

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

FEBRUARY 1985

240th Meeting

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 11
7th LINCOLN ISSUE

DATE: February 12th

PLACE: The Hermit Club

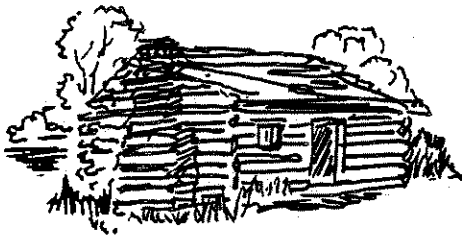
SPEAKER: Member Marty Graham

SUBJECT: The Battles of Cross
Keys and Port Republic

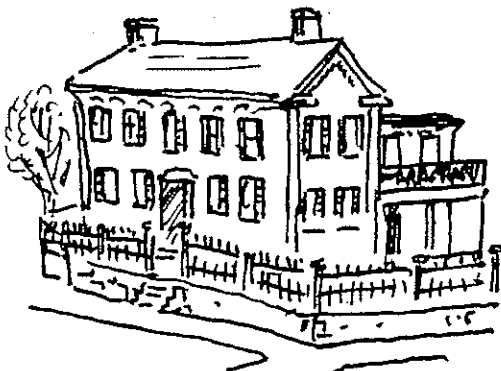
TIME: Mixer 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

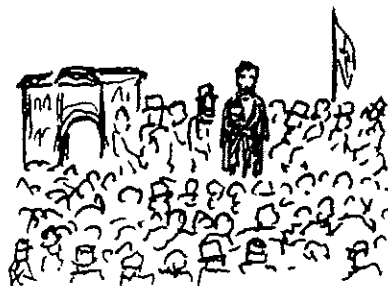
RESERVATIONS A MUST. 216-243-7404



A. Lincoln.



February 12, 1809 - April 14, 1865



SALE AND QUIZ AT JAN. MEETING

Forty-five members braved the icy roads and flurries to attend the annual Books & Artifacts Sales and Blue and Gray Quiz.

Much thanks must be given Bernie Drews and Don Heckaman, who once again helped the sale run smoothly.

During the cocktail hour the members were treated to a showing of the Nat'l. Park Service film entitled "Antietam Visit." The film depicted Lincoln's visit with McClellan after Antietam, with McClellan giving the President a tour of the battlefield. The scenes of the fighting - Miller's cornfield, Bloody Lane, and Burnside's Bridge - were authentically recreated by North-South reenactment groups. It was one of the best Civil War films I've seen - factual, moving, and entertaining. After dinner, Quizmaster Tim Beatty (author of the quiz) introduced the competing teams of Blues and Grays. They were Ed Murphy, Jon Groza, Tom Keller, Ted Adams, Joe Tirpak, Ken Callahan, Bob Bayless, Tim Moran, Bill Kostic, Bob Baucher, Doug Baldwin, Bill Victor, Charlie Spiegle, Marty Graham, Bill Stark, Lynn Lazzaro, and George Skoch. It was good to see many new members and first-timers involved. Of course, there were a few veterans among them to steady the troops.

This was by far the toughest quiz in recent history, and on numerous occasions both teams, as well as the audience were stumped for answers. Despite the level of questions, all participants displayed an impressive knowledge of the Civil War.

When the smoke cleared, the Gray team won with a score of 150 points to 140 for the Blues.

-Brian Kowell

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Martin Graham has been a member of the Round Table since 1982. He is a native Clevelander and resides in Cleveland Heights with his wife Christine and their two children. Marty attended Padua High School, Notre Dame University and received his Masters in Social Work at the University of Michigan. He is currently employed at the Ohio Lottery Commission and has had articles published in Blue and Gray magazine and Civil War Times Illustrated. He was also chairman of this year's field trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorville.



President- Brian D. Kowell
243-7404

Vice-Pres- Tim Beatty
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381-1538

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371-0260

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255-8140

Editor and Illustrator of
The Charger- Stuart Cramer

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Cramer- 967-5971

MARTY GRAHAM

TO TALK ON

JACKSON BATTLES

At this month's meeting our speaker will be our Treasurer, Marty Graham, and the title of his talk is: "The Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic." Marty intends to give a brief review of Jackson's Valley Campaign leading up to those battles, which he will emphasize. He will not only describe the two battles but will examine their significance in the overall Confederate strategy up until that point. He will also talk about Stonewall Jackson's narrow escape from capture at Port Republic on Sunday, June 9, 1862.

LINCOLN LORE

(Odds and ends picked up from a variety of sources and squirreled away this past year in anticipation of this issue:)

When people who had known Lincoln talked about him, it was nearly always about one or more of these things: (1) how long, tall, quick, strong, or awkward he was; (2) how he told stories and jokes, how comical or pleasant or kindly; (3) how he could be silent, melancholy, sad; (4) how he was ready to learn and looking for chances to learn about everything; (5) how he was always ready to help a friend, stranger, or a dumb animal in distress.

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Lincoln resorted to animal analogies often in his talks, letters, or speeches. He referred to Stephen Douglas, his arch rival, as a "toothless lion." He did not say, "I will pardon those prisoners"; he said, "I will turn out the flock." He did not say, "I will never find enough places for these office-seekers"; he said, "There are too many pigs for the teats." Lincoln referred to General John Pope as an ox, (better than General Streight's "owl dung" name for him). The part of the divided country that Lincoln was President of had turned out, he said, to be an elephant. "If I can keep my end of the animal pointed in the right direction, I will get through this infernal jungle."

To General Joe Hooker: "If the head of Lee's army is at Martinsburg and the tail of it on the plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very thin somewhere." After Gettysburg: "But Meade, it seems to me you shooed the geese over the river."

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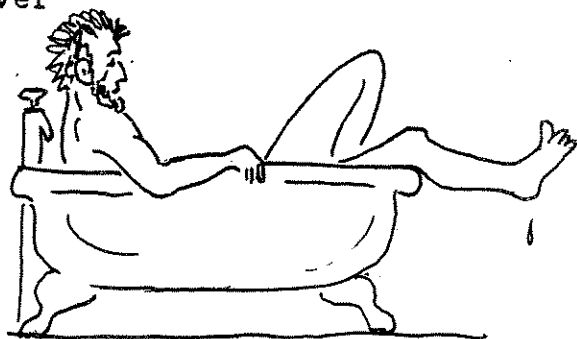
Millard Fillmore, the thirteenth President, (1850-1853) made his mark on our history by being the first one to install a bathtub in the White House - and what an appropriate name - fill more! The books do not tell us whether Lincoln ever tried to use Millard's modern innovation.

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A bit of Abraham Lincoln wisdom:

"You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

* * *



Very few people knew that when Lincoln, the successful lawyer when he was 50 years old, owned a newspaper. He and Theodore Canisius purchased the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger, a German language newspaper catering to a large German section of the city and surrounding area of Springfield, Illinois. In a contract signed May 30, 1859, the type, press, and other equipment were declared to be the property of Lincoln, and Canisius was to be publisher and editor, and that any time the newspaper should fail to operate as a faithful Republican mouthpiece and organ, Lincoln could take over his property. To the public, Canisius was the proprietor, and not even Lincoln's close friends Herndon, Swett nor Whitney were told about the arrangement.

LINCOLN LUKE

Few people know that there was an Abe Lincoln the second, born a few years after the death of his grandfather. A.L.II was the son of Robert Todd Lincoln, and died at the age of 16 from blood poisoning while his father was Ambassador to England. As a boy Lincoln's namesake played at the White House with the children of President James A. Garfield. He is buried in the tomb of Robert Todd Lincoln at Arlington Cemetery with the inscription: Abraham Lincoln II.

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John Hay in his diary reported an incident involving Captain James M. Cutts, Jr., whose sister was the widow of Stephen A. Douglas. Captain Cutts was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer in that he had furtively watched a lady disrobe. When told of this, President Lincoln quipped to Hay that Captain Cutts should be elevated to the "peerage" and given the title, "Count Peeper." Thanks to The Lincolnian.

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When writers mention Lincoln as an inveterate and popular story teller, they usually emphasize the fact that his jokes, no matter how crude or unique, or "homely," always made a point or held a lesson.

True enough, but it is seldom brought out that Lincoln regaled his audiences with ludicrous mimicking, using facial expressions, gestures and dialog with no other purpose than to entertain and to produce laughter. The pleasure derived from making people laugh is a potent tonic.

In his repertoire of characters Lincoln mimicked circuit riding preachers who snorted hellfire, pious Quakers, Irishmen, Germans, men of struts, and a stutterer who whistled between stutters.

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In the 1840's a crusade against heavy drinking was carried on by the Washington Society, an organization that embraced several states (Ohio, Indiana and Illinois). Whiskey at that time was quoted in the Springfield Journal at twelve cents a gallon! Among the leading advocates of temperance in Springfield was Abraham Lincoln. At one time he was selected as the main speaker at an important gathering of Washington Societies and faced his audience with an address on "Charity in Temperance Reform." He shocked many by stating that the champions of the reform were all wrong in not taking a personal interest in or in having no use or any sympathy for "those very persons whom it is their object to convince and persuade."

He took the stand that whiskey was a respectable article to manufacture and merchandise and that "the injury (in its use) arose not from the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a good thing."

One time, when asked, "Are you a Temperance man?" (those taking the pledge and urging others to do so).

Lincoln replied, "NO, I am not. But I am temperate to this extent: I don't drink."

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Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase, who had great presidential aspirations, had his picture put on the new one dollar bills (he put Lincoln on the \$2 bills). Chase had devised the phrase "In God We Trust" for U.S. coins and wanted to put it on the newly issued paper money. But some objected that this was contrary to the Constitutional separation of church

Continued on the next page —————>

For our field trip next fall why not attend the Civil War Round Table Associates National Convention? Think on it..



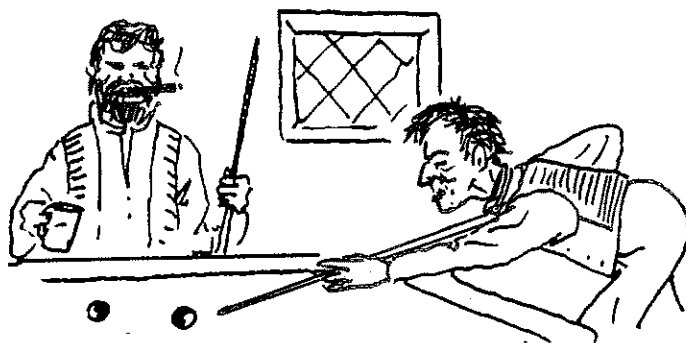
MORE LORE

and state. Lincoln suggested "The Biblical tag on the greenbacks should be that of Peter and John: "Silver and gold I have none; but such as I have give I thee."

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A friend of Lincoln, Henry C. Whitney, was a lawyer and fellow traveler on the 8th Illinois Judicial Circuit. During the War Lincoln made him a Federal Paymaster. Whitney wrote in 1882 Life on the Circuit With Lincoln.

He noted in this work that friends never called him anything but Lincoln, never Abe to his face. Billiards was the "only non-utilitarian thing" that I ever knew Lincoln to indulge in. He often chose as his opponent a bibulous lawyer of no merit save the negative one of playing billiards as poorly as Lincoln himself. It was a strange but not unfamiliar sight to see these two men, who had nothing in common, playing billiards in some obscure place, sometimes for hours together."



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Attending a show one night in Sangamon town, Jacob Carman, the showman, asked Lincoln for the loan of his hat, with which he would perform a trick. Lincoln was reluctant, but finally gave in. After the magician had cooked eggs in the hat and then returned it unharmed, Lincoln said, "Mr., the reason I didn't give you my hat before was out of respect for your eggs - not care for my hat."



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A farmer acquaintance of Lincoln's, known as a notorious braggart, was telling what a huge crop of hay he had harvested that year. Lincoln said that he had helped to raise hay one time, and that "We stacked all we could outdoors, and then we put the rest in the barn."

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Lincoln, who opposed the Mexican War (and lost the next election because of his unpopular stand), on one occasion said that the claim that the Mexican War was not aggression reminded him of the farmer who asserted, "I ain't greedy 'bout land, I only jus' wants what jines mine."

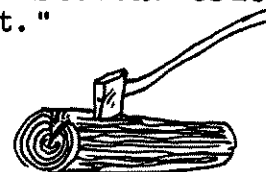
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Over the holiday season of 1861-1862, Lincoln asked for the resignation of Simon Cameron, his Secretary of War. Congress had established a special committee to investigate contracts let by the War Department, and after hearing testimony and examining war expenditures presented the House with a 1,109 page indictment of the maladministration in Cameron's office. Thanks to inefficiency and fraud, large quantities of rotten blankets, tainted pork, knapsacks that came apart in the rain, discarded Austrian rifles and hundreds of diseased and dying horses - all at exorbitant prices. The list of abuses seemed endless.

One of the crooked agents working for the department acquired two boats at a price of \$100,000 each -



after the navy had rejected them as unsafe. One sank on its first voyage. Cameron was "got rid of" by being appointed to the Ambassadorship of Russia. Before he left, Thaddeus Stevens cracked: "Send word to the Czar to bring in his things at night."



THOSE LINCOLN KIDS

Lincoln was uncommonly tolerant of his young sons. He let them do anything they cared to without reprimand, and they were, to say the least, "lively ones."

Herndon in his biography of Lincoln tells about "Lincoln's brats" raising havoc in the law office; scattering papers, dumping inkwells and crawling all over their father.

Other authors tell some interesting anecdotes:

On Sundays when Mary went to church and attended church functions, Lincoln would "babysit," and often loaded the little ones in a small wagon and walked around Springfield. One such time when he was pulling the wagon, he was deep in thought, his chin and eyes down, his mind completely occupied, when a neighbor accosted him with, "Hey Lincoln, one of your kids fell out'a the wagon 'way back yonder."

A year or two later the same thing happened in front of their house, but Mary happened to see it as she returned from church and let out a scream that could be heard all over the neighborhood. Abe simply dropped the handle of the wagon, turned, and in a few long strides went into the house and closed the door, leaving Mary and her tirade to the neighbors.

After Lincoln had been nominated, and mobs of people came to visit or gawk, Willy and Tad would hang on the fence and shout, "Vote for Old Abe."

After Appomattox, a huge crowd assembled to serenade the President at the White House, expecting a speech. Lincoln stood in one of the long open windows waiting for the crowd to quiet down. Suddenly in the next window his son Tad appeared waving a large Confederate flag.

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U. S. PRINTING OFFICE BOOKS

Gettysburg. You'll read about one of the great decisive battles in American history. Numerous black-and-white illustrations and a battlefield guide complement the text. Rep 1977. 64 p. il.

S/N 024-005-00196-4
\$4.50 (I 29.58:9/2)

Appomattox Court House. Step back in time to April 9, 1865—a dramatic moment in American history! Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House, and the bloodiest war America has ever known comes to a close. Meet the important personalities and relive the fateful moments of the final week of the Civil War through the colorfully illustrated pages of this National Park Service guidebook. 1980. 111 p. il.

S/N 024-005-00778-4
\$6.00 (I 29.9/5:109)

Manassas (Bull Run). An illustrated history of two of the most famous battles of the Civil War—the first engagement and another at the same site about one year later, which paved the way for Lee's invasion of the North. Includes a battlefield guide. Special price: \$140.00 for 100 copies. 1957, rep 1977. 48 p. il.

S/N 024-005-00227-8
\$4.50 (I 20.58:15/2)

Shiloh. Contains detailed maps and history of the 2-day Civil War battle fought at Shiloh, Tennessee. Also includes a guide to the National Military Park and surrounding areas. Special price: \$140.00 for 100 copies. 1955, rep 1981. 47 p. il.

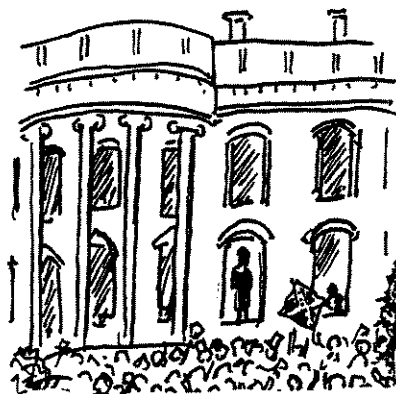
S/N 024-005-00161-1
\$4.50 (I 29.58:10)

Where a Hundred Thousand Fell. An illustrated history of four great Civil War battles which occurred within a radius of 17 miles and involved 100,000 casualties—Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. Includes a battlefield guide. 1966, rep 1977. 56 p. il.

S/N 024-005-00188-3
\$5.50 (I 29.58:39)

Era of the Civil War, 1820-1876. This partially annotated bibliography catalogs the holdings of the US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA, which deal with the era of the Civil War. 1982. 710 p.

S/N 008-029-00123-3
\$13.00 (D 114.14:11)



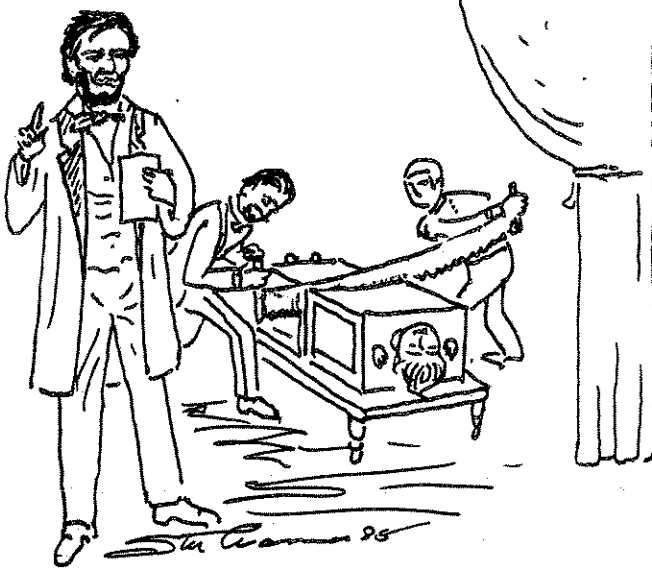
FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

There is no Fred Gill Book Review because Fred is acclimating to the Florida sun, beach, oysters, shrimp, grouper and other "tasties" from the briny." He says the lazy life turns his brain to mush - but will have a review for us next month.

The latest issue of the U. S. Government's catalog of books available through their Printing Office (Number V-4) lists the above relative to the Civil War. The price includes postage and handling.

Thanks to the Indianapolis CWRT Hardtack

Civil War Smiles by STU GRAMER



"You can fool some of the people part of the time, part of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time."

AS GRAMMPAPPY 'TOL IT

"Cap'm'," Ginral Lee said to mah grammpappy, "Ah gives daily thanks to th' Almighty that you's on ouah side, but in humanity's name, Cap'm', cease yo' feahful cahnage!"

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ABE'S LIFELONG HERO

Lest we overlook the fact that this month also marks the birthday of General George Washington, here is how Lincoln ended a speech given on Feb. 22nd, 1842:

"This is the 110th anniversary of the birthday of Washington. We are met to celebrate this day. Washington is the mightiest name on earth - LONG SINCE mightiest in the cause of liberty; STILL mightiest in moral reformation. On that name, an eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington, is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor, leave it shining on."

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN WALKS AT MIDNIGHT

[In Springfield, Illinois]

It is portentous, and a thing of state
That here at midnight, in our little town,
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,
Near the old court-house pacing up and down.

Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards
He lingers where his children used to play;
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,
A famous high top-hat and plain worn shawl
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.

He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.
He is among us—as in times before!
And we who toss and lie awake for long
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.

His head is bowed. He thinks on men and kings,
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?
Too many peasants fight, they know not why,
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.
He sees the dreadnaughts scouring every main.
He carries on his shawl-wrapped shoulders now
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.

He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn
Shall come;—the shining hope of Europe free:
The league of sober folk, the Workers' Earth
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp, and Sea.

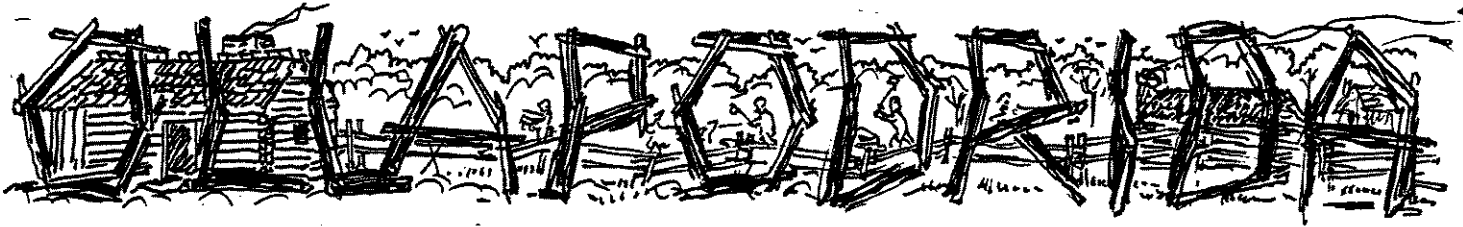
It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,
That all his hours of travail here for men
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace
That he may sleep upon his hill again?

Vachel Lindsay [1879-1931]

Vachel Lindsay was born and died in his father's house next to the Governor's Mansion in Springfield, Illinois.

He went to Hiram College, later to win wide fame as a poet whose popularity was based upon the recitations of his own poems. He was much in demand as a speaker. Most of his poems were his observations of American culture, experience garnered from cross-country walks - Springfield to California, Florida to Kentucky, etc..

As a freshman at the above college, your editor heard him, in 1931, the year the eccentric, epileptic committed suicide.



While President, General Grant was arrested for speeding in his horse carriage.

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By 1861 there were only two countries in the western world other than the United States which maintained slavery: Cuba and Brazil.

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Julia Ward Howe sold her "Battle Hymn of the Republic" to the Atlantic Monthly in 1882 for \$5.00.

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The first time anyone used the temporary insanity defense in a trial was in 1859 (so some authors claim). The defendant, Congressman and later General Dan Sickles, was accused of murdering his wife's paramour, the son of Francis Scott Key. There was no doubt that Sickles had shot and killed, in broad daylight on a public street, his wife's lover - but the jury acquitted him on the grounds that he was insane that day.

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Harriet Beecher Stowe received torrents of abuse from southerners for writing Uncle Tom's Cabin (she'd never been in the South). Among all these letters there was one containing a black ear.

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One time Lincoln met a young lawyer on a Court House steps who had just lost his first case. "What happened to your case?" Lincoln asked.

"Gone to hell," was the gloomy response.

"Well, don't give up," Lincoln rejoined cheerfully, "you can try it again there."

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HARD-TO-UNDERSTAND-DEPARTMENT

Why do so many people adulate John Wilkes Booth? There are in existence today Booth clubs; fans are called "Boothies," and "Booth Buffs"; and recently a "Booth-Buffer" was held. There are even conducted tours of the murderer's escape route, from Ford's Theatre to the place where the barn was in which soldier Boston Corbett killed the killer. In 1939 Philip Van Dorn Stern wrote The Man Who Killed Lincoln, which was very popular at the time and probably made Booth a hero. In the course of his research for this book, Stern retraced Booth's escape route and came upon the Garrett house where Booth had actually died after being dragged from the barn. The author took pictures of this house just before it was torn down. These photos were used in an article he wrote for Holiday magazine in 1950. Jesse James, Bonny and Clyde, John Wilkes Booth - heroes? Sick!

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We learned from the Lincoln Herald that the above Booth Buff-et was held a couple of years ago, and "according to an informed Maryland source," the menu included Shrimp Stanton, Spangler Spinach, Tartes de Pissonne a la Herold with sauce Atzerodt, Mudd Sundaes, and Lincoln Logs.

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P.S.

In the same bad taste are Nixon's Impeach Pie, G. Ford's Which-End-is-Upside-Down Cake, Jimmy Carter Waffles, Ronald Reagan's Red, white and Blueplate Special (old ham and corn - which the electorate ate up), and David Stockman's Cold Cuts.