

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

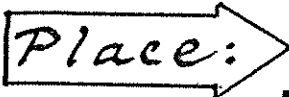
P.O. BOX 5028 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

SEPTEMBER 1982

217th Meeting

VOLUME 25 NO. 10

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14th



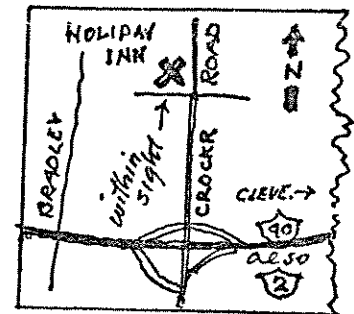
THE HOLIDAY INN ON CROCKER ROAD JUST NORTH OF 90 (2)
IN BAY VILLAGE

ED BEARSS OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

SUBJECT: "Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads"

TIME: Cocktails 6:00 P.M. DINNER 7:00 P.M.

Edwin C. Bearss is known to many of our members who have followed him on numerous field trips as "the world's best field trip guide." His vast knowledge of the Civil War and his dramatic way of presenting facts bring the battles and its leaders to life.



Other members not so fortunate as those who know him as a friend, quickly recognize his name as the author of Decision in Mississippi, Rebel Victory at Vicksburg, Hardluck Ironclad, the Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo, Steele's Retreat from Camden and the Battle of Jenkin's Ferry, Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas, The Battle of Wilson's Creek, Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads, as well as innumerable detailed studies for the National Park Service and other articles and editorial activities. At the present time Ed Bearss is the Chief Historian for the National Park Service. He has received the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History; he is a Fellow in the Company of Military Historians, and last year took his place with the greatest Civil War authors when he received the Nevins-Freeman Award for his work in Civil War History.

Ed was born in Billings, Montana, and grew up on his grandfather's ranch, which was near the Custer Battlefield. As a boy he named cattle after Civil War generals and battles. After attending St. John's Military School, he graduated from Hardin High School (Hardin, Montana) in 1941, and immediately joined the Marine Corps. During World War II he was with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division in the invasions of Guadalcanal and New Britain. He was badly wounded by machine gun fire and spent 26 months in various hospitals.

Our speaker received a B.S. degree in Foreign Service at Georgetown Univ., and his M.A. from Indiana Univ. He started his career with the National Park Service in 1955, and has spoken to other Round Tables without number.

Reservations a Must

Call Bill Victory:

Home... 623 - 4666

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Dues: \$20 Sept. to Sept.
Non-resident members \$10

LADIES' NIGHT AND ANNIVERSARY

Members and their ladies were treated to a pleasurable evening in the Hermit Club's "Great Hall," as the May 11th last meeting of the 1981-82 season marked the official 25th Anniversary celebration for the Cleveland CWRT. Slides of many past field trips played during the cocktail hour and dinner; Charter Member, Founder and Past President (1959) Jack Cullen, graced us with his presence and briefly reminisced on 25 years of friendship and Civil War lore; a

We have firm commitments for all of our programs this coming year. Except for the September meeting they will all be held at the Hermit Club.

September...Ed Bearss, "Forrest at Brice's Corners"
October 12..Earl J. Coates, "Enigma"
November 9..Harrison Frost, "Gettysburg"
December 14. Dr. Tom Van Sickle, "He Was the Very Model of a Most Immodest Major General, Hero or Heel"
January 11..Book Sale and Quizz, Drews, Heckaman and Kowell.
February 8.. Neil Evans, "William B. Cushing - The Other Side of the Coin"
March 8th...A Debate - Chapman, Clarke and Troxell
April 12.... Dr. James Robertson (Subject to be Announced)
May 10 (Ladies' Night)...Craig Schermer, "Mary Lincoln"

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large decorated cake was on hand to help mark the occasion.

Our speaker was Mrs. Lynne Bury, a beautiful young woman aptly attired in replica 1860's wine taffeta and black lace ball gown. She entertained both sexes with a discussion of women's fashion trends during the Civil War, their social implications, and the types of materials used, enlightening us with facts on such subjects as whalebone corsets and cracked ribs, horse-hair petticoats with cotton underpinnings and the frequency of injury from the flammability of these garments in an age of candles and oil lamps. Numerous slides of our speaker's wardrobe and other gowns, all modeled by pert "belles" highlighted the presentation.

Special guests accompanying Mrs. Bury were her 11-year-old daughter, dressed in straw bonnet and child's clothing of the period to complement her mother's costume, and Mrs. Donna Lord, President of the Cuyahoga Valley Civil War Round Table of Peninsula.

Perhaps it was the wine, or the (low cut) wine dress - in any event, certain males of this organization have never detained a speaker so long after the program. But rest assured your officers stayed on to protect the lady!

-John Harkness



This summer your editor spent an unusually interesting day at The White House in the company of his brother and nephew, the latter being a special agent of the Secret Service assigned to protect the President. We saw and learned much in the West Wing and some of the rooms in the Executive Mansion not open to the public.

The public is permitted to visit the East Wing and five public rooms; The Red, Green and Blue Rooms, the State Dining Room and the East Room, where receptions, balls and concerts are held.

It was in the East Room that I was able to tell the others about a scene I would like to have seen:

When the newly elected Abraham Lincoln moved into the White House, there were very few Federal troops in the Capitol and there was considerable apprehension about the President's safety. Washington was filled with rumors of imminent invasion. As a consequence, between Virginia's session and the arrival of a sufficient number of uniformed troops, that is, from April 14th to 15th, 1861, the "Frontier Guards" were quartered in the East Room.

Militia General Jim Lane, a bold Kansas ruffian but staunch Lincoln man, who had quickly organized a group of volunteers, strode into the East Room brandishing his shiny new sword. Behind him marched his earnest jayhawkers with a few Easterners exuding equal parts of bonhomie and bourbon, armed with a variety of muskets.

In the blaze of the crystal chandeliers (still there) ammunition boxes were opened and cartridges distributed. The Frontier Guards practised drilling for awhile and then composed themselves to sleep on the velvet carpet. What they did to that carpet and the room during the 12 days of occupancy can only be imagined!

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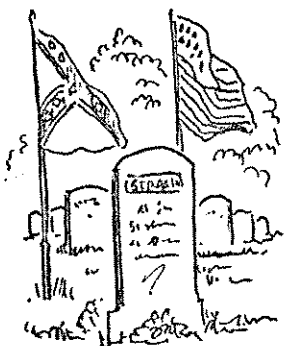
DISTILLED FROM CLIPPINGS SENT IN

GRAY, MAINE. Inscribed on a tombstone in the village cemetery here are the words: STRANGER. A soldier of the late war. Died 1862. This stranger was the body of a young Confederate soldier, sent by some incomprehensible error instead of the remains of a native son, one of the first boys from Gray to volunteer in the Union Army.

His name was Charles Colley, and he was killed at Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862, and his parents had petitioned the government to send his body home for burial. Eventually the government straightened it out, but no one knew anything about the Confederate. So the Ladies' Relief Corps of the G.A.R. arranged this marker for the enemy soldier and buried him amongst the graves of Gray's fallen sons.

From Yankee Magazine, May, 1982, thanks to Neville Bayless.

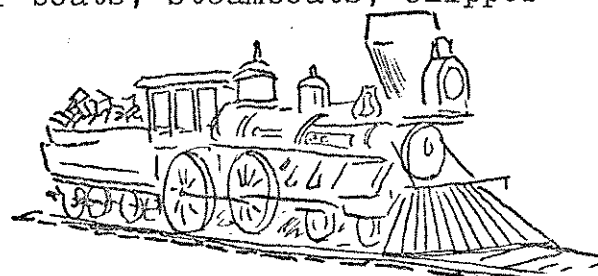
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. In an article he wrote for his high school paper in 1934, reader Bob Snodell (who kindly sets the Charger's headlines) describes the pageant of transportation "Wings of a Century" that was presented at the 1933 Chicago "Century of Progress." Enacted by a cast of 200 on one of the largest outdoor stages ever constructed, with the largest array of moving vehicles ever assembled in one collection, the pageant was the most popular feature of the exposition. There were covered wagons, stage coaches, carts, victorias, broughams, one horse shays, hobby horses, bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles, river-boats, steamboats, clipper-

ships, airplanes, locomotives - yes, and "The General," famous Civil War engine, loaned by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis R.R.. Bob's father was instrumental in obtaining "The General," and Bob himself was a barker at the "Wings of a Century" show.

* * *



JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. Mrs. Doshia Steele, 96, is one of over a dozen Confederate widows known to survive throughout the South. Most are second wives of widowed soldiers; many provided the elderly veterans with second families. Officials in Arkansas, Texas and Virginia say no more Civil War widows survive there. Enrollment in the pension program ended in 1917, "because a lot of young women were marrying old soldiers," stated the State Administration Dept. of Va.. Mrs. Steele was 15 when she married Josh Steele, 60, when he marched off to war from his Mississippi farm.

From Arkansas Gazette, Dec., 1980, thanks to Lee Tanger

OLD HAT, TOO: Inflation in the United States is nothing new. In the South during the Civil War —when Confederate soldiers were paid \$18 a month—a head of cabbage cost \$1.25, a pair of boots \$200, and a barrel of flour \$275, notes the Encyclopedia Americana. By the time Johnny Reb came marching home, the barrel of flour cost \$1,000.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA. On April 12, 1982, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources dedicated an historical marker in downtown Atlanta a few feet from where James J. Andrews, hero of "The Great Locomotive Chase," was hanged June 7, 1862.

Andrews, a civilian spy, with a group of 21 Union soldiers, penetrated deep into Confederate territory and stole "The General," a locomotive in which they tried to make their way to northern lines 90 miles away. They were chased by Capt.

William F. Fuller, (not Buster Keaton), the engineer of the stolen locomotive. All the raiders were captured, and in the excitement, eight were

5
hanged, Andrews having the distinction of being the first and drawing the largest crowd. The exploit of Andrews and his raiders led to the establishment of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and some of them were the first recipients of the medal. Fuller too was to have received a gold medal from the State of Georgia, but gold was short in those days and it wasn't until 1950 that the medal was finally awarded to his son.

From St. Petersburg Times, thanks to Fred Gill

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ELBERTON, GEORGIA. "Dutchy," a once-unwanted statue of a Confederate soldier, was recently exhumed from its grave here and spruced up by a drive through a car wash. It seems that the statue was carved in 1898 from local stone by a European immigrant artist who apparently didn't know north from south. Townspeople were so incensed by the result - it was a) too squatty, and b) horrors! - it had on what looked like a Yankee uniform - that they buried it. Now the Elberton Granite Association has decided they want the thing for their museum.

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer, April, 1982, thanks to Fred Gill.

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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN. Designer Harriet Engler, whose hobby for years has been the study of Civil War women's dress styles has become one of the world's foremost makers of patterns and designs of 1860-65 style clothing, according to Harper's Weekly. Her company is called "Tailoring and Custom Sewing," and produces museum quality garments correct to the number of stitches per inch, the thread coloring and button spacing. She has won many competitions at various historical events throughout the country.

From The Sandusky Register, May, 1982, thanks to reader Betty Johnson.



CLEVELAND, OHIO. On May 27th, 1982, to observe Memorial Day, The Cleveland Rotary Club was treated to a program of Civil War music and a talk by Earl Hoover on this subject. On the 23rd, an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, written by Earl, told of the first Memorial Day in the north, launched at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868. Orator of the day was Greater Clevelander General James A. Garfield then a U.S. Congressman.

* * * *

FT. MYERS, FLORIDA. On Feb. 20, 1865, the Yankees occupying old Fort Myers were not as popular or as numerous as the Yankees found there today. Established in 1850 as an outpost against Seminole Indian attacks on settlers, the Union forces reoccupied it in 1863. On the date first mentioned the fort was the scene of the southernmost battle of the Civil War.

At the outbreak of the war, South Florida became an important source of beef for the southern armies, and it was the prime purpose of the Union garrison to divert this food. It is estimated that between January 1864 and January 1865, some 4,500 head of cattle were taken in that area.

A small Confederate force (some say 400, others 150) attacked, and the Battle of Ft. Myers took place on a wooded patch of land close to where the city's public library now stands. The records are very vague and contradictory. The southerners say the bluecoats retreated to Punta Rasa,



(Continued on page B)

Field Trip Heads North

RSVP John Harkness: 228-3091 or 486-4200 (office)

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP OUTLINE

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Thurs. to Sunday, 9/16 - 9/19, 1982

"The Niagara Frontier in U.S. & Canadian Military History"

- 9/16 Thurs. 1) Rendezvous for lunch in Niagara Falls (American side).
- 2) Tour Old Fort Niagara - 18th Century structure with unusual collection of militaria, especially CIVIL WAR ORDNANCE & CONFEDERATE WEAPONS.
- 3) Time permitting - an underground railway station and/or another Civil War collection.
- 4) Cross into Canada (being sure to visit the "tax free" store for spirits).
- 5) Dinner in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- 9/17 Friday 1) Historic Niagara-on-the-Lake:
Forts George & Mississauga
Butler's Barracks
Historical Society Museum
Town tour.
- 2) 1812 battlefields at Queenston Hts. & Lundy's Lane.
- 3) Fort Erie.
- 4) Dinner at Niagara Falls (Canadian side).
- 9/18 Sat. 1) Hamilton, Ontario, Military Museum
- 2) Toronto:
Casa Loma and the Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Museum
Fort York.
- 3) Dinner and shopping in Toronto.
- 9/19 Sun. 1) Brunch.
- 2) Royal Ontario Museum.
- 3) Early departure for home.

Local guides, knowledgeable on personally researched War of 1812 and Civil War topics and local history, are being confirmed.

This is an area rich in French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and Canadian military history. The scenery is majestic and the modern city of Toronto is unparalleled for quality shopping and dining. The Royal Ontario Museum is rivaled only by the British Museum in the scope and antiquity of its collections. Don't miss this exciting look at our not-always-peaceful relations with our neighbor to the North.

The field trip is proposed as the traditional "stag" affair. However, ladies interested in doing their own thing in Toronto should contact Marguerite Harkness at 228-3091 to discuss possibilities.

OLLAPODRIDA

A Smyth County, Virginia man, in enrolling himself, wrote opposite his name, "One leg too short." The next man, noticing the excuse, wrote after his name, "Both legs too short."

* * * *

Horace Greeley, who always insisted that the word "news" was plural, once wired one of his reporters, "Are there any news of the battle?" The reply came back by wire: "Not a few."

* * * *



General Grant was so tone-deaf that he had difficulty keeping step when his company at West Point marched to music. Once, when he was President, he had to attend a concert in the East Room. Afterward someone asked him if he had enjoyed the music. "How could I?" he asked. "I know only two tunes. One of them is 'Yankee Doodle,' and the other isn't."

* * * *

The proposal to build a 603-foot radio tower less than a mile from Wilson's Creek Battlefield Park was turned down as a result of the many letters from CWRT members who wrote protesting this. Your letters DO help.

* * * *

Two Confederates, captives in a Yankee prison, hearing of Stonewall Jackson's death, held the following conversation...

"Bill," said one, "Do you know how Stonewall got to heaven?"

"No; how was it?"

"Well, when the news of his being killed got to heaven, two angels were sent to escort him up. They searched all over the battlefield and headquarters of both armies, but could not find him. So after looking all day they gave up and went back to heaven, where they found he had flanked them and got there without their knowing it."

-From the newsletter of Montgomery County CWRT

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SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD is in DANGER from developers. The land area in question is one of the most historically significant parts of the battlefield. Write your U.S. Representative (c/o House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510) and express your support for SB 1540 and HR 4687 and impress upon them the urgency of these bills' passage. Take 20 minutes and spend 20¢.



This page was reserved for FRED GILL'S popular BOOK REVIEW, but our stellar, nonpareil Postal Service managed to lose it between Shaker Heights and Vermilion. After a very rough spring and summer, it took a lot of effort on Fred's part to produce this one, and it was on one of his favorite subjects - the 20th Maine at Gettysburg. Time was running out on this issue because of the field trip information, so we just had to go without the review - which leaves a big gap in these pages. We are happy to report, however, that Fred is now okey.

* * * *

Distilled Clippings continued-

abandoning the fort, and the northerners claim that the attack was repulsed. One thing for sure, the casualties were very light and the war ended a couple of months later. In April of this year (1982) there was a reenactment of the battle about 15 miles east of the actual battlefield. More men took part in the mock battle (about 115 actors) with lots of black gunpowder and red greasepaint. An audience of some 2,000 cheered the rebels and booed the Yanks.

From The Ft. Myers News-Press, April 3rd, 1982, thanks to Ray Swanson.

* * * *

Thaddeus Stevens, the fiery Pennsylvanian and leader of the revengeful majority in Congress after the Civil War, won his last election to public office two and a half months after he was dead.

Stevens died on August 11, 1868, and his body lay in state in the Capitol rotunda. Labeled "malignant old man" by some, yet as many as 6,000 devotees came to the rotunda to pay their respects, and 15,000 turned out a week later for his funeral in Lancaster, Pa.. Soon after his burial, the Lancaster County Republican Party met to form the running stalte for the November election, and nominated Stevens for the U.S. House of Representatives "as a fitting tribute." Provisions for filling the vacant seat with a more active representative were ignored for the moment. He was elected even though dead by a vast majority!

From St. Petersburg Times, thanks to Paul Gelin.

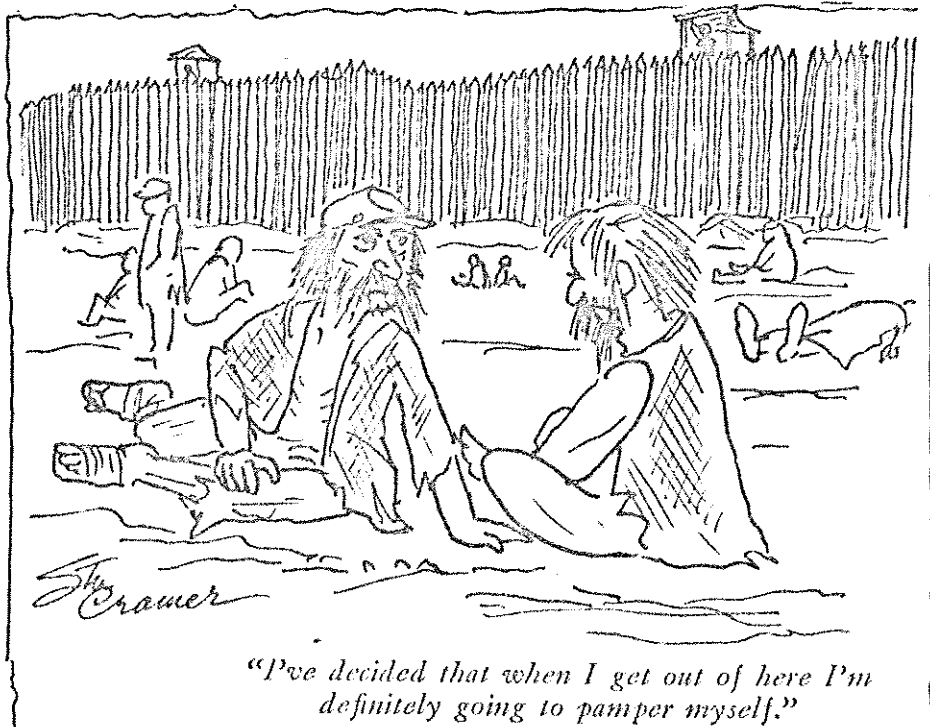
LET'S START OFF
OUR NEW SEASON BY
PAYING OUR DUES..
OUR YEAR RUNS FROM
SEPTEMBER TO SEPT.-

* * *

At the right you see the first of a new series. This summer your editor set about to make up a series of Civil War related cartoons on a variety of subjects, and will be used as filler, as in this case.

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INFO WILL BE COMING UP
LATER ON A MINI- Field
Trip.....



"I've decided that when I get out of here I'm definitely going to pamper myself."