

UNSUSPECTED PRESIDENTIAL VANITIES

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Suppose that until recently one traditional (if rather odd) question asked of all newly-elected or newly-seated U.S. presidents at their first press conference was this one: "Had you never entered public life, what do you think would be your chief claim to fame at this time?" (In their logologically-fancied responses that follow, the word "my" is always exogenous.)

George Washington: "My hit song, 'Waggoneer!'"

John Adams: "My jam-on-shad."

Thomas Jefferson: "My fame? Softer johns."

James Madison: "My joss-man I made."

James Monroe: "Me? My major nose."

John Quincy Adams: "My joy—*quad chins*, man!"

Andrew Jackson: "My 'Cajan Ken' sword."

Martin Van Buren: "My *Burnt Vermin* ana."

William Henry Harrison: "My hairy men's ill-worn hair."

John Tyler: "Try my hen, 'J-Lo.'"

James Polk: "My joke 'lamps.'"

Zachary Taylor: "My crazy 'royal' hat."

Millard Fillmore: "Me, I *am* my droll frill."

Franklin Pierce: "My pink fern 'Claire.'"

James Buchanan: "My Cuban 'hen' 'jamas.'"

Abraham Lincoln: "My 'banal lion' charm."

Andrew Johnson: "My shorn jaw, end-on."

Ulysses Simpson Grant: "My *Messy Sarongs Nip Lust*."

Rutherford Birchard Hayes: "My hardy brother Ed's fur chair."

James Abram Garfield: "My marmalade-fiber jags."

Chester Alan Arthur: "My *A Churl's Earthen Art*."

Grover Cleveland: "My clever 'Groveland.'"

Benjamin Harrison: "'Jasmine,' my rhino barn."

William McKinley: "My wily *Limekiln Mac*."

Theodore Roosevelt: "My *Shoe Tree Lover* to-do."

William Howard Taft: "O! My wild 'fat mail' wrath!"

Thomas Woodrow Wilson: "Oh, my *town!* Warm wood silos!"

Warren Gamaliel Harding: "Hard...My gaming warren, Leila?"

John Calvin Coolidge: "My jovial conch 'Goldine.'"

Herbert Clark Hoover: "My *Herbal Rocker* thrive..."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "My dark *Flint Loon* verse."

Harry S Truman: "My marshy rat run."

Dwight David Eisenhower: "I? My overweight Wendish dad."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy: "Oh, my rank, dented, jingly fez!"

Lyndon Baines Johnson: "My old 'nanny' job shines on..."

Richard Milhous Nixon: "My rich, loud mini-saxhorn."

Gerald Rudolph Ford: "Ralph, my old furred dog."

James Earl Carter: "Ere smarter, my *jacal*."

Ronald Wilson Reagan: "My role in 'Law and Organs.'"