. I managed to accomplish this all by myself. But in my mind I had help — heaven forbid I should take the blame! I told everyone who would listen that the coach didn't like me. I was the victim of unreasoning prejudice. I needed a damn good kick in the keister, but how can you kick something that's permanently planted on a bench?"

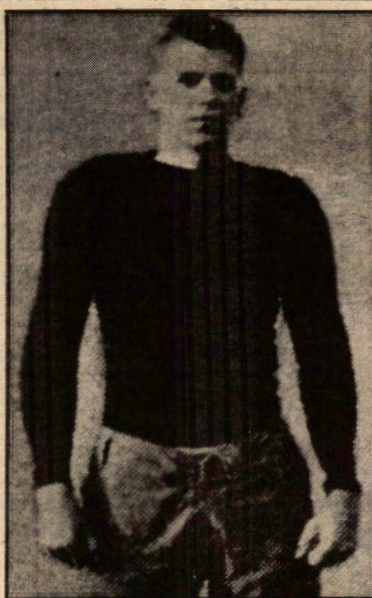
Reagan also considered playing basketball at Eureka, but only briefly.

"I went to the first practice, looked through the door, adjusted my glasses, looked again, turned and walked away," he wrote. "I saw fellows doing things with a basketball that I just didn't believe."

"But what Reagan did not achieve on the football field or basketball court, he made up for in swimming," Edwards wrote. "During a big swim meet his freshman year, he won every event (crawl stroke, back stroke, 100-meter, 200-meter and relay) except breast stroke."

McKinzie was also the swim coach at Eureka.

"I don't believe he ever swam in a pool before," McKinzie said. "Took some time, but when he got



A STARTER — Ronald Reagan was a varsity regular in the offensive line his final two seasons at Eureka College.

the oil off his wings, nothing could hold him back. Don't know why he persisted at football. He had a dream I guess of becoming a football star. He liked being close to the field even when he wasn't playing a game."

McKinzie also pointed out that Reagan loved to play announcer.

"He used to take an old broom from the locker room and pretend it was a microphone and 'announce' the game play by play afterwards. Never forgot a play

either! He understood football — and baseball for that matter, too, better than most of the teams combined. Just couldn't execute what he knew on the playing field. But he never gave up trying."

REAGAN RETURNED to Eureka for his sophomore year in 1929.

"In his eyes, the year at Eureka had been a failure," Edwards wrote. "Mac's Golden Tornadoes and his basketball team, the Red Devils, were unquestionably the big men on campus and he had not become one of their elite number."

At the time, Reagan idolized Red Grange, an All-American at the University of Illinois who went on to play professionally for the Chicago Bears, and Coach Knute Rockne's Notre Dame teams.

He was elevated to the second team as a sophomore, where he was joined on the team by his brother Neil "Moon" Reagan. Ronald Reagan had convinced "Mac" to award a partial athletic scholarship to Moon.

As a junior at Eureka, Ronald Reagan won his second varsity letter in track, became the official swimming coach and finally earned a starting spot in the line of the football team. He played nearly every minute of every football game his final two seasons.

Reagan's love for sports carried over to his career as a movie actor in Hollywood.

In 1940, Reagan starred in

"Knute Rockne — All-American", a Warner Brothers picture based on the life of the legendary Notre Dame football coach. He played the role of ex-Irish star player George Gipp, who died of pneumonia during his senior season.

Reagan was also cast as Hall of Fame pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander in the 1952 Warner Bros. production, "The Winning Team," also starring actress Doris Day. He later said starring in those movies were two of his proudest accomplishments in an acting career that spanned nearly three decades.

As president, Reagan made it a regular practice to entertain college and professional championship teams, as well as 1984 and 1988 Olympians, at the White House. Coincidentally, he would host the 1988 national champion Notre Dame football team and its coaches during his final week in office.

And just this past baseball season, he made a surprise visit to historic Wrigley Field in Chicago, the home of the Cubs. Not only did Reagan throw out the ceremonial first pitch, he later joined WGN broadcasters Harry Caray and Steve Stone in the booth and handled play-by-play chores for an inning.

It was almost full cycle for the man who had grown up in Dixon dreaming of sports fame, and then had moved on to become a sports announcer in Davenport and Des Moines.

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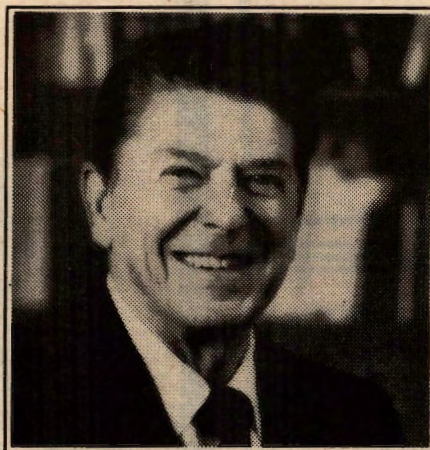
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UPI photo
THE GIPPER — Perhaps Ronald Reagan's most famous moment on the screen came when he played legendary Notre Dame football player George Gipp. Reagan had third billing in the 1940 movie, which starred Pat O'Brien in the title role.



UPI Photo
GOLDEN MOMENT — Surrounded by members of the 1988 United States Olympic team, President Reagan beams during a reception Oct. 24 at the White House.



UPI photo
Photo courtesy of Bill Thompson
BATTER UP — Though he didn't play much baseball as a youth because he was nearsighted, Reagan has always admired the heroes of the game. He played legendary star Grover Cleveland Alexander (right) in the 1952 film *The Winning Team*, and threw out the ceremonial first pitch (above) at a Cubs game this past summer in Wrigley Field.



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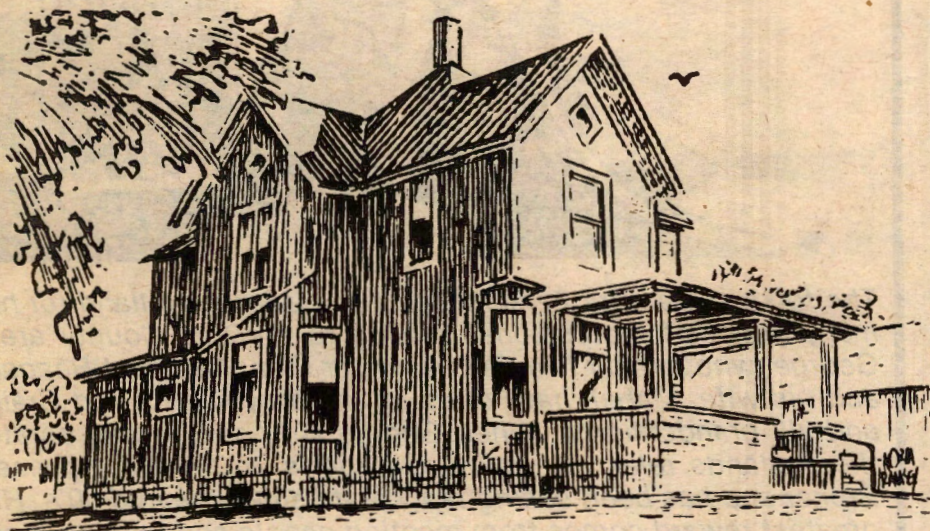
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By Clark Kelly
Telegraph staff writer

"I, Ronald Wilson Reagan, do solemnly swear..."

With those words, Dixon's hometown boy assumed the presidency of the United States on Jan. 20, 1981. Some 700 of his fellow Dixonites witnessed the swearing in on the White House grounds. The high school band and pompon squad marched in the inaugural parade — Reagan waving his white, Dixon cowboy hat as the band passed in review.

Even as his hand was raised to take the oath, television networks covering the ceremony were interrupting its programming to report 52 hostages held in Iran for 444 days were on their way home.

By mid-afternoon, street vendors were selling buttons proclaiming, "I was in Washington D.C., when the hostages were released, Jan. 20, 1981." Yellow remembrance ribbons became almost as popular as red, white and blue bunting.

Reagan would later proclaim Jan. 29, 1981 as a national day of thanksgiving. In his hometown, services were held at the First Christian Church, where the Reagan family attended church in his formative years. In nearby Mount Morris, 400 persons gathered at the park, housing the

state's Freedom Bell. Reagan had dedicated the bell years before.

In his inaugural address, Reagan called for a national renewal.

"Let us renew our determination, our courage and our strength," he urged. "Let us renew our faith and our hope. We have the right to dream heroic dreams," Reagan told America.

Dubbed The Great Communicator, the Reagan presidency had begun. It is a study in contrasts.

The Reagan economic package was a trilogy. Balance the budget, improve the national defense, and provide a tax cut to spur economic growth.

The balanced budget part of the package eluded his grasp even though he kept saying it would come soon.

On Feb. 5, 1981, while some 1,500 Dixonites were whooping it up at a pre-birthday party in his honor, eating cake and Hey Brothers "Dutch" chocolate ice cream (named in his honor), Reagan was unveiling his economic plans for the country.

The picture he painted was not a pretty one. His Chief of Staff, James Baker, called it the worst economic mess in 50 years.

See President, page 42

TAKING THE OATH — Nancy Reagan has eyes only for her husband as he takes the oath of office to become 40th President of the United States on January 20, 1981, in Washington.

UPI photo



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Continued from page 41

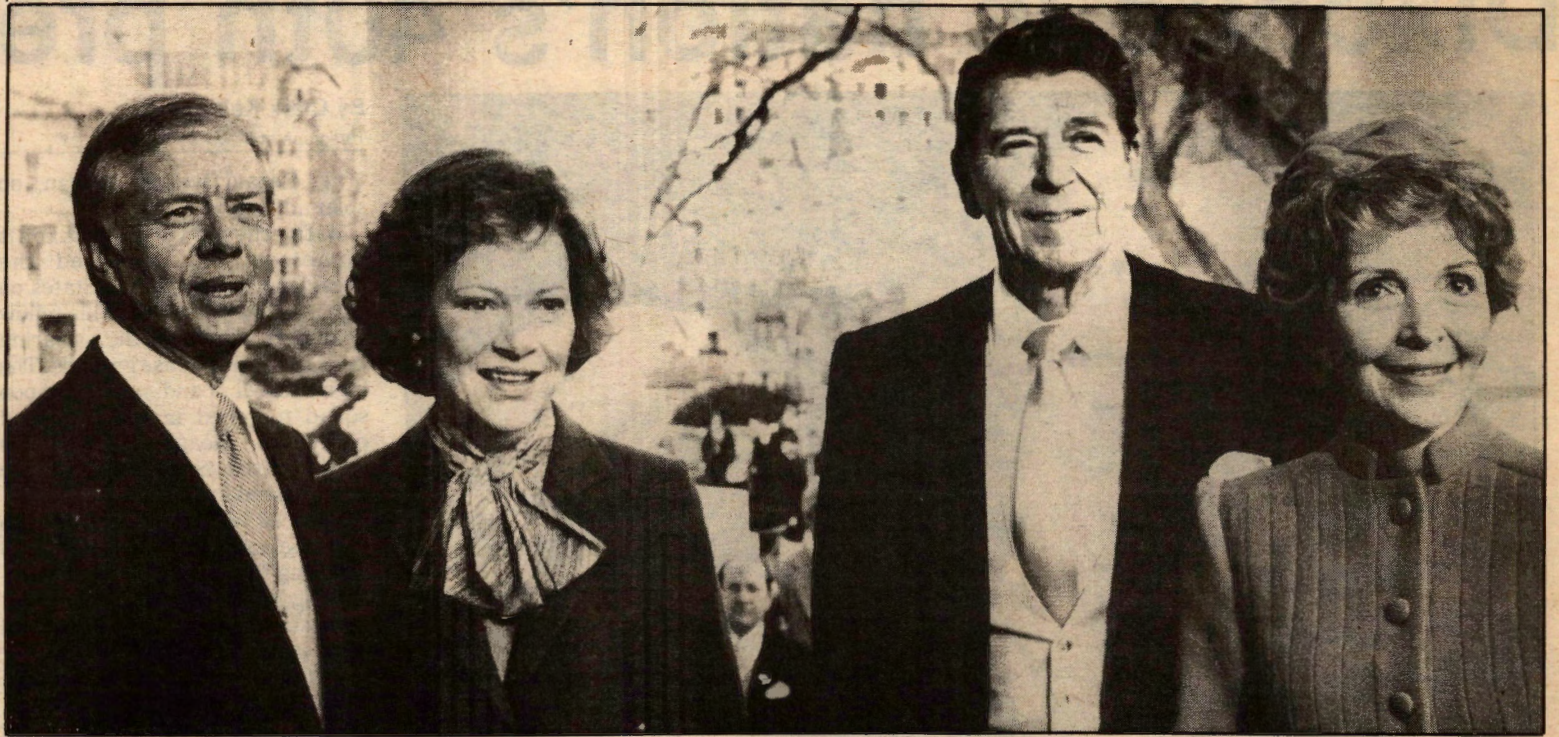
Within days of his taking office, Reagan called for an increase in the temporary debt ceiling, raising it to \$985 billion. It went over the \$2 trillion mark before the advent of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-cutting bill mandated reductions in the final years of his presidency.

Reagan cited the high interest rates of the Jimmy Carter years and inflation as the reasons for increasing the debt ceiling. Even so, he said it was \$5,000,000 less than Carter would have asked for.

Saying he did not want to send the wrong message to the country by partying at the same time he was warning of the seriousness of the nation's economic ills, Reagan declined to phone the Dixon High School birthday party held in his honor.

His televised address was watched by many of those attending the DHS event. In the address, Reagan said he would soon send a message to congress calling for a 30 percent tax cut spread over three years, to spur the economy. In addition he proposed a \$49.8 billion cut in federal program spending. The cuts were designed to slow the escalating rise in social programs, another campaign pledge.

Reagan said the tax package would help rebuild industry by improved tax write-offs and creating



UPI photo

PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAITS — Outgoing president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, pose with president-elect Ronald

Reagan and his wife, Nancy, in the White House on Inauguration Day, January 20, 1981.

new jobs.

Then Republican State Rep. Cal Schuneman, Prophetstown, hailed the proposals, saying "Reagan was keeping faith with the people."

Democratic State Rep. Richard Mautino, Spring Valley, charged Reagan was making cuts in the people's programs.

Reagan amended his proposals three times over the spring and

summer and then stepped up the pressure on Democratic conservative representatives with phone calls and an invitation to the presidential retreat at Camp David.

On July 29, 1981, two of the cornerstones of Reagan's economic trilogy were agreed to by congress. A \$136 billion defense bill, giving the administration every major

weapons system it wanted was OK'd. At the same time, Reagan's 25 percent income tax cut package was also approved.

Two days later, congress OK'd a \$35.2 billion cut in the federal budget, which included revamping social programs such as food stamps, child nutrition, health and education.

Two other items on Reagan's

conservative agenda met with failure. He was unsuccessful in getting a constitutional amendment allowing prayer in the public schools. And he was not immediately able to have the pro-choice abortion ruling by the Supreme Court in Roe vs. Wade reversed.

See President, page 44

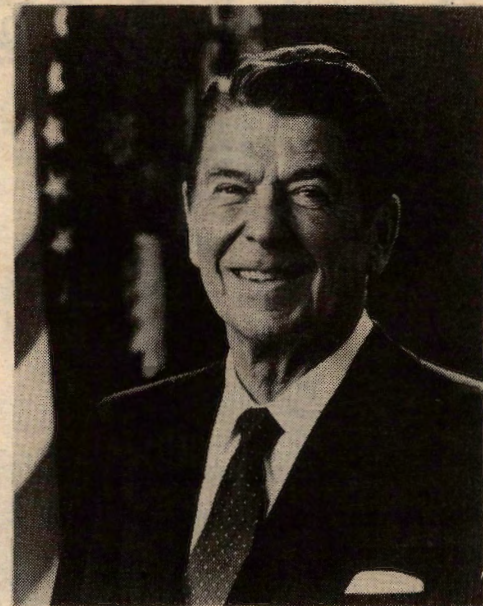


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
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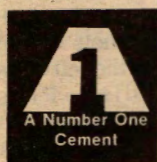
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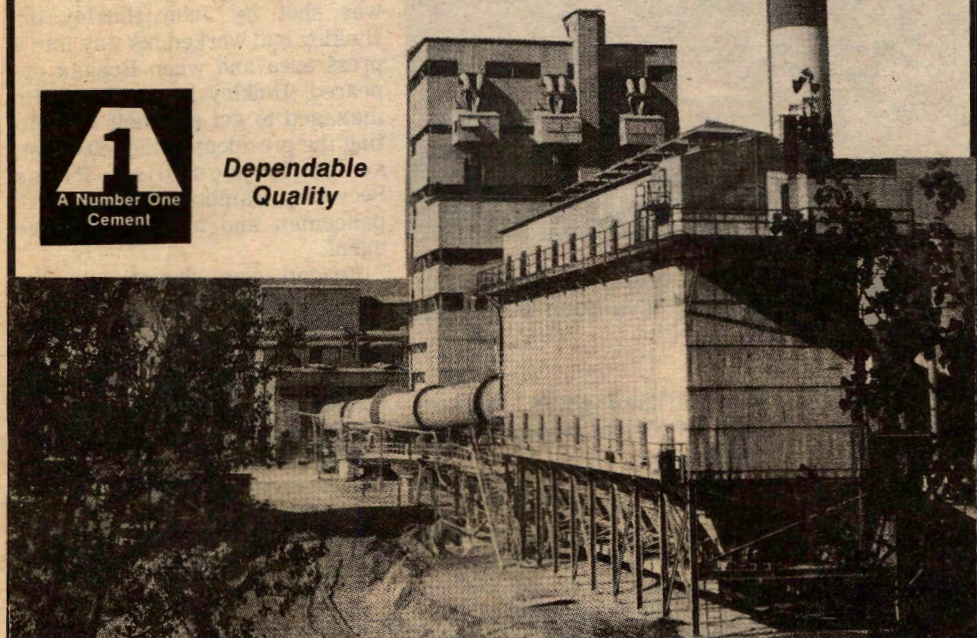
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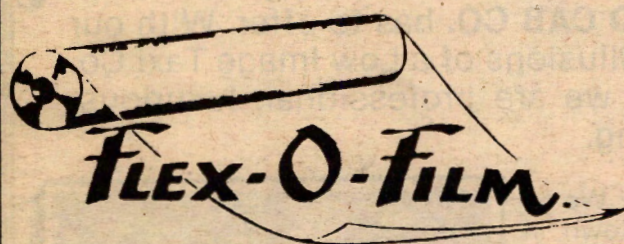
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President

Continued from page 42

The Supreme Court, however, may be gearing up to give Reagan a going away present. On Jan. 9, 1989, the high court agreed to consider a new case which could reverse or limit the pro-choice Roe Vs. Wade ruling.

That change would be made by a court which has been shaped by the conservative Reagan. During his eight-year presidency, Reagan changed or at least modified the ideological bent of the court.

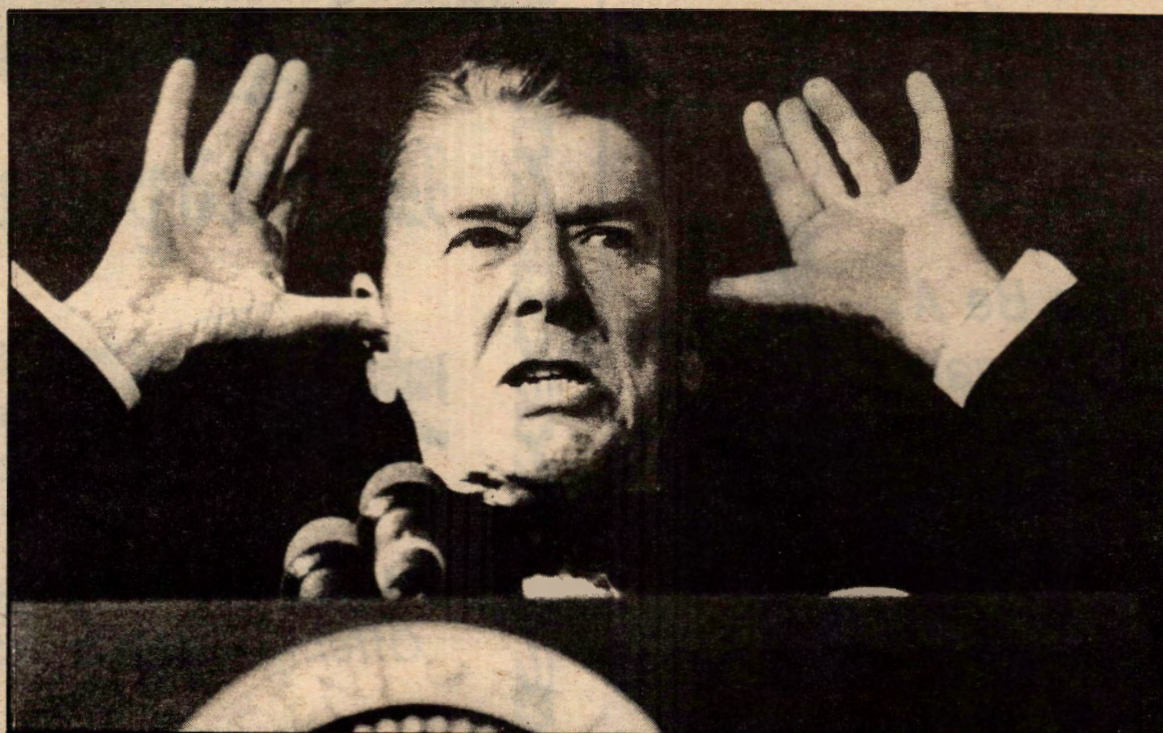
SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

His first act came on July 7, 1981 when he ended 200 years of male dominance on the court by naming an Arizona Court of Appeals Judge, Sandra Day O'Connor to the high court. She replaced Justice Potter Stewart, who retired.

He also named William Rehnquist an associate justice to replace Chief Justice Warren Burger. Burger stepped down to head the bicentennial celebration of the U.S. Constitution.

While Reagan campaigned extensively against the grain embargo imposed by the Carter administration in 1980 after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, he did not immediately end the embargo.

During his first visit out of the country after becoming president, Reagan and Canadian Prime



FUNNY GUY — In what many regard the funniest picture of his presidency, Ronald Reagan was caught with his thumbs to his ears in 1983.

He delighted the Photographers Association dinner guests by saying, "I've been wanting to do this for years."

UPI photo

Minister Pierre Trudeau termed the invasion an example of Soviet adventurism. Reagan and Trudeau said lifting the embargo with possible Soviet intervention in Poland, when that country was cracking down on the independent labor union Solidarity, "would send the wrong message."

He eventually lifted the embargo in April of 1981, although negotiations for grain purchases did not come until later.

The anti-Soviet theme was to continue throughout much of his first term as president. The harsh rhetoric reached its peak on Sept. 1, 1983 after the Soviets shot down

Korean airline flight 007, with the loss of 264 persons including a U.S. Congressman.

Reagan termed the incident a massacre. He charged the "Soviet Union is an evil empire, and the focus of evil in the modern world." It was a statement his political opponents would remind him of many

times as he sat down with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in his second term.

Call it the luck of the Irish or whatever, but Reagan beat the odds against completing his terms. Reagan was the oldest man to be elected, turning 70 just after taking the oath of office in 1981. Ever since William Henry Harrison, every president elected in a year ending in zero had either been assassinated or died in office.

THE SHOOTING


Reagan had a close call on March 30, 1981. Emerging from a Washington D.C. hotel after giving a noon luncheon speech, Reagan was shot by John Hinkley Jr. Hinkley had worked his way into a press area and when Reagan appeared, Hinkley began firing. He managed to get six shots off, hitting the president in the left chest, severely wounding Press Secretary James Brady, a D.C. policeman and a Secret Service agent.

Reagan was shoved into the presidential auto and rushed to a hospital. He walked into the hospital under his own power and quipped with his doctors even as he was about to undergo surgery.

Word of the shooting stunned the nation, as well as his hometown. A lenten service in Dixon was turned into a prayer service as Dixonites prayed for his speedy recovery.

Vice President George Bush had

See President, page 47



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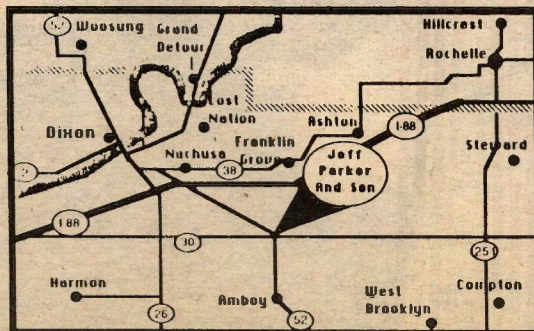
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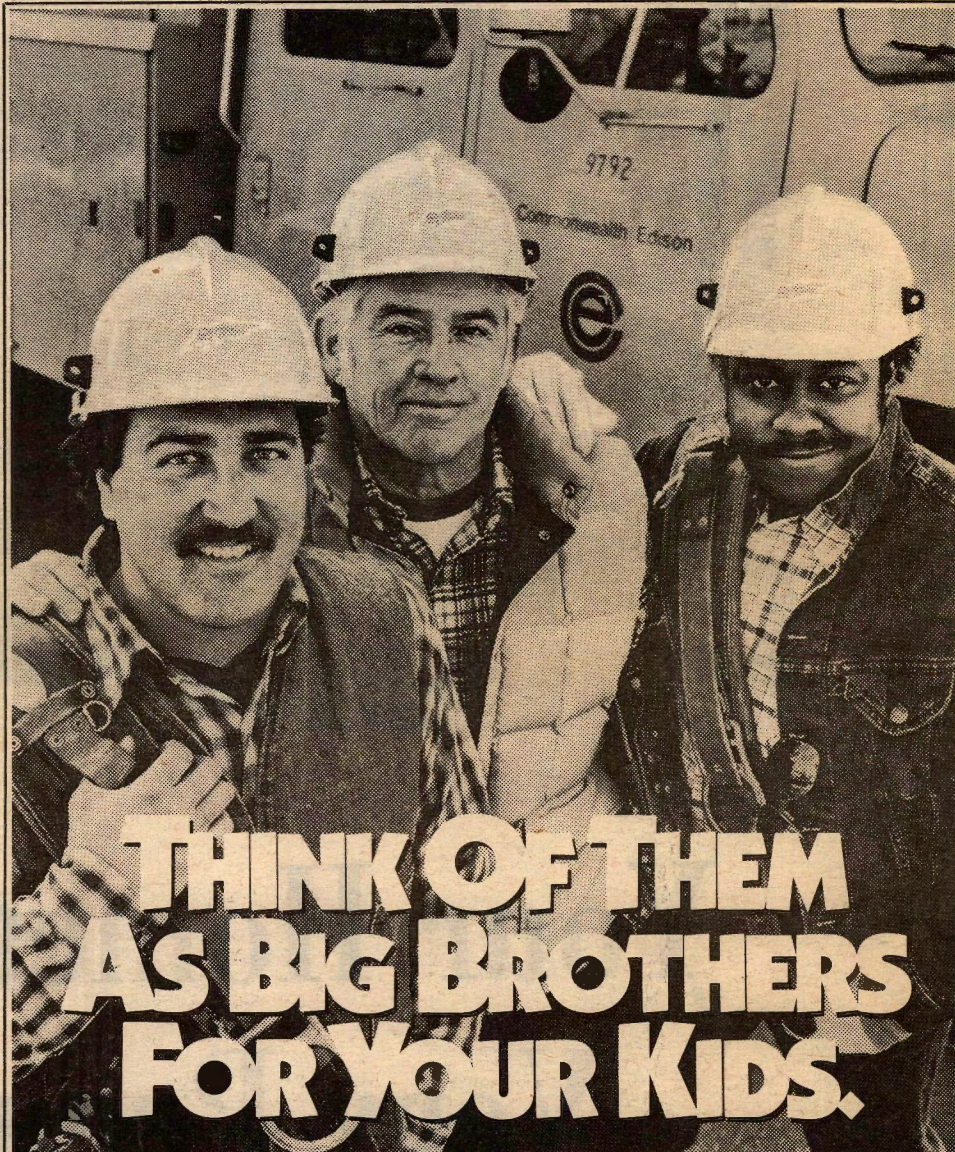
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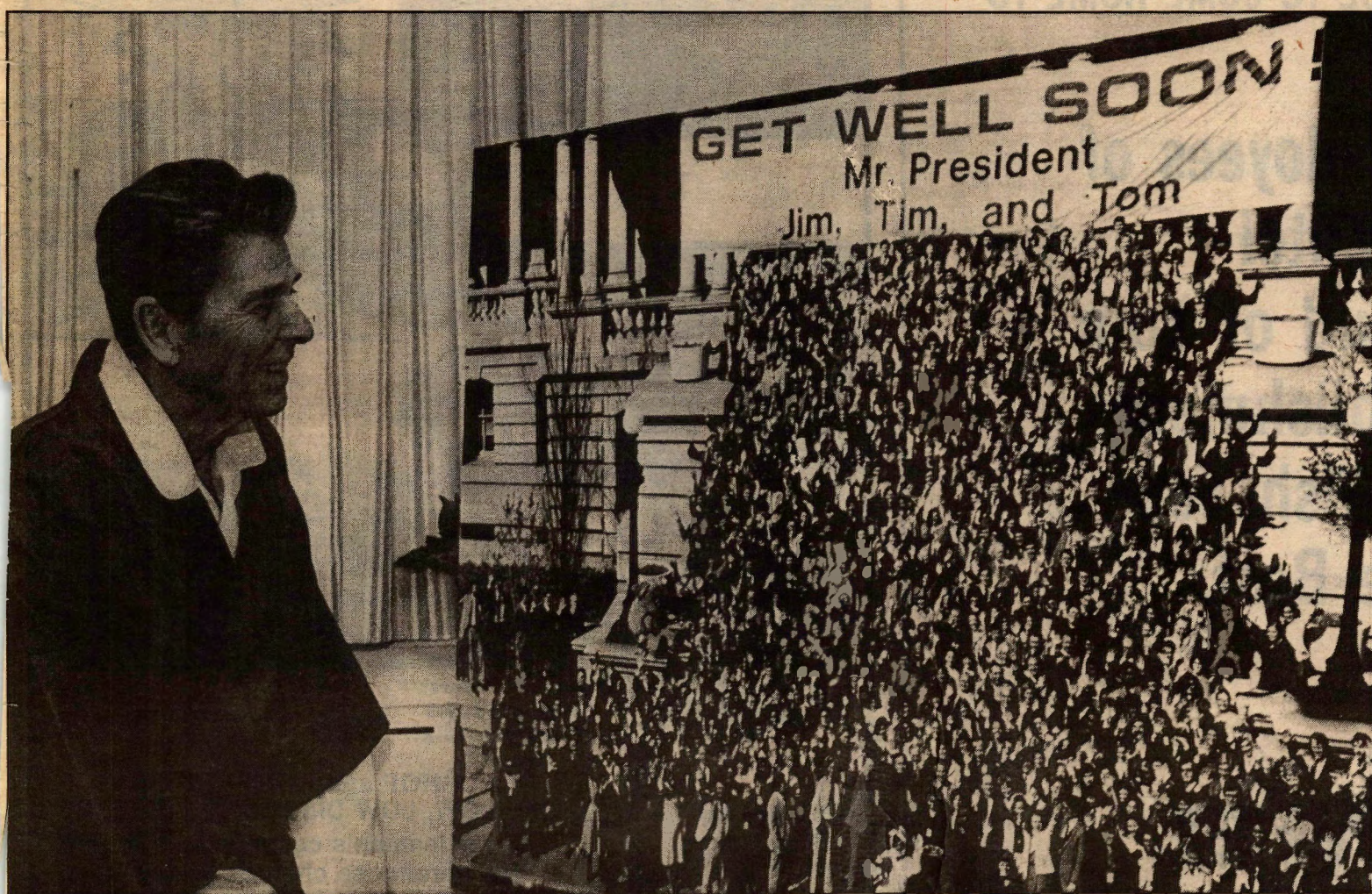
Continued from page 44



UPI photo

THE SHOOTING — The nation held its breath March 30, 1981, when an assassination attempt was made on President Ronald Reagan. The photo above was released by the White House the

next day, and shows the scene outside the Capitol Hilton moments after the shooting took place, with Secret Service aiding victims on the sidewalk.



UPI photo

THE RECOVERY — President Reagan looks out the window of his hospital room on March 9, 1981, while recovering from the

assassination attempt. Members of his White House staff assembled with the giant get-well card they put together.

been in Texas on a speaking engagement and his plane was immediately ordered back to Washington. Bush performed some housekeeping chores while Reagan recuperated, but there was no formal transfer of power.

Five days before, Bush had been designated to head the national security council's crisis management team over Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Now, when questions came from reporters about who was running the government in the midst of the shooting incident, Haig charged to the stage and contended he was in charge, pending the return of the Vice President. Haig would resign a year later, the first cabinet secretary to leave the Reagan administration.

Reagan underwent surgery for removal of a "devastator" bullet which failed to explode after entering his left chest. His doctor later said he never was in any serious danger.

Dixonites gathered beneath the Veterans' Memorial Arch on Galena Avenue on April 1, to sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," as part of a get-well card sent to Reagan. The front page of The Telegraph that day would carry the inscription, "To Dutch, from your hometown friends. Mr. President, we love you. Keep up the good work." Accompanying the text was a huge photo of those gathered, holding handmade signs reading "Get Well Dutch." Copies of the paper and a tape recording of the event were rushed to the President's hospital room.

To prove he was running the government, Reagan signed a bill from his hospital room the next morning. Reagan was released from the hospital on April 28. It was the eve of his 100th day in office.

His would be assassin, Hinkley, was later found innocent by reason of insanity and has been hospitalized ever since, although attempts at furloughs drew heavy attacks from the Secret Service.

Reagan had been slated to visit Springfield on April 1, his first trip back to Illinois since his election. The shooting forced cancellation of that event. Reagan did return to Illinois on July 7, the same day he nominated O'Connor for the Supreme Court.

He was greeted at the fund raiser for Gov. James Thompson with a backdrop of "Reagan-Thompson-Sons of Illinois." During the event, Thompson presented the president with an oil painting of his boyhood home as viewed from the north side.

First brother, Neil "Moon" Reagan, served as a fund-raising chairman, to help restore the Reagan boyhood home, telling a group in Chicago that while Lincoln was elected president from the state, "Illinois can lay claim to only one president and he's still breathing. I would hate to lose the Dixon home for something out in California."

See President, page 49

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BIG THREESOME — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev poses with President Reagan and Vice President George Bush during his visit to the United States in December of 1988. Gorbachev had to cut short his trip when an earthquake devastated the Armenian area.

UPI photo



UPI photo

HE GIPPER — Carrying off a huge gavel marked Gipper's Gavel, President Reagan waves to the crowd upon his arrival at the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

Reagan played George Gipp, the legendary Notre Dame football star, in a 1940 movie entitled Knute Rocke: All-American, and the name "Gipper" stayed with him.

President

Continued from page 47

Fund raising efforts and personal contributions paid off the mortgage and work on restoration was completed in time for a Presidential visit in 1984.

While an actor in Hollywood, Reagan had served several terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild. As president, Reagan found himself on the other side of the table when officials of Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) threatened a strike.

When they walked out on Aug. 3, 1981, despite a no-strike clause in their contract, Reagan gave the union 48 hours to get back to work or be fired. When they refused, Reagan ordered some 12,000 air traffic controllers fired.

Reagan continued the nation's defense buildup, but at the same time made proposals to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to start arms talks, by cutting one-third of each country's nuclear warhead supply. The talks dragged on through much of Reagan's first term, because of Reagan anti-Soviet rhetoric and as Reagan would later express it, "the Soviet leaders kept dying on me."

Brezhnev died in November of 1982 and was replaced by Yuri Andropov. He died 13 months later and was succeeded by Konstantin Chernenko. While relations between the two superpowers warmed somewhat, there would be no face-to-face meeting between Reagan and a Soviet leader until 1985 when he met in Geneva, Switzerland, with Mikhail Gorbachev who had replaced Chernenko.

Reagan quickly earned the title, "The Teflon President", because try as they might, the Democrats were unable to tarnish The Great Communicator despite a series of scandals.

TOUGH TIMES

National Security Chief Richard Allen came under fire for having an envelope containing \$1,000 cash. Allen said he intercepted the envelope from a Japanese reporter who tried to give it to Mrs. Reagan as payment for an interview.

Allen stepped aside while an investigation was conducted. He was cleared, but resigned anyway.

Presidential counselor Edwin Meese was investigated several times, once while as an adviser and a second time while serving as attorney general. He too was later cleared.

Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan became the first cabinet officer ever indicted while serving. He was charged in connection with an alleged scheme to defraud the New York Transit Authority, prior to joining the cabinet.

The Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Ann Burford stepped down and an aide, Rita Lavelle, was sentenced to six months in jail on perjury charges.

The controversial Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, resigned in 1983 for personal reasons. Watt had issued a racial slur when talking about his national coal board.

An investigation was also begun into how Reagan aides acquired copies of former President Carter's briefing material prior to a 1980 debate. Again, Reagan escaped unscathed.

Events in Lebanon heated up and Reagan sent the Marines in to help keep the peace between the various Lebanese factions. On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 Marines were killed when a fanatic drove a truck containing an estimated 12,000 pounds of dynamite into the U.S. compound in Beirut. Another attack at the French embassy killed 58 soldiers.

The Marines were later withdrawn. A report criticizing security at the Marine barracks was later issued, but Reagan refused to blame the field staff. Reagan told the nation, "If there is to be blame, it properly rests here in this office and with this president."

In Dixon, U.S. Rep. Lynn Martin of Rockford dedicated a memorial on the north bank of the Rock River and some 241 trees were planted along Page Park.

Even as Reagan was taking his lumps over his policies in Lebanon, U.S. troops in concert with other Caribbean nations were preparing to invade Grenada where a Marxist military group, backed by Cuba, had overthrown the government.

At 5:30 a.m. on Oct. 25, 1983, some 600 Marines seized the airport and carried out the invasion. They were soon joined by 1,200 paratroopers.

The troops landed on the pretext of protecting students at the American University on Grenada.

The action seized large quantities of Soviet made arms and a number of Cuban troops were captured and later repatriated to Cuba.

The Soviets branded the invasion as an "act of undisguised banditry." For Reagan, it was perceived by many as an international victory when he needed one.

The Reagan economic program had its ups and downs during 1983. Reagan told Americans the economic recovery was under way in late January, 1984 when he declared "America is back and standing tall, looking to the '80s with courage, confidence and hope."

Yet, while housing starts increased 60 percent over 1982, business failures in 1983 were the highest since the 1930s. Another problem continued to plague the nation throughout the Reagan years. The trade deficit, spurred by oil and auto imports, continued to spiral.

The 1984 Reagan budget, \$925.5 billion, called for a 14 percent increase in national defense. It also had a deficit of \$175 billion. The good news was it was 20 billion less than 1983.

VISITING DIXON

Reagan's 1984 travels included trips to three areas personally dear to him...Dixon, Eureka College and his ancestral home, Ballyporeen, Ireland.

The Dixon visit was officially an-

See President, page 51

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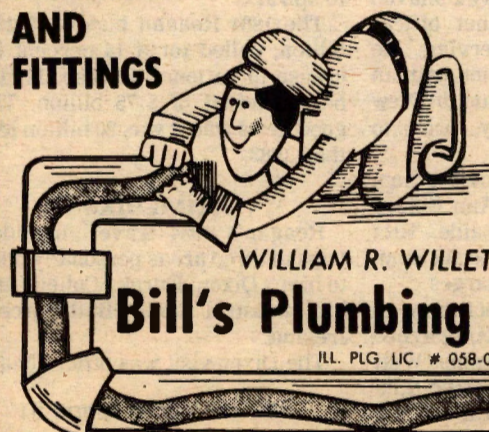
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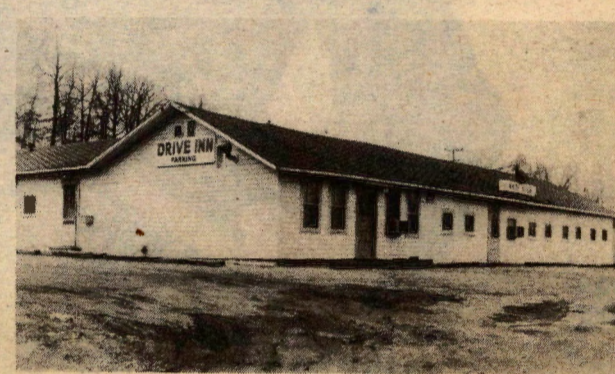
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The White House was purchased by Ken and Vi Young in 1970 and was sold to Don and Peggy Hamilton in 1974. They are the current owners and operators of The White House Restaurant. A second Dining Room was added in 1977 and the restaurant has been completely remodeled by Don and Peggy over the past few years.

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HOLDING COURT — President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev receive the applause of those assembled in the East Room of the White House on January 8, 1987. The occasion was the historic signing of the arms control agreement between the world's two superpowers.

President

Continued from page 52

nounced Jan. 6, 1984, by Mayor James Dixon.

The festivities got under way on Feb. 5, with a party at the Brandywine Inn with "first brother" Neil Reagan in attendance. Reagan made a phone call to the reception and was warned by his brother to bring his long johns.

It was 6 degrees below zero when Reagan, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, stepped off Marine One at Dixon's Walgreen Field the next morning. Greeted by local Republican officials and Mayor Dixon and wife, Judy, the presidential motorcade was whisked to the Reagan boyhood home. There, Reagan was given a key to the home and had lunch.

Despite the cold, thousands lined downtown Dixon streets and awaited the presidential motorcade. More than 300 law enforcement officers and 100 secret service officers patrolled the streets and provided security.

While many waited to catch a glimpse of Reagan downtown, 3,200 jammed Lancaster Gym where they would sing "Happy Birthday" to the hometown boy. In his speech,

Reagan extolled the virtue of small-town living and paid tribute to the volunteer efforts.

He spoke of the value of community and neighbor helping neighbor. "If anybody wants to know about community, what community is all about, let them come to Lee County and Dixon, Illinois," Reagan concluded.

From Dixon, Reagan helicoptered to Eureka, where he pleaded for another goal which escaped his grasp, the line-item veto.

In June of 1984, Reagan journeyed to his ancestral home at Ballyporeen, where his great-great-grandfather, Michael, was baptized in 1829.

RE-ELECTION BID

Reagan handily won the 1984 Republican nomination. In Illinois, Representative Martin and Governor Thompson filed Reagan's statement of candidacy, the first in the nation.

Democrats chose Walter Mondale and he picked Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate, the first time a woman had been chosen by a major party.

The clashes between Reagan and Mondale-Ferraro were at times bitter. Ferraro said she did not

believe Reagan was a good Christian because his policies were unfair to the poor.

Reagan responded by terming the Mondale ticket "so far to the left, they've left America behind."

During the Republican National Convention, Reagan called for reducing the size of the government, curbing inflation and interest rates. He also proposed a litmus test for judges, requiring them to be anti-abortion.

The Reagan-Bush ticket swept the 1984 elections, as unemployment continued to drop. Reagan noted his economic programs had created 6.5 million new jobs since 1982.

In Dixon, news of Reagan's 49-state sweep was greeted with enthusiasm and to the tune of Tonight Show musician Doc Severenson's band. Mondale carried only his home state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia.

Reagan continued his pledge of attempting to reduce the size of government throughout the second term. His dream of reducing the size of the government was not shared by Congress, however. At one point a vote to reduce some 40 governmental agencies received only 18 Senate votes in support of the project.

THE SECOND TERM

A trilogy of programs also marked his second term...arms control, tax reform and deficit reduction, as did a trilogy of conflicts...Nicaragua, Libya and Lebanon.

Reagan's tough stance on arms control brought results when Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to meet in Geneva in November of 1985. Although the talks produced no breakthroughs, Reagan had met eyeball to eyeball with a Soviet leader.

Gorbachev was no tired old man like his predecessors. He was a young 54, and for the first time, Reagan found himself playing the role of the elder statesman.

The two men issued a statement after Geneva declaring "while we have a ways to go, at least we are heading in the right direction."

The two men would meet again, this time in Iceland in October of 1986. Reporters were told later, general agreement was near on medium range and strategic weapons until Gorbachev insisted Reagan give up his Star Wars space missile defense system. Reagan refused and the summit ended with each blaming the other for the lack of agreement.

ARMS LIMITATIONS

In the area of negotiations, the

two sides signed a historic treaty on Dec 8, 1987 in Washington D.C., eliminating an entire class of nuclear weapons.

The two sides agreed to eliminate all nuclear weapons with a range of between 300 and 3,000 miles. While this represented only about five percent of the nuclear arsenal, both agreed it was a step in the right direction.

Reagan termed the meeting a "coming together not of allies, but of adversaries."

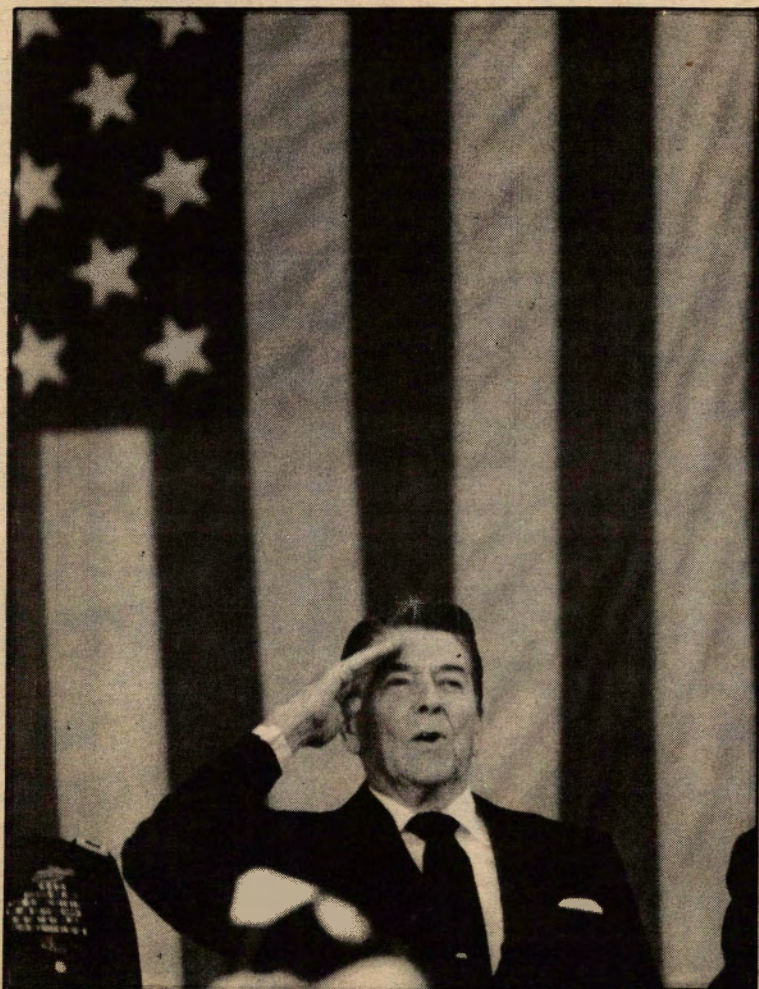
Further talks were held in May in Moscow when the two leaders agreed to implement the treaty they signed in December of 1987. Gorbachev came to Washington late in 1988 for more talks with President-Elect George Bush sitting in, although insisting Reagan was still the nation's leader.

Reagan did not get the reduction in long-range missiles, but the discussions have set the stage for the next round of talks, after he leaves office.

After their discussions, Reagan, Bush and Gorbachev took time out to view the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

In his farewell remarks to the nation on Jan. 11, Reagan said Gorbachev was a different kind of

See President, page 52



UPI photo

BIG SALUTE — President Reagan salutes and sings the national anthem during Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Reagan pushed patriotism very hard his entire presidency.

President

Continued from page 51

Soviet leader. He praised the changes being brought about by Gorbachev; but, as he had during arms reduction talks, Reagan reminded America it must still "trust but verify" when dealing with the Soviets. It was a far cry from the days when Reagan talked about the Kremlin leaders as being from the Evil Empire.

IRANGATE

In November, 1986 it was revealed the U.S. had sold anti-tank missiles to Iran for \$12 million. It was eventually revealed the U.S. was trading arms for American hostages held in Lebanon. As the days rolled on there were more revelations, including one which indicated some \$30 million was diverted to pay for arms for the U.S. backed Contras in Nicaragua.

National Security staffers Vice Admiral John Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver North were fired. Both later told Congress they helped with the scheme, with North saying he assumed Reagan knew of the plan and Poindexter saying he withheld the information from the President.

Central Intelligence Agency Chief William Casey was implicated, but died shortly after the scandal broke. FBI Director William Webster replaced Casey at the CIA.

North and Poindexter were later indicted, but key conspiracy and theft charges against North were in the process of being dropped as Reagan prepared to leave office. Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh cited the government's refusal to turn over classified documents North says he needs for his defense. It could also impact on 12 lesser charges, pending against North, that he tried to cover up his involvement in the scheme and profit from it.

A special panel determined White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan provided the president with bad advice and Reagan fired Regan the next day.

Shortly after the scandal broke, Reagan's approval rating fell to 46 percent, the lowest of his presidency. By the end of it, however, the Teflon President's approval rating had bounced back.

On March 4, 1987, Reagan accepted full responsibility and repeated that statement in August saying something had gone "astray."

There is an irony in the Reagan presidency that seems to weave its way through his eight years in office. It is the re-occurring events which keep popping up from time to time. For example, when Reagan took the oath of office the first time, 52 hostages in Iran were being released. Now, eight years later, as he leaves office, nine Americans remain hostage in Lebanon.

Throughout his presidency, Reagan had problems with Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi. Reagan's presidency was only eight months old when the two sides clashed. American jets on routine patrol Aug. 19, 1981, shot down two SU-22 Soviet-made jets.

In the weeks and months that followed, the Reagan administration strengthened security at embassies around the world because of allegations Gadhafi had hit squads in the U.S.

Reagan's position on terrorist attacks was that if proof could be developed as to who was positively responsible, he would retaliate.

On April 5, 1986 a disco bombing in Berlin was blamed on Gadhafi. Ten days later, the Americans retaliated, bombing a port and a barracks near Gadhafi's home. Thirty-two American aircraft participated in the 10-minute raid which Gadhafi later claimed killed an adopted daughter and injured one of his sons.

Two U.S. airmen were killed in the raid.

Just 16 days before Reagan left office, American F-14 Tomcats shot down two Russian-made MIG-23s. Gadhafi contended the jets were attacked without provocation, while the U.S. said the two Libyan jets had their attack radar on and were pursuing the American craft. The U.S. said it considered the matter closed.

While a constitutional amend-

See President, page 56

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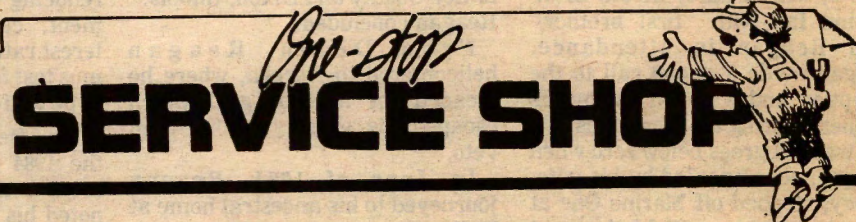
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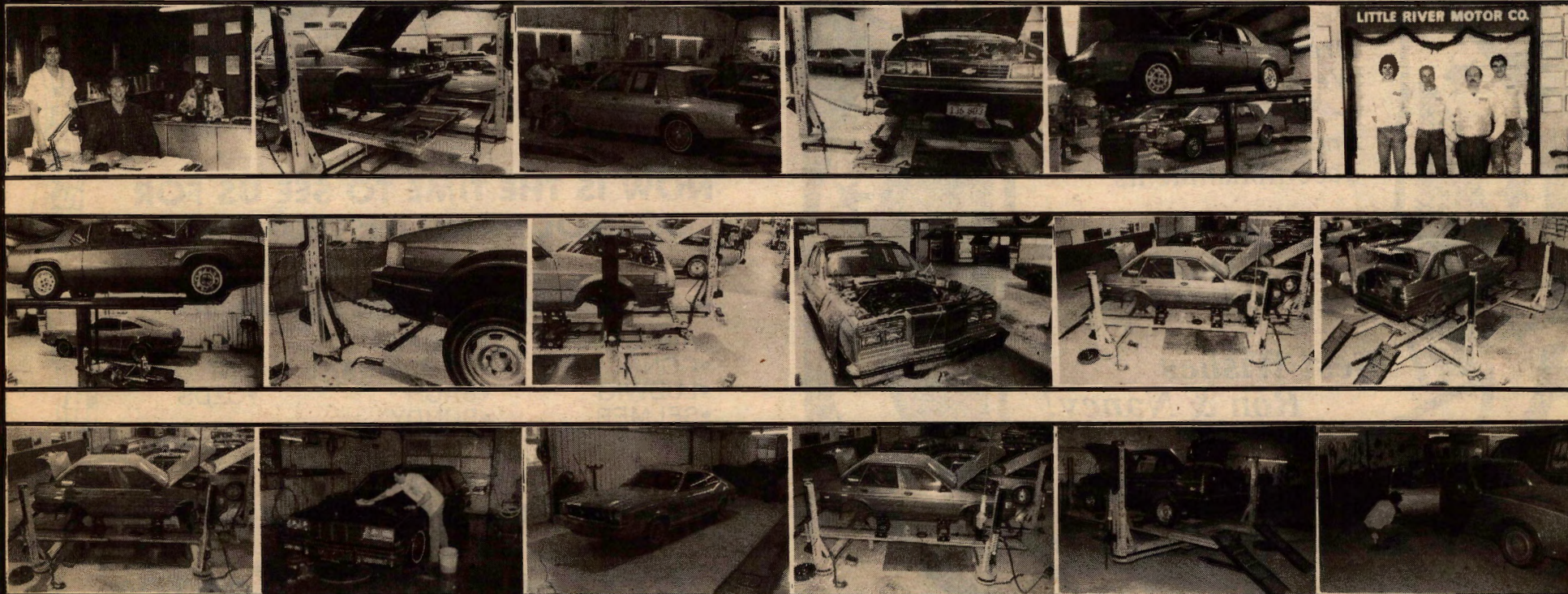
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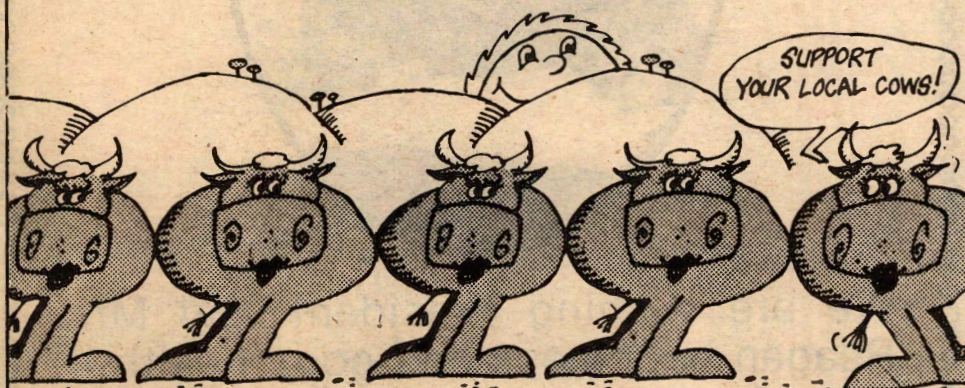
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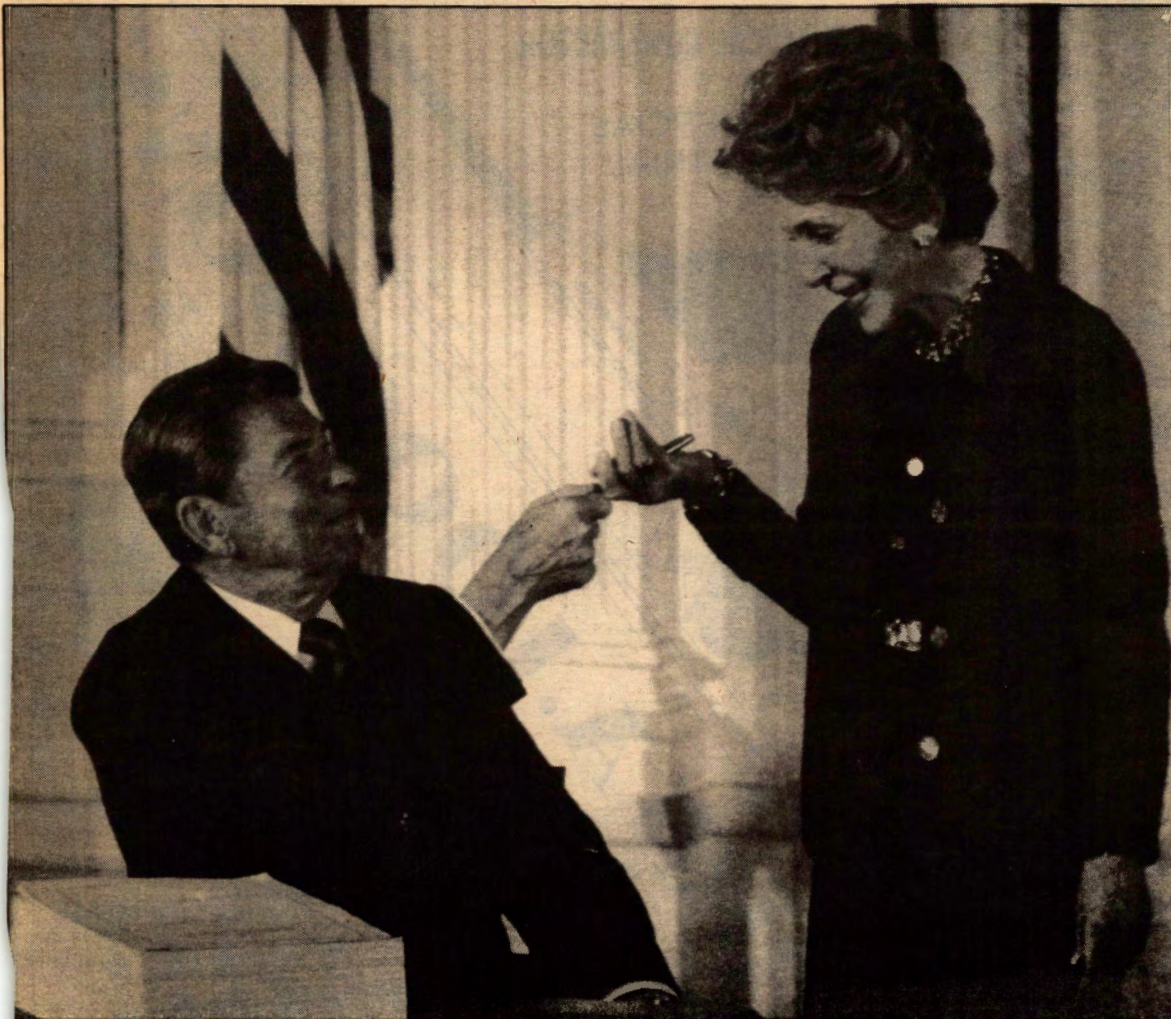
BALLOON DAY — President Reagan reaches for a balloon while the first lady watches in the background at the 1988 Republican Convention in New Orleans the night of August 15.

UPI photo



UPI photo

SHE'S PROUD — Nancy Reagan beams with pride at her husband when he surprised her at a birthday party given in her honor in New Orleans during the 1988 Republican Convention. The Reagans were married on March 4, 1952, in the San Fernando Valley.



UPI photo

FAMOUS PEN — The president presents Nancy Reagan with the pen he used to sign into law an anti-drug bill late in 1988. Mrs. Reagan spent a good portion of her time as first lady campaigning against drugs in America. "Just Say No" became the anti-drug slogan.



UPI photo

UNOFFICIAL CHAT — President Reagan and Nancy stop to chat with members of the media on their way to the helicopter and a weekend trip to Camp David, Md.

President

Continued from page 52

ment requiring a balanced budget eluded Reagan, the enactment of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction bill was approved by Congress in December of 1985. It required the elimination of the deficit by 1991.

The record deficit was recorded in FY '86 when it reached \$221.2 billion. The deficit for the current year is projected at \$161.5 billion and the fiscal 1990 budget calls for a deficit of \$92.5 billion.

In January, 1986, just when the nation thought space flights were becoming routine and NASA began allowing civilians to ride them, the space shuttle Challenger blew up 73 seconds into the flight, killing the seven crew members. The presidential task force investigating the incident found a flaw in a rubber seal was responsible. America did not resume man space flight until late in 1988.

Reagan couldn't have written a better script for himself in 1986 when America celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. It was July 4, 1986 when Reagan

and France's President Francois Mitterrand attended the festivities. It also saw some 38,000 new American citizens being sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger.

In his second term, Reagan also appointed two more Supreme Court Justices, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy.

Reagan also signed a sweeping immigration reform bill during his second term, which allowed a large number of illegal aliens' resident status.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

Reagan gave his farewell address to the nation on Jan. 11. He

reflected on his eight years in office, saying he was proudest of the economic recovery and the recovery of the American morale. In his 22-minute address, Reagan praised the American people's efforts in convincing Congress time and again to make changes for the better. He termed the people, "Reagan's Regiments."

"We intended to change a nation," Reagan said, "but instead we changed a world."

Reagan said action is still needed to finish the job. He called on "Reagan's Regiments" to become Vice President George "Bush's Brigades" to get help him finish

the work begun under Reagan.

He challenged parents to teach their children about American values and patriotism and called on the school children to take the initiative and insist their parents teach them of the appreciation of patriotism, if the parents don't do it.

Summing up his presidency, Reagan said "My friends, we did it. We weren't just marching time, we made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."

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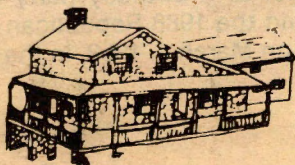
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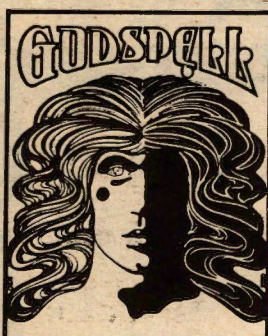


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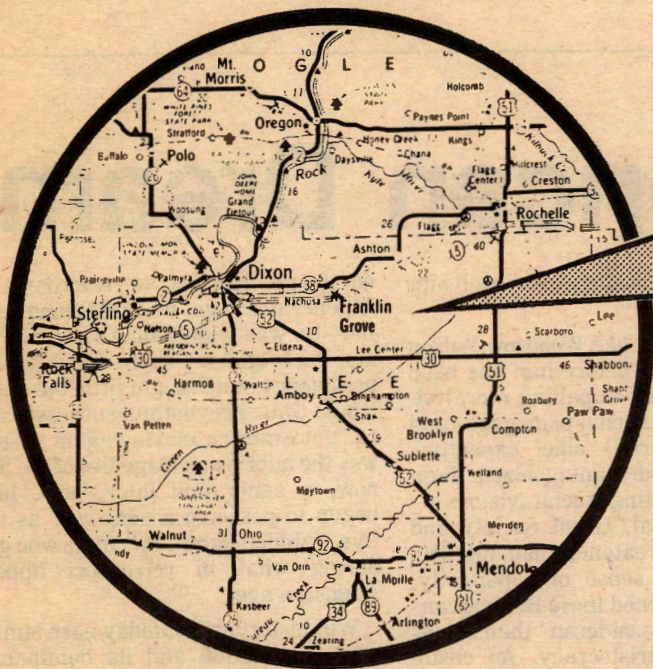
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The first settlers arrived in 1835 and built the first log cabin near Iron Springs in 1836. Cabins and stores were built on the present village site, beginning in 1848. In 1854 the village, then called Chaplin, grew along the developing railroad site, and Elm Street became the center of the business district. Train service between Chicago and Dixon began December 3, 1854. In 1854 at the request of John Dixon, the founder of Dixon, Illinois, the village of Chaplin became Franklin Grove in honor of his deceased son, Franklin.

OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

Franklin Grove enjoys the advantages of a rural setting but is also within reasonable driving distance to many metropolitan areas, such as Rockford, Chicago and DeKalb. There are four colleges within a forty-mile radius; they include: Northern Illinois University, at DeKalb; Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon; Kishwaukee Community College, Malta, and Rock Valley Community College, Rockford.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

At-Last-A-Park, located on the southwest corner of the village, features tennis courts, picnic areas, playground equipment, charcoal grills, water and electricity. Franklin Creek Preservation Area, a State Park just northwest of the village on Old Mill Road, was created entirely with local donations and volunteer labor. It includes hiking paths, picnic areas, shelters with water and electricity, a mile long handicapped trail and extensive equestrian trails. The Summer Harvest Festival, held the first full weekend of August, takes a step back in time. Enjoy the working exhibits of antique farming equipment, a parade, local craft displays, old time music, townwide garage sales and Sunday morning church worship.

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How will history judge Reagan?

He reaffirmed the American Dream

By George H. Nash

Written for Policy Review

It is not difficult to identify the principal initiatives for which Ronald Reagan will be remembered. After a decade of national defeatism and doubt, he strode into office in 1981 — confident of America's ideals and promise, and of the ability of his countrymen to conquer their malaise.

He instituted startling tax-rate reductions and other measures that have produced (his supporters argue) the longest peacetime economic expansion in the history of the United States. In foreign policy he initiated a massive re-armament program to contain Soviet imperialism and expounded America's democratic faith without shame. In doing so he broke, without fully dispelling, the debilitating grip of the "post-Vietnam syndrome" and the mentality of "blame America first." In the realm of social issues, he set out deliberately to curb the "imperial judiciary" and reorient a left-leaning Supreme Court.

Not all of his accomplishments were so programmatic. Perhaps equally significant is the fact that during the Reagan years principled, articulate conservatives gained unprecedented access to executive power and to the nation's policy-making elite.

The Reagan Revolution of 1981 was not a conventional shift in legislative priorities and personnel; it was an intellectual challenge that undermined the sanctity of

the status quo. It did not overthrow that status quo; Reagan never had the votes — or perhaps the intent — to do so. But his administration for at least a time altered the terms of public debate and tarnished the intellectual pretensions of social democracy. In these subtle but influential ways Reagan altered American politics more than he did public policy.

Contemplating this substantial legacy, I am nonetheless struck by how tentative and contingent it remains. Is the economic boom of the 1980s, for example, a healthy phenomenon for which Reaganomics may take credit, or is it (as critics maintain) a false prosperity built upon the quick-sands of debt? Events during the next few years will tell — and will thereby color our judgment of the Reagan record.

Similarly, was the revival of American military strength and morale in the early '80s a lasting achievement or only a fleeting spasm in a dreary saga of declension? Here, as well, the post-Reagan era will inform us. So, too, for the Supreme Court: all Reagan has done to reshape it could quickly be undone in the next presidential term. And despite the entry of conservatives into the Washington mainstream, the Reagan Revolution is not yet institutionalized.

To a considerable degree, then, Reagan's place in history will depend upon the deeds of his successor.

If all this creates uncertainty about our 40th president's eventual niche in the history

books, another factor is likely to embroil him in extended controversy.

For Ronald Reagan, like Woodrow Wilson and Abraham Lincoln before him has been guided in office by a compelling moral vision. Because he has been a principled (and not merely managerial) chief executive, Reagan has profoundly antagonized those who espouse competing social visions — notably the New Deal, Great Society and New Left. He has threatened their intellectual hegemony and sense of superiority, much as FDR threatened those Republicans of his day who considered themselves America's natural aristocracy. As custodians of a regime under powerful ideological assault, Reagan's adversaries have a vested interest in disparaging his presidency. For this reason alone, his standing at the bar of history will long engender passion. Such is the fate of those who delegitimize (but do not overturn) the status quo.

How, then, will Ronald Reagan go down in history? As a conservative Roosevelt who redirected America's course for half a century? As a second Coolidge of liberal caricature who fiddled while the economy burned? As a benign, Ike-like grandfather who ruled for an insignificant interlude during America's inexorable march toward socialism? As a rejected prophet like Wilson whose vision triumphed only after his death?

My own hunch is that an Eisenhower analogy may be the closest one — although

not the analogy dear to yesterday's liberals. A generation ago, when Eisenhower left office, he was widely disdained by "the b and the brightest" as an aging golfer whose presidency had brought little but stagnation. It was time, his youthful successor asserted to "get America moving again." The sequel was the hubris and tragedies of the '60s. Only now, a generation later, have historians begun to perceive Eisenhower as an effective, "hidden-hand" executive who governed during what in retrospect appears a Augustan age.

Will historians someday gaze similarly at our own decade and its dominant public figure? No one, of course, can say. But I do venture to predict that our 40th president will be adjudged a singular statesman, and for a reason few of his critics understand. As the finest political orator of our era, Ronald Reagan reaffirmed with eloquence the continuing validity and vitality of the American Dream.

In this more than in any policies or decisions lie his legacy and enduring claim to greatness.

(George H. Nash, who earned a doctorate in history at Harvard, is author of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement Since 1945*. He is currently working on the third volume of his ongoing biography of Herbert Hoover. This essay is from *Policy Review*, a quarterly publication of the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.)

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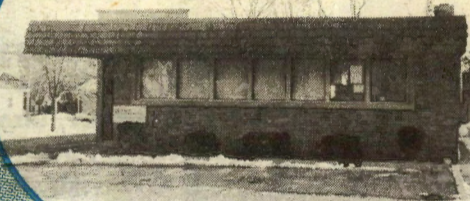
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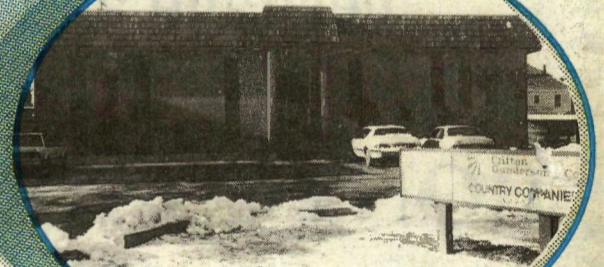


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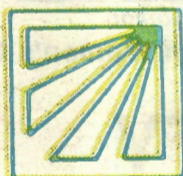


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