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.)

John Adams: “My jam-on-shad.”
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.”
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* throve...”
Franklin D. Roosevelt: “My dark *Flint Loon* verse.”
Harry S Truman: “My marshy rat run.”
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.’”