

Astrology and National Holidays

EVERYBODY KNOWS why we celebrate our nation's birthday July 4, but not everybody knows why we elect our federal officials the first week in November and why, until 1933, our presidents were inaugurated March 4. It's because of astrology! Our founding fathers knew that in the stellar science the trine (120 degrees) is a most fortunate aspect; so, if the three most important political events in the nation's calendar would be four months, or approximately 120 days, apart, this would bring prosperity, success.

During the 1920's it came to be believed that the time interval between the creation of a new president and his taking office was too long. The Twentieth Amendment (popularly called the Lame Duck Amendment) was passed, and when FDR took the oath of office the second time, in 1937, it was on January 20, and has been thus ever since. Some have claimed that this change is the reason why the 1930's marked a turning-point in American history, the start of decline.¹

Is it wise to hold elections in early November? The usual argument in favor is that harvest is over and the real cold weather hasn't set in yet. Be that as it may, there's an interesting astrological side-light: How often have you heard that people generally vote *against* a candidate, rather than *for*, with no little vengeance! That is typically Scorpio—the sign the Sun transits early November.

And what difference has the transfer of Inauguration Day from March 4 to January 20 made? On March 4 the Sun transits Pisces, ruled (on the exoteric level) by Jupiter, which is said to



Franklin D. Roosevelt Photo Archives

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The first American president to be inaugurated on January 20, FDR was strongly Aquarian, by birth sign and by policy. He encouraged individual participation in the political process through "fireside chats" by radio and open press conferences.

be traditional, orthodox. On January 20, though, the Sun transits Aquarius, ruled by Uranus, the planet of the new. And it was during the 1930's that the greatest innovations to date in U.S. history were started.

The spokesman for a conservative group was asked why there were no conservative movements in this country before the Thirties. His reply was, "There was no need for them!" Absolutely true in light of astrology: *all* administrations of *all* parties, being Jupiter-ruled, had been traditional, conservative.²

A little less than a month after Inauguration Day comes Lincoln's Birthday, also called President's Day.³ It is noteworthy that it is the birthday of a president born under Aquarius that should be observed as President's Day. Is it to remind us that the U.S. is an Aquarian nation? We have a further reminder: so far, only one Aquarian president has left the White House alive and retired after his term expired. There's a fateful tie between our

Aquarian presidents and our Aquarian nation.⁴

Well might we observe Washington's birthday, born Feb. 22, 1732, for not only was he our first president,⁵ he was also a shining example of the best Piscean traits. Mental genius he wasn't; his great talent consisted of being able to inspire and keep his men together in retreat. It's easy to lead *after* victory, but Washington was retreating most of the time—he literally retreated *to* victory!

And just how did he achieve victory at Yorktown in October 1781? A few weeks before, he received a routine dispatch from an allied commander, Admiral de Grasse, in the French West Indies. Others might have given this note little attention or study, but Washington saw in it a blueprint for victory. Truly, he was an inspiring leader of vision—he saw the future; he reached for it; he made it his.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day, is the only day in the American public calendar dedicated to a saint. The noteworthy fact is that the sun is still in Pisces, the sign of saints and martyrs and those of high spiritual ideals.

Sometimes in March, sometimes in April, but always while the Sun transits Aries, is Easter. One symbol of Aries is a sprig of wheat, symbolic of the Resurrection, which Easter celebrates.

The second Sunday in May, when the sun is in Taurus, is Mother's Day. The Moon is the planet of motherhood. The Moon is exalted in Taurus, the sign of stability and security. At her exalted best, that's the role of motherhood—to provide a Taurean influence for the home.

Decoration Day, or Memorial Day, originally was always on May 30. At that time we honor those who have given their lives in the nation's conflicts. And on that day the Sun transits Uranus in the U.S. natal chart. All our major wars were at least in part due to our responding to the Uranian ray.

The first Monday in September is Labor Day, when the Sun is in Virgo, the sign of labor and service. All true labor should be regarded as service.

Though not always celebrated on October 12, that is considered the real Columbus Day.⁶ Of course we know Columbus didn't discover America, but it was after his voyages that a *relationship* developed between the Old World and the New. On October 12 the Sun is transiting Libra, the sign



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St. Patrick

St. Patrick survives the divisive church-state turf battle as the only saint for whom a day in the American public calendar is dedicated. The shamrock is a symbol of the Trinity.

of relationships.

Libra is also the sign of scales, balances—thus of judgment (Daniel 5:27). This is interesting since the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, really a day of judgment, and instituted in Old Testament times (Leviticus 16), is observed by American and other Jews while the Sun transits Libra.

For many years we observed Armistice Day on November 11. Now, on a Monday close to or on the same calendar date we observe Veteran's Day. At this time the Sun is in Scorpio, ruled in exoteric matters by Mars, the planet of wars. Also at that time the Sun is opposite the fixed star Algol, called the "most dangerous star in the heavens"⁷—and what's most dangerous, if not war?

On the last Thursday in November the nation pauses for Thanksgiving. Sadly, food and football preempt faith and family. In most people's minds the "T" stands for turkey rather than thanks. But

that's understandable; then the Sun is transiting Sagittarius, which is associated with exalted ideals as well as excessive pursuit of pleasure.

Capricorn (discipline) has the distinction of "hosting" three holidays. Christmas marks the birth of the Master. The person who truly follows Him takes up the discipline of self-mastery. On New Year's Day it is well to remember that to make the most of the year ahead requires discipline. And on January 15, when we think about human rights and dignity, we need to remember they must be deserved, based on the discipline of responsibility:

"No government, no people, no open-end check-book can give them [the American people]....self-respect self-esteem, a sense of *personal* worth and *personal* achievement....This cannot be legislated. It cannot be handed down by the courts. It must come from within the minds and hearts."⁸

The discerning reader will have noticed that no festival or holiday is identified with Leo, the sign of the Sun. Why might this be? Without the solar

orb, physical life would not be possible. But the Sun also symbolizes Him in whom we live and move and have our being. And Him we should praise and worship and adore not just one day a year, or even just one day a week, but every day and moment of our lives. □

—A Probationer

1. It is noteworthy that Uranus was transiting the Twelfth House of the U.S. chart, in the money sign Taurus; it was then that the U.S. embarked on a new fiscal policy which has produced the biggest debt of any nation in history.
2. 1936 was the first year that an avowedly conservative party, the Union Party, appeared on the ballot. Its purpose was to terminate the new policies being started by the U.S. government.
3. Lincoln's Birthday is not a federal holiday. See *Time*, January 27, 1986, p. 24.
4. Wm. H. Harrison died of "pneumonia and bilious pleurisy" April 4, 1841 (*Horoscopes of the U.S. Presidents*, Doris Chase Doane, p. 51); Lincoln was assassinated April 14, 1865; McKinley was shot September 6, 1901 and died September 14; FDR died of cerebral hemorrhage April 12, 1945.
5. Washington was the first president of our country after it adopted the Constitution in 1788; previously, our nation had functioned under the Articles of Confederation and George Hanson of Maryland was the first president under that system.
6. Some believe that Columbus actually "discovered" America on October 13 1492. See *America's Destiny*, by Theodore Heline, p. 32
- 7 *Astrology, the Divine Science*, Moore and Douglas, p. 736.
8. *House Divided*, Lionel Lokos, p. 476.

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