

= Garret Hobart =

Garret Augustus Hobart ( June 3 , 1844 ? November 21 , 1899 ) was the 24th Vice President of the United States ( 1897 ? 1899 ) , serving under President William McKinley . He was the sixth American vice president to die in office .

Hobart was born in Long Branch , New Jersey , on the Jersey Shore , and grew up in nearby Marlboro . After attending Rutgers College , Hobart read law with prominent Paterson attorney Socrates Tuttle . Hobart both studied with Tuttle , and married his daughter . Although he rarely set foot in a courtroom , Hobart became wealthy as a corporate lawyer .

Hobart served in local governmental positions , and then successfully ran for office as a Republican , serving in both the New Jersey General Assembly and the New Jersey Senate . He became Speaker of the first , and president of the latter . Hobart was a longtime party official , and New Jersey delegates went to the 1896 Republican National Convention determined to nominate the popular lawyer for vice president . Hobart 's political views were similar to those of McKinley , who was the presumptive Republican presidential candidate . With New Jersey a key state in the upcoming election , McKinley and his close adviser , future senator Mark Hanna , decided to have the convention select Hobart . The vice @-@ presidential candidate emulated his running mate with a front porch campaign , though spending much time at the campaign 's New York City office . McKinley and Hobart were elected .

As vice president , Hobart proved a popular figure in Washington and was a close adviser to McKinley . Hobart 's tact and good humor were valuable to the President , as in mid @-@ 1899 when Secretary of War Russell Alger failed to understand that McKinley wanted him to leave office . Hobart invited Alger to his New Jersey summer home , and broke the news to the secretary , who submitted his resignation to McKinley on his return to Washington . Hobart died in November 1899 of heart disease at age 55 ; his place on the Republican ticket in 1900 was taken by Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York .

= = Early life = =

Garret Augustus Hobart was born in Long Branch , New Jersey , to Addison Willard Hobart and the former Sophia Vanderveer . Addison Hobart descended from the early colonial settlers of New England ; many Hobarts served as pastors . Addison Hobart came to New Jersey to teach at a school in Marlboro NJ . His mother was descended from 17th @-@ century Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam ( today New York City ) who had moved to Long Island and then to New Jersey . When Addison and Sophia Hobart married in 1841 , they moved to Long Branch , where Addison founded an elementary school . Garret was born in Long Branch on June 3 , 1844 . Three children survived infancy ; Garret was the second of three boys .

Garret initially attended his father 's school in Long Branch . The Hobart family moved to Marlboro in the early 1850s ; Garret was sent to the village school . Childhood tales of the future vice president describe him as an excellent student in both day and Sunday School , and a leader in boyhood sports . Recognizing Garret 's abilities , his father sent him to a well @-@ regarded school in Freehold , but after a disagreement with the teacher , the boy refused to return ; he was sent to a school in Matawan , boarding there during the week . He graduated from that school in 1859 at age 15 , but being thought by his parents too young to go to college , remained home for a year studying and working part @-@ time . Garret Hobart then enrolled in Rutgers College , from which he graduated in 1863 at age 19 , finishing third in his class . He received his diploma from Theodore Frelinghuysen , New Jersey 's first major @-@ party vice @-@ presidential candidate , who had run unsuccessfully with Henry Clay in 1844 . In later life , Hobart was a generous donor to Rutgers , received an honorary degree after becoming vice president , and shortly before his death was elected a trustee .

= = Lawyer and part @-@ time politician = =

After graduation from Rutgers , Hobart worked briefly as a teacher to repay loans . Although Hobart was young and in good health , he did not serve in the Union Army . Addison Hobart 's childhood friend , lawyer Socrates Tuttle , offered to take Garret into his office to read law . Tuttle was a prominent Passaic County lawyer who had served in the legislature . Hobart supported himself during his time of study in Paterson by working as a bank clerk ; he later became director of the same bank . Hobart was admitted to the bar as an attorney in 1866 ; he became a counsellor @-@ at @-@ law in 1871 and was made a master in chancery in 1872 .

In addition to learning law from Tuttle , Hobart fell in love with his daughter . Jennie Tuttle Hobart remembered , " When this attractive young law student appeared in our home I , then a young girl in my teens , unexpectedly played a rôle of importance by losing my heart to him " . The two were married on July 21 , 1869 . The Hobarts had long been Democrats ; Garret Hobart 's marriage into the Republican Tuttle family converted him to that party . The couple had four children , two of whom survived infancy . One daughter , Fannie , died in 1895 ; Hobart 's son , Garret Jr. survived him .

Socrates Tuttle was influential in Paterson , which worked to Hobart 's advantage . According to Michael J. Connolly in his 2010 article about Hobart , the future vice president " benefitted greatly from Tuttle 's beneficence " . In 1866 , the year he became a lawyer , Hobart was appointed grand jury clerk for Passaic County . When Tuttle became mayor of Paterson in 1871 , he made Hobart city counsel . A year later , Hobart became counsel for the county Board of Chosen Freeholders .

In 1872 , Hobart ran as a Republican for the New Jersey General Assembly from Passaic County 's third legislative district . He was easily elected , taking nearly two @-@ thirds of the vote . The General Assembly was then elected annually and he was successful in winning re @-@ election the following year , although his margin of victory was cut in half . In 1874 , still only age 30 , he was voted Speaker of the Assembly . At the time , it was customary to step down after two terms , and he did so , although Hobart biographer David Magie maintained that he was urged to seek re @-@ election . Instead , he campaigned for the Republican nominee for his seat , who was elected . In 1876 , Hobart was nominated for the New Jersey Senate seat for Passaic County . He was elected to a three @-@ year term , and was re @-@ elected in 1879 . In 1881 and 1882 , he served as President of the state Senate , becoming the first man to lead both houses of the legislature . In 1883 , he was the Republican nominee in the election for United States Senate ? until 1913 , senators were elected by state legislatures . As the Democrats had more legislators , a Republican had no chance of election ? the nomination was simply a way of honoring Hobart for his political service . When he was asked his feelings about the nomination , he responded , " I do not worry about things that do not come my way . " The " complimentary " nomination would prove to be Hobart 's only electoral defeat .

Hobart said of his involvement in public affairs , " I make politics my recreation . " He devoted most of his time to a law practice which according to Hobart 's legislative biography was highly profitable . He was rarely seen in a courtroom ; his official biography for the 1896 campaign admitted that " he has actually appeared in court a smaller number of times than , perhaps , any lawyer in Passaic County " . Hobart 's real work was in advising corporations how to accomplish their aims , yet remain within the law . He also had a lucrative business acting as court @-@ appointed receiver of bankrupt railroads . Hobart reorganized them , and restored them to fiscal health . He often invested heavily in them ; his success made him wealthy . In addition to the railroads for which he acted as receiver , he served as president of the Paterson Railway Company , which ran the city 's streetcars , and as a board member for other railroads .

One reason for Hobart 's success in both the private and public sectors was his genial personality . He worked well with others , and was noted for tact and charm . Senator Mark Hatfield , in his book on American vice presidents , suggests that these qualities would have made Hobart successful in Washington had he run for Congress . Hatfield states that the reason why Hobart chose not to move from state to national politics before 1896 was a reluctance to leave a comfortable life and successful law practice in Paterson . Instead , Hobart continued to involve himself in party politics ; he was widely regarded as Northern New Jersey 's most influential Republican . Beginning in 1876 , he was a delegate to every Republican National Convention in his lifetime . He was a member of the New Jersey Republican Committee from 1880 to 1891 , resigning the position as he became more

deeply involved in Republican National Committee affairs ? he was New Jersey 's representative on the committee after 1884 , rising to become vice chairman .

= = Election of 1896 = =

= = = Selection as candidate = = =

Jennie Hobart , in her memoirs , traced her suspicions that her husband might be a vice @-@ presidential contender to a lunch she had with him at the Waldorf Hotel in New York in March 1895 . During the meal , industrialist and future senator Mark Hanna interrupted them to ask what Garret Hobart thought of the possible presidential candidacy of Ohio Governor William McKinley ? Hanna was one of McKinley 's principal backers . Garret Hobart evaded the question , but Jennie Hobart believed the conversation to have been the first of a chain of events which elevated her husband to national office .

In November 1895 , Republican John Griggs was elected governor of New Jersey ; his campaign was managed by Hobart . The election of New Jersey 's first Republican governor since the 1860s led to speculation in the newspapers that Hobart would be a candidate for vice president . New Jersey Republicans were anxious to nominate Hobart , both to see one of their own possibly elevated to national office , and in the hope that having Hobart on the national ticket would boost the Republican vote in New Jersey . Hobart was an attractive candidate as he was from a swing state , and the Griggs victory showed that Republicans could hope to win New Jersey 's electoral votes , which they had not done since 1872 . Another reason for a Hobart selection was his wealth ; he could be expected to spend abundantly on his own campaign .

According to Hanna biographer Herbert Croly , Hobart , an early supporter of McKinley , helped ensure New Jersey 's support for him at the Republican convention . Historian Stanley Jones , in his study of the 1896 election , stated that Hobart stopped off in Canton , Ohio , McKinley 's hometown , en route to the convention in St. Louis . Jones wrote that the future vice president was selected several days in advance , after Speaker of the House Thomas Reed of Maine turned down the nomination . Croly asserted that McKinley and Hanna desired an easterner on the ticket to balance it and boost support in the Mid @-@ Atlantic region . The conventional means of assuring this was to nominate a politician from New York , then the largest state in population . As many New York delegates supported their favorite son candidate , Governor ( and former vice president ) Levi P. Morton , instead of McKinley , giving the state the vice @-@ presidential nomination would be an unmerited reward . According to Croly ,

On the other hand , the adjoining state of New Jersey submitted an eligible candidate in Mr. Garret A. Hobart , who had done much to strengthen the Republican party in his own neighborhood . Mr. Hobart was well known to Mr. Hanna , and in all probability his nomination had been scheduled for some time . It was practically announced early in June . He was a lawyer and a business man with an exclusively local reputation ; and if he did little to strengthen the ticket he did nothing to weaken it .

McKinley was nominated for president on the first ballot . Hobart described his subsequent first @-@ ballot nomination for vice president as a tribute from his friends , but Hatfield noted , " it came equally as a tribute from [ Hanna , who ] wanted a ticket to satisfy the business interests of America , and Hobart , a corporate lawyer , fit that requirement perfectly " . Although a Hobart nomination had been talked about at least since Griggs ' victory the previous November , Hobart expressed reluctance in a letter to his wife from the convention : " It looks to me I will be nominated for Vice @-@ President whether I want it or not , and as I get nearer to the point where I may , I am dismayed at the thought ... If I want a nomination , everything is going my way . But when I realize all that it means in work , worry , and loss of home and bliss , I am overcome , so overcome I am simply miserable . " Despite Hobart 's expressed hesitation , he was welcomed home by a crowd of 15 @, @ 000 at the Paterson Armory . City officials , feeling they had insufficient fireworks to properly honor Hobart , obtained more from New York City .

According to historian R. Hal Williams , the Republicans left St. Louis in June with " a popular , experienced [ presidential ] candidate , a respected vice @-@ presidential nominee , and an attractive platform " . Many Republicans were convinced the election would be fought over the issue of tariffs , and they anticipated an easy victory . On June 30 , 1896 , Hobart journeyed by train to Canton , where he was met at the station by his running mate . McKinley drove Hobart to the Ohioan 's home , where Hobart followed McKinley in speaking to a delegation which had arrived to greet the presidential candidate . Hobart only remained in Canton a few hours before returning east . According to Magie , Hobart made the trip " to pay his respects to the head of the ticket and to consult with him upon important matters " . McKinley biographer Margaret Leech recorded that the two men were friends almost as soon as they met .

= = = Campaign = = =

The Panic of 1893 had led to hard times in the United States , and the effects were still felt in 1896 . One proposal to cure the economic malaise was " Free Silver " ; that the government would accept silver bullion and return it to the depositor , struck into silver dollars . At the time , the silver in a dollar coin was worth \$ .53 . Implementation of the proposals would increase the money supply and cause difficulties in international trade with nations that remained on the gold standard . Proponents argued that the increased money supply would stimulate the economy . President Grover Cleveland was firmly for the gold standard , a stance which bitterly divided the Democratic Party . Most Republicans were for the gold standard , though some , mostly from the West , were " Silver Republicans " . The Democrats in early July nominated for president an eloquent silver supporter , former Nebraska congressman William Jennings Bryan , whose Cross of Gold speech at the convention catapulted him to the nomination . The selection of Bryan prompted a wave of popular support for the Democrats .

Hobart was a strong supporter of the gold standard ; and insisted on it remaining a major part of the Republican campaign even in the face of Bryan 's surge . In his speech responding to the formal notification of his convention victory , Hobart stated , " An honest dollar , worth 100 cents everywhere , cannot be coined out of 53 cents worth of silver plus a legislative fiat . Such a debasement of our currency would inevitably produce incalculable loss , appalling disaster , and National dishonor . " McKinley was not as strong a supporter of the gold standard as Hobart , and considered modifying some of Hobart 's expressed views on the gold standard before the acceptance was printed for public distribution . Hobart insisted on it being printed without change , writing , " I think I know the sentiment of Eastern men better than you can , and with this knowledge and my convictions I must retain the statements as I have written them . " According to Connolly , " Though a protectionist , Hobart believed the money issue , not tariffs , led to a November Republican victory , and , in denouncing silver , his rhetoric far outstripped [ that of ] William McKinley . "

Together with Pennsylvania Senator Matthew Quay , Hobart ran the McKinley campaign 's New York office , often making the short journey from Paterson for strategy meetings . The vice @-@ presidential candidate emulated McKinley in giving speeches from his front porch ; unlike McKinley he also addressed rallies . In October , he made a short tour of New Jersey to campaign , expressing relief to his wife when it came to a close . On November 3 , 1896 , the voters cast their ballots in most states ; a nervous Hobart spent the day at his office . Special telegraph wires had been attached to his home ; at 8 : 30 in the evening they conveyed the news to him that McKinley and Hobart had won . The Republican ticket won New Jersey , together with the entire Northeast . The following week , Vice President @-@ elect Hobart attended Rutgers ' 130th anniversary celebrations as guest of honor . The member of the Class of 1863 was now Rutgers ' most prominent graduate .

= = Vice President ( 1897 ? 1899 ) = =

Hobart spent much of the four months between election and inauguration reading about the vice

presidency , preparing for the move , and winding down some business affairs . He did not , however , resign from the boards of corporations which would not have business before the federal government . " It would be highly ridiculous for me to resign from the different companies in which I am officer and a stockholder whose interests are not in the least affected , or likely to be , by my position as Vice President . " On March 2 , 1897 the Hobarts left Paterson to travel to Washington by special train . On March 4 , Garret Hobart was inaugurated as vice president in the Senate Chamber . The Chicago Daily News predicted , " Garret A. Hobart will not be seen or heard until , after four years , he emerges from the impenetrable vacuum of the Vice Presidency . "

= = = Presidential advisor = = =

Upon moving to Washington , the Hobarts established themselves at the Arlington Hotel , which was the Washington home to many political men of the era , including Hanna . Soon , however , Pennsylvania Senator Don Cameron offered them the lease of the house he owned at 21 Madison Place , diagonally across Pennsylvania Avenue from the Executive Mansion ( as the White House was still formally known ) . The asking price was \$ 10 @,@ 000 per year ; the Vice President bargained Cameron down to \$ 8 @,@ 000 ( equal to the vice presidential salary ) by suggesting that the public might assume he stole the excess . Among the frequent visitors at what came to be known as the " Cream White House " was Hanna , by then a senator , who would come by for breakfast and talk with the Vice President until it was time for both to go to the Senate .

The President and Vice President were already friends from the campaign ; after the inauguration , a close relationship grew between the two men , and their wives . The First Lady , Ida McKinley , had health issues , and could not stand the strain of the required official entertaining . Jennie Hobart often substituted for the First Lady at receptions and other events , and also was a close companion , visiting her daily . The Hobarts and McKinleys visited each other 's home without formality ; according to Jennie Hobart , writing in 1930 , " it was an intimate friendliness that no Vice President and his wife , before or since , have had the privilege of sharing with their chief administrator . " The Hobarts often entertained at their house , which was useful to McKinley , who could attend and meet informally with congressmen without placing strain on his wife with a White House function . McKinley , who had become insolvent while governor of Ohio , turned over a portion of his presidential salary to Hobart to invest .

The vice president had in recent administrations been considered a relatively low @-@ level political functionary , whose activities were generally limited to the constitutional function of presiding over the Senate . Hobart , however , became a close adviser to McKinley and his Cabinet members , although he was not called upon to attend Cabinet meetings . Reporter Arthur Wallace Dunn wrote of Hobart in 1922 , " for the first time in my recollection , and the last for that matter , the Vice President was recognized as somebody , as a part of the Administration , and as a part of the body over which he presided " .

Through late 1897 and early 1898 , many Americans called for the United States to intervene in Cuba , then a Spanish colony revolting against the mother country . These calls greatly increased in February 1898 , when the American battleship Maine sank in Havana harbor after an explosion . McKinley sought delay , hoping to settle the disputes peacefully , but in April 1898 , Hobart told the President that the Senate would act against Spain whether McKinley liked it or not . McKinley gave in ; Congress declared war on April 25 , beginning the Spanish ? American War , and Hobart sent McKinley a pen with which to sign the declaration .

= = = " Assistant President " = = =

Hobart was more assertive as Senate president than his predecessors had been . It was customary for the vice president not to rule on disputed points , but to submit them to a vote . Hobart , with his experience as a presiding officer in the New Jersey Legislature , took a more assertive role , ruling on disputes , and trying to expedite legislation . Hobart was initially diffident in his role , feeling himself unproven beside longtime national legislators , but soon gained self @-@ confidence ,

writing in a letter that " I find that I am as good and as capable as any of them . If they know a whole lot of things I don 't know , I also know a whole lot of things they don 't know . And there is a common humanity running through them all that makes us all as one , after all . " Hobart was so successful at guiding the administration 's legislative agenda through the Senate that he became known as the " assistant President " .

Hobart was constant in his attendance at the Senate ; one onlooker called him a " chronic audience " . Vice President Hobart only cast his tie @-@ breaking vote once , using it to defeat an amendment which would have promised self @-@ government to the Philippines , one of the possessions which the United States had taken from Spain after the war . Hobart was instrumental in securing the ratification of the Treaty of Paris , which ended the war ; according to McKinley biographer H. Wayne Morgan , Hobart was " almost the president 's alter ego , [ turning ] every screw with his legendary politeness " .

One post which Hobart refused to relinquish upon his inauguration was his position as one of three Joint Traffic Association ( JTA ) arbiters . The association was a group of railroads which sought to coordinate rates ; if two railroads applied rates in different ways , the matter was settled by Hobart and two other arbiters . Hobart heard appeals while vice president . An October 1897 Supreme Court decision signaled that the JTA was likely to be found in violation of the Sherman Anti @-@ Trust Act ( it was , the following year ) and Hobart resigned as arbiter in November 1897 . Hobart was a major investor in the Ramapo Water Company ; he had interests in many New York and New Jersey water utilities . In mid @-@ 1899 , there was controversy over the so @-@ called " Ramapo Scheme " , whereby the Ramapo Water Company , which owned large tracts of land in the Catskill Mountains , would sell New York City \$ 5 million in water per year for 40 years at high rates . The proposal was never agreed to , and a Republican @-@ controlled investigating committee found no wrongdoing , but Hobart 's role in the company was widely discussed in the press .

= = = Illness and death = = =

By late 1898 , Hobart had fallen ill with a serious heart ailment , which he at first concealed from the public . He continued Senate duty , but nearly collapsed after delivering an address closing the session . He accompanied the President on a vacation trip to Hanna 's winter home in Thomasville , Georgia , but quickly contracted the flu and returned to Washington . By April 1899 , Hobart 's illness was well known in the press , though Hanna assured the newspapers that Hobart would be on the ticket in 1900 : " nothing but death or an earthquake can stop the re @-@ nomination of Vice President Hobart " . Hobart rented a home in his birthplace of Long Branch , then an upscale Jersey Shore resort . Doctors prescribed complete rest , and the Vice President amused himself by feeding two pet fish , a gold one named McKinley and a silver one named Bryan .

Despite his vice president 's ill health , McKinley called upon him to break the news to Secretary of War Russell Alger that McKinley wanted him to resign ? the secretary had ignored or misunderstood repeated hints from the President . According to McKinley biographer Margaret Leech , " The President did not show his usual hypersensitive regard for other people 's feelings in handing over to a sick man a disagreeable task which it was his own duty to perform . " Hobart invited Alger to Long Branch for the weekend , and broke the news ; Alger duly submitted his resignation to McKinley . Hobart 's condition worsened within days of the Alger visit , and he was soon bedridden . The New York Sun attributed Alger 's resignation to Hobart 's " crystal insight " and " velvet tact " ; after which Hobart wrote to McKinley , " My ' crystal insight ' is still clear , but the nap is slightly worn off my velvet tact " .

After a vacation with the McKinleys on Lake Champlain , Hobart returned to Paterson in September . On November 1 , 1899 , the government announced that Hobart would not return to public life . His condition deteriorated rapidly , and he died on November 21 , 1899 at age 55 . President McKinley told the family , " No one outside of this home feels this loss more deeply than I do . "

New Jersey Governor Foster Voorhees ordered that state buildings be draped in mourning for 30 days , and that flags be flown at half staff until Hobart 's funeral . Hobart 's home , Carroll Hall , was opened to the public for four hours so that citizens might pass by his open casket ; 12 @,@ 000

people did so . Hobart was laid to rest at Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Paterson after a large public funeral , attended by President McKinley and many high government officials . Although the large government delegation meant that few local people could attend the service , a crowd of 50 @,@ 000 came to Paterson to honor Hobart .

The mausoleum over the grave was erected in 1901 . His wife purchased eleven plots adjoining the family plot to accommodate the structure . The building has massive marble columns in the front with a heavy metal door ; on the back above the sarcophagus is a stained glass window . There are two sarcophagi in the center of the building , for Garret Hobart and his wife . Around the tomb are niches for other members of the family . At the time of construction in 1901 , the mausoleum cost about \$ 80 @,@ 000 .

= = Legacy = =

Hobart significantly expanded the powers of the vice presidency , becoming a presidential adviser , and taking a leadership role as president of the Senate . Between his advisory and leadership roles , Hobart was perhaps the most influential vice president since Martin Van Buren . Although Magie , writing in 1910 , stated that Hobart 's death " fixed his memory at the height of his fame " , the former vice president is today little remembered . According to Hatfield , he is best known for his death , clearing the way for the ascent of New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt , who took Hobart 's place on the Republican ticket in 1900 and succeeded as president after McKinley 's assassination in 1901 .

His nephew , George S. Hobart , served as Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly .

A statue of Hobart , erected in 1903 , stands outside Paterson 's city hall . The communities of Hobart , Oklahoma , and Hobart , Washington , are named after the former vice president . Connolly finds Hobart to be very much a man of his times :

The public increasingly identified Republicans with the union of big business , big money , and big government , a union that ignited a Progressive reaction after 1900 . Vice President Garret A. Hobart directed that union as lawyer , business receiver and director , and New Jersey Republican . He represented everything Progressives hated : a railroad advocate when railroads became America 's most mistrusted industry , a corporate attorney who facilitated the agglomeration of capital when the public revolted against monopolies and trusts , a financial operator who used his political insight to capture lucrative business opportunities , and a national leader who moved easily between the worlds of political pull and economic power . As much as Hanna or any Gilded Age business @-@ politician , Hobart symbolized the era .

= = Electoral history = =

\* Incumbent

? First name not ascertained

= " Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D =

" Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D ( often referred to simply as In 3 @-@ D ) is the second studio album by American singer @-@ songwriter " Weird Al " Yankovic , released on February 28 , 1984 , by Rock ' n Roll Records . The album was one of many produced by former The McCoys guitarist Rick Derringer . Recorded between October and December 1983 , the album was Yankovic 's follow @-@ up to his modestly successful debut LP , " Weird Al " Yankovic .

The music on " ' Weird Al ' Yankovic in 3 @-@ D " is built around parodies and pastiches of pop and rock music of the mid @-@ 1980s . Half of the album is made up of parodies , featuring jabs at Michael Jackson , Men Without Hats , The Greg Kihn Band , The Police , and Survivor . The other half of the album is original material , featuring many " style parodies " , or musical imitations that come close to , but do not copy , existing artists . These style parodies include imitations of specific

artists like Bob Marley and The B @-@ 52s . This album marked a musical departure from Yankovic 's self @-@ titled debut , in that the arrangements of the parodies were now closer to the originals and the accordion was no longer used in every song , now only being featured where deemed appropriate or wholly inappropriate for comedic effect . " Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D is also notable for being the first album released by Yankovic to feature a polka medley of hit songs . These pastiches of hit songs , set to polka music , have since appeared on nearly all of Yankovic 's albums .

" Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D was met with mostly positive reviews and peaked at number seventeen on the Billboard 200 and number sixty @-@ one in Australia . The album also produced one of Yankovic 's most famous singles , " Eat It " ( a parody of Michael Jackson 's " Beat It " ) , which peaked at number twelve on the Billboard Hot 100 . This song was Yankovic 's highest charting single until " White & Nerdy " from his 2006 album Straight Outta Lynwood peaked at number nine in the October 21 , 2006 Billboard charts . " Eat It " also charted at number one in Australia , making it Yankovic 's only number one single in any country . The album also produced two minor US hits , " King of Suede " , which peaked at number sixty @-@ two , and " I Lost on Jeopardy " , which peaked at number eighty @-@ one . The album was Yankovic 's first Gold record , and went on to be certified Platinum for sales of over one million copies in the United States . " Eat It " won a Grammy Award for Best Comedy Performance Single or Album , Spoken or Musical in 1985 .

= = Production = =

= = = Recording = = =

In October 1983 , Yankovic began recording his second album at Santa Monica Sound Recorders , in Santa Monica , California . To produce it , he brought in former The McCoys guitarist Rick Derringer , who also produced Yankovic 's first album . Backing Yankovic were Jon " Bermuda " Schwartz on drums , Steve Jay on bass , and Jim West on guitar . During the first recording session for the album , five original songs were recorded : " Nature Trail To Hell " , " Mr. Popeil " , " Buy Me a Condo " , " Midnight Star " , and " That Boy Could Dance " . Two months later , Yankovic began recording the five parodies and polka medley that would appear on the album : " Eat It " , " King of Suede " , " I Lost on Jeopardy " , " Theme from Rocky XIII ( The Rye or the Kaiser ) " , " The Brady Bunch " , and " Polkas on 45 " .

Every song on Yankovic 's debut album was played on an accordion , accompanied by bass , guitar , and drums . On In 3 @-@ D Yankovic decided to restrict the accordion to certain sections , most notably the polka medley " Polkas on 45 " . In the " Ask Al " section on his web site , Yankovic explained : " Nowadays , I only use it on original songs where I feel an accordion is appropriate , and on parody songs where I feel an accordion is extremely inappropriate ( for comic effect ) ... and of course , on the polka medleys . I 'm not really downplaying the accordion at all - I usually feature the accordion on three or four songs every album , which is three or four more accordion @-@ based songs than most Top 40 albums have ! "

" It 's kind of a backlash from the first album , where we had accordion on everything . It just became a little overwhelming to me . For a while I was relegating the accordion to just the polka medleys . I 'm probably going to be using a bit more accordion in the future ; I get letters from people saying they miss the accordion on the records . "

= = = Originals = = =

One of the first originals recorded for the album was " Midnight Star " , a loving ode to fictional supermarket tabloids . The liner notes to Permanent Record state that a Weekly World News article about the " Incredible Frog Boy " helped to inspire the song . According to Yankovic , most of the tabloid headlines were real . He spent several weeks collecting and looking through old tabloids to



find inane titles . Initially he thought that " Midnight Star " should have been the lead single for the album , but later relented and released " Eat It " instead . " Buy Me a Condo " is a style parody of Bob Marley and the reggae genre in general .

" Mr. Popeil " is a song discussing the inventor Samuel Popeil and his myriad inventions of varying usefulness . Musically , it is a style parody of the B @-@ 52s , something that Robert Christgau once said " exploits Yankovic 's otherwise fatal resemblance to Fred Schneider . " One of the backing vocalists on the track is Samuel Popeil 's daughter Lisa Popeil . When recording the song , Yankovic came across an article about Lisa Popeil and her singing career ; later he asked her if she would be interested in appearing in the song , to which she agreed .

The last original song to be recorded for the album was " Nature Trail to Hell " , about a fictional slasher film " in 3 @-@ D " . At the 3 : 40 mark , the song has a backward message that says " Satan eats Cheez Whiz ! " This , in turn , was a parody of the Satanic backmasking scare during the early 1980s . Online magazine Pitchfork Media has alluded to the song several times , once comparing it to " Thrill Kill " by The Damned , and another time sarcastically calling the song a " classic " . It ends on a single extended chord played on multiple pianos , akin to the Beatles ' " A Day in the Life " .

= = = Parodies and polka = = =

The first parody recorded for the album was " The Brady Bunch " , in which the narrator expresses his dislike of the sitcom The Brady Bunch . The song also contains a lyrical adaptation of the " Brady Bunch Theme Song " , something that Yankovic would later do in his " Money for Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies " parody from UHF ( 1989 ) .

On the same day that " The Brady Bunch " was recorded , Yankovic started working on " I Lost on Jeopardy " , a parody of " Jeopardy " by The Greg Kihn Band . The song describes a situation in which the narrator loses spectacularly on the game show Jeopardy ! . Show announcer Don Pardo lends his voice to a segment of the song . In order to create the parody , Yankovic cleared the idea not only with Greg Kihn , but also with Merv Griffin , who created the show . Don Pardo , Art Fleming , and Kihn all appeared in the music video . Kihn , the composer of the original song , was extremely pleased and flattered by the parody . In 2009 , Kihn wrote a blog on his MySpace called " Weird Al and Mailbox Money " , in which he complimented Yankovic 's comedy and explained the mechanics of how a parody works . Kihn referred to the royalty checks he still receives from " I Lost on Jeopardy " as " Mailbox Money " .

The next parodies to be recorded were " Theme from Rocky XIII ( The Rye or the Kaiser ) " , a parody of Survivor 's " Eye of the Tiger " about a washed @-@ up Rocky Balboa , who now runs a deli and occasionally beats up on the liverwurst ; and " King of Suede " , a parody of The Police 's " King of Pain " , about a clothing store owner who claims the titular title . In order to research information for the latter , Yankovic would walk around in fabric stores taking notes . He later remarked , " I got a lot of nasty stares from store managers . "

The final parody recorded for the album was " Eat It " , a parody of Michael Jackson 's " Beat It " , about an exasperated parent 's quest to get their picky child to eat right . Yankovic formulated the idea during a brainstorming session between himself , Robert K. Weiss , and his manager Jay Levey . They were bouncing ideas off one another until suddenly " [ they ] had the whole thing written . " Although he knew that the best way to get permission to parody a song was through the official songwriter , Yankovic was unsure what type of reaction he would get from Jackson when presented with the parody lyrics . However , Jackson allegedly thought it was a " funny idea " , and allowed the parody . In the mockumentary The Compleat Al , there is a scene portraying the fictitious meeting of Yankovic and Jackson . Musically , the parody is slightly different from the original , featuring a changed key , comic sound effects , and an Eddie Van Halen @-@ inspired guitar solo from Yankovic 's producer Rick Derringer .

" Eat It " was Yankovic 's first ? and , until " Smells Like Nirvana " ( 1992 ) , his only ? Top Forty hit , peaking at number twelve on the Billboard Hot 100 . It was also Yankovic 's highest @-@ charting single until " White & Nerdy " reached number nine on the October 21 , 2006 , Billboard chart . " Eat

It " was a worldwide hit , even managing to peak at number one in Australia . For many years , Yankovic became known colloquially as " The ' Eat It ' guy . " He refers to this sarcastically on his own personal Twitter ; underneath the description is written " You know ... the Eat It guy . "

One of the last songs recorded for the album was " Polkas on 45 " . The song , whose title is a take on the novelty act Stars on 45 , is a medley of popular rock songs from the 1960s and 1970s . " Polkas on 45 " evolved from an early polka medley that Yankovic had played when opening for new wave band Missing Persons in 1981 . This early version included parts of various new wave songs , including " Jocko Homo " by Devo , " Homosapien " by Pete Shelley , " Sex Junkie " by Plasmatics , " T.V.O.D. " by The Normal , " Bad Boys Get Spanked " by The Pretenders , " TV Party " by Black Flag , " Janitor " by Suburban Lawns , and " People Who Died " by Jim Carroll . After being asked how he picked the songs to include , Yankovic responded , " I just pick songs that sound slightly better done polka style ? the way God intended . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Critical response to In 3 @-@ D was generally positive . The album received a score of four and a half stars from Allmusic , with Eugene Chadbourne saying , " With an album behind him , Weird Al Yankovic makes much of the improvements expected of new artists when they get a second crack at a release a year later . " Christopher Thelen from The Daily Vault wrote that " All in all , this disc held out the promise that Yankovic was destined for greatness ... " In addition , " Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D was also named one of the Year 's Top 10 Albums in 1984 by People magazine . Den of Geek even named In 3 @-@ D as one of the " 10 Reasons Why 1984 Was a Great Year for Geek Movies " ? despite it not being a movie . On November 1 , 2011 , Spin magazine named In 3 @-@ D as the seventeenth greatest comedy album of all time .

Not all reviews were positive , however . Robert Christgau gave the album a C + rating , calling it " Mad for the ears . " Some critics were split on how Yankovic composed , performed , and recorded his parodies , compared to his 1983 debut album . The Daily Vault commented thus :

Parody @-@ wise , Yankovic still always managed to throw a different loop into the music to make it sound different than the song it was based on . ( I happen to like the fact that Yankovic now writes parodies to sound exactly like the original song . ) As a result , " Theme From Rocky XIII " doesn 't have the crispness as the original song from Survivor did , " The Brady Bunch " is sped up ( in both tempo and pitch ) from Men Without Hats 's " The Safety Dance " , and " Eat It " takes Michael Jackson 's " Beat It " and raises the pitch .

Many of the songs and singles from In 3 @-@ D would later appear on greatest hits albums . " Eat It " and " I Lost on Jeopardy " appeared both on Yankovic 's first greatest hits album ( 1988 ) and on the The Essential " Weird Al " Yankovic ( 2009 ) ; the latter also featured " Polkas on 45 " . Seven of the album 's songs ? " Polkas on 45 " , " Midnight Star " , " Eat It " , " Mr. Popeil " , " I Lost on Jeopardy " , " Buy Me a Condo " , and " King of Suede " ? were featured in Yankovic 's box set Permanent Record : Al in the Box .

At the 27th Grammy Awards in 1985 , " Weird Al " Yankovic won his first Grammy Award , the Best Comedy Performance Single or Album , Spoken or Musical , for his hit single " Eat It " .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

" Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D was released on February 28 , 1984 . On April 28 , it peaked at number 17 , where it remained for three consecutive weeks . In 3 @-@ D spent a total of twenty @-@ three weeks on the chart . It was also successful in Australia , where it peaked at number 61 on the album chart . Many of the album 's singles also went on to be successful . " Eat It " eventually sold over a half a million copies , peaked at number twelve domestically on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was certified Gold . It was also a world @-@ wide hit , peaking at number thirty @-@ six in the

United Kingdom and number one in Australia . As of March 2012 , " Eat It " is currently Yankovic 's only number one single in any country . " King of Suede " and " I Lost on Jeopardy " , the album 's follow up singles , peaked on the Hot 100 at numbers 61 and 82 respectively .

On April 30 , 1984 , two months after its release , the album was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , making it Yankovic 's first Gold record . On August 18 , 1995 , it was certified Platinum by the RIAA .

= = Track listing = =

The following is adapted from the album liner notes .

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Singles = = =