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RSVP

Reservations are a must. At three of the four meetings this year, reservations have been substantially different from the number who actually attended. This causes embarrassment. Please help your Round-Table by remembering to call in your reservation.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

December Meeting

Professor Jay Luvaas of the Army War College delivered an excellent talk entitled "The Battle Behind the Signs" on December 10 at a meeting held at Gray's Armory. The topic of this fine presentation was the establishment of parks at the sites of Civil War battles by the army as an "outdoor textbook" for army officers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Professor Luvaas enlightened the Round-Table by explaining some of the infighting that went on between veteran groups and state legislators in setting up these parks.

This presentation was enhanced as the speaker explained that his current position has him leading terrain walks for general officers over these same battlefields. After four decades of ignoring this particular educational approach, the army is returning to requiring this experience of all officers above the rank of major.

Professor Luvaas responded very cogently to a question from the audience concerning a recent Plain Dealer article dealing with the possibility of closing West Point in favor of other means of producing army officers.

It was a real pleasure to have such a fine speaker and Professor Luvaas claimed to have heartily enjoyed himself as well. He pointed out that not only did he find good company among us, but also was particularly impressed with the environment afforded by the Gray's Armory for his talk.

January Meeting

On January 14 the Annual Book and Artifact Sale will accompany the Civil War Quiz at the Hermit Club.

Bernie Drews and Don Heckaman will organize the sale while this year's quiz will be under the direction of Bill Kostic and Marty Graham. Bill and Marty are keeping mum about the nature of the questions, but there has been some speculation that they are seeking to balance old accounts as some of the team members are quizmasters of recent vintage. The participants in this year's quiz are Ken Callahan, Jr., Bob Baucher, Dick Volker, Tim Beatty, and two others who are yet to be named.

TIM BEATTY

FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

Breaking With Moscow by Shevehenko .

Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1985.

Obviously this book is not about the Civil War. It is not about any of America's formal conflicts, but it is about a war, a war that has been going on for decades and shows no sign of abating for future decades. While it is a war involving all the world, we and the USSR are the principal participants.

This book delineates the face of our foe. It spells out in shivery detail what he is like, why he is the way he is, where his strengths and weaknesses are; and, whether the author intended it or not, points to the strategies and tactics that any American government should at least be aware of if we are to stay even.



While the author's credibility has been questioned, his life and the Soviet jobs he has held give him a view no American can have. Even if some of the things he reports are warped by his personal feelings, he should be listened to because he is a thinking Russian in a position to think about the Soviet system. Shevehenko had the Russian rank of ambassador and when he defected he was Under-Secretary of the United Nations. He has come up through the ranks of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and for many years was one of Gromyko's principal advisors. He was, of course, a member of the Soviet elite and enjoyed all the cushy perks. He and his family lived very well in New York and Moscow. He circulated freely in the upper levels of the Soviet hierarchy. It was not until he came under the intense pressure by the Russian espionage apparatus that freedom truly meant anything to him.



When Shevehenko made his move to defect, he was persuaded by American intelligence people to stay in his exalted UN position and, in exchange for asylum, report on Soviet people, policies and actions. Apparently it turned out to be a highly profitable bargain for us and the arrangement lasted until the KGB began crowding him. Shevehenko's formal defection was slickly arranged, and he made little effort

to hide until he had resigned his Under-Secretary's job. His countrymen dared not touch him while under the UN shield. After a long period of debriefing by the CIA and other American groups, he left hiding and began living openly, even marrying an American after his Russian wife was spirited to Moscow and subsequently committed suicide, under questionable circumstances, Shevchenko says.

All this took a certain kind of courage and determination that seem alien to an American, who knows so little of the lack of freedom, and of the implacable and immovable Leninist system. John Riche, one of our foremost writers about Soviet history, says the system is not a corpus of ideas. It is, rather, he says, an organizational theory "which the Mafia must envy... It is a cynical rationale for gangsterism."



Shevchenko's descriptions of the inner workings of the highest level of the Soviet regime, the two-faced manipulation of the UN for their own ends, the blight of the Kremlin's cynicism demonstrate why we should fear the USSR. Shevchenko's story explains why the Soviet Union behaves the way it does and casts an icy pall on the idea that the new face, the smiling almost un-Russian face of Gorbachev, will change anything. Beware, says Shevchenko; beware of what they are like. Be wary of doing business with them. Be very careful.

Read this revealing book and hope the high circles in Washington have bought and read a couple hundred copies of it.

General Pope Answers

It is said that Gen. John Pope issued orders headed "Headquarters in the saddle" and that Robert E. Lee quipped that Pope's headquarters were where his hindquarters should be (sometimes attributed to Lincoln.) Here is what John Pope had to say about this:

"...a good deal of cheap wit has been expended upon this fanciful story. It is an expression harmless enough, but it is even stated that it furnished General Lee with the only joke of his life. I think it due to army tradition, and to the comfort of those who have so often repeated this ancient joke in the days before the Civil War, that these later wits should not be allowed with impunity to poach on this well-tilled soil. This venerable joke I first heard when a cadet at West Point, and it was told of that gallant soldier and gentleman, Gen. W.J. Worth, and I presume it could easily be traced to the Crusades and beyond. Certainly I never used this expression or wrote or dictated it, nor does any such expression occur in any order of mine; and as it has perhaps served its time and effected its purpose, it ought to be retired."

- Thanks to the D.of C. CWRT newsletter.

SOLDIER'S DAILY PRAYER.

Our Father, who art in Washington, Uncle Abraham; be thy name thy victory won; thy will be done at the South as at the North; give us this day our daily rations of Crackers and Pork, and forgive us our shortcomings as we forgive our Quartermasters; for thine is the power, the soldiers and negroes, for the space of three years.
AMEN.

Civil War Smiles by STU CRAMER



"We're moving forward, but Gentlemen, we are not out of the woods yet."

Annual Sale
Bring Those Books You'll Never Read Again
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If This Firm Sends You a Dividend, Make Sure It's Using Real Money

By SCOTT KILMAN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

North Carolina Railroad Co. has a gift idea for Christmas: Confederate money as a stocking stuffer.

The railroad recently stumbled across more than 5,000 bills of the currency, which had long ago been stored—and forgotten—in North Carolina's state museum in the railroad's name. Now the railroad is trying to sell the notes, mostly for \$25 to \$65 apiece. It says it would probably split the proceeds among its 450-odd shareholders, of which the state itself is the biggest.

Of course, Confederate money isn't legal tender, and so much of it is still extant that it's not even of much monetary value to numismatists or Civil War buffs.

The Last Payroll?

But the railroad thinks it has a pitch that will overcome sales resistance. "We're almost certain this is the last payroll of the Confederate army," says C. Allen Foster, the railroad's counsel.

The money, stuffed in whiskey boxes stamped "payroll," was aboard a Confederate train captured in April 1865 before it could reach Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's troops outside Raleigh. The railroad's current officials learned of the money recently

when an aide was leafing through the minutes to old board meetings.

Proving whether the money is the last Rebel payroll appears impossible. Certain records were lost, and historians argue over exactly when and where the Civil War ended.

Uncertain Demand

Since it began to publicize its rediscovery of the currency last month, the railroad has received about 500 requests for the bills. But it is questionable how much anybody would pay. Keith Strawn, the curator of the state museum, turned down a chance to keep some of the currency. "I already have 20,000 pieces," he says. "I don't need any more."

Some shareholders doubt they'll ever see a special dividend from the railroad's selling Rebel money. One skeptic is Jerry Eagle, the secretary of Jefferson-Pilot Corp., an insurer that owns 5% of the railroad. Mr. Eagle says his church was once given some Confederate bills. The result: "An expert said they were valuable only for starting fires."

And if the money really is the last Rebel payroll, history buffs don't want it broken up. "Kept together it would be fascinating," says Frank O. Walsh III, an Atlanta specialist in Civil War literature. "If it's sold in pieces, it's just real common stuff."

Thanks Bill Chamberlin



General Joshua Chamberlain's last home was in Brunswick, Maine, once owned by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and is now a museum.

* * * *

Dr. Kennedy's Miracle Drug: "Greatest Medical Discovery of the Age. Cures every kind of humor from the worst scrofula down to the common pimple. At \$1 per bottle. Two or three bottles are warranted to cure the most desperate cases of rheumatism." - Philadelphia Bulletin, Dec. 1, 1860. Thanks to CWRT of Philadelphia's Old Baldy newsletter. Sounds like a TV commercial.

* * * *

Jefferson Davis had a pet Russian bulldog named "Traveler," according to an article in The Confederate Veteran for April, 1909 - thanks to the Rebel Yell, Jackson, Miss. CWRT newsletter.

This dog had a history for viciousness as a bodyguard for Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey, from whom Davis acquired the dog and who sold him Beauvoir. In his retirement the ex-Confederate President always had "Traveler" with him and mourned him when the pet finally died.

* * * *

Acid rains are eroding the headstones at Gettysburg, notes the New York CWRT's Dispatch. Money is being raised by Pennsylvania and Ohio groups to help the Park Service there restore some of the affected monuments.

* * * *

On the morning of June 14, 1864, Confederate Generals Johnston, Hardee and Polk were on the crest of Pine Mountain observing Sherman's Union lines. They were under fire from a distant battery, when General Polk was hit, dying immediately. He was much mourned by both officers and men. This was expressed in an eloquent tribute found by Federal troops when they occupied Pine Mountain two days later. Greeting them was a crudely lettered sign: "You Yankee sons of bitches have killed our old Gen. Polk."

* * * *



Fifty Union bands staged a concert at the White House before the Seven Days battles in 1862, but served only to arm critics in the North to reduce the blare of martial music. It was charged that the War Department spent \$4,000,000 a year on bands, and that in July 1862, there were 618 bands in service, a ratio of one musician to every forty-one soldiers. The protests ended regimental bands, and thereafter only brigades had official bands of sixteen men each..

Burke Davis' Our Incredible Civil War, thanks to NY CWRT

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