

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 5786 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

MAY, 1982

VOLUME 25 NO. 9

216th Meeting

DATE: MAY 11th

PLACE: HERMIT CLUB MAIN DININGROOM

SPEAKER: MRS. LYNNE BURY

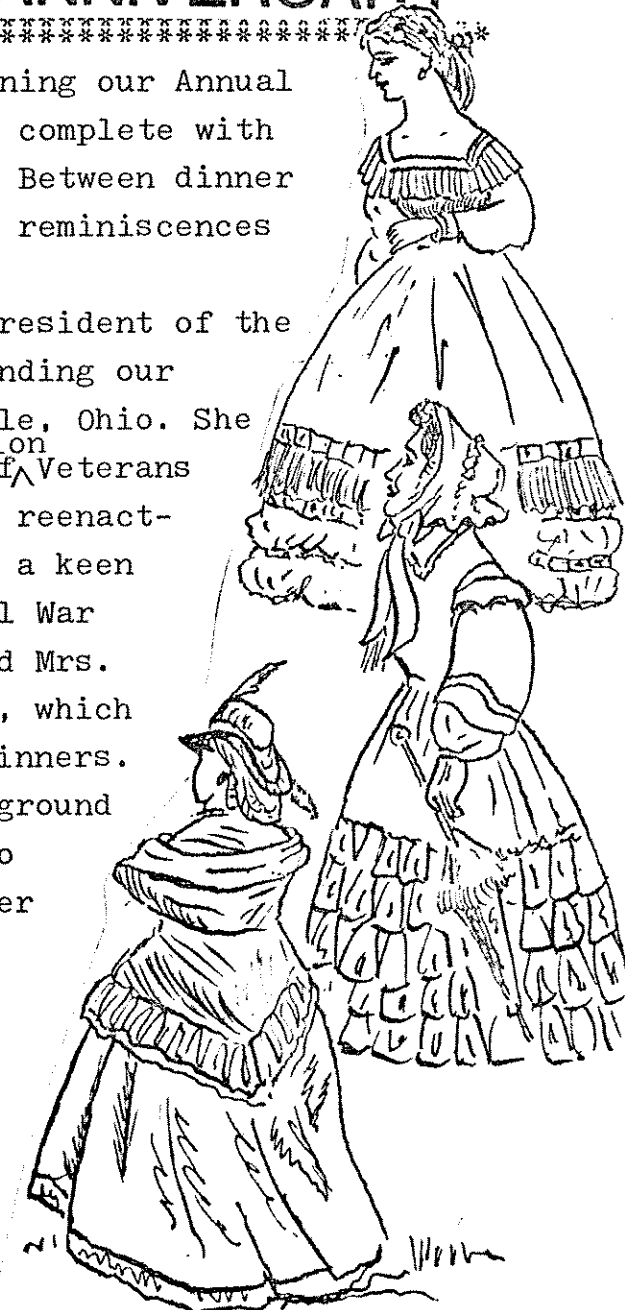
SUBJECT: WOMEN'S FASHIONS DURING
THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

LADIES' NIGHT & 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This promises to be a gala evening combining our Annual Ladies' Night with the 25th Anniversary, complete with cake and a special speaker for the gals. Between dinner and the speaker there will be some brief reminiscences by a couple of our founders.

We are indebted to Mr. Tom Vince, Vice-President of the Hudson Civil War Round Table for recommending our speaker, Mrs. Lynne Bury, of Marshallville, Ohio. She and her husband are active in the Sons of ^{Union} Veterans and through the social events and battle reenactments of that organization she developed a keen interest in woman's fashions of the Civil War period. Her research on this subject led Mrs. Bury to prepare a slide-illustrated talk, which has been presented at many Round Table dinners. Her presentation includes a general background on clothing of the 1850's and 1860's. To add interest and set the mood, the speaker will appear in costume.

A "memories" table will be set up and members are urged to bring any photos, scrapbooks, etc., of past Cleveland Civil War Round Table activities.





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Dues: \$17.00 from Sept. to Sept.
Non-resident members, \$5.00

Thieves Break Into Sherman Memorial

Late in February thieves broke into the historic home of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, called "The Sherman House State Memorial" at Lancaster, Ohio. Memorabilia valued at over \$14,000, and some priceless and irreplaceable. As we were about to send this issue of the Charger to be printed, the Civil War Times Illustrated arrived giving a com-

Last Month's Meeting

Ray Swanson did a superb job of research and presentation for his talk on "Impact of Railroads on the Civil War." He focused on the contrasts between the rail systems of the North and South and the role each played in the success (or failure) of significant campaigns of the War.

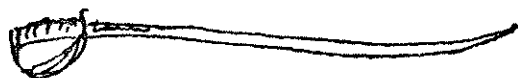
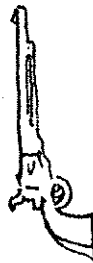
The inexhaustible supply of railroad hardware and work crews of the north was contrasted with the dwindling stock of engines and cars in the south, further hampered by lack of manpower; no common rail gauge between competing railroad companies, and no significant manufacturing capacity to build new equipment or replace material captured or destroyed by Federal forces. Ray is to be commended for an outstanding talk!

-John Harkness

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plete detailed list of all the things stolen. Weapons, military accoutrements, paintings, jewelry, flags, uniforms and furniture to name a few are listed. All CWRTs have been asked to alert their members who might be browsing in flea markets or antique gun shows to be on the look-out. For instance: A Colt percussion revolver, 1860 model, cal. 44, Serial No. 93338.... a carbine, made by Burnside Co., 1856, Serial No. 31735.

Anyone who recognizes an item as being in the possession of a suspected person or who may have information concerning the burglary is asked to contact the Lancaster, Ohio, Police Department by calling 614-653-2112.



FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

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L I S T E N !

REFLECTIONS ON THE CIVIL WAR by Bruce Catton. Doubleday & Co, Inc., New York, 1981. Edited by John Leekley and introduction by E.B.Long.

Imagine having a conversation about the Civil War with Bruce Catton! Had any of us ever had such a talk it would be treasured and never forgotten. But as few of us ever had this rare treat, this book will bring you as close as you can get to the real thing. It is not a book Catton wrote but it's a skilfully edited transcript of tapes this paramount Civil War writer made for some educational purpose.

Catton is one of the few acknowledged great modern historians of our period of interest but unlike most of his peers he was also a poet and philosopher, a man with deep and intimate feelings for the people he wrote about, the mass of them and the individuals.

In a marvelous chapter called "There Was A Young Soldier" Catton takes you into the war with a patriotic young recruit and explains what it was like, why it was like that and who made it that way. The conversation is enhanced and apparently was inspired by some quiet and poignant drawings made by a Pennsylvania boy who wound up in a company of engineers. Catton tells you and shows you what it was like for that stalwart of all the armies, the patriotic, long-suffering and truly intrepid young American.

Here is not the elegant prose of A Stillness at Appomattox and The Glory Road. It does not flood with dates and names and numbers or detail the intricacies of staffs and governments. What the conversation does is bring with simple clarity a kind of plain order out of the clamorous and multitudinous chaos of the war, and this is a very satisfying thing. Here is the crown of Catton's wise and discerning study of the Civil War. This conversation is the distillation of his learning and unmatched talents. Get the book and listen.

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BRUCE CATTON'S THE BLUE AND THE GRAY: A TV Series and a Touring Museum

This September television screens across the country will come alive with "Bruce Catton's The Blue and the Gray," an eight-hour CBS television network mini-series based on Catton's Pulitzer Prize-winning work in Civil War history. Featured in this non-fiction presentation is the debut television performance of Academy Award winner Gregory Peck and his portrayal of wartime President Abraham Lincoln.

Columbia Pictures Television, in association with Lou Reda Productions and Larry White Productions, produced the \$16 million series for CBS under veteran motion picture director Andrew McLaglen.

Already called "the most ambitious production on the War Between the States ever done by commercial tele-

vision," the series involves a cast of over 2,000 with more than 250 speaking roles.

In conjunction with the CBS series, General Entertainments, Inc. and Lou Reda Productions joined forces to create a mobile Bruce Catton Memorial Museum that will tour the country this year in the form of four, walk-through, mobile units. "Suitcase table-top units" will also be available as supplementary material to the museum experience.

More than five years have passed since Lou Reda came up with the idea for a television series based on the writings and fourteen hours of taped comments by Bruce Catton. Because of Reda's association with the late historian, Catton agreed to allow his name to be associated with the film. Subsequently, Reda is co-executive

producer for the series, and now he and Mort Zimmerman, chairman of General Entertainments, Inc., have produced the memorial museum which will tour the country, making stops at shopping malls, schools, business offices, and other museums to bring the Civil War as close as possible to people nationwide.

Probably the most refreshing aspect of this production is the cast's and crew's attention to historical accuracy; nothing went unchecked, thanks mainly to Cal Kinzer, a local historian hired as technical advisor for this epic presentation.

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN

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This incident, one of my favorite horse stories, has been used in these pages in the past, but it is a scene that always amuses when one tries to visualize it. Here is my black and white version. —→

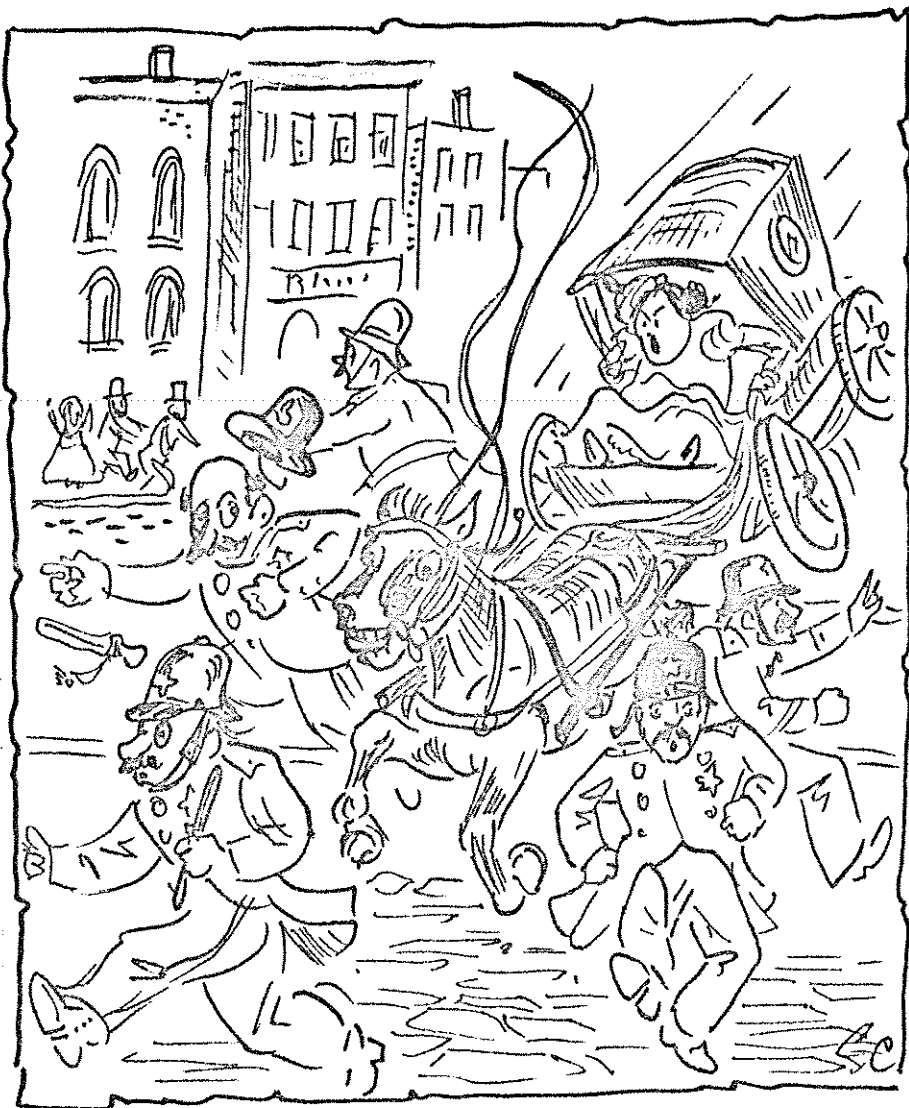
Long after Nathan Bedford Forrest had gone to that Valhalla where famous warriors still ride, Mrs. Forrest harnessed her late husband's old warhorse to a buggy to go into downtown Memphis to do some shopping.

As the reader may recall, Forrest always trained his mounts to fight his enemies with hoof and teeth in close combat. His rear-guard action on the retreat from Shiloh was a typical example: charging into a pursuing Federal detachment, Old Bedford got far ahead of his men and was surrounded by bluecoat infantrymen. Kicking and biting, his horse gave vicious support to his master's slashing sabre and crashing revolver to fight their way back to the Confederate lines

On the occasion of Mrs. Forrest's shopping trip, an unfortunate squad of Memphis police were marching to their assigned stations when the old warhorse spotted the hated blue coats. Something must have ticked in the animal's memory, and with a snort he took "the bit between his teeth" and attacked - always a Forrest tactic - scattering the cops in undignified retreat.

Fortunately there were no injuries, other than that of the widow's decorum as she was bounced and jounced about in the buggy as it careened over the curb. A brave group of bystanders caught and subdued the "unreconstructed" charger.

It's a scene I'd love to have seen!



First Annual Ohio Civil War Round Table Meeting

The Ohio Volunteer CWRT of Cambridge, Ohio, is sponsoring a meeting of ALL OHIO Civil War Round Tables on Sat., June 5th, at Salt Fork State Pk. near Cambridge, Ohio. Beginning at 9:30 A.M. a program of impressive speakers and sight-seeing interests will be provided until 9:00 P.M.. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes two meals. Reservations and motel accommodations may be obtained by writing to Herbert J. Parkinson, 912 North 8th Street, Cambridge, Ohio 43725.

More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About



During the battle at Fort Donelson, where U.S. Grant first became famous, a newspaper reporter sent back to the northern papers a dispatch telling how Grant rode along the battle lines with a cigar clenched between his teeth. Grant was an habitual pipe smoker, but something about the image of a fighting general with a cigar in his mouth caught the public fancy. From then on the general began to receive hundreds of cigars from his northern admirers. Being a frugal fellow who hated to waste anything, he became a confirmed cigar smoker - sometimes consuming 20 or 30 a day. They finally killed him with cancer of the throat. In his Memoirs, Grant mentions these gifts of hundreds of boxes of cigars and how he passed them out to his staff and almost everyone else he contacted.

As a one-time cigarband collector, this writer is most curious about what brands Grant preferred. He must have received every brand of cigar manufactured at that time; yet in all the books we've read about him, there are no mentions of any brands. There must be a buff somewhere who can throw some light on this question? Can the reader help?



There is a story which was told to be true (author's name eludes us) about a cigar that was given to the teller's grandfather by General Grant and kept in the family a couple of generations as a cherished possession. Then on a special occasion, the cigar was lighted - and blew up! Now Grant was not a practical joker; so the assumption must be made that someone handed it to the general hoping it would blow up in his face, but Grant had innocently passed it on.

For your treasured information the guy who discovered cigars was one Rodrigo de Xerers, one of Columbus' sailors. The log book of the Santa Maria indicated that on October 28, 1492, Rodrigo "drew smoke from a rolled and twisted herb" offered to him by some native Indians. This started their production and popularization in Spain.

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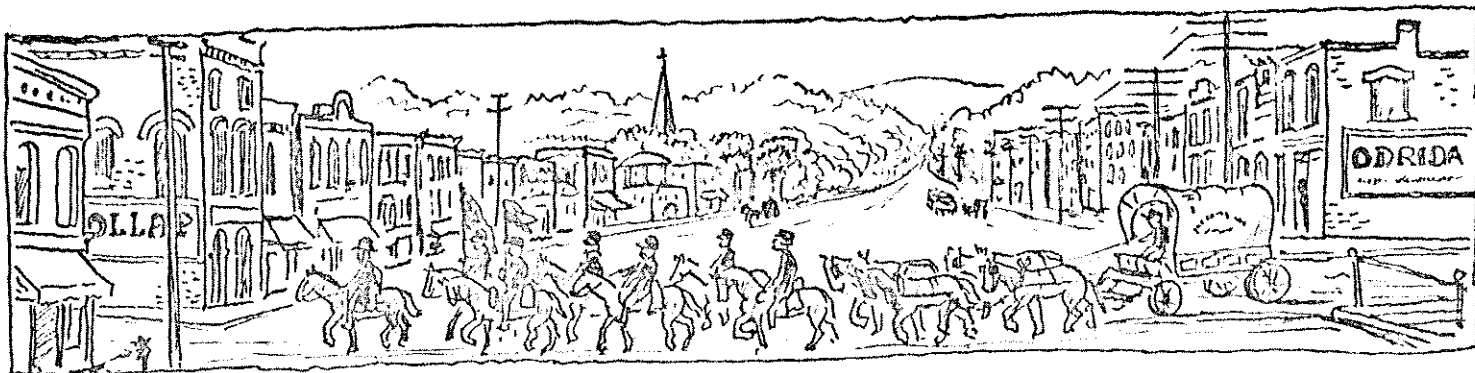
Our May meeting and this issue of the Charger marks the last of the current season. The next regular issue giving the poop on our September meeting (the 14th) and the coming Field Trip will reach you early that month. Have a pleasant summer, and if you come across any interesting information, article, clipping

or suggestion, shoot it in - they will be much appreciated.

True story on getting old and deaf: a member just up from several months in the south asked, "And how was your weather this winter?" I replied, "Just awful, cold and crazy." He looked at me rather strangely and then said a little louder, "I aksed. 'How was your wife this winter' "?

Enclosed is a record of all our programs, plus other data, for our first twenty-five years. We are all indebted to Neville Bayless and John Harkness for this pleasant memory bank.

* * * *



Both the Union and Confederate armies contained a great number of ardent teenagers who had lied about their age in order to enlist. In the North a very common trick was employed by those who wanted to get around the legal age of eighteen. A boy under age would put a piece of paper in his shoe;

on the paper he had written the figure "18." Then in the recruiting office under oath he would say, "I'm over eighteen." In those days a man would not think of lying to his government, and it is a commentary on the mores of that time that the kids would go to the bother of carrying out this trick to salve their consciences!

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In the early days of the War Union army shoes were squared off so that the shoes could be worn either on the right or left foot. It was strictly an army contractor trick to get more profit, much to the discomfort of the poor footsore recruit.



This ad appeared in a recent Wall Street Journal:

"Beautiful Restored Civil War Era Antique Parlor Grand Piano \$7,500." Wonder what they wanted for the antique parlor?

German born soldiers in the Union Army called the Confederate flag a Klapperschlangeflagge - Rattlesnake Flag.

Fort Sumter was bombarded for about a day and a half. It returned the fire, and all in all, probably 4,000 shells were shot back and forth, but nobody got hurt except a lady spectator who sat on a hot chimney. Twenty-four hours after the firing stopped and the Union garrison surrendered, during the lowering-flag-ceremonies and the cannon salutes, one of the cannons blew up, killing one Federal soldier and wounding five, of which one later died. So there were two men killed and four injured in the great battle of Fort Sumter - all after the battle had ceased.

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An Englishman by the name of John Cassons served as a captain on the staff of Confederate General Laws and was captured after being wounded at Gettysburg. After recovering, he was sent to Johnson's Island Military Prison in Sandusky Bay. He was one of the few who escaped and made his way south. Just before he reached Richmond he found refuge at a farm, owned by a widow whom he found so charming that he married her. Then he claimed exemption from further military duty because he was a foreigner.