

Benjamin C. West

Tradition in the House Press Gallery

Brief account of a longstanding House tradition.

Interview recorded August 24, 2005

Members took great pride in the product within their district, whether it was peaches, Vidalia onion, Sockeye salmon, or something. And, to be sure, the Press Gallery was always a recipient of this largesse. There'd be a couple of bushel baskets of freshly picked peaches the day before. You know, not the stuff in the supermarket that was picked last year. And reporters—they would come into the gallery and they would have a big, brown paper box of something—Sockeye salmon from Alaska or something. That came to the Press Gallery quite a bit, and to individual Members. And Bill Dorn was one. He got a bushel of peaches and a big country ham from some company in his district. And it was very commonplace.