

CAPSULE HISTORY OF W&L MOCK CONVENTIONS

Democratic convention chosen apparently because overwhelming political sentiment among students

1908

Right with William Jennings Bryan in Democratic Convention

Democratic

First convention began as a class project, ~~the~~ inspiration of Prof. W. Jett Lauck of political science department. From ~~the~~ beginning students took measures to see ~~that~~ convention was carried out ~~the~~ same ^{way} as ~~the~~ national one. A fight erupted in ~~the~~ Kansas delegation, ~~and~~ elsewhere ~~things~~ ~~got~~ ~~so~~ ~~heated~~ ~~that~~ several delegates threatened to retire outside to settle ~~the~~ differences. ~~Leading~~ Leading candidates were Bryan, John A. Johnson, Edward W. Carmack. Johnson men became so incensed at a ruling from the convention chairman ~~concerning~~ ~~the~~ ~~unit~~ ~~rule~~ that they bolted, repaired to ~~an~~ English classroom and nominated Johnson for president, Carmack for vice president. ~~With~~ ~~them~~ gone, regular convention nominated Bryan for president ^{On last ballot, picked} Charles A. Culberson for vice president.

National Democrats, convening ~~in~~ later in Denver, chose Bryan and ?? Bryan/lost to ~~the~~ Republican William Howard Taft. ticket

1912

Wrong with Judson Harmon in Democratic Convention

^{Cov. of Ohio,} Harmon ^{chosen} chosen on fifth ballot as compromise after neither Woodrow Wilson ^{nor} ^{Champion} ^{Clark} could muster required 2/3 majority (364 votes). ~~Wilson~~ Students almost picked Wilson (his total 311 on 1st ballot, 327 on 2nd, 318 on 3rd, 292 on 4th). Clark had 227 on 1st, 184 on 2nd, 199 on 3rd, 225 on 4th. Harmon ~~was~~ ~~placed~~ ~~in~~ ~~nomi-~~ ~~nation~~ ~~after~~ ~~4th~~, won ~~with~~ ~~372~~ ~~votes~~ after first New York, largest delegation with 45 votes, switched from Wilson to Harmon, then Pennsylvania, second largest with 38, ~~switched~~ ~~from~~ switched from Clark. Pre-convention instructions were for "the men on each delegation (to) control the voice of that delegation, no matter what the voters back at home may have said or done." Both Clark, Wilson ~~the~~ champions ~~had~~ set up headquarters downtown and stretched banners for their men across Main St. After 4th, Wilson men attempted to have ~~unit~~ rule abolished, but failed. 2/3 majority

National Democrats, convening later in Baltimore, chose Wilson and ?? Wilson ticket defeated William Howard Taft.

1916

Right with Charles Evans Hughes in first Republican convention

Since it was "a foregone fact" ~~that~~ President Wilson would be ~~the~~ Democratic nominee, students switched to Republican convention "In order that the final outcome might be more doubtful than in a Democratic convention." After platform planks on women's suffrage and prohibition were rejected following floor fights, students nominated Justice Hughes/~~on sixth ballot~~ of New York on sixth ballot. Hughes trailed Elihu Root of New York on first ballot (87 to 75); trailed Sen. Albert E. Cummings of Iowa ~~and Root~~ and Root on second (Cummings 133, Root 76, Hughes 70); took lead and withstood ~~and~~ bid by backers of Sen. William E. Borah of Idaho on third (Hughes 167, Borah 115); beat back bid by supporters of Theodore Burton of Ohio on 4th (Hughes 175, Burton 154), then trailed badly on 5th when former President Theodore Roosevelt, who had ~~been~~ previously been out of the running, almost captured nomination (Roosevelt 196, Root 181, Hughes 40). Then Root backers flocked to Hughes to stop Roosevelt. In apparent move to ~~to~~ stop Roosevelt, Root backers flocked to Hughes, and he went over top ~~with 309~~ on 6th with 309 votes to Roosevelt's 147. Miles Poindexter of Washington, W&L alumnus, chosen for vice president.

With 231 votes needed to nominate

National Republicans, convening later in ??, nominated Hughes and ?? . Hughes ticket defeated by President Wilson.

1920

No convention as campus depleted following World War I.

Leading contenders were

1924

Right with John W. Davis in Democratic convention wets wanted Floor fight developed over prohibition plank in platform; ~~the~~ ~~to~~ ~~modify~~ Volstead Act to permit beer and wine sales; ~~the~~ were defeated 199-119 despite telegram of support from Plumbers Union of Bangor, Me. Then followed famous 23-ballot deadlock emulated by national convention in 104 ballots. William G. McAdoo of California, Alfred E. Smith of New York and Carter Glass of Virginia. McAdoo led early ballots, remained strong through first 10, plummeted to as low as 17 ~~votes~~ on 13th, skyrocketed to 367 on 17th; still strong on final ballot with 221 votes. Smith never in strong contention after first 3 ballots. After ~~initial~~ initial ballots, Glass gained strength steadily, reaching high of 327 on 13th, then began to decline. /Key states New York and Pennsylvania held out for Davis,

Throughout deadlock John W. while Ohio, Georgia, & Texas ~~stayed~~ stayed with McAdoo. After 22nd ballot, Ohio, Texas and Connecticut "withdrew" and when they returned/Davis was W. elected on next ballot. ~~in~~ Davis, a W&L alumnus, had been state legislator, Congressman, U. S. solicitor general, Wilson's ambassador to England, president of Amer. Bar Assn. Students chose Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas for vice president

no Real convention in New York ~~nominated~~ nominated Davis on 104th ballot after long Smith-& McAdoo deadlock, ?? for vice president. Davis ticket defeated by Calvin Coolidge.

1928

Right with Alfred E. Smith in Democratic Convention

This convention marks the first time student delegates began receiving instructions from real politicians on a heavy scale. "Telegraph wires were kept busy" with such messages, reported convention newspaper. Nation's press also began to notice convention--New York World requested 200 words. Smith finally got nomination on 17th ballot despite fact not a single Southern state supported him in early balloting. Main protagonists were Smith, Sen. James A. Reed and Sen. Walsh. Will Rogers also nominated. Platform fight ~~was more a minor issue in the main~~ involved wet plank, anti-intervention in Nicaragua and the League of Nations and World Court. Convention chose Walter F. George of Georgia for vice president.

National Democrats, meeting later in Houston, chose Smith and ??
Smith ticket lost to/Herbert Hoover.
Republican

1932

Right with Franklin D. Roosevelt in Democratic Convention

FDR chosen on ninth ballot after "considerable scuffling" among delegates and a ban on noise-makers after all the demonstrations were over. FDR was favorite and gained steadily on each ballot except fifth, when supporters of John Garner of Texas made last concentrated effort. On 9th FDR had 607 votes to Newton D. Baker's 208. This first time outside "dignitary" delivered keynote address. Student convention chairman Ross Malone ill, keynote address given by Tyree Taylor, president of Young Democrat Clubs of America. Earlier, Claude G. Bowers, keynoter of real Democratic convention in 1928, spoke and fired up delegates. Repeal of prohibition again sparked floor fight. Delegates chose Harry F. Byrd of Virginia for vice president.

National Democrats, meeting in _____, chose Roosevelt and Garner. They defeated ~~him~~ incumbent President Hoover.

1936

Wrong with Arthur Vandenburg in Republican convention.

Students erred by not picking/pre-convention favorite, Alfred Landon of Kansas, who had/captured 11 of 12 college polls and conventions (only ^{their} already W&L was wrong that year). They surprised even themselves by picking darkhorse Vandenburg after deadlock developed in early balloting between Landon and Sen. William Borah of Idaho. Vandenburg received only a majority of seven on 5th ~~ballot~~ and final ballot after Shift of several large states (including Pennsylvania, whose delegates were polled and the vote count twice reversed until "finally decided by an errant delegate brought in from the tennis courts and voting for Vandenburg") Keynoter was Rep. Fred A. Hartley Jr. (R-N.J.) who blasted FDR and his New Deal. Another ~~first~~ first--GOP elephant made the scene. James W. Wadsworth of New York named for vice president.

Real Republicans, ~~in~~ convening in Cleveland, chose Landon and ??
They ~~was~~ lost to Roosevelt/ ticket.

1940

Wrong with Charles L. McNary in Republican convention

Following keynote address by Rep. James Wadsworth (R.-N.Y.) in which FDR, New Deal again blasted, students couldn't decide among ~~from~~ McNary of Oregon, Senate minority leader

Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Thomas E. Dewey of New York and Vandenburg. McNary led early balloting, then Taft and Dewey alternately rose to top of subsequent ballots. Vandenburg received enough votes for nomination on 14th, but the vote was protested, and student chairman of New Jersey delegation announced that Vandenburg had withdrawn his name. Taft had sizable lead on 15th and on 16th Dewey's New York followers switched to McNary, giving him nomination on 17th. Convention completely overlooked eventual real nominee Wendell Willkie. (McNary 624, Taft 107, Dewey 12)

In convention antics, New York delegation bolted ~~and~~ from convention because its chairman was actually from South Carolina, Pennsylvania walked out in sympathy, but all were persuaded to return after telegram was received from N. Y. chairman ~~stating~~ he had an apartment on Fifth Avenue and "spent the majority of his time there." Effort also made to remove Virgin Island's lone delegate because Islands were "overrun with CCC camps." Delegate was thrown out but allowed to return after receiving favorable vote from convention.

completely
Convention, after/overlooking eventual nominee Wendell Willkie, chose Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire for vice president.

Real Republicans, meeting in ?? picked Willkie and ??
They lost to FDR ticket

1944

No convention due to World War II depletion of students on campus

1948

Wrong with Vandenburg again in Republican convention.