INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE

OXFORD FINANCIAL GROUP, LTD.

presents

Looking Over the President's Shoulder

by James Still

April 1 - May 3, 2008 • IRT Mainstage

ENRICHMENT GUIDE

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Enrichment Guide edited by Richard J Roberts
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About the Play

Looking Over the President's Shoulder brings to life the true story of Alonzo Fields who served as a White House butler for four presidents from 1931 to 1953. The play, based closely on Fields's memoir *My 21 Years in the White House,* offers us not only an insider's view of daily life in the presidential household but also a deeply personal account of American politics and world events. Playwright James Still's choice to create the piece for one actor strongly supports the intimacy of Fields's observations. The popularity of one-person shows based on historical figures has exploded over the last decade, and *Looking Over the President's Shoulder* is an example of why the form has such appeal. As audience members we feel as though we are sitting down with the man to listen to his story first-hand with all of the humor and detail we might hope for.

The play also asks us to look at history from a different perspective. As an African American and domestic servant during the first half of the 20th century, Fields is not a typical historian. He offers us a behind-the-scenes, unofficial history that has the potential to reveal a fuller picture, and perhaps a deeper truth. Through Fields's experience, we learn something more about each of the presidents as individuals; we start to see the face behind the now-famous (or infamous) policies or headlines. We hear about his own struggle for respect as he recounts the decisions made about civil rights during each administration. As theatre, the drama of Fields's story comes to life against the backdrop of the world stage. We are reminded of the value and strength of the individual's voice—that every person counts and every story matters.

welcome back, old friend

by Janet Allen, Artistic Director

Looking Over the President's Shoulder is very much like the little engine that could. Starting from a small newspaper clipping about Alonzo Fields that refracted in James Still's mind into a solo performance piece, this little play premiered at the IRT in fall 2001. It has gone on to play in more than a dozen theatres across the country, bringing a little-known Hoosier gentleman into the hearts and minds of many an American. This has truly been an Indiana export with real staying power! Of course, at the time, we had no idea we were creating an icon.

We're coming back to it now, seven years later, while many people still have vivid memories of the original production. Why? Well, of course it feels like the perfect thing to celebrate James's 10th anniversary as our playwright in residence. We are asked over and over again to bring it back, not only so those who saw it can enjoy it again, but so they can bring friends who didn't see it to experience the surprising blend of beauty and insight that this play brings. We are also very pleased to have our own local artist, David Alan Anderson, who has done so much wonderful work for us over the years, playing the inimitably humble Alonzo Fields. Many of you who saw the original production remember the actor who originated Mr. Fields, John Henry Redwood. John Henry had the wonderful fortune to play Fields in the first seven productions, but tragically died just before going into rehearsal on the eighth. David stepped in and, with very little rehearsal, took on this amazing role in Philadelphia, before going on to play it again at Delaware Theatre Company. James and I are so pleased that David was willing to take on this towering piece once again in his hometown, to allow us the joy of connecting the homegrown story of this Hoosier man with a real homegrown Hoosier actor!

So, the little engine that could already has developed a legacy. We are pleased to explore that legacy again in a new production on the Mainstage this time, which allows us to explore the geography of the play—both onstage and in the mind of Alonzo Fields—through a new perspective. It also allows us to benefit from the nearly dozen productions of the play that have transpired across the country since our premiere. We've seen what audiences outside Indianapolis thought about Mr. Fields and his fascinating 21-year viewpoint on the White House, and now we can bring those thoughts and feelings back into a reexamination of the text. We learned, for instance, that Mr. Fields's piquant humility, personal insights about race and religion, views on art, and long lens about the "passing parade of history" fascinated and won people everywhere, not just us, to his story—that people all over the country wanted to claim him as their own. That's OK, it makes us happy, but he's *ours*!

Welcome, once again, to the humble, thoughtful, heart-filled, wry world of Alonzo Fields's memory.

Alonzo Fields: 21 Years in the White House

1931

U.S. unemployment 4 to 5 million

Nine black youths convicted of raping two white girls in Alabama in the Scottsboro case

The Empire State Building opens

Alonzo Fields joins the White House staff as a butler

Movies:
Dracula
Frankenstein

New in 1931
Alka-Seltzer
Bisquick
Dick Tracy
Clairol hair dye
electric razors

1932

U.S. unemployment reaches 20 million

FDR defeats Hoover for President

Movies:
Grand Hotel
Scarface

Books:
Brave New World

New in 1932:
Zippo lighter
Frito corn chips
Skippy peanut butter
Revlon cosmetics

1933

Hitler elected chancellor of Germany

The 21st Amendment repeals prohibition

≺ Franklin Roosevelt inaugurated, saying, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Alonzo Fields promoted to Chief Butler

Movies:
King Kong
Duck Soup

Books:
Lost Horizon

New in 1933:
Ritz crackers
Monopoly
Windex

1934

SEC created to regulate stock market

FCC created to regulate broadcast and telegraph services

Public Enemy #1 John Dillinger gunned down by FBI agents

The Dust Bowl: drought and over-farming turn 150,000 square miles of the Midwest into desert ➢

Movies:
It Happened One Night

Music:
Rachmaninoff's
Paganini Rhapsody

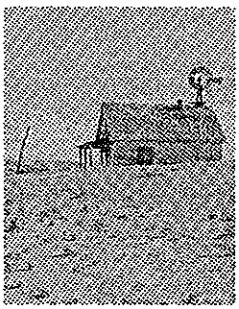
New in 1934:
Donald Duck
laundromats

1935

WPA set up to employ 1/3 of the nation's 11 million unemployed

Hitler enacts the Nuremberg Laws, rescinding the civil rights of German Jews

Mussolini invades Ethiopia



New in 1935:
Social Security
Alcoholics Anonymous
fluorescent lights
beer in cans
parking meters

MARTIN CHAPMAN-BOWMAN
Costume Designer

Alonzo Fields was a classically trained singer who suddenly found himself at the White House as a butler. We only have two looks to help create Mr. Fields's taste, style, and position: a travel ensemble and the formal livery worn by the White House staff. The uniform has its own style: black tail coat, white gloves, the classic look of formal service. The travel outfit is where as designer I can speak to Mr. Fields's personal taste. He was not a man of great wealth; he had a daughter to support, and his wife was seriously ill. His style is one of class but not ostentation. I felt it important that he be shown in warm tones to reflect his more private side—as his family and friends saw him.

Costume sketch by designer Martin Chapman-Bowman.

ROBERT M. KOHARCHIK
Scenic Designer

There were two goals to accomplish while designing the set for *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*. The first goal was to create a formal and elegant space that captured the essence of the White House, the place where Alonzo Fields worked for over twenty years serving four U.S. Presidents and their families. The second goal was to help support the recollections of the past. The images projected during the show are not there to provide us with a history lesson or to set locale. They are there to provide detailed glimpses of the memories being shared. Memories of a man who put his own dreams on hold and served his country in his own unique way with dignity.

RYAN KOHARCHIK
Lighting Designer

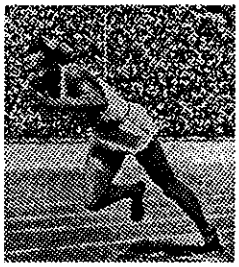
In this lighting design, I'm trying to use color and texture to reflect the subtext, the inner feelings of Alonzo Fields, the private thoughts behind the public moments. Technically, we're using a follow spot to help focus the actor in a large space and to help create intimacy between the character and the audience. The lighting should pull the actor, the set, and the projections into one cohesive unit. The white set is a blank canvas, ready for me to paint and sculpt with light.

the view from the butler's pantry

1936

Hoover Dam opens

Civil War in Spain



Jesse Owens wins 4 gold medals at the Berlin Olympics

Roosevelt re-elected

Edward VIII abdicates British throne to marry American divorcée Wallis Simpson

New in 1936:
Polaroid
sunglasses
Waring blender

1937

German bombers destroy the Spanish town of Guernica

The Hindenberg erupts in flames while attempting to land

Pilot Amelia Earhart disappears while attempting to fly around the world

Japan invades China

Books:
Of Mice and Men

Music:
Orff's *Carmina Burana*

New in 1937:
Golden Gate Bridge
shopping carts
drive-in banks
antihistamines

1938

Fission discovered

The Mercury Theatre's radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" causes panic across America

Kristallnacht: synagogues burnt, shops smashed, and Jews beaten by Nazis

Kate Smith first sings "God Bless America"

Movies:
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Theatre:
Our Town

New in 1938:
Superman
instant coffee
Fiberglas

1939

Hitler invades Poland

Marian Anderson sings for 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial after the DAR refuses her permission to perform in Constitution Hall because she is black

Movies:
Gone with the Wind
The Wizard ofOz

Books:
The Grapes of Wrath

New in 1939:
microfilm
food stamps
automatic dishwashers

1940

British ships rescue 340,000 allied troops trapped by the Nazis in Dunkirk

Paris occupied by Nazis

The London Blitz: German bombers attack England

FDR wins third term

Books:
Native Son

New in 1940:
Bugs Bunny
Jeep
M&Ms

1941

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor

Winston Churchill visits White House

Mount Rushmore Memorial completed

Movies:
Citizen Kane
The Maltese Falcon

New in 1941:
aerosol insect spray
Cheerios
Wonder Woman

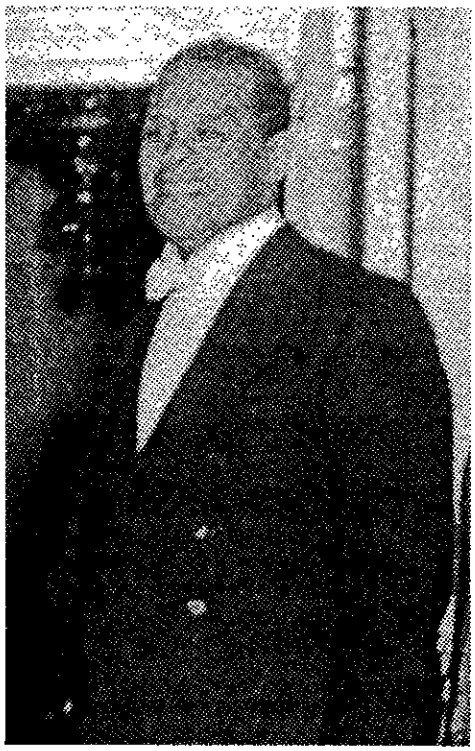
Alonzo Fields and me

Looking Over the President's Shoulder is a one-person show. Why? It was my instinct from the beginning to write this play for one actor. There is something intimate and exhilarating and shared about watching one character tell his or her story. As an audience, we feel close to that character, we feel as though we've been cast as his partner, we feel essential to the experience. And on a technical level, there is something dangerous and thrilling about watching one actor bravely inhabit the stage for two hours. But secretly, there was more to it than that.

As the chief butler in the White House, Alonzo Fields was required to be silent, to stare straight ahead, not to smile or acknowledge any of the conversations taking place. As an African American in the White House from 1931 to 1953, he stood behind four presidents as the country struggled with its complicated history of racism and classism. I remember thinking there was something wonderfully subversive and bold about a one-man play whose character hadn't been allowed to talk on the job. Finally, Alonzo Fields would get to tell his story.

If you're like me, you might never have heard of Alonzo Fields. I first ran across his name while doing research for the IRT production of my play *Amber Waves* at the Indiana History Center in 2000. On that fateful day, I happened upon a small, fragile newspaper clipping which said that Alonzo Fields was an Indiana native and that he had been the chief butler at the White House for 21 years.

That was the beginning of my fascination and obsession with Alonzo Fields. Over the next two years I would make phone calls to the Harry S Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, to the White House, to the



1942

Sugar and gasoline are the first goods to be rationed for wartime use

America defeats Japan at Midway

10,000 Japanese-American citizens imprisoned in internment camps

Movies:
Casablanca

New in 1942:
Napalm
Kellogg's Raisin Bran
K rations

1943

U.S. defeats Japan at Guadalcanal

Dwight D. Eisenhower named supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe

Italy surrenders

Broadway:
Oklahoma!
Paul Robeson in *Othello*

New in 1943:
Jefferson Memorial
Irving Berlin's "White Christmas"

1944

D-Day: 150,000 Allied troops storm beaches at Normandy

FDR wins fourth term

Theatre:
No Exit

Dance:
Appalachian Spring

New in 1944:
Seventeen magazine
Chiquita Banana

1945

FDR dies

Truman sworn in as President

Allies liberate survivors of the Nazi concentration camps, where more than 6 million Jews were killed

Germany surrenders

atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; more than 110,000 people killed

Japan surrenders

Music:
Britten's *Peter Grimes*

New in 1945:
bumper stickers
frozen orange juice
Tupperware

1946

Churchill declares, "an iron curtain has descended," referring to Communist occupation of eastern Europe

Massive strikes in U.S. coal, auto, electric, and steel industries

Movies:
It's a Wonderful Life
Notorious

Books:
Baby and Child Care by Dr. Benjamin Spock

Books:
All the King's Men

New in 1946:
United Nations
Tide detergent
Timex watches
bikini bathing suits
the Slinky

1947

The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered

Alonzo Fields's mother dies

Jackie Robinson is first black player in major league baseball

House Un-American Activities Committee probes Hollywood; many film artists blacklisted by studios

Broadway:
A Streetcar Named Desire

Books:
Diary of Anne Frank

New in 1947:
transistors
Ajax cleanser

by James Still, Playwright

Smithsonian, to National Geographic Television. I would travel to Boston and spend time with Alonzo Fields's second wife, Mayland. I would travel to Washington, D.C., and tour the White House, including the kitchen, the butler's pantry, and the back stairs. I would also walk across Pennsylvania Avenue, sit on a park bench, and look back at the White House—just as Alonzo Fields does in the play. It really is a beautiful old house.

The first production was at the IRT here in Indianapolis—a city that Fields called home until he took off for Boston to study music at the New England Conservatory of Music. The late John Henry Redwood originated the role of Alonzo Fields and played it through the first seven productions. Eventually, the play found its way to the famous Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.—and it was a perfect kind of circle, bringing Alonzo Fields back to Washington, back to another city that he loved. On opening night at Ford's in early 2004, there were many guests from the White House in the audience. But the most special guests that evening were the current butler staff of the White House: seven men who joined actor Wendell Wright on stage for a final curtain call. It was a moment I will always cherish.

And now: yet another circle is being completed with this new production bringing Alonzo Fields back to Indianapolis, this time portrayed by actor David Alan Anderson, who also grew up in Indianapolis and has been in several of my plays over my ten years at the IRT.

Working on this play has reminded me why I feel so privileged to do what I do. It is an opportunity to immerse myself in another man's world, to peek into another man's soul, to give voice to another man's story. But no one was more surprised than I at the astounding success of our original production of *Looking Over the President's Shoulder* and the many productions around the country that followed. When I'm working on a new play (making changes daily while sleeping little nightly) "success" is the furthest thing from my mind. Looking at this play now, years after its premiere, I see, anew, what a wonderful man Fields was, what a complicated moment in history he shares with us, and what a unique role he played. He really was "in the front row watching the passing parade of history...."

Alonzo Fields died in 1994, so I'll never know what he might have thought about this play and all the attention he's gotten these past years. If he were here, there are things I'd like to ask him. But honestly, mostly I'd just want to say thank you. Thank you for teaching me about living a life with grace and elegance, about doing a job with a sense of purpose and pride, and about being an artist who served dinner to four presidents and their families—but served his country too.

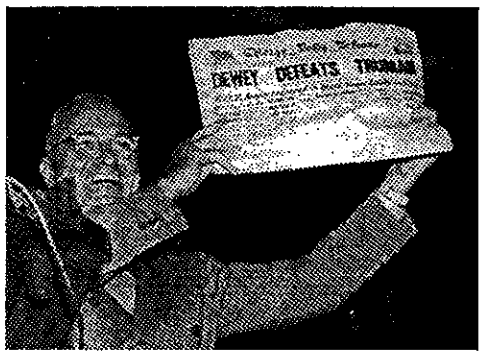
1948

State of Israel created

Truman integrates the armed forces

Apartheid established in South Africa

Truman re-elected



New in 1948:
McDonald's
the LP
Velcro
Porsche

1949

White House under renovation; Trumans move to Blair House

NATO formed

Broadway:
Death of a Salesman
South Pacific

New in 1949:
TV soap operas
Silly Putty
Scrabble
Legos
cake mixes

1950

Korean War begins

Truman orders government to seize US railways to avert a strike

Movies:
All about Eve
Sunset Boulevard

Theatre:
The Bald Soprano

New in 1950:
credit cards
Minute Rice

1951

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage

Books:
Catcher in the Rye

Movies:
The Day the Earth Stood Still

New in 1951:
power steering
rock 'n' roll
Tropicana
"I Love Lucy"

1952

The first hydrogen bomb exploded.

Trumans move back into the renovated White House

Elizabeth II crowned queen of England

China begins 5-Year Plan for industrialization

Eva Peron dies

Eisenhower elected

Theatre:
Waiting for Godot

New in 1952:
Holiday Inn
transistor radios
Mad magazine
sugar-free soda
3-D movies

1953

Double helix structure of DNA discovered

Eisenhower's inauguration is the first telecast coast to coast

Alonzo Fields leaves his White House job to return to Boston

The peak of Mount Everest reached for the first time

Korean War ends

Theatre:
The Crucible

New in 1953:
Irish coffee
the Corvette
TV Guide
instant iced tea

Playwright James Still

As a writer for theatre, film, and television, James Still has created works that reach people of many different ages throughout the country. His writing ranges from deeply researched historical plays like *Looking Over the President's Shoulder* to weekly children's television shows.

James grew up in the small, rural town of Emporia, Kansas. He began writing while in high school and then studied acting at the University of Kansas, where he graduated in 1982. After college he left Kansas and moved to New York City, where he began a career as an actor and writer.

James's first major success came in 1990 when the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York premiered a one-man show that he both wrote and performed titled *The Velocity of Gary (Not His Real Name).* The show was a cult success, and James spent the next several years performing it "around the country for just about anyone who would listen." James got his first screenwriting credit when he adapted this one-man show into a fully cast feature film which was released in 1998, starring Vincent D'Onofrio and Salma Hayek. The stage version of *Gary* went on to be revived in 2000, performed Off Broadway and in San Francisco by Danny Pintauro of the TV series "Who's the Boss."

In the 1990s, James's theatrical work started to receive more attention in regional theaters, including the Indiana Repertory Theatre, which produced his play *The Secret History of the Future* in 1992. In 1995 James moved to California, where he began writing for television. He returned to the IRT in 1996 for the world premiere of *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank.* In 1998, artistic director Janet Allen asked James to become the IRT's playwright in residence, and the theatre secured two consecutive TCG-Pew Charitable Trusts National Theatre Artist Residency grants to support his work here. In 2000 the IRT produced an expanded version of his one-act play *Amber Waves*, which had premiered at the Kennedy Center. *Looking Over the President's Shoulder* premiered at the IRT in 2001, and has since been produced more than a dozen times across the nation, from the famous Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., to the Pasadena Playhouse.

James's other works for young audiences include *Hush: An Interview with America* (1994) and *A Village Fable* (1997), an adaptation of John Gardner's novella *In the Suicide Mountains.* Many have been produced by some of the leading children's theatres in the country, including Childsplay in Tempe, Arizona, and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since premiering at the IRT, *And Then They Came For Me* has been translated into several languages and performed for children and adults around the world.

In 2002 James finished a five-year project, a joint commission from the IRT and the People's Light and Theatre Company in Philadelphia: *He Held Me Grand* was developed from a series of interviews, workshops, and oral histories with senior citizens in both cities. James's 10-minute piece *Octophobia,* about a figure skater's fear of figure eights, appeared at the 2003 Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. *Searching for Eden*, a contemporary riff on Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve," premiered in 2003 at American Heartland Theatre in Kansas City; the IRT produced the play in 2005. That same year the IRT again produced *And Then They*

Came for Me, and James's *A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters* was the final play in Cornerstone's Faith-Based Theatre Cycle in Los Angeles.

Iron Kisses premiered at Geva Theatre in Rochester, New York, in 2006, and has been produced at theatres including Portland Stage, the Illusion in Minneapolis, and the Unicorn in Kansas City. Also in 2006 the IRT premiered James's adaptation of Booth Tarkington's novel *The Gentleman from Indiana.* James has directed many productions at the IRT, including *Doubt, Bad Dates, Old Wicked Songs, The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, Plaza Suite, The Immigrant, and Dinner with Friends*, as well as his own *Amber Waves* and the premiere of *Looking Over the President's Shoulder.*

James is the winner of the William Inge Festival's Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, and the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Award for Distinguished Body of Work. His plays have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and developed and workshopped at Robert Redford's Sundance, the New Harmony Project, New Visions/New Voices at the Kennedy Center, and the Bonderman at the IRT. Three of his plays have received the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, and his work has been produced throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

James's newest play, *The Velvet Rut*, was developed last summer at the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Next season the IRT will premiere *Interpreting William*, commissioned by the IRT with Conner Prairie. James is currently working on *The Heavens Are Hung in Black*, a new play for Ford's Theatre to commemorate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Upcoming projects for the IRT include a play about the Beatles' concert at the Indiana State Fair in 1964.

James also works in television and film and has been nominated for five Emmys and a Television Critics Association Award and was twice a finalist for the Humanitas Prize. He was a producer and head writer for the series "PAZ" which airs daily on TLC and Discovery Kids, the head writer for Maurice Sendak's "Little Bear," and writer for the Bill Cosby series "Little Bill." He wrote *The Little Bear Movie.* He is currently working on a new television series in Amsterdam and a movie in Copenhagen.

James lives in Los Angeles ... for now.

Alonzo Fields Before the White House

Alonzo Fields was born in Lyles Station, Indiana, in 1900, and moved to Indianapolis in 1911. As a young man, he developed his love of music and singing in church. In 1924, Fields moved east to Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the New England Conservatory of Music. Founded in 1867, the Conservatory is the oldest independent school of music in the United States.

Alonzo Fields worked in the home of Samuel Wesley Stratton, the ninth President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Founded in 1861, MIT is a university promoting the advancement of science and technology. It was in Stratton's home that Fields met First Lady Lou Hoover, who later offered him the job that brought him to Washington, D.C. Fields claimed that his tenure in the Stratton household taught him the rules of etiquette that served him in his post at the White House.

Alonzo Fields After the White House

The health of Alonzo Fields's wife, Edna, was deteriorating, and in 1953 when Eisenhower was elected, Alonzo decided to leave the White House. Fields moved back to Massachusetts where he settled in Medford, a suburb of Boston. President Truman helped him get a job in Boston with the General Services Administration (GSA). Although he never became the musician he had aspired to be, during his later years Fields used his love of performing to gain recognition as a popular speaker and storyteller. He traveled to various churches, gentlemen's clubs, and civic groups entertaining audiences with stories from his years at the White House. Fields's autobiography *My 21 Years in the White House* was published in 1961. At the age of 80, Fields married his second wife, Mayland. Alonzo Fields passed away in 1994.

The President's House

In the late 18th century, President George Washington had a vision of moving the nation's capital from Philadelphia to a new location along the Potomac River. His plan included the building of a new presidential mansion that would rival the grand palaces of Europe. In 1792, Washington selected James Hoban to design what would become one of the most recognizable buildings in American architecture. Hoban began by scaling down an earlier plan designed by French architect L'Enfant, which was much too large for the site. Eight years after the groundbreaking, John and Abigail Adams became the first presidential family to live in the house.

As the early Presidents moved in and out of the house, each left his individual marks behind. President Jefferson, for example, created the first formal gardens on the property and erected a stone wall around the grounds. Then in 1814, during the War of 1812, fires started by invading British troops blazed through the Presidential Mansion, causing massive destruction to the house. Only the outer walls remained. It took four years of renovation before another President was able to reestablish residence in the building.

In the fifteen years after the rebuilding, many cosmetic features were added to the mansion making it look much like it does today. In 1822, Pennsylvania Avenue was cut into the north side of the President's park, giving the mansion its current address. A few years after that, the north and south porticos were added, and John Quincy Adams replanted the large flower garden on the grounds. Major internal alterations were undertaken during this time as well. Water for cooking and baths had to be carried into the home from an outside well until 1833, when running water was installed. It would not be until Franklin Pierce's administration that hot water would be delivered via pipes to the second floor bathroom. Central heat arrived in 1835 and, shortly thereafter, James K. Polk replaced the candles that had previously illuminated the house with brighter gas lamps.

The mid-1800s ushered in a new generation of firsts that would drastically impact the way the White House functioned. The first telegraph office was installed in 1866. Eleven years later the house was wired for its first telephone; anyone could now reach the President simply by dialing the number one. Within a few years of the telephone, a hydraulic elevator was installed and soon after the staff began to use typewriters. In 1891, electric wiring was run throughout the entire building, though it would be several more years until many of the deVices, like the elevator, would run on electricity. Vacuum cleaners and refrigerators would not be incorporated into the household until the 1920s.

Before 1901, the building was referred to variously as the "President's Palace," "Presidential Mansion," or "President's House." The earliest evidence of the public calling it the "White House" was recorded in 1811. (A legend emerged that during the rebuilding of the structure after the British burned it during the War of 1812, white paint was applied to mask the damage it had suffered, giving the building its namesake hue; this story is unfounded, as the building had been painted white since its construction in 1798.) The name "Executive Mansion" was used in official contexts until President Theodore Roosevelt established the formal name by having "White House–Washington" engraved on the official stationery in 1901. Roosevelt also

undertook the first major building project since the reconstruction in 1814. His family was so large that he needed to add space to the house to accommodate both them and the presidential offices. He ordered the completion of a new executive office building, which we now know as the West Wing. President William Taft continued the construction efforts, expanding the new wing to include the Oval Office. Taft also converted the stables into garages for his automobiles, which were the first motorized vehicles at the White House.

In 1922, Warren G. Harding installed the first radio set in his private living quarters. Three years later Calvin Coolidge became the first President to address the nation over the airwaves. Franklin Delano Roosevelt broadcast regular Fireside Chats directly from the White House. He was also the first President to appear on television, during the filming of the opening ceremonies of the 1939 World's Fair.

In the second half of the 1900s, the White House continued to evolve. The Oval Office was enlarged under FDR's administration. After World War II, the East Wing was expanded to include a bomb shelter. The Truman administration undertook a complete renovation of the interior and added two underground levels to the administrative sections of the mansion. In the 1990s a major restoration project focused on the exterior of the almost two-hundred-year-old building.

The White House is 168 feet long, 152 feet wide, 70 feet tall, and has over 50,000 square feet of floor space. It takes 300 gallons of white paint just to cover the original central section of the house.

Running the President's Home

Up until the Civil War, almost none of the servants in the White House were paid for their work; they were, in fact, slaves. Thomas Jefferson had 12 regular household staff members, and all of them were his personal slaves. Salaries of the few paid staff were minuscule and insufficient. Staff salaries were not paid by the government; the President himself had to finance the payroll, as well as cover all expenses for running and maintaining the Executive Mansion. In addition, the President had to pay for all entertaining costs, even for official events. Most Presidents found it difficult to match the style of living expected of the office, and often the house was poorly run and poorly maintained. It wasn't until 1909 under William Howard Taft that Congress voted to pay the wages of all presidential domestic workers, and it wasn't until the early 1920s under Warren G. Harding that Congress agreed to help pay for all official state- or government-related entertaining.

Before these congressional acts, the White House was haphazardly run and poorly maintained. Sometimes a President even did his own grocery shopping. It was not uncommon for President William Harrison (1841) to take a basket and go to the market himself. In those days, the servants and slaves lived in the White House (not the case during the period of time in *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*), in what is now called the ground floor. Today, the ground floor has offices, a library, the China Room (which holds all White House china, current and historical), and the formal Oval Diplomatic Reception Room. But it was once two kitchens, a servants' hall, the steward's quarters, storage, workrooms, and the servants' bedrooms.

Transitions between Presidents in those times could be nightmarish and messy. After giving his inaugural address and being cheered and lauded by thousands of people, President Franklin Pierce (1853-1857) came home to find piles and piles of dirty dishes and disarranged furniture, and no one to clean up. All the servants from the previous administration had left, leaving the new President to find his bedroom by candlelight, alone.

In the 1850s, slaves were dismissed from the White House and blacks were not employed there again until after the Civil War. Elizabeth Keckley, the only African American woman to work in Lincoln's White House, was a personal seamstress and friend to Mary Todd Lincoln. William Slade was the first black steward under Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor.

For most of the 19th century, the structure of the White house staff was basically the same. The Steward held the same power that the Chief Usher holds today: he functioned as the manager of the house. The position was created by Congress to safeguard the silver and furniture in the White House. The Steward dealt with each employee individually since there was no established hierarchy. Jobs were non-compartmentalized. Everyone did everything, and understandably so, since the housekeeping staff totaled between ten to twenty people. Today, the Chief Usher runs the White House with the head of each department answering to him. The position can be traced back to James Buchanan's presidency (1857-1861); the job title comes from the fact that historically, this person's chief job was to usher visitors in to see the President. Over the course of the Buchanan, Lincoln, and Johnson administrations, the Chief Usher subsumed the Steward's responsibilities for directing the administrative, monetary, and personnel functions of the Executive Mansion and grounds.

After William Taft's presidency (1909-1913), the domestic service structure drastically changed and became the template for today's system. Specific tasks were allotted to specific people and new positions were created. Elizabeth Jaffrey, the first housekeeper, said of her daily schedule: "Throughout my seventeen and a half years, my daily program remained practically the same. I would have a short conference with the President's wife in the morning after I studied the day's social calendar and worked out the menus with the cook. Food was only a small part of this conference.... The endless problem of keeping the whole White House in order: the service, the linen, the silver, the furniture, the decorations and the furnishings, and a thousand and one other details." During Mrs. Jaffrey's tenure (1919-1926), there were twenty-seven White House employees.

During the Roosevelt administration (1933-1945), thousands of guests flooded the White House, bringing a huge increase in work. Each morning the ground floor was scrubbed, and it was mopped throughout the day as necessary. All the linen covers on the chairs had to be changed every day. One worker's single assignment was to dust the Grand Staircase three or

four times daily. Many other employees took charge of washing the 160 windows, skylights, and mirrors, dusting paintings and furniture, polishing the brass and silver, cleaning the hearths, and putting out flowers throughout the house. In Truman's day, the White House staff numbered 32 people. Today the staff numbers more than 100 people.

In the days of the Truman White House, bag loads of mail were delivered three times daily. The mail staff today still has the huge job of sorting, collating, and reading all the President's mail. Ira Smith, Chief of White House Mails for nine Presidents beginning with William McKinley (18971901) and ending with Harry Truman (1945-1953), was responsible for seeing that nothing dangerous was opened at the White House. He explained his process for his early years: "I listened for ticking, opened packages at the end of a pole and dunked others in oil. Did it for years—and never lost a President." In Alonzo's time, the process of checking the mail was radically different. All mail was fluoroscoped. If anything looked suspicious, it was immediately x-rayed and the Secret Service was called in to dispose of it. Today, security around the mail is so tight a photographer can't even get in to take a picture of the process.

Food for presidential events is kept under lock and key at all times by the Secret Service. Food for the White House staff is paid for by the annual congressional appropriation; the President pays for the first family's food; state dinners are paid for by the State Department; political functions are paid for by the specific party's national committee; and other functions by the government committee or agency involved.

Floral designers working in the White House are essential to the overall elegance of President's home. Every day, flowers are brought in from local stores and White House florists arrange bouquets for formal events. Groundskeepers employed by the National Park Service keep busy caring for the extensive lawns and gardens. In the carpentry shop, workers are in charge of all construction and repairs of the building and furniture, except for antique furnishings which are sent out to specialists. The White House calligraphers are in charge of inscribing invitations and formal documents. There is even one job held by the same man for more than 50 years: every Friday John Muffler winds every clock in the building.

Many of these positions did not exist during Alonzo Fields's time, but began as official entertaining grew in magnitude and importance. Even though Fields worked at a time when the scale of the work was smaller, the work of making the White House run smoothly was still incredibly demanding and labor intensive. Alonzo Fields was part of this amazingly intricate network of people for 21 years, giving total dedication and complete devotion to each President and his family.

Herbert & Lou Hoover

Herbert Hoover was born in West Branch, Iowa, in 1874, and grew up in Oregon. He married Lou Henry, his sweetheart from Stanford University. A mining engineer, Hoover traveled the globe and made his fortune in China as a leading engineer for a private corporation. He came to politics during World War I when he used his political influence as head of the U.S. Food Administration (he was appointed by Woodrow Wilson) to help the starving millions of Europe.

Succeeding Calvin Coolidge as President in 1928, "The Great Engineer" seemed certain to bring four more years of prosperity to the country. But the Stock Market Crash in 1929 brought all of Hoover's plans for a robust economy and successful presidency to a grinding halt. He lost the election of 1932 by a humiliating margin to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a personal rival, and left the White House bitter and infuriated.

A Quaker and humanitarian, sensitive, but overall not viewed as the most dynamic or take-charge leader, Herbert Hoover lived his years in the White House quietly and unassumingly. Not being a man prone to showmanship, he wilted under the criticism and hostility of the country. His struggle to solve the nation's economic catastrophes was hindered by his self-doubt and growing resentment over the problems for which he was blamed.

Hoover was a quiet man who rarely spoke. Unfortunately, his taciturn nature and lack of eloquence frustrated the media, who took every opportunity to malign him. The press created a rhyme that became very popular with the people: "Mellon pulled the whistle, Hoover rang the bell, Wall Street gave the signal and the country went to hell!" The droves of homeless people living in shanty towns called their little communities "Hoovervilles" after the President they despised. Hoover, however, saw the problems of the nation in a totally different light. In his view, the economic failures were the result of previous shortsightedness by other Presidents, and his plans for reconstruction were being blocked by a hostile Congress. His colleagues were of the opinion that while he was an exceptionally gifted engineer and an incredible problem solver, he did not have the political flexibility to be President.

The Hoovers set the record for parties and social events at the White House. Their years were marked by the distinctly lavish and formal style of high society. They paid for their entertaining out of their own pockets, in consideration for the nation's economic difficulties. Home life with the Hoovers was quiet, proper, and disciplined. President Hoover wore a dinner jacket or a tuxedo, even when dining alone, and Mrs. Hoover always wore a gown. Servants were to be seen and not heard, and butlers had to be absolutely silent when serving. Alonzo Fields mentions how he had to be careful with the china and silver, because Mrs. Hoover would report any noise at dinner to the Chief Butler. Although Mrs. Hoover was a strict First Lady, she was the one who first hired Fields, saving him from unemployment during the Depression, when it was quite possible he would not have found any work at all. Mrs. Hoover remembered him from a tea at Dr. Stratton's in Cambridge. So, when Dr. Stratton died suddenly, she offered Fields a job as a butler in the White House.

Although not the most pleasant years Alonzo would spend at the White House, he liked and respected the Hoovers and considered them tough but fair. He would always be grateful to them for bringing him to the White House.

Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt

Born in 1882 into a family of privilege and comfort, Franklin Delano Roosevelt demonstrated strong leadership qualities and charisma from an early age. His parents instilled in him a strong sense of moral duty and the values of a Victorian gentleman. His education at Groton Academy reinforced the idea that a sound mind and body are needed for a life of faith and public service. This upbringing shaped Franklin into a confident gentleman who was deeply concerned with social issues. But Franklin also developed a lighter side which would serve him equally well in his political career.

Unlike Franklin, Eleanor grew up a shy and neglected orphan. She jumped at the chance to attend Allenwood, a British boarding school, because it meant a way out of her lonely childhood. In England, Eleanor flourished and found a deep interest in solving the social injustices plaguing the poor and minorities, a passion she brought back to the United States that later played a major role in her own political involvement.

Although both shared an interest in public service, Eleanor and Franklin seemed like an unlikely couple. He was a popular man about town and she was an awkward young woman from a very different social circle, yet they fell in love. The couple married on St. Patrick's Day in 1905. Early married life proved difficult because Franklin was very busy at his Wall Street law firm. He also continued to play poker every Saturday night and entertained often, leaving Eleanor alone to run an expanding household. She gave birth to six children within twelve years. Life continued at this fast pace even after Franklin was appointed to the New York Senate.

Franklin's campaign for the New York Senate, though just one month long, set in motion a political trend that would make him highly popular during his subsequent race for the presidency. Unlike his predecessors, Franklin targeted the ordinary people of his district. He rented a red Maxwell convertible and drove through the streets, stopping to talk wherever people gathered. This unique approach bolstered his support and won him the seat, which made Roosevelt the first Democrat from his district to serve in the New York Senate in more than 50 years.

In 1913, Franklin became the Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Wilson; a job he wanted because of his deep love for the sea. The family moved to Washington, D.C., and became popular in both Democratic and Republican circles. These early political alliances proved beneficial in later years. The couple entertained constantly, a lifestyle the Roosevelts continued during their years in the White House. It was a very exciting time for the young politician and his wife.

In 1918 Eleanor discovered Franklin's affair with her personal secretary, Lucy Mercer. Despite the betrayal, Eleanor remained devoted to her husband, who in turn worked to assist Eleanor's social reform efforts. When Roosevelt was struck with what was then thought to be polio while on vacation on Campobello Island in Canada in 1921, Eleanor showed just how deep her devotion ran. She nursed her husband single-handedly for a month, drawing him back from the brink of death more than once until he was able to be moved to a private hospital back in the United States.

The debilitating effects of paralysis were a terrible blow that threatened to destroy Roosevelt's political career. In a society that hid away the disabled, a crippled politician was unthinkable. Eleanor and Roosevelt's staff worked around the clock to restore his image and keep his career on track. Eleanor spoke at Democratic Party meetings. FDR wrote numerous letters and journal articles and networked with politicians all over the nation. Roosevelt's name appeared everywhere, and no one mentioned that he was unable to walk on his own.

In 1928, after a rehabilitation trip to Warm Springs, Georgia, a place that would become a second home, Roosevelt was ready to make his first public appearance since his illness. He slowly walked to the podium, with his son behind him to catch him if he fell, and spoke in favor of Al Smith's presidential nomination. When he finished, he received an ovation lasting one hour and fifteen minutes. Through this speech, Roosevelt proved to the nation, and to himself, that his political career was not over. He was elected governor of New York later that year.

While serving as governor, Roosevelt developed a system to hide his paralysis from the outside world. His staff secretly lifted him in and out of cars and pulled him to standing positions behind podiums before the media were admitted. All meetings were conducted after 10:00 AM, before which time Franklin's staff had moved him into his chair behind his desk. Franklin also used the radio to his benefit. The now famous "Fireside Chats" became one of his greatest tools during his campaign and presidency. Voters warmed to his voice and forgot about his disability.

Roosevelt won the presidential election of 1932 and began to heal the nation immediately. He even skipped his own inaugural ball to work on implementing the New Deal. FDR's philosophy of government was pragmatic. He sought solutions to problems and faced the Great Depression as he had faced paralysis: using whatever therapies were available to solve the immediate issues. The Roosevelts moved into the White House in 1933 and, as some staff members noted, it seemed as though they had always lived there. Their style was informal. Company was always welcome and the house was frequently filled with people at teas or dinners, or as overnight guests. Heads of state were treated with the same warmth and informality as the family, which was not always appreciated. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, wife of the ruler of Nationalist China, found the informality of Roosevelt's White House a shock.

The Roosevelts were always on the go. Franklin toured the country in his private Pullman railroad car, meeting people and making speeches. Eleanor traveled to Civilian Conservation Corps camps, public works projects, and hospitals, gauging whether or not the quality of life for the workers and patients was up to par. Eleanor's efforts made her the best-known and most popular first lady ever. She and Franklin remained a good team; she was the idealist and he knew how to get things done.

During Roosevelt's third term as President, America entered World War II. Roosevelt soon became even more popular as Commander-in-Chief. He spoke with Winston Churchill every day and met with him a total of nine times during the war. He also continued his radio broadcasts, reassuring the nation and bolstering confidence.

Despite failing health, Roosevelt ran for office a fourth time. The stresses of war and his illness, however, had taken their toll. By the middle of 1944 he was only able to conduct business from his bed. In April 1945, while resting in Georgia, he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away. His last written words read: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

Harry & Bess Truman

When Harry Truman campaigned, traveling from town to town by rail, he played his campaign song "I'm Just Wild About Harry" at every stop, introducing his wife, Bess, as the "Boss," and his daughter as the "Boss's Boss." He had a lively sense of humor.

Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri, in 1884, and grew up in Independence, Missouri. The "S" in his name is not an abbreviation, but reflects his parents' hesitation to choose between honoring only one of his two grandfathers, Anderson Shippe Truman and Solomon Young. After serving in the Field Artillery in France during World War I, Harry returned home and married Elizabeth Virginia Wallace. He worked many jobs before he was appointed county judge, launching his political career and putting him on the road towards the presidency.

Greta Kiempton, the Austrian-born portraitist hired to paint Harry Truman's portrait during his first and only elected term, was amazed by his presence and subtly powerful personality. "He never seemed irritated or annoyed, never seemed impatient. He would settle down and the room seemed to take on a feeling of grandeur and peacefulness. I felt very inspired. He was always helpful. I felt he had a great confidence in himself. But also some humbleness. He was very even."

Bespectacled, with a square face and blunt features, Truman took the office of the presidency very seriously. He was once quoted as saying "The greatest part of a President's job is to make decisions ... big ones and small ones, dozens of them every day. He can't pass the buck to anyone. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job." Nonetheless, the frustrations of being a political leader would occasionally overwhelm him. In a letter to his sister in November 1947, Truman belittled the office of the presidency in a surprising manner for a man so in awe of his responsibilities: "Aside from the Impossible administrative burden, he has to take all sorts of abuse from liars and demagogues.... The people can never understand why the President does not use his supposedly great power to make 'em behave. Well, all the President is, is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing, and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway."

Direct and plain-spoken, Harry Truman got along splendidly with all of his White House employees. He knew everyone's name and all about their families and years of service in the house. If there were guests, he would introduce them to the servants, something unheard of from past Presidents. On the night of the German surrender, May 8, 1945 (Truman's birthday), the head cook Elizabeth Moore baked him a cake. Truman went to the kitchen to thank her. It was the first time a President had been down to the White House kitchens since Calvin Coolidge, (who had been in and out so often it was said he was being nosy; he wanted to see if any handouts were being given away). Bess Truman was kind, and warmly spoken of by the White House staff. Lillian Rogers Parks, a seamstress at the White House for many years, whimsically recalled Bess Truman: "Her whole body would shake as if she had invented laughter." Becoming First Lady didn't change her in the slightest. She dressed as she was accustomed to and behaved the same way she had when her husband had owned a haberdashery (men's clothing store) in Missouri. Ironically, Bess had not one iota of interest in the limelight or public life, and her private and public selves were as different as night and day.

While warm, caring, and quick to laugh in her own home, she was somber, reticent, and cold in public. Never accepting or approving of the demands of the presidency on her family, she would absent herself for long periods from the White House. No one was happier than Bess when Harry decided not to run for a second term. Although deeply loved by the White House staff, Bess was very frugal and controlling. She kept close watch on the housekeeping expenses and paid every bill herself.

Bess hated to make public appearances; in fact, there are only two documented in her husband's entire time in office. For one of these, Mrs. Truman was asked to christen an army airplane, but no one bothered to prepare the champagne bottle in advance so that she could break it easily. She swung it against the plane over and over again, embarrassed and blushing, much to the amusement of the crowd, until finally a mechanic took pity and stepped in to assist. Harry was himself very amused, or at least he was until Bess told him she was sorry she hadn't swung the bottle at him.

Alonzo Fields would later say of Mrs. Truman that she could "stand no shirkers, flatterers, or fakers," and the only way to gain her approval was to do your job as best you could: "This done, you would not want a more understanding person to work for." Alonzo Fields was asked one evening to prepare "old-fashioneds" for Harry and Bess. In chilled glasses, he mixed one ounce of bourbon with a teaspoon of sugar, added oranges slices and a dash of bitters. The following night she asked that the drinks be made not so sweet, so Alonzo tried another recipe. This time she waited until the morning to complain to White House Chief Usher J. B. West: they were the worst old-fashioneds she had ever tasted. She and the President did not care for fruit punch. West spoke to Fields, who on the third night poured her a double bourbon on ice and stood by waiting for her to sip. She smiled at him and said, "Now that's the way we like our old-fashioneds." J. B. West's respect for her was evident. "Like most midwestern women I've known, her values went deeper than cosmetics," he said. The Trumans treated everyone the way they treated each other: no one was too small or insignificant. When Bess was asked by a friend what was the most memorable aspect of her life, she answered the following: "Harry and I have been sweethearts and married more than 40 years—and no matter where I was, when I put out my hand, Harry's was there to grasp it." Her love for him was matched with his for her. On their anniversary, Harry wrote her a letter: "Twenty-nine years! It seems like twenty-nine days. Detroit, Port Huron, a farm sale, the Blackstone Hotel, a shirt store. County judge, defeat, Margie, Automobile Club membership drive, Presiding Judge, Senator, V.P., now! You still are on that pedestal where I placed you that day in Sunday School in 1890. What an old fool I am." Their marriage was rock-solid, their love and respect for each other unshakable throughout their lives. Nothing was decided between them without consideration for what the other felt or thought.

Harry's love for Bess and his desire for her approval extended even to the most everyday of presidential responsibilities and decisions. When Greta Klempton finished the portrait of Truman and asked what he thought, he stood in front of the easel for several minutes. "Well, I certainly do like that," he said, "but of course, I wouldn't really know. I'll have to ask the Boss."

Dwight & Mamie Eisenhower

Born in 1890 in Texas and brought up in Abilene, Kansas, Dwight D. Eisenhower attended West Point and served in various army posts abroad. After World War II, Eisenhower became President of Columbia University, but took leave to command the new NATO forces in 1951. The following year, Eisenhower won the presidential election in a sweeping victory over Democrat Adlai Stevenson. Ike (as he was nicknamed) was inaugurated in January 1953 as the thirty-fourth President of the United States. Alonzo Fields only served the Eisenhowers for a short time before he retired.

In the play, Fields states, "the transformation in the household from one Administration to another is as sudden as death. It leaves you with a mysterious emptiness." When Ike and his family entered the White House, Alonzo faced that change for a third time. Eisenhower was the first Republican in the White House in twenty years and served two terms in office. He is remembered for presiding over a period of relative calm, a time of peace. Historians note that he believed in learning about issues like the economy and race relations, seeking consensus but not taking a stand on any issue. Eisenhower insisted, "problems would be better solved at the local level than through initiatives from Washington." During his first term in office, Eisenhower successfully ended U.S. involvement in the Korean War, reduced the influence of Joseph R. McCarthy within the Republican party and the U.S. Senate, and began the interstate highway system. Ike was elected to a second term, despite a heart attack. His popularity decreased, however, when he refused to endorse the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate schools. Overall, Ike was noted for focusing more on domestic issues than on foreign policy, but was also recognized for attempting to prevent anti-American or communist governments from rising to power.

Eisenhower's wife Mamie was a strong force in her husband's life, both on a personal and professional level. She was never involved with official presidential business, but proved an asset by overseeing the many large, formal, social gatherings at the White House. The First Lady was a caring person who made sure that everyone who supported her husband was remembered at Christmas and with birthday gifts each year. She monitored all household business, managed all accounts, and held final approval on all meals. The Eisenhowers hosted an unprecedented number of heads of state and other dignitaries during their tenure in Washington. Many of these world leaders, such as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Charles De Gaulle, and Winston Churchill, were old friends the couple had met during Eisenhower's years in the army when they lived abroad. Ike and Mamie also had a keen interest in the Third World and often hosted officials from Latin American, Africa, and Asia.

The Eisenhowers left the White House in 1961, eight years after Alonzo Fields.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

One of the most renowned political leaders of the 20th century, Sir Winston Churchill came to worldwide prominence as British Prime Minister during World War II. The eldest son of a British aristocrat, Churchill began his career as a military correspondent in the army, and rose to the post of First Lord of the Admiralty during World War I. He remained in politics during the inter-war years and became a leader in the Conservative Party. After Britain entered World War II against Hitler's Germany in 1940, Churchill became Prime Minister. He led his country through the Battle of Britain and the London Blitz when England stood alone against the Axis powers, all the while campaigning to raise support and military aid from the United States and other countries. After the United States entered the war in December 1941, Churchill worked closely with Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the two leaders met repeatedly to coordinate military strategies. Churchill's travels to the United States included a secret visit to Florida in January 1942, during which he was personally served by Alonzo Fields. After the war, Churchill was defeated in the 1945 British elections, but later revived his career and again served as Prime Minister from 1951 to 1955. Throughout his life as a soldier, journalist, politician, and historian, he was known as a powerful speech-maker and a formidable leader—but never, as Fields notes, as a teetotaler.

Marian Anderson

Born on February 27, 1897, in Philadelphia, Marian Anderson was considered one of the greatest opera singers of her time. As a black woman, she overcame many obstacles on her way to becoming a world renowned performer.

Anderson's love of music began at home and was fostered in the church during the early 1900s when, as Allan Keiler, author of *Marian Anderson: A Singer's Journey*, notes, "gifted black musicians were ignored by the white musical establishment." In her church choir, Marian spent her childhood and teenage years singing duets and solos. As a young woman, Marian sang with her sisters in a trio that toured the community. These appearances put Anderson in contact with local leaders who wanted to help her and gave her "confidence in her abilities arid deepened her desire to have a professional career."

As she gained local popularity, Marian began training with professional singing coaches whose fees were paid by the "Fund for Marian's Future" started by the black community in Philadelphia. From 1916 to 1918 she studied with contralto Agnes Reifsnyder, a teacher, "free of prejudice and sympathetic to the needs of black students." This was lucky for Anderson since it was rare for a white teacher to coach students of color. After Reifsnyder, Anderson studied with Oscar Saenger of the Chicago Conservatory of Music. The end of Anderson's studies with Saenger coincided with the establishment of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM). Marian sang at NANM's first conference and her musical education became a subject of great concern for the delegates present. They believed that Anderson should apply to the Yale School of Music, which she did, but she did not attend. Some believed that she did not go to Yale because she could not afford tuition, while others thought she was denied admission based on race. Instead of studying at Yale, Anderson continued her studies of classical music and opera with tenor Giuseppe Boghetti. With this training and increased exposure came amateur touring engagements in the South, the Midwest, and in New York. In Indianapolis, she met Alonzo Fields when he was working as the choir director of the Bethel A. M. E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Church. She gave a concert there when the church awarded her a scholarship.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Anderson performed abroad at nearly every major opera house and with all the major conductors of the period. She primarily sang overseas, as most American audiences were not ready to embrace a black opera star. Her repertoire included more than 200 works in nine different languages. Anderson did return to the United States for a short period in 1932 (around the same time Alonzo Fields began his tenure at the White House). However, the Depression-era climate and prevailing racism left little audience to be found. Anderson returned overseas where she was embraced, performing across Central Europe, Scandinavia, and the Soviet Union.

Famed impresario Sol Hurok brought Anderson back to the United States for an appearance at New York's Town Hall in December 1935. Word spread fast that Anderson was back after her great success abroad, and the show sold out. The *New York Times* reported that Anderson had "returned to her native land [as] one of the greatest singers of our time." The following month, after a successful appearance at Carnegie Hall, Anderson made her true

homecoming at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. The concert was a huge success and, as the *Philadelphia Tribune* reported, "hundreds of newspapermen, photographers, and autograph seekers blocked the passage from the dressing room of the star whom they remembered as a little girl in a local church choir." Writers for the black press were "exultant with pride" as photos and headlines dominated numerous papers in Philadelphia and up and down the East Coast in the days that followed. Some claimed that "racial distinction was melted away" while all agreed that Marian Anderson had truly arrived.

In the late 1930s, Anderson continued to tour the United States, singing for sold-out crowds far and wide. In preparing for her concert tour of 1939, Hurok decided to include Washington, D.C. Although no one was aware of it at the time, her appearance would "prove to be a watershed in the racial history of the country." Howard University, which regularly sponsored Anderson's concerts in the D.C. area, requested that she sing at Constitution Hall, the national headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), on Easter Sunday. For the second time in four years the request was denied. The DAR had long barred blacks from appearing at the Hall. And although the DAR treated this request no differently than they had before, officials at Howard University were not ready to give up this time.

The late 1930s also marked First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's most concentrated efforts in promoting racial equality. She welcomed black groups to the White House and fostered friendships with leaders in the black community. She was, however, also a member of the DAR. When word got out that the request for Anderson to perform at Constitution Hall had been denied, Mrs. Roosevelt immediately resigned her membership. In her "My Day" column (published regularly in many newspapers), she explained that she felt that staying a member of the organization implied her approval of their actions. She then secured a concert for Marian at the Lincoln Memorial. The event itself, not to mention the controversy leading up to it, drew national attention. More than 75,000 people attended, and it was broadcast on national radio. With this single event, Anderson is credited with making opera "both beautiful and political."

In June 1939, the Roosevelts invited Anderson to sing at the White House for the visit of Britain's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. It was a major moment for Alonso Fields, since Anderson had long been his idol—the musician he never got to be.

Propelled into the Civil Rights Movement by the fiasco with the DAR, Anderson was given the annual Spingarn Medal for high achievement by the NAACP later that year. The medal was presented to her by Eleanor Roosevelt, who praised her for her poise, talent, and personal accomplishments. When the DAR invited Anderson to sing at Constitution Hall in 1943, she gracefully accepted. Even though she claimed not to be a fighter, she performed publicly and boldly in a field that for the most part shunned blacks. In the years that followed, Anderson continued to perform and was the first black woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. President Eisenhower appointed Anderson Cultural Ambassador to the United Nations, and in 1963 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She retired in the mid-1960s to Connecticut, where she lived with her husband. She passed away in 1993 at the age of 96.

Marian Anderson was admired and beloved by many. To Alonzo Fields and countless others, Anderson was not just an opera star, she was a "symbol of inspiration and courage."

Eleanor Roosevelt's resignation letter to the DAR

February 26, 1939

My Dear Mrs. Henry M. Robert:

I am afraid that I have never been a very useful member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and I know it will make very little difference to you whether I resign, or whether I continue to be a member of your organization.

However, I am in complete disagreement with the attitude taken in refusing Constitution Hall to a great artist. You have set an example, which seems to me unfortunate, and I feel obliged to send in to you my resignation. You hold an opportunity to lead in an enlightened way and it seems to me that your organization has failed.

I realize that many people will not agree with me, but feeling as I do this seems to be the only proper procedure to follow.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt

Who Makes History?

In times of stress during his years in the White House, Alonzo Fields often told his staff, "Boys, remember that we are helping to make history. We have a small part, perhaps a menial part, but they can't do much here without us."

Helping to make history isn't something a butler usually gets the chance to do, and most historians, even today, wouldn't think of Fields and the other servants on his staff as "history-makers" in the usual sense. But the feeling of making history, of having a part to play in the history of the country, was Alonzo Fields's mantra that helped him through 21 years in the White House. So, who makes history? Are Fields and others servants like him, who watched important chapters in American history, "history-makers?" Or are they only charming footnotes to be forgotten by future generations?

Alonzo Fields grew up and worked in the segregated America of the early 20th century. As a child in Lyles Station, Indiana, listening to stories about Teddy Roosevelt, he couldn't have imagined that he might one day be a head butler, holding the chair for Roosevelt's successors in the White House. In fact, hearing stories of the past gave him his "interest in listening and watching people." It's often said that history is written by the winners, and in a racially divided America where lynchings of black men still went unprosecuted every year, the official "winners" rarely included blacks. History was essentially written by and for the white majority.

When Fields came to work at the White House in the 1930s, little had changed for black people. The country was locked in the Great Depression, and the hardships faced by black families were often even more severe than those suffered by their white counterparts. As jobs became scarce, black workers and farmers were the "last-hired, first-fired" around the country. Far from being "history makers," black people were increasingly pushed towards poverty and, as the Depression worsened, were increasingly victimized by bigotry and hate crimes from the desperate, unemployed white population. When FDR implemented his New Deal in an effort to rehabilitate the country, it brought relief to many poor blacks, but also left many others behind. Nationally funded economic stimulus programs such as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were strictly segregated, and blacks often made up only a token presence.

In Fields's years as a White House butler, the history of race relations was forged by the Presidents he served while he stood behind them and looked on. Franklin Roosevelt's efforts to include the black population in the New Deal were hampered by his reliance on the votes of the southern Democrats, known as "Dixiecrats," in Congress. While black voters were also a key group in the Democratic coalition of the 1930s and 1940s, it was the white segregationist vote that restricted Roosevelt's policies and shaped his presidency on racial issues. FDR felt he was unable to publicly endorse the NAACP's anti-lynching legislation, and he endorsed Hugo Black, a former Ku Klux Klansman, for the Supreme Court. Throughout it all, Fields kept quiet. During President Truman's administration, the fight to integrate the armed forces was in full swing, and Truman won re-election campaigning for integration in 1948 while again facing the opposition of segregationist southerners in his own party. Truman was the President Fields felt closest to, but

he still did not break his silence: "I thought to myself, 'If there's a God in heaven, you've got to win this thing.

In *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, we hear the voice of a man who held his tongue while history was being made all around him, even when he wanted to step out of his role as a servant and speak up. "Sometimes I get so angry it makes me shudder," Fields wrote, "But then I'll say, 'Oh, I'm being weak now. I'm allowing them to tell me who I am. They think they're better than I am—well I know who I am. I know myself!'" While he may have kept his place, he also kept his pride, and a belief in himself. He was "making history" as well, in his own way.

Playwright James Still has called it poetic justice to finally give Alonzo Fields his say. For 21 years, Fields made a career of hearing but not replying—silently observing the comings and goings of the most powerful families in the world without even cracking a smile. "Now," as Still says, "he's talking for two hours. This is a celebration not only of his life, but of all those who silently did service. I was disappointed to find out that Fields was dead because I wanted to say, 'Your life mattered.'"

But the idea of a man like Alonzo Fields as "history," as a person who mattered, and as a role model, is a difficult one, particularly in the African American community that still carries the memories of slavery, servitude, and degradation. After he retired and published his memoir *My 21 Years in the White House*, Fields became a popular speaker who appeared on talk shows and spoke for clubs and civic groups about his life behind the scenes at the White House. But in all the years he was telling his story (and he lived to age 94), he was never invited to talk to an African American group. Being a butler "smacked of subservience" and may have been too much of a reminder of the past. Alonzo Fields could not be a "history-maker" in his own community, and now that his story has been brought to national attention by *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, he is still a difficult figure to come to terms with for many people. "Even today, our efforts to reach an African American audience have) met with limited success," admits James Still. "But Fields wasn't an Uncle Tom. He didn't rant and rave, but let the facts speak for themselves."

"They can't do much here without us," Fields said, and in a way, that was how he made history—by being "realistic," by not breaking out of his role despite anything he might have overheard in the White House. In his memoir, and in the play, he doesn't comment on history or make judgments on his employers, because he doesn't need to. He made history just by doing his job, by succeeding for more than two decades in managing one of the most powerful households in the world. Every dinner for a foreign dignitary or a cabinet member, every time a President entertained in style, that was a little piece of history. The White House itself is a potent political tool for the President, and Alonzo Fields played a role in making that tool work to perfection. He has been criticized for working for a white man, but his job was not to serve a man, but to serve the country. His part in history is assured by the enduring success of the House he served and the country it represents.

Text Elucidations

Looking Over the President's Shoulder

Page

11 President Taft

William Howard Taft (1857-1930) was the 27th President of the United States, the tenth Chief Justice of the United States, a leader of the progressive conservative wing of the Republican Party in the early 20th century, a pioneer in international arbitration, and a staunch advocate of world peace verging on pacifism. Born into a leading political family in Ohio, Taft served as the Solicitor General of the United States, a federal judge, Governor-General of the Philippines, and Secretary of War before he was elected President in 1908 with the backing of his predecessor and close friend Theodore Roosevelt. Taft's presidency was characterized by trust-busting, strengthening the Interstate Commerce Commission, expanding the civil service, establishing a better postal system, and promoting world peace. Roosevelt broke with Taft in 1911, charging Taft was too reactionary. Taft and the conservatives were alarmed at Roosevelt's attacks on the judiciary and took control of the party machinery. Taft defeated Roosevelt for the Republican nomination in a bruising battle in 1912 that forced Roosevelt out of the GOP and left Taft's people in charge for decades. During World War I, Taft helped set national labor policy that reduced strikes and generated union support for the national cause. In 1921, he became Chief Justice. As President and Chief Justice he helped make the federal courts, especially the Supreme Court, much more powerful in shaping national policy.

11 The architect

James Hoban (1762-1831) was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland. He was raised on the estate of the Earl of Desart at Cuffesgrange, Kilkenny, where he learned carpentry skills. He studied architecture at the Royal Dublin Society. Following the American Revolutionary War, Hoban emigrated to the United States, and established himself as an architect in Philadelphia in 1781. Hoban went to South Carolina in 1792, where he designed numerous buildings including the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia. In 1792, Hoban won the competition to design the presidential mansion, later known as the the White House. He was also one of the supervising architects who served on the U.S. Capitol, carrying out the design of Dr. William Thornton. Hoban lived the rest of his life in Washington, D.C., where he worked on other public buildings and government projects, including roads and bridges.

11 Negroes—slave and free—did the bulk of the labor that built the White House.

The residence and its foundations were built largely by enslaved and free African American laborers, as well as employed whites. Much of the other work on the house was performed by immigrants, many not yet with citizenship. The sandstone walls were erected by Scottish immigrants; m uch of the brick and plaster work was produced by Irish and Italian immigrants.

11 John Adams

John Adams (1735–1826) was the second President of the United States. He also served as America's first Vice President. Adams was also the first President to reside in the newly built White House in Washington, D.C., which was completed in 1800. A sponsor of the American Revolution in Massachusetts, Adams was a driving force for independence in 1776; Thomas Jefferson called him the "Colossus of Independence." He represented the Continental Congress in Europe. He was a major negotiator of the eventual peace treaty with Great Britain, and chiefly responsible for obtaining the loans from the Amsterdam money market necessary for the conduct of the Revolution. His prestige secured his two elections as Washington's Vice President and his election to succeed him. As President, he was frustrated by battles inside his own Federalist party against a faction led by Alexander Hamilton, but he broke with them to avert a major conflict with France in 1798. He was defeated for re-election by Jefferson. He was the founder of an important family of politicians, diplomats, and historians, and in recent years his reputation has improved.

11 Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams (1744–1818) was so politically active that her political opponents came to refer to her as "Mrs. President." She is remembered today for the many letters she wrote to her husband from their Massachusetts home while he stayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Congresses. John Adams frequently sought the advice of his wife on many matters, and their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics. The letters are invaluable eyewitness accounts of the Revolutionary War home front as well as excellent sources of political commentary. As wife of the first Vice President, Abigail became a good friend to Martha Washington and a valued help in official entertaining, drawing on her experience of courts and society abroad. When Adams was elected President, Abigail continued a formal pattern of entertaining, becoming the first hostess of the yet-uncompleted White House. The city was a wilderness, the President's House far from completed. Her private complaints to her family provide blunt accounts of both, but for her three months in Washington she duly held her dinners and receptions. She mentioned that fires had to be lit constantly to keep the cold, cavernous place warm, and she describes setting up her laundry in the East Room.

12 Rutherford B. Hayes

Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1822–1893) was an American politician, lawyer, military leader, and 19th President of the United States (1877–1881). He was elected President by one electoral vote after the highly disputed election of 1876. Losing the popular vote to his opponent, Samuel Tilden, Hayes was the only President whose election was decided by a congressional commission.

12 Teddy Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919), also known as T.R., and to the public (but never to friends and intimates) as Teddy, was the 26th President of the United States and a leader of the Republican Party and of the Progressive Movement. Roosevelt is most famous for his personality: his energy, his vast range of interests and achievements, his model of masculinity, and his "cowboy" persona. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Roosevelt advocated war with Spain in 1898. He organized and helped command the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, the Rough Riders, during the Spanish-American War. Returning to New York as a war hero, he was elected Republican governor in 1899. He was a professional historian, a lawyer, a naturalist, and an explorer of the Amazon Basin; his 35 books include works on outdoor life, natural history, the American frontier, political history, and naval history.

12 White House

The building was originally referred to variously as the "President's Palace," "Presidential Mansion," or "President's House." The earliest evidence of the public calling it the "White House" was recorded in 1811. A legend emerged that during the rebuilding of the structure after the British burned it during the War of 1812, white paint was applied to mask the damage it had suffered, giving the building its namesake hue; this story is unfounded, as the building had been painted white since its construction in 1798. The name "Executive Mansion" was used in official contexts until President Theodore Roosevelt established the formal name by having "White House–Washington" engraved on the stationery in 1901.

12 Pennsylvania Avenue

Pennsylvania Avenue is a street in Washington, D.C., joining the White House and the United States Capitol. It is the location of official parades and processions, as well as protest marches and civilian protests. Laid out by Pierre L'Enfant, Pennsylvania Avenue was one of the earliest streets constructed in the federal city. The symbolically important street was named for Pennsylvania as consolation for moving the capital from Philadelphia. Until the expansion to the Treasury Building in the 1830s blocked the view, Pennsylvania Avenue provided an unobstructed vista between the White House and the Capitol.

13 **Herbert Hoover**

Herbert Clark Hoover (1874–1964), the 31st President of the United States (1929–1933), was a mining engineer and humanitarian administrator. As the United States Secretary of Commerce in the 1920s under Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge, he promoted economic modernization. In the presidential election of 1928, Hoover easily won the Republican nomination. The nation was prosperous and optimistic, leading to a landslide for Hoover over the Democrat Al Smith, a Catholic whose religion was distrusted by many. Hoover deeply believed in the Efficiency Movement (a major component of the Progressive Era), arguing that all social and economic problems had technical solutions. That position was challenged by the Great Depression, which began in 1929, the first year of his presidency. He tried to combat the Depression with volunteer efforts and government action, none of which produced economic recovery during his term. The consensus among historians is that Hoover's defeat in the 1932 election was caused primarily by failure to end the downward spiral into deep Depression, compounded by popular opposition to Prohibition. Other electoral liabilities were Hoover's lack of charisma in relating to voters, and his poor skills in working with politicians.

13 **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945), often referred to by his initials FDR, was the 32nd President of the United States. Elected to four terms in office, he served from 1933 to 1945, and is the only U.S. President to have served more than two terms of office. He was a central figure of the 20th century during a time of worldwide economic crisis and world war. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Roosevelt created the New Deal to provide relief for the unemployed, recovery of the economy, and reform of the economic and banking systems. Although recovery of the economy was incomplete until almost 1940, many New Deal programs continue to have instrumental roles in the nation's commerce, such as the FDIC, TVA, and the SEC. One of his most important legacies is the Social Security system. Roosevelt's aggressive use of the federal government re-energized the Democratic Party, creating a New Deal Coalition which dominated American politics until the late 1960s. He and his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, remain touchstones for modern American liberalism. Conservatives vehemently fought back, but Roosevelt usually prevailed until he tried to pack the Supreme Court in 1937. Thereafter, the new Conservative coalition successfully ended New Deal expansion; during World War II it closed most relief programs like the WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps, arguing unemployment had disappeared. After 1938, Roosevelt championed re-armament and led the nation away from isolationism as the world headed into World War II. He provided extensive support to Winston Churchill and the British war effort before the attack on Pearl Harbor pulled the United States into the fighting. During the war, Roosevelt, working closely with his aide Harry Hopkins, provided decisive leadership against Nazi Germany and made the United States the principal arms supplier and financier of the Allies who later, alongside the United States, defeated Germany, Italy, and Japan. Roosevelt led the United States as it became the Arsenal of Democracy, putting sixteen million American men into uniform. On the homefront, his term saw the vast expansion of industry, the achievement of full employment, restoration of prosperity, and new opportunities opened for African-Americans and women. With his term came new taxes that affected all income groups, price controls and rationing, and relocation camps for 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans as well as thousands of Italian Americans and German Americans. As the Allies neared victory, Roosevelt played a critical role in shaping the post-war world, particularly through the Yalta Conference and the creation of the United Nations. Roosevelt's administration redefined American liberalism and realigned the Democratic Party based on his New Deal coalition of labor unions; farmers; ethnic, religious, and racial minorities; intellectuals; the South; big city machines; and the poor and workers on relief.

13 **Harry S Truman**

Harry S Truman (1884–1972) was the 33rd President of the United States (1945–1953). During World War I, Truman served as an artillery officer. After the war he was elected a county judge in Missouri and eventually a United States Senator. Truman gained national fame and respect when his Preparedness Committee investigated the scandal of military wastefulness. Truman was chosen as Roosevelt's running mate in 1944; they barely knew each other when Roosevelt died less than three months after he began his fourth term. As President, Truman faced challenge after challenge in domestic affairs. The tumultuous reconversion of the economy of the United States was marked by severe shortages, numerous strikes, and the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act over his veto. He confounded all predictions to defeat Thomas Dewey and win re-election in 1948, largely because of his famous Whistle Stop Tour of rural America. After his re-election he was able to pass only one of the proposals in his Fair Deal program. He used executive orders to begin desegregation of the U.S. armed forces and to launch a system of loyalty checks to remove thousands of communist sympathizers from government office, even though he strongly opposed mandatory loyalty oaths for governmental employees, a stance that led to charges that his administration was soft on communism. Truman's presidency was also eventful in foreign affairs, with the end of World War II and his decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan, the founding of the United Nations, the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe, the Truman Doctrine to contain communism, the beginning of the Cold War, the creation of NATO, and the Korean War. Corruption in Truman's administration reached the cabinet and senior White House staff. Republicans made corruption a central issue in the 1952 campaign. Truman, whose demeanor was very different from that of the patrician Roosevelt, was a folksy, unassuming President. He popularized such phrases as "The buck stops here" and "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." He overcame the low expectations of many political observers who compared him unfavorably with his highly regarded predecessor. At one point in his second term, near the end of the Korean War, Truman's public opinion ratings reached the lowest of any United States President, but popular and scholarly assessments of his presidency became more positive after his retirement from politics. Many U.S. scholars today rank him among the top ten Presidents.

13 **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Dwight David Eisenhower, (1890–1969), nicknamed "Ike," was a five star general in the United States Army and later served as the 34th President of the United States (1953–1961). During the Second World War, he served as Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in Europe, with responsibility for planning and supervising the successful invasion of France and Germany in 1944-45. In 1951, he became the first supreme commander of NATO. Eisenhower was elected President as a Republican, serving for two terms. As President, he oversaw the cease-fire of the Korean War, kept up the pressure on the Soviet Union during the Cold War, made nuclear weapons a higher defense priority, launched the Space Race, enlarged the Social Security program, and began the Interstate Highway System.

13 **Marian Anderson**

(1897-1993) Contralto concert and opera singer, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She grew up singing in a church choir, and at age 19 began formal study. In 1925 she won a major vocal competition in New York City that gained her a career as a recitalist, but she was always constricted by the limitations placed on African American artists. She spent some years traveling across Europe, where she did not encounter the racial prejudices she had experienced in America and was acclaimed as perhaps the greatest living contralto. In 1939, in Washington, D.C., the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused permission for Anderson to sing to an integrated audience in Constitution Hall. Thousands of DAR members, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, resigned. The Roosevelts worked to arrange an open air concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial which attracted a crowd of more than 75,000 of all colors, as well as a national radio audience of millions. In 1955 she became the first African American singer to appear at the New York Metropolitan Opera. President Eisenhower made her a delegate to the UN in 1958, and she received many honors and international awards. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, she spent the next two years in a worldwide farewell tour.

13 "Ave Maria"

The Ave Maria is a traditional Latin Roman Catholic prayer calling for the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The prayer incorporates two passages from Saint Luke's Gospel: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women" (Luke 1:28) and "Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). The Ave Maria has been set to music numerous times. Among the most famous settings is the version by Charles Gounod (1859), adding melody and words to Johann Sebastian Bach's first prelude from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*.

13 the Depression

The Great Depression in the United States, which caused a worldwide economic contraction that lasted from 1929 until the dawn of World War II, was caused by the collapse in the money supply. For most of the nation, the "Black Tuesday" stock market crash of 1929 marked the beginning of a decade of high unemployment, poverty, and deflation. Most economists blame the national collapse on an unwillingness by the Federal Reserve System to supply reserves when the banking system faced a run on its deposits. A combination of high consumer and business debt, ill-regulated markets that permitted malfeasance by banks and investors, growing wealth inequality, and natural disasters such as the Dust Bowl only added to the crisis, leading to a downward economic spiral of reduced spending and production. The initial government response to the crisis exacerbated the situation; protectionist policies, rather than helping the economy, strangled global trade. Industries that suffered the most included agriculture, mining, and logging. The Depression caused major political changes, the most notable among them being the New Deal, which instituted large-scale federal relief programs aimed to aid the agricultural industry and support labor unions. This disaster had a profound effect on the psychology of an entire generation and strongly influenced the development of post-war monetary institutions.

15 Lyles Station, Indiana

Lyles Station was Indiana's first black settlement and is the only one still remaining. Located in Gibson County about 30 miles north of Evansville and five miles west of Princeton, Lyles Station was founded by freed Tennessee slave Joshua Lyles in 1849. Around 1840 Lyles and his brother Sanford were freed by their owner, who suggested that they head north and settle down. After wandering for several years, in 1849 they bought land near the confluence of the White, Patoka, and Wabash rivers. They farmed for several years, over time expanding their holdings to well over 1,200 acres. Shortly after the Civil War, Joshua Lyles returned to Tennessee to encourage newly emancipated slaves to settle in Indiana. As the settlement grew, Lyles donated 60 acres of land to the Airline Railroad; in exchange, the railroad built a train station, providing passenger and mail service to the settlement. The introduction of rail service speeded up growth; by 1913, in addition to 55 homes and a population of over 800, the settlement was home to a school, two churches, and two general stores. In 1913 unusually heavy rains caused the White, Wabash, and Patoka rivers to overflow their banks. Lyles Station's proximity to all three meant that it was exceptionally susceptible to this disaster. The floodwaters not only destroyed homes, but also drowned cattle—essential for Lyles Station's agrarian population—and rendered the railroad useless; Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was spared, however. The community never fully recovered from this disaster, as most of the residents sought a less risky existence in the larger cities to the north and south, such as Evansville and Terre Haute. Despite this decline, a school was built in 1919 and educated the remaining children of the community until it was closed in 1958 as part of a trend towards school consolidation. As of mid-2007, only about six families remain in Lyles Station, nearly all descended from the original settlers. Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Church still holds regular Sunday services. The schoolhouse, Lyles Consolidated School, has been fully restored from its decrepit state and now serves as a living history museum.

15 **Civil War**

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was a major war between the United States (the Union) and eleven Southern states that declared they had a right to secession and formed the Confederate States of America. The Union, led by President Abraham Lincoln, opposed the expansion of slavery into territories owned by the United States, which increased Southern desires for secession. The war produced about 970,000 casualties (3% of the population), including approximately 620,000 soldier deaths—two-thirds by disease. Based on 1860 census figures, 8% of all white males aged 13 to 43 died in the war, including 6 percent in the North and 18 percent in the South. The Civil War accounts for more casualties than all other U.S. wars combined. The main results of the war were the restoration of the Union and the end of slavery in the United States. About 4 million black slaves were freed in 1865.

15 **Spanish-American War**

The Spanish-American War was a military conflict between Spain and the United States in 1898. Cuba, then a Spanish colony, had been fighting for independence off and on since 1868. Riots in Havana by rowdy pro-Spanish "Voluntarios" moved the United States to send in the warship *USS Maine* to indicate its high national interest. American opinion was outraged at news of Spanish atrocities (some sensationalized in the U.S. press), and President William McKinley demanded reforms or independence. When the U.S. battleship *Maine* blew up on in February 1898, tensions escalated, and the United States declared the war against Spain. (To this day it is not known for certain what caused the explosion, but at the time Americans blamed the Spanish. Strong expansionist sentiment in the United States may also have motivated the government to target Spain's overseas territories.) The war ended quickly after decisive naval victories for the United States in the Philippines and Cuba. Hostilities halted in August 1898, and the Treaty of Paris was signed in December, giving the United States ownership of the former Spanish colonies of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.

15 **San Juan Hill ... the Rough Riders**

The Battle of San Juan Hill was the bloodiest and most famous battle of the Spanish-American War. When Theodore Roosevelt resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to fight in the Spanish-American War, he was made a lieutenant colonel and, eventually, commander of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (later to be nicknamed the Rough Riders). On July 1, 1898, American forces advanced to the base of San Juan Hill. Repeated attempts to scale the hill were beaten back by Spanish gunfire from the top of the hill, and three successive American commanding officers were disabled. Lower officers such as Roosevelt grew impatient waiting for orders while suffering casualties. When expected reinforcements did not arrive, Roosevelt took it upon himself to lead a bold charge up the hill. As troops dropped from heat exhaustion, Roosevelt stayed mounted on his horse, leading his remaining men forward. Soon other units joined them. The attackers eventually cut their way through barbed wire near the top of the hill and drove the Spaniards out of their trenches. Roosevelt returned to the United States a national hero. He was elected governor of New York later in the year, then Vice President two years later. Along with 23 other participants, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

16 **Pearl Harbor**

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise attack against the United States' naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the Japanese Navy, on the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, resulting in the United States becoming involved in World War II. The attack was intended by the Japanese as a preventive action to remove the U.S. Pacific Fleet as a factor in the war Japan was about to wage against Britain, the Netherlands, and the United States. Two aerial attack waves, totaling 353 aircraft, launched from six Japanese aircraft carriers, wrecked two U.S. Navy battleships, one minelayer, and two destroyers beyond repair, and destroyed 188 aircraft. Personnel losses were 2,388 killed and 1,178 wounded. The attack was one of the most important engagements of World War II. Occurring as it did before a formal declaration of war, it pushed U.S. public opinion from isolationism to an acceptance that war was unavoidable.

16 **Mrs. Roosevelt**
Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) was an American political leader who used her influence as an active First Lady from 1933 to 1945 to promote the New Deal policies of her husband, as well as taking a prominent role as an advocate for civil rights. After her husband's death in 1945, she continued to be an internationally prominent author and speaker for the New Deal coalition. She was a suffragist who worked to enhance the status of working women, although she opposed the Equal Rights Amendment because she believed it would adversely affect women. In the 1940s, she was one of the co-founders of Freedom House and supported the formation of the United Nations. She was a delegate to the UN General Assembly from 1945 to 1952; during this time she chaired the committee that drafted and approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. President Truman called her the "First Lady of the World" in tribute to her human rights achievements. She was one of the most admired persons of the 20th century.

16 **the State Dining Room**
The State Dining Room is the larger of two dining rooms on the State Floor of the White House. It is used for receptions, luncheons, and State Dinners for visiting heads of state. The room measures approximately 48 feet by 36 feet and seats 140 guests.

16 **Harry Hopkins**
Harry Hopkins (1890–1946) was one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's closest advisers. He was one of the architects of the New Deal, especially the relief programs of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which he directed and built into the largest employer in the country. In World War II he was Roosevelt's chief diplomatic advisor and troubleshooter and was a key policy maker in the $50 billion Lend Lease program that sent aid to the allies.

16 **Marshall**
George Marshall (1880–1959) was an American military leader, Secretary of State, and the third Secretary of Defense. Once noted as the "organizer of victory" by Winston Churchill for his leadership of the Allied victory in World War II, Marshall supervised the U.S. Army during the war and was the chief military adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As Secretary of State he gave his name to the Marshall Plan, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

18 **Alf Landon**
Alfred "Alf" Mossman Landon (1887–1987) was an American Republican politician who served as Governor of Kansas from 1933 to 1937. He was best known as the Republican presidential nominee defeated in a landslide by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1936 presidential election.

18 **the Negro baseball league**
The Negro Leagues were American professional baseball leagues comprising predominantly African-American teams in the days when black players were not allowed to play on white teams. One of the most prominent early Negro League teams was the Indianapolis ABCs. Named after its sponsor, the American Brewing Company, the ABCs were founded and managed by the great disciplinarian C. I. Taylor. Before World War I, the team was the bedrock of black baseball, giving players like Hall of Famer Oscar Charleston, Elwood "Bingo" DeMoss, "Biz" Mackey, Ben Taylor, and flame thrower "Cannonball" Dick Redding their initial claim to fame. The 1922 season was the best-ever for the club in the Negro National League, finishing second with a 46-33 record. The more famous Indianapolis Clowns were formed in 1943.

18 **A.M.E.**
The African Methodist Episcopal Church, usually called the AME Church, is a Christian denomination founded by Bishop Richard Allen in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1816. The AME Church was the first major religious denomination in the Western World that had its origin over sociological rather than theological beliefs and differences, and the first African American organized and incorporated denomination in the United States.

18 ***Carmen***
Carmen is a French opera by Georges Bizet. The libretto was written by Meilhac and Halévy, based on the story of the same title by Prosper Mérimée. The opera was premiered at the Opéra Comique of Paris in 1875. For a year after its premiere, it was considered a failure, denounced by critics as "immoral" and "superficial." Today, it is one of the world's most popular operas and a staple of the standard operatic repertoire, appearing as number four on *Opera America*'s list of the most-performed operas. It is known for its fiery heroine and its many popular tunes.

18 ***Aida***
Aida is an opera in four acts by Giuseppe Verdi to an Italian libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni, based on a scenario written by French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette. It was first performed at the Khedivial Opera House in Cairo in 1871. The premiere met with great acclaim and the opera continues to be a staple of the standard operatic repertoire. It is known for its grand spectacle and its passionate love triangle.

18 ***La Gioconda***
La Gioconda is an opera in four acts by Amilcare Ponchielli to an Italian libretto by Arrigo Boito, based on *Angelo* by Victor Hugo. It was first performed at Teatro alla Scala, Milan, in 1876. Originally a major success, the opera has become less popular in recent years. Its most famous music is "The Dance of the Hours," one of the most popular ballet pieces in history; this music is featured in Walt Disney's animated classic *Fantasia*, danced by ostriches, hippos, and crocodiles.

18 ***Il Trovatore***
Il Trovatore is an opera in four acts by Giuseppe Verdi to an Italian libretto by Leone Emanuele Bardare and Salvatore Cammarano, based on the play *El Trovador* (*The Troubador*) by Antonio García Gutiérrez. It premiered in Rome in 1853. The opera is featured in the Marx Brothers film *A Night at the Opera*. The tenor aria "Di quella pira" is one of opera's most famous.

18 **the "Toreador's Song"**
The Toreador Song ("Votre toast"), from the opera *Carmen*, is one of the most famous arias in all opera. Sung by the matador Escamillo, it describes a bullfight in the ring, the cheering of the crowds, and the fame that comes with victory.

18 **320 West 20th Street**
today just north of Methodist Hospital

19 **New England Conservatory of Music**
The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, is the oldest independent conservatory in the United States. Modeled after the European conservatories of the time, it was founded in 1867. Today, it is widely known to be among the world's leading musical institutions, and is the only music school in the United States designated as a National Historic Landmark. The school is home each year to 750 students pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies.

19 **Caruso**
Enrico Caruso (1873–1921) was an Italian opera singer, one of the most famous tenors in history. During the first two decades of the 20th century, he was the most popular singer in any genre and one of the most important pioneers of recorded music. Caruso's popular recordings and his extraordinary voice, known for its mature power, beauty, and unequalled richness of tone, made him one of the world's first superstars.

19 **Dr. Samuel W. Stratton**
Samuel Wesley Stratton (1861-1931) was a U.S. administrator and educator. In 1901, President William McKinley appointed him as the first director of the Bureau of Standards, a position he held until 1923. He served as the President of MIT from 1923 until 1930.

19 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a private university located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. MIT has five schools and one college, containing 32 academic departments, with a strong emphasis on scientific and technological research. MIT was founded in 1861 in response to the increasing industrialization of the United States. Although based upon German and French polytechnic models of an institute of technology, MIT's founding philosophy of "learning by doing" made it an early pioneer in the use of laboratory instruction, undergraduate research, and progressive architectural styles.

19 **chromatic scales**
The chromatic scale is a musical scale with twelve pitches, each a semitone or half step apart.

19 **Thomas Edison**
Thomas Alva Edison (1847–1931) was an American inventor and businessman who developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the phonograph and a long lasting light bulb. Dubbed "the Wizard of Menlo Park" by a newspaper reporter, he was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production to the process of invention, and therefore is often credited with the creation of the first industrial research laboratory. Edison is considered one of the most prolific inventors in history, holding 1,093 U.S. patents in his name, as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

19 **Rockefeller**
John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1874–1960) was a major philanthropist and a pivotal member of the prominent Rockefeller family. He was the sole son and scion of the billionaire Standard Oil industrialist, John D. Rockefeller, and the father of the five famous Rockefeller brothers.

19 **Guggenheim**
Solomon R. Guggenheim (1861–1949) was an American art collector and philanthropist. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of Meyer Guggenheim and brother to Simon, Benjamin, Daniel, and four others. Following studies in Switzerland, he returned to the United States to work in the family mining business, later founding the Yukon Gold Company in Alaska. He retired in 1919 to become an art collector and in 1937 he established the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation to foster the appreciation of modern art. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened in 1959.

19 **Mrs. Herbert Hoover**
Lou Henry Hoover (1874–1944) was the wife of Herbert Hoover and First Lady of the United States. Admirably equipped to preside at the White House, Mrs. Hoover brought to it long experience as wife of a man eminent in public affairs at home and abroad. She had shared his interests since they met in a geology lab at Stanford University. Mrs. Hoover paid with her own money the cost of reproducing furniture owned by James Monroe for a period sitting room in the White House. She also restored Abraham Lincoln's study for her husband's use. She dressed handsomely; one secretary remarked, she "never fitted more perfectly into the White House picture than in her formal evening gown."

19 **Jordan Hall**
Jordan Hall is a 1,019-seat concert hall in Boston, Massachusetts, part of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music. It is located one block from Boston's Symphony Hall, and together they are considered two of America's most acoustically perfect performance spaces for classical music. The hall opened in 1903. Innumerable performances have taken place there, including some 650 student performances per academic year as well as appearances by virtually every major classical musician of the past century.

25 **Al Smith**
Alfred Smith (1873-1944) was elected Governor of New York four times, and was the Democratic U.S. presidential candidate in 1928. He was the first Roman Catholic and Irish-American to run for President as a major party nominee. He lost the election to Herbert Hoover. He then became President of the Empire State, Inc., and was instrumental in getting the Empire State Building built during the Great Depression.

25 **Quaker**
The Religious Society of Friends, whose members are commonly known as Quakers, was founded in England in the 17th century as a Christian religious denomination by people who were dissatisfied with the existing denominations and sects of Christianity. The Society of Friends is counted among the historic peace churches, advocating pacifism. The name "Quaker" was first used in 1650, when founder George Fox was brought to court on a charge of blasphemy. According to Fox's journal, the judge "called us Quakers because we bid them tremble at the word of God." What apparently began as a way to make fun of the denomination by those outside the Society of Friends became a nickname that even Friends use for themselves.

25 **Hyde Park**
Hyde Park is a town located in Dutchess County, New York, just north of the city of Poughkeepsie. The town is most famous for being the birthplace of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Roosevelt estate there is named Springwood.

27 **bouillon**
a simple broth or soup

27 **protocol**
In international politics, protocol is the etiquette of diplomacy and affairs of state. In diplomatic services and governmental fields of endeavor, protocols are often unwritten guidelines. Protocols specify the proper and generally accepted behavior in matters of state and diplomacy, such as showing appropriate respect to a head of state, ranking diplomats in chronological order of their accreditation at court, and so on.

28 **the Hope diamond**
The Hope Diamond is a large (45.52 carat), deep blue diamond, currently housed in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. The diamond is legendary for the curse it supposedly puts on whoever possesses it. The Hope Diamond appears to be a brilliant blue to the naked eye because of trace amounts of boron within the diamond. It belonged to, among others, Marie Antoinette; various generations of the Hope family in England held it from the 1820s until 1902. Later it was owned by famed jewelers Pierre Cartier and Harry Winston, who donated it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958, sending it through the U.S. Mail in a plain brown paper bag.

28 **Mrs. Thompson**
Mr. Fields's memory seems to be faulty on this point. Lord Francis Hope married Olive Muriel Thompson in 1904, but by then he had already sold the Hope Diamond in 1902, and she would have been Lady Hope, not Mrs. Thompson. Mining heiress and socialite Evalyn Walsh McLean owned the diamond from 1911 to her death in 1947. Mrs. McLean would bring the diamond out for friends to try on, including Mrs. Warren G. Harding. McLean often strapped the Hope to her pet dog's collar while in residence at her summer home, Friendship, in northwest Washington D.C. There are stories that frequently she would misplace it at parties, then make a children's game of finding the Hope.

29 **the East Room**
The East Room is the largest room in the White House. It is used for entertaining, press conferences, ceremonies, and occasionally for a large dinner.

29 **the gold Steinway**
In 1938, working with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, White House staff architect Eric Gugler designed a concert grand piano built by Steinway & Sons. The piano is decorated with a gilded frieze illustrating American dance and supported by three large gilded eagles.

29 **"O Holy Night"**
"O Holy Night" ("Cantique de Noël") is a well-known Christmas carol composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" by Placide Cappeau. It has become a standard modern carol for solo performance with an operatic finish.

30 **the Waldorf-Astoria**
The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel is a famously luxurious hotel in New York. It has been housed in two historic landmark buildings of New York City. The first was on Fifth Avenue; it was demolished to make way for the Empire State Building. The present building at 301 Park Avenue in Manhattan is a 47-story Art Deco landmark that dates from 1931. Waldorf salad—consisting of apple, walnuts, celery, and mayonnaise—was first created in 1896 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

31 **the Hill**
The United States Capitol building serves as the seat of government for the United States Congress, the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government. It is located in Washington, D.C., on top of Capitol Hill at the east end of the National Mall.

36 **the New Deal**
The New Deal was a sequence of programs President Roosevelt initiated between 1933 and 1938 with the goal of giving relief, reform, and recovery to the people and economy of the United States during the Great Depression. Dozens of alphabet agencies (so named because of their acronyms, such as the FDIC, the FHA, the TVA, and the SEC), were created as a result of the New Deal. The largest of these programs still in existence today are Social Security and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the primary regulator of publicly traded U.S. firms. The New Deal represented a significant shift in political and domestic policy in the United States, with its more lasting changes being increased government control over the economy and money supply, intervention to control prices and agricultural production, the beginning of the federal welfare state, and the rise of trade union organizations. The success and effects of the New Deal still remain a source of controversy and debate amongst economists and historians.

36 **Sir Winston Churchill**
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874–1965) was a British politician known chiefly for his leadership of Great Britain during World War II. A noted statesman, orator, and strategist, Churchill was also an officer in the British Army. During his army career Churchill saw combat on the Northwest Frontier, in the Sudan, and in South Africa. During this period he also gained fame, and not a small amount of notoriety, as a correspondent. At the forefront of the political scene for almost sixty years, Churchill held numerous political and cabinet positions. Before World War I, he served as President of the Board of Trade and Home Secretary during the Liberal governments. During World War I, Churchill served in numerous positions, as First Lord of the Admiralty, Minister of Munitions, Secretary of State for War, and Secretary of State for Air. He also served in the British Army on the Western Front and commanded the 6th Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. During the interwar years, he served as Chancellor of the Exchequer. After the outbreak of World War II, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. In 1940 he became Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and led Britain to victory against the Axis powers. His speeches were a great inspiration to the embattled Allied forces. After losing the 1945 election, Churchill became the leader of the opposition. In 1951, Churchill again became Prime Minister before finally retiring in 1955. A prolific author, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953 for his historical writings. Upon his death the Queen granted him the honor of a state funeral, which saw one of the largest assemblies of statesmen in the world.

36 air-raid suit
The Blitz was a series of air raids, the sustained bombing of Britain by Nazi Germany between September 1940 and May 1941, during World War II. While the Blitz hit many towns and cities across the country, it began with the bombing of London for 57 nights in a row. By the end of May 1941, over 43,000 civilians had been killed and more than a million houses destroyed or damaged. An air-raid suit was a kind of jump suit or coverall, sometimes with an attached hood, that was designed so it could be quickly put on and zipped up in an emergency.

37 Douglas Fairbanks Jr.
(1909-2000) Film actor, writer, and producer, born in New York City, the son of actor Douglas Fairbanks Sr. In his youth he made Hollywood movies in the style of his father, such as *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1937), *Gunga Din* (1939), and *Sinbad the Sailor* (1947), and also gained a reputation as a producer. He later made a name for himself as a diplomat. He was appointed to the boards of many companies, and received many international honors.

37 Will Rogers
(1879–1935) Cherokee-American cowboy, comedian, humorist, social commentator, vaudeville performer, and actor. Known as Oklahoma's favorite son, Rogers was born to a prominent Indian Territory family and learned to ride horses and use a lariat so well that he was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for throwing three ropes at once—one around the neck of a horse, another around the horse's rider, and a third around all four legs of the horse. He traveled around the world three times, made 71 movies (50 silent films and 21 "talkies"), wrote more than 4,000 nationally syndicated newspaper columns, and became a world-famous figure. By the mid-1930s, Rogers was adored by the American people, and was the top-paid movie star in Hollywood at the time. During an around-the-world trip with aviator Wiley Post, Rogers died when their small airplane crashed near Barrow, Alaska Territory.

37 James Cagney
(1899-1986) Film actor, born in New York City. He studied at Columbia, and after 10 years as an actor and dancer in vaudeville, his film performance as the gangster in *The Public Enemy* (1931) brought him stardom. His ebullient energy and aggressive personality kept him in demand for 30 years, including such varied productions as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1935), *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1938), and *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), for which he was awarded an Oscar. He retired in 1961, but returned for a brief appearance in *Ragtime* (1981).

37 Paulette Goddard
(1910–1990) Film and theatre actress. A child fashion model and then a Ziegfeld Girl in several Broadway productions, she became a major star of Paramount Studio in the 1940s. Her exceptional beauty and fame led to several marriages to notable men, including Charlie Chaplin, Burgess Meredith, and Erich Maria Remarque. Her films included *The Women* (1939), *Star Spangled Rhytm* (1943), *So Proudly We Hail* (1943—Oscar nomination), and *Kitty* (1945).

37 Katharine Hepburn
(1907-2003) Actress born in Hartford, Connecticut. During her many decades on stage, on the silver screen, and on television, Katharine Hepburn was an award-winning actress with a strong presence. She tackled comedies and dramas with ease and starred opposite many of Hollywood's leading men, including Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart, and Cary Grant. She made her professional stage debut in 1928, and from 1932 attained international fame as a strong character actress. Among her many outstanding films was *Woman of the Year* (1942), which saw the beginning of a 25-year professional and personal relationship with co-star Spencer Tracy. She won Oscars for *Morning Glory* (1933), *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* (1967), *The Lion in Winter* (1968), and *On Golden Pond* (1981), and is also remembered for her role in *The African Queen* (1952). On Broadway she played several Shakespearean roles in the 1950s, and enjoyed enormous success in the stage musical *Coco* (1969). Her television work included *The Glass Menagerie* (1973), *Love Among the Ruins* (1975), *The Ultimate Solution of Grace Quigley* (1984), and *Mrs. Delafield Wants to Marry* (1986).

37 **Shirley Temple**
Child film star, actress, and diplomat, born in 1928 in Santa Monica, California. A talented singer and dancer, Shirley Temple started performing soon after she could walk, making her first film appearances around the age of three. Perhaps one of Hollywood's youngest superstars, she made 11 films in 1933 at the age of 5. In 1934 she had roles in eight films and earned a special award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences "in grateful recognition of her outstanding contribution to screen entertainment." Audiences adored her cheery personality, trademark curls, and sweet face, making her a popular box office draw. She starred in such classics as *Heidi* (1937), *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1938), and *The Little Princess* (1939). As with many child actors, she found it difficult to find roles as she matured. In 1950, she married Charles A. Black. After her acting career ended, Shirley Temple Black explored the world of politics. She ran for Congress in the state of California as Republican in the 1960s, but was unsuccessful. She then served as a diplomat. She was appointed to represent the United States to the United Nations in 1969. In the mid-1970s, she served as the U.S. ambassador to the African nation of Ghana. She later became the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992. Today she lives in northern California.

37 **Edward G. Robinson**
(1893-1973) Film actor, born in Bucharest, Romania. His family emigrated to the United States in 1903, and he studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. He started in silent films, but became famous with his vivid portrayal of a vicious gangster in *Little Caesar* (1930). He brought magnetism and a refreshing humanity to a rogues gallery of larcenous hoodlums in such films as *The Whole Town's Talking* (1935) and *Key Largo* (1948). His support of democratic causes brought disfavor at the time of the McCarthy witch-hunts. Subsequently he continued in strong character parts, such as in *Double Indemnity* (1944) and *All My Sons* (1948), with many of his later appearances being in international co-productions, such as *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965). In 1973 he was posthumously awarded a special Academy Award.

37 **Marie Dressler**
(1869-1934) Stage and film actress, born in Cobourg, Ontario, Canada. This versatile comic actress began her career at 14 with a touring theatrical company, and for many years performed in vaudeville, plays, and musical productions, enjoying her greatest success with the song "Heaven Will Protect the Working Girl." In 1910, she began a film career that went from Mack Sennett comedies—including *Tillie's Punctured Romance* (1914) with Charlie Chaplin—to *Anna Christie* (1930) and *Min and Bill* (1931), for which she won an Oscar.

37 **Erroll Flynn**
(1909-1959) Actor, born in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. He moved to England to gain acting experience, joined the Northampton Repertory Company, and after a part in a film was offered a Hollywood contract. His first U.S. film, *Captain Blood* (1935), established him as a hero of historical adventure films, and his good looks and athleticism confirmed him as the greatest Hollywood swashbuckler, in such films as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938) and *The Sea Hawk* (1940). During the 1940s his off-screen reputation for drinking, drug-taking, and womanizing became legendary, and eventually affected his career, which was briefly revived by his acclaimed performance as a drunken wastrel in *The Sun Also Rises* (1957). His autobiography was called *My Wicked, Wicked Ways* (1959).

37 young Franklin

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr. (1914–1988) was the fifth child of Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt. As a young man in 1936, he contracted a streptococcal throat infection and developed life-threatening complications. His successful treatment with Prontosil, the first commercially available sulfonamide drug, avoided a risky surgical procedure which the White House medical staff had considered, and the subsequent headlines in the *New York Times* and other prominent newspapers heralded the start of the era of antibacterial chemotherapy in the United States. He was a Naval officer in World War II and was decorated for bravery. Often referred to as "FDR Jr.," he served as a member of the United States Congress, representing the 20th District of New York from 1949 to 1955. John F. Kennedy named him Under-Secretary of Commerce and chairman of the President's Appalachian Regional Commission. He served as chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1965 and 1966. He was senior partner in the New York law firm of Roosevelt and Freiden before and after his service in the Congress. He also ran a small cattle farm, and imported Fiat automobiles.

37 Prohibition

The period from 1920 to 1933, during which alcohol sale, manufacture, and transportation were banned throughout the United States as mandated in the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The main force for prohibition came from pietistic Protestants, who comprised majorities in the Republican party in the North and the Democratic party in the South. Although it was highly controversial, Prohibition was widely supported by diverse groups. Progressives believed that it would improve society. The Ku Klux Klan strongly supported its strict enforcement, as generally did women, southerners, those living in rural areas, and African Americans. As Prohibition continued, a profitable, often violent, black market for alcohol flourished. Racketeering proliferated as powerful gangs corrupted law enforcement agencies. Stronger liquor surged in popularity because its potency made it more profitable to smuggle. The cost of enforcing Prohibition was high, and the lack of tax revenues on alcohol affected government coffers. Prohibition became increasingly unpopular, especially in the big cities. The Eighteenth Amendment was repealed in 1933 with ratification of the Twenty-First Amendment.

38 modina

Alonzo Fields's use of this term is perhaps confusing. *Modena* is a province in Italy where they make balsamic vinegar; sometimes it is distilled into a very sweet wine or liqueur which may or may not be called Modena. *Medina* is a Hebrew word used in two ways: *Chamar Medina* is defined as a beverage a person drinks (even when he's not thirsty) because of its importance or preference. *Chamar Medina* also refers to a beverage that is drunk instead of wine wherever wine does not grow within a day's journey and is therefore expensive.

38 sake

a Japanese alcoholic beverage made from rice

38 the king and queen of England

George VI (1895–1952) was King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions from 1936 until his death. He was the last Emperor of India (until 1947) and the last King of Ireland (until 1949). World events greatly altered the position of the monarchy during his reign. A major consequence of World War II was the decline of the British Empire, with the United States and the Soviet Union rising as pre-eminent world powers. With the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, and the foundation of the Republic of Ireland in 1949, King George's reign saw the acceleration of the break-up of the British Empire and its transition into the Commonwealth of Nations.

38 the king and queen of England

Queen Elizabeth (1900–2002), was the Queen Consort of King George VI. After her husband's death, she was known as the Queen Mother, to avoid confusion with her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II. She—along with her husband and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret—embodied traditional ideas of family and public service. As Queen Consort, she accompanied her husband on diplomatic tours to France and North America in the run-up to World War II. During the war, her seemingly indomitable spirit provided moral support to the British public, and in recognition of her role as a propaganda tool, Adolf Hitler described her as "the most dangerous woman in Europe." After the war, her husband's health deteriorated and she was widowed at the age of 51. With her elder daughter now Queen at the age of 26, Elizabeth became the senior member of the Royal Family and assumed a position as Matriarch. In her later years, she was a consistently popular member of the Royal Family, when other members were suffering from low levels of public approval. She died at the age of 101.

38 Hitler

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) was an Austrian who led the National Socialist German Workers Party. He became Chancellor of Germany in 1933 and Führer in 1934, combining the offices of President and Chancellor into one. The Nazi Party gained power during Germany's period of crisis after World War I, exploiting effective propaganda and Hitler's charismatic oratory to gain popularity. The Party emphasized nationalism and anti-Semitism and murdered many of its opponents to ensure success. After restructuring the state economy and rearming the German armed forces, Hitler established a dictatorship and pursued an aggressive foreign policy. The German invasion of Poland in 1939 drew the British and French Empires into World War II. The Nazis were initially successful, and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan) occupied most of mainland Europe and parts of Asia. Eventually the Allies (the United States, Great Britain, and the USSR, along with China and France) defeated the Axis, and by 1945, Germany was in ruins. Hitler's bid for territorial conquest and racial subjugation had caused the deaths of tens of millions of people, including the genocide of an estimated six million Jews in the Holocaust. During the final days of the war in 1945, as Berlin was being invaded and destroyed by Russia's Red Army, Hitler married Eva Braun. Less than 24 hours later, the two committed suicide in his bunker.

39 musicale

A social occasion in which music is the featured entertainment

40 Daughters of the American Revolution

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a lineage-based membership organization of women dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Membership in the DAR is open to women at least 18 years of age who can prove lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving United States independence. Acceptable ancestors include various related categories of known historical figures, including: signers of the United States Declaration of Independence; military veterans of the American Revolutionary War; members of the Continental Congress and State conventions and assemblies; participants in the Boston Tea Party; prisoners of war, refugees, and defenders of forts and frontiers; doctors and nurses who aided Revolutionary casualties; and ministers, petitioners, and others who gave material or patriotic support to the Revolutionary cause.

40 Constitution Hall

Constitution Hall is a concert hall in Washington, D.C. It was built in 1929 by the Daughters of the American Revolution to house its annual convention. The hall was designed by architect John Russell Pope and is located across from the Ellipse in front of the White House. The hall seats 3,702 people. For several decades prior to the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1971, Constitution Hall was home to the National Symphony Orchestra and the city's principal venue for touring classical musicians.

40 Hugo Black

Hugo Black (1886–1971) was an American politician and jurist. A member of the Democratic Party, he represented the state of Alabama in the United States Senate from 1926 to 1937, and served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1937 to 1971. Widely regarded as one of the most influential Supreme Court justices in the 20th century, he is the fourth longest-serving justice in Supreme Court history. He is noted for his advocacy of a literalist reading of the United States Constitution. Because of his insistence on a strict textual analysis of Constitutional issues, as opposed to the process-oriented jurisprudence of many of his colleagues, it is difficult to characterize Black as a liberal or a conservative as those terms are generally understood in the current political discourse of the United States. On the one hand, his literal reading of the Bill of Rights and his theory of incorporation often translated into support for strengthening civil rights and civil liberties. On the other hand, Black consistently opposed the doctrine of due process and believed that there was no constitutionally protected right to privacy.

40 the vice president

John Garner, nicknamed "Cactus Jack" (1868–1967) was the forty-fourth Speaker of the United States House of Representatives (1931-33) and the thirty-second Vice President of the United States (1933-41). Garner often invited fellow congressmen to his office for drinks and poker . A former Speaker of the House he once stated taking the vice presidency was "the worst damn fool mistake I ever made." He served two terms with Roosevelt but declined to run for a third term and encouraged FDR to do the same, saying he wouldn't vote for his own brother for a third term. He refused to socialize on the Washington scene and said the vice presidency was an eight to five job, the rest of the day was his. Garner is most noted for saying the vice presidency wasn't worth "a warm bucket of spit." On his ninety-fifth birthday he received a congratulatory call from President Kennedy; Garner told the President he hoped he would stay in office forever. Kennedy was in Texas that day, November 22, 1963.

40 Ku Kluxer

Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is the name of several past and present organizations in the United States that have advocated white supremacy, anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, racism, homophobia, anti-Communism, and opposition to immigration. These organizations have often used terrorism, violence, and acts of intimidation, such as cross burning and lynching, to oppress African Americans and other social or ethnic groups. At its peak in the mid-1920s, the organization included about 15% of the nation's eligible population, approximately 4–5 million men. Its popularity fell during the Great Depression, and membership fell further during World War II because of scandals resulting from prominent members' crimes and its support of the Nazis. Today, researchers estimate that there are as many as 150 Klan chapters with up to 8,000 members nationwide. The U.S. government classifies these groups, with operations in separated small local units, as extreme hate groups. The modern KKK has been repudiated by all mainstream media, political, and religious leaders.

41 Uncle Tom

Uncle Tom is a pejorative for an African American who is perceived by others as behaving in a subservient manner to white American authority figures, or as seeking ingratiation with them by way of unnecessary accommodation. The term comes from the title character of Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, although there is debate over whether the character himself is deserving of the pejorative attributed to him.

41 "inching along, just keep inching along"

This song can be found in the book *American Negro Songs and Spirituals: A Comprehensive Collection of 230 Folk Songs, Religious and Secular*, published by NY Bonanza Books (1940). The book was edited by John Wesley Work III, director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

It was inch by inch that I sought the Lord.
Jesus will come by and by.
Keep-a inching along like a poor inch worm.
Jesus will come by and by.

41 Hitler struck Poland

On September 1, 1939, German Nazi forces invaded Poland from the north, south, and west. Spread thin defending their long borders, the Polish armies were soon forced to withdraw eastward. By mid-September, the Germans had an undisputed advantage. On September 17, the Soviet Red Army invaded the eastern regions of Poland in cooperation with Germany, carrying out their part of a secret pact which divided Eastern Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres of influence. By October 1, Germany and the Soviet Union completely overran Poland. Over the course of the war, Poland lost more than 20% of its pre-war population. The invasion of Poland marked the start of World War II in Europe, as Poland's western allies, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, soon followed by France, South Africa, and Canada, among others.

41 Wendell Wilkie

Wendell Willkie (1892–1944) was born in Elwood, Indiana. His parents were lawyers, and his mother was the first woman to be admitted to the bar in Indiana. Wilkie studied law at Indiana University and became a corporate lawyer in the utility industry. During the New Deal, he fought against the Tennessee Valley Authority and other government utility interests; when he lost this battle, he changed tactics and successfully convinced the government to buy out private utitilities. His charisma, independent spirit, and youthful appeal made him the surprise Republican nominee for the 1940 presidential election, despite having never held an elected political office. Despite a poorly managed campaign, Willkie received more votes than any previous GOP candidate; nonetheless, he lost to Franklin D. Roosevelt in a landslide. Despite this loss, during World War II he toured the world supporting FDR's foreign policy and advocating for a post-war world organization akin to what eventually became the United Nations.

42 Secret Service

The Secret Service has primary jurisdiction over the prevention and investigation of counterfeiting of U.S. currency and U.S. treasury bonds notes, as well as protection of the President, Vice President, President-elect, Vice President-elect, past Presidents, and others. It also tracks suspicious people and investigates a wide variety of financial fraud crimes and identity theft and provides forensics assistance for some local crimes. The Secret Service was commissioned in 1865 as the "Secret Service Division" to suppress counterfeit currency, which is why it was established under the United States Department of the Treasury. After the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, Congress informally requested Secret Service presidential protection. A year later, the Secret Service assumed full-time responsibility for protection of the President.

42 Union Station

A union station is a train station where tracks and facilities are shared by two or more railway companies, allowing passengers to connect conveniently between them. Many cities across the nation have union stations, including Indianapolis. Washington D.C.'s Union Station was designed to be the grand ceremonial entrance to the nation's capital when it opened in 1907. Architect Daniel Burnham, assisted by Pierce Anderson, used a number of techniques to convey this message: neoclassical elements combined the Roman architecture of the triumphal arch with the great vaulted spaces of Imperial Roman public baths; prominent siting at the intersection of two of Pierre L'Enfant's avenues, with an orientation that faced the United States Capitol, just five blocks away; a massive scale, including a facade stretching more than 600' and a waiting room ceiling 96' above the floor; stone inscriptions and allegorical sculpture in the Beaux-Arts manner; and expensive materials such as marble, gold leaf, and white granite from a previously unused quarry. After declining from the 1950s to the 1980s, Union Station was restored and refurbished. Today it is one of the busiest and best-known places in Washington, D.C., visited by 20 million people each year. The terminal is served by Amtrak, MARC, and VRE commuter railroads, and the Washington Metro transit system of buses and subway trains.

43 Schubert's "Serenade"
Franz Schubert's "Serenade" was written in 1826. It was originally composed as an alto solo with male chorus and was subsequently rearranged for female voices only. The nostalgic and poignant tune is one of the most popular in classical music.

46 Mr. James
James Roosevelt (1907–1991) was the oldest son of Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt. He was born in New York City and graduated from Harvard University. During World War II he was second-in-command of the 2nd Raider Battalion of the Marine Raiders, an early U.S. Marine commando unit organized and trained to conduct guerrilla-style attacks behind enemy lines. He suffered from flat feet, so while other Marines were required to wear boots, he was allowed to wear sneakers. Eventually he retired at the rank of Brigadier General, winning the Navy Cross and Silver Star in combat. He served from 1955 to 1965 as a Congressman from California.

46 Andrew Jackson
(1767–1845) 7th President of the United States (1829–1837). He was also military governor of Florida and commander of the American forces at the Battle of New Orleans. He was a polarizing figure who dominated American politics in the 1820s and 1830s. His political ambition combined with his massive popular support shaped the modern Democratic Party. Basing his career in Tennessee, Jackson was the first President primarily associated with the frontier. He was nicknamed "Old Hickory" because he was renowned for his toughness.

47 cerebral hemorrhage
A cerebral hemorrhage is bleeding in the brain caused by the rupture of a blood vessel within the head. Hemorrhagic stroke occurs when a blood vessel bursts inside the brain. The brain is very sensitive to bleeding and damage can occur very rapidly, either because of the presence of the blood itself, or because the fluid increases pressure on the brain and harms it by pressing it against the skull.

47 Warm Springs
Warm Springs is a small town (population 485) in Meriwether County, Georgia. It first came to prominence in the 19th century as a spa town, because of its mineral springs which flow constantly at nearly 90° Fahrenheit. It became known to the nation and the world, however, as the vacation retreat of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who first came in the 1920s in hopes that the warm water would improve his paraplegia, at the time thought to be due to polio. He was a constant visitor for two decades. During his presidency, Roosevelt's tiny white cottage in Warms Springs was called the Little White House. He died there in 1945.

48 Arthur Godfrey
(1903-1983) Arthur Godfrey's straightforward, informal style—along with his tendency to poke fun at his sponsors—made him one of the most popular radio and television personalities of his time. Born in New York City, Godfrey made his radio debut in 1929 in Baltimore as "Red Godfrey, the Warbling Banjoist." He became nationally known in 1945 when, as CBS's morning-radio man in Washington, he gave a live, first-hand account of President Roosevelt's funeral procession. The entire CBS network picked up the broadcast. Unlike the tight-lipped news reporters and commentators of the day, who delivered breaking stories in an earnest, businesslike manner, Godfrey's tone was sympathetic and neighborly, lending immediacy and intimacy to his words. When describing new President Harry S. Truman's car in the procession, Godfrey said, in a choked voice, "God bless him, President Truman." Godfrey broke down in tears, and the entire nation was moved by his emotional outburst. Two weeks later, CBS gave him a national daily morning radio show, "Arthur Godfrey Time," which ran on the radio until 1973 and also ran on television from 1948 to 1959. A weekly evening program, "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts," aired on CBS radio from 1946 to 1956 and on CBS Television from 1948 until 1958. Another weekly evening program, "Arthur Godfrey and His Friends," aired on CBS Television from 1949 until 1959. For eight years, Godfrey hosted a daily and two weekly national television and radio series at the same time.

49 Mrs. Truman
Bess Truman (1885-1982), born in Independence, Missouri. The daughter of a farmer, she and Harry Truman were childhood sweethearts and married in 1919. Mrs. Truman found the White House's lack of privacy distasteful. As her husband put it later, she was "not especially interested" in the "formalities and pomp or the artificiality which, as we had learned..., inevitably surround the family of the President." Though she steadfastly fulfilled the social obligations of her position, she did only what she thought was necessary. Although a private person, she exerted considerable influence over Truman's public career; every evening in the family quarters of the White House, the couple discussed the issues Mr. Truman faced in the Oval Office. Following the presidency, Mrs. Truman lived quietly until her death.

49 Margaret
Margaret Truman (1924-2008) was the only child of Harry and Bess Truman. Margaret pursued a singing career during the late 1940s. Following a performance in December 1950, *Washington Post* music critic Paul Hume wrote that she was "extremely attractive on the stage ... [but] cannot sing very well. She is flat a good deal of the time." Her father wrote to Hume, "I have never met you, but if I do you'll need a new nose and plenty of beefsteak and perhaps a supporter below." The un-presidential words of a protective father caused quite a stir in the press. Years later Margaret recalled, "I thought it was funny. Sold tickets." Later in life she wrote biographies of both her parents. She also wrote books on White House first ladies and pets, and the history of the White House and its inhabitants, along with a critically successful series of fictional murder mysteries set in various locations in and around Washington, D.C. She continued to write and publish regularly into her eighties.

49 sorghum
a syrup made from the juice varieties of sorghum, a cereal plant cultivated in warm climates

50 Mr. Vivian Truman
John Vivian Truman (1886-1965), a county purchasing agent in Missouri, later appointed district FHA director for western Missouri

51 the armed forces were finally integrated
Black men had served alongside whites in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and at other times; but in the Civil War, black soldiers were assigned to segregated units of the Union Army. After the Civil War, most blacks who served did so as stewards and mess men or in other service and labor jobs. Those who were smart and talented and wanted to get ahead couldn't. Truman was motivated to integrate the armed forces by the convergence of a number of events. America had just fought a war against militarism and racism overseas, making it hard to sustain a segregationist policy back home. Growing instability on the Korean Peninsula and the emerging Cold War with the Soviet Union convinced the President and his advisers of the need for a large standing army. In South Carolina, a sheriff went unpunished after he intentionally blinded Isaac Woodard, a black former Army sergeant. Truman signed an Executive Order in 1948 ordering equal treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces and establishing a committee to oversee military desegregation. Not all military leaders agreed, but with the Air Force leading the way, the armed forces began tearing down racial barriers.

51 General Eisenhower and General Marshall
se notes for Eisenhower on page 13 and Marshall on page 16

51 Andrus Field
Andrews Air Force Base is located in Prince George's County, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. It is the home base of the U.S. presidential aircraft, *Air Force One*. Originally known as Camp Springs Army Air Base, the base was renamed Andrews Field in 1945 after Frank Maxwell Andrews, a pivotal figure in the development of the United States Air Force, who had died in an airplane accident in 1943.

51 the 1947 All-Star baseball game

The 1947 All-Star Game was held on Tuesday, July 8, 1947. The American League won the fourteenth midsummer classic by a score of 2 to 1. The game was held at Wrigley Field in Chicago, in front of 41,123 fans.

52 "I'm Just Wild about Harry"

"I'm Just Wild about Harry" was written by Eubie Blake (music) and Noble Sissle (lyrics) for the 1929 Broadway production of *Shuffle Along*.

53 Truman's civil-rights plank

By 1947, as the Cold War with the Soviet Union intensified and the nation was becoming increasingly anti-communist and intolerant, Harry Truman, who had once held strong racial biases, astonished everyone by suddenly supporting civil rights. Truman had been outraged at assaults on dozens of black veterans of World War II. He authorized a fifteen-man committee on Civil Rights to recommend new legislation to protect people from discrimination. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Truman became the first President of the United States to address the NAACP. He promised African Americans that the federal government would act now to end discrimination, violence, and race prejudice in American life. In the election year of 1948, Truman continued to push for civil rights, partially because he felt that it was the right thing to do, and partially because he knew that he had to win the black vote in order to be elected. Although most political analysts predicted a Republican landslide, Truman believed that the election would depend on a handful of cities in the North where the balance of power would be held by black votes. Senator Hubert Humphrey, who was deeply committed to civil rights, successfully maneuvered the Democratic Party to support a strong civil rights plank in its campaign platform. One of Truman's strongest arguments in favor of civil rights was that America and Russia were now locked in the Cold War, and Russia was criticizing America's segregationist policies in order to win support from the rest of the world. Strom Thurmond, then Governor of South Carolina, and a group of Southern delegates walked out of the Democratic Convention when the civil rights platform passed. After the convention, Truman ordered the armed forces to be integrated (*see note, page 51*). Truman's stance on civil rights won him the black vote in 1948—and with it, the presidential election.

53 tear the old place down and rebuild

Decades of poor maintenance, the construction of a fourth story attic during the Coolidge administration, and the addition of a second-floor balcony over the south portico for Harry Truman took a great toll on the White House, a brick and sandstone structure built around a timber frame. In 1948 the house was declared to be in imminent danger of collapse, forcing President Truman to commission a reconstruction and move across the street to Blair House from 1949 to 1951. The work, done by the firm of Philadelphia contractor John McShain, required the complete dismantling of the interior spaces, construction of a new load-bearing internal steel frame, and the reconstruction of the original rooms within the new structure. Some modifications to the floor plan were made, the largest being the repositioning of the grand staircase to open into the Entrance Hall, rather than the Cross Hall. Central air conditioning was added, as well as two additional sub-basements providing space for workrooms, storage, and a bomb shelter. The Trumans moved back into the White House in March 1952. While the house's structure was kept intact by the Truman reconstruction, much of the new interior finishes were of little historic value. Much of the original plasterwork, some dating back to the 1814–1816 rebuilding, was too damaged to reinstall, as was the original Beaux Arts paneling in the East Room. President Truman had the original timber frame sawed into paneling; the walls of the Vermeil Room, Library, China Room, and Map Room on the ground floor of the main residence were paneled in wood from the timbers.

54 Governor Dewey

Thomas E. Dewey (1902 –1971) was the Governor of New York (1943-1955) and the unsuccessful Republican candidate for the U.S. presidency in 1944 and 1948. As a leader of the liberal faction of the Republican party, he played a major role in nominating Dwight D. Eisenhower for the presidency in 1952. He represented the northeastern business and professional community that accepted most of the New Deal after 1944. His successor as leader of the liberal Republicans was Nelson A. Rockefeller, who became Governor of New York in 1959.

54 Blair House

Blair House is located at 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, D.C., opposite the Old Executive Office Building of the White House, off the corner of Lafayette Park. The main house was built in 1824 of buff-colored limestone and is a late example of the Federal style. The house was built as a private home for Joseph Lovell, first Surgeon General of the United States. In 1836 it was acquired by Francis Preston Blair, a newspaper publisher and influential advisor to President Andrew Jackson. It would remain in his family until 1942 when it was purchased by the U.S. government and became the official residence for guests of the U.S. President.

54 maitre d'hôtel

(French: master of the house) Originally, a majordomo, the highest (*major*) person of a household (*domo*) staff, one who acts on behalf of the owner of a large residence. This is Mr. Fields's meaning. Today the term is used most often in restaurants, usually abbreviated to maitre d'.

55 Grandma Moses

Anna Mary Robertson Moses (1860–1961), better known as "Grandma Moses," was a renowned American folk artist. Born in Greenwich, New York, she grew up on a farm, married farmer Thomas Salmon Moses in 1887, and had 10 children, five of whom died in infancy. Afflicted with arthritis in her 70s, she was forced to give up sewing and began to paint colorful childhood country scenes in a primitive style, such as *Catching the Thanksgiving Turkey* (c.1938), *Over the River to Grandma's House* (c.1938), and *A Country Wedding* (1951). Her works were spotted by an art dealer and she held her first show in New York City in 1940 at the age of 80, achieving great popular success throughout the United States. She died at the age of 101.

55 WACs

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was the women's branch of the U.S. Army, created in 1943. About 150,000 American women served in the WAC during World War II. They were the first women other than nurses to serve with the Army. While conservative opinion in the leadership of the Army and public opinion generally was initially opposed to women serving in uniform, the shortage of men necessitated a new policy. Most women served stateside, but others served in Europe, North Africa, and New Guinea. Some men feared that if women became soldiers, their masculinity would be devalued; others feared being sent into combat units if women took over the safe jobs. However, top military generals like MacArthur called the WACs "my best soldiers." Many generals wanted more of them and proposed to draft women, but Congress was not willing. The women who did serve released seven divisions of men for combat. Eisenhower said the Allies could not have won the war without them. During the same time period, other branches of the U.S. military had similar women's units, including the Navy WAVES, the SPARS of the Coast Guard, and the Airforce WASPs. The WAC was disbanded in 1978. Since then, women in the U.S. Army have served in the same units as men, although they have only been allowed in or near combat situations since 1994.

55 WAVES

The WAVES were a World War II–era division of the U.S. Navy that consisted entirely of women. The name of this group is an acronym for "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" (as well as an allusion to ocean waves); the word "emergency" implied that the acceptance of women was due to the unusual circumstances of the war and that at the end of the war the women would not be allowed to continue in Navy careers. The WAVES began in 1942, two months after the WAC was established and Eleanor Roosevelt convinced Congress to authorize a women's component of the Navy. Within a year the WAVES were 27,000 strong. A large proportion of the WAVES did clerical work, but some took positions in the aviation community, Judge Advocate General's Corps, medical professions, communications, intelligence, storekeeper, science, and technology. The WAVES did not accept African American women into the division until late 1944, at which point they trained one black woman for every 36 white women enlisted in the WAVES. With the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, women gained permanent status in the armed services. Although the WAVES officially ceased to exist at that time, the acronym was in common use well into the 1970s.

55 GIs

GI is a term describing a member of the U.S. armed forces or an item of their equipment. It may be used as an adjective or as a noun. The origin of the term is the letters "GI" used in U.S. Army inventories and supply records to denote equipment such as metal trash cans made from galvanized iron. During World War I, U.S. soldiers sardonically referred to incoming German artillery shells as "GI cans." Someone, somewhere assumed that GI stood for Government Issue, and the term was soon applied to all military equipment and to the soldiers themselves (another incorrect interpretation is General Infantry). The term's usage spread with the American troops during World War II.

55 chiefs of staff

The Joint Chiefs of Staff is a group comprising the chiefs of service of each major branch of the armed services in the United States armed forces.

55 Secretary of State

The United States Secretary of State is the head of the United States Department of State, concerned with foreign affairs. The Secretary is a member of the President's Cabinet. He or she is the highest ranked cabinet secretary both in line of succession and order of precedence. Dean Acheson (1893–1971) was Secretary of State for President Truman from 1949 to 1953. He played a central role not only in defining American foreign policy during the Cold War, but also in the creation of many important institutions, including Lend Lease, the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, together with the early organizations that later became the European Union and the World Trade Organization. His most famous decision was convincing the nation to intervene, in June 1950, in the Korean War. Acheson was a prominent defender of State Department employees accused during Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist investigations, incurring the wrath of McCarthy himself. Acheson was instrumental in forming the U.S. policy toward Vietnam, persuading Truman to dispatch aid and advisors to French forces in Indochina, though he would later counsel President Lyndon B. Johnson to negotiate for peace with North Vietnam. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy called upon Acheson for advice, bringing him into the executive committee, a strategic advisory group.

56 Korean War

The Korean War was an escalation of border clashes between two rival Korean regimes, each of which was supported by external powers, with each trying to topple the other through political and guerilla tactics. In a very narrow sense, some may refer to it as a civil war, though many other factors were at play. After failing to strengthen their cause in the free elections held in South Korea during May 1950, and the refusal of South Korea to hold new elections per North Korean demands, the communist North Korean Army moved south on June 25, 1950 to attempt to reunite the Korean peninsula, which had been formally divided since 1948. The conflict was then expanded by the United States and the Soviet Union's involvement as part of the larger Cold War. Hostilities continued until an armistice was signed in July 1953. In the United States, the conflict was officially termed a police action—the Korean Conflict—rather than a war, largely in order to avoid the necessity of a declaration of war by the U.S. Congress. The war is sometimes called "the Forgotten War" because it is a major conflict of the 20th century that gets far less attention than World War II, which preceded it, and the controversial Vietnam War, which succeeded it.

56 Governor Stevenson

Adlai Ewing Stevenson II (1900–1965) was an American politician, noted for his intellectual demeanor and advocacy of liberal causes in the Democratic Party. He served one term as governor of Illinois and ran, unsuccessfully, for President against Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. He served as Ambassador to the United Nations from 1961 to 1965.

57 Mrs. Eisenhower

Mamie Eisenhower (1896-1979) was born in Boone, Iowa, the daughter of a wealthy Denver meatpacker. She met Dwight Eisenhower when he was a young officer at Fort Sam Houston, and they married in 1916. For years, her life followed the pattern of other Army wives: a succession of posts in the United States, in the Panama Canal Zone, in France, in the Philippines. She once estimated that in 37 years she had unpacked her household at least 27 times. Each move meant another step in the career ladder for her husband, with increasing responsibilities for her. As First Lady, her outgoing manner, her feminine love of pretty clothes and jewelry, and her obvious pride in husband and home made her a very popular First Lady. Mamie was known as a penny pincher who clipped coupons for the White House staff. Her recipe for "Mamie's million dollar fudge" was reproduced by housewives all over the country after it was printed in many publications.

57 Richard Nixon

Richard Milhous Nixon (1913-1994) was the 37th President of the United States from 1969 to 1974. Prior to being elected President, Nixon served as the 36th Vice President of the United States in the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953 to 1961. Nixon is the only person to be elected twice to the offices of the presidency and the vice presidency, and is the only President to have resigned the office. During the Second World War, he served as a Navy lieutenant commander in the Pacific, before being elected to the Congress, and later serving as Vice President. After an unsuccessful presidential run in 1960, Nixon was elected in 1968. Under President Nixon, the United States followed a foreign policy marked by détente with the Soviet Union and by the opening of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Domestically, his administration faced resistance to the Vietnam War. As a result of the Watergate scandal, Nixon resigned the presidency in the face of likely impeachment by the United States House of Representatives and conviction by the Senate. His successor, Gerald Ford, issued a controversial pardon for any federal crimes Nixon may have committed.

Resources

Books

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"Eleanor and Franklin." HBO Home Video. 1977.

"Truman." HBO Home Video. 1995.

WEBSITES

www.whitehousehistory.org

www.whitehouse.gov/history

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Alonzo Fields served as a butler in the White House. Make a list of the activities that you think a butler would do. Do you think being a butler for a President is an important job? Do you think Alonzo Fields is a role model? Discuss and debate.

Fields accepts the job to work for the Hoovers during the Great Depression. Read about the Depression. Use the Internet to find photographs and paintings of Americans of all races during the Depression era. Create a collage of the images.

Read "A Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

Research Langston Hughes. How does this poem relate to Alonzo Fields? Do you think any of the lines describe what happened to Alonzo's dream? What dreams do you have for the future? What can you imagine might stand in the way of realizing your dreams?

Read about the four Presidents mentioned in the play. Which President would you have voted for? Write a campaign speech for him.

Make a list of the major issues of the current presidential race (e.g. economy, health care, foreign policy, war, etc.). How do the questions and problems facing Americans today compare with the major issues of the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower administrations?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Looking Over the President's Shoulder is a one-man show. What differences are there between a solo performance piece and a multi-person show? Choose a character from history and write a monologue for that person. Have a classmate read the monologue aloud.

Go online to our website www.irtlive.com and write your review of *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*. Be specific in your assessment—more than just "it was good or bad." A well-rounded review includes your opinion of all the theatrical aspects for sound, scenery, lights, direction, acting, your impressions of the script, and the impact the story/themes and the overall production had on you. Think about the demands of a one-man show on an actor. Comment on how the actor used his body, voice, text, production elements, etc., to bring the story to life. How did you feel at the end of the play? Did you notice the reactions of the audience as a whole? Would you recommend this play to others? Why or why not?

Fields says that he knows some people might call him an "Uncle Tom." What is an "Uncle Tom?" Research Harriet Beecher Stowe. Debate the question in groups.

Discuss how the play deals with the issue of racism. Has there ever been a time when you felt discriminated against? Interview a parent or grandparent about race relations when s/he was growing up. Have things changed? How so? Do you think race plays an important role in American society today?

What we read and learn about history depends on who is doing the recording of and writing about a particular event. Create a short scene that includes an argument for two students to enact in class (e.g. one person accuses the other of stealing, or cheating, or lying, etc.). Have the rest of the class write an eyewitness account of the interaction. Be sure to include details about what was said, how the actors looked, how they sounded, etc. What does everyone agree on? What are some differences in perception?

Questions for Discussion

What major historical events would Fields have witnessed in his tenure at the White House? What do you think it would have been like to be around the Presidents on a daily basis during these important times? How would you have felt?

What do you think it would be like to work for the President of the Unites States? How would being a domestic servant differ from being on the administrative staff? How do you think Alonzo Fields would have responded to the idea that Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice would be top presidential advisors, or that Barak Obama might be the Democratic candidate for President?

How do each of the Presidents and their families differ? What relevance, if any, do you think these differences have? Can we learn anything about the Presidents' political viewpoints, values, or ideals from the way they behave in their private lives?

This season the IRT is producing three plays based on true stories: *Tuesdays with Morrie, The Power of One*, and *Looking Over the President's Shoulder.* Each of these plays treats its historical subject matter with varying degrees of accuracy. Are you familiar with other plays based on history? What is the playwright's obligation when there is a conflict between historic accuracy and dramatic interest? How might this obligation vary based upon the playwright's intentions or our distance from the events depicted? When would you consider it to be definitely wrong to "bend" facts for dramatic interest? When might it be more acceptable?

What can we learn about history or politics from a personal account or memoir that we cannot learn from history books, news articles, or speeches?

Alonzo Fields was neither rich nor famous; his name appears in few history books. Yet he provided significant service to the President and the country. What other little-known figures from the past or present can you think of who have an interesting story to tell? What person or persons have you known yourself who might be an interesting subject for a play? What is it about these people that makes them interesting?

How did being an African American from the North affect Alonzo Fields's life and his choices?

Alonzo Fields ended up spending his life doing something very different from what he had planned. Do you know other persons, either famous or historical or in your own life, who have had similar experiences? Were they disappointed or pleasantly surprised (or both)? How did they handle this aspect of life?

Does the play have special resonance for you in this election year?

How does a one-man show differ from a more traditional play with multiple characters? How do these differences affect you as an audience member?

Choose a figure from history or from your own life. How would you create a play about that person's life? What kind of research would you do? Would your play have just one actor or more? Would your play try to cover the character's entire life or only one particular aspect of that life? What actors can you think of who could play your principal character?

This is a play which takes place in many different locations and which covers a long period of time. What are the challenges of designing scenery for such a play? What might be various solutions to these challenges? After seeing the IRT production, how effective did you find the scenic designer's choices? How did lighting help to meet these challenges?

What do you know about American and world history between 1931 and 1953? What other plays or movies have you seen which take place during this time period? As you watch the play, how does your knowledge of historic events affect your reaction to the play?

What do you imagine might be the special challenges to a playwright in creating a one-man-show? What special challenges might the actor face?

Describe the performance of the actor in this play. Which moments were especially powerful for you? What made them so?

Did you find any particular moments of this production to be memorable for you? Describe them and explain what made them so. Did you find yourself responding to certain aspects of the production more strongly that others? Text? Performance? Music? Visual design elements? Plot? How did your experience of this production compare to that of others? How do you explain the similarities or differences?