

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O.Box 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089-0444

OCTOBER, 1981

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 3

209th Meeting

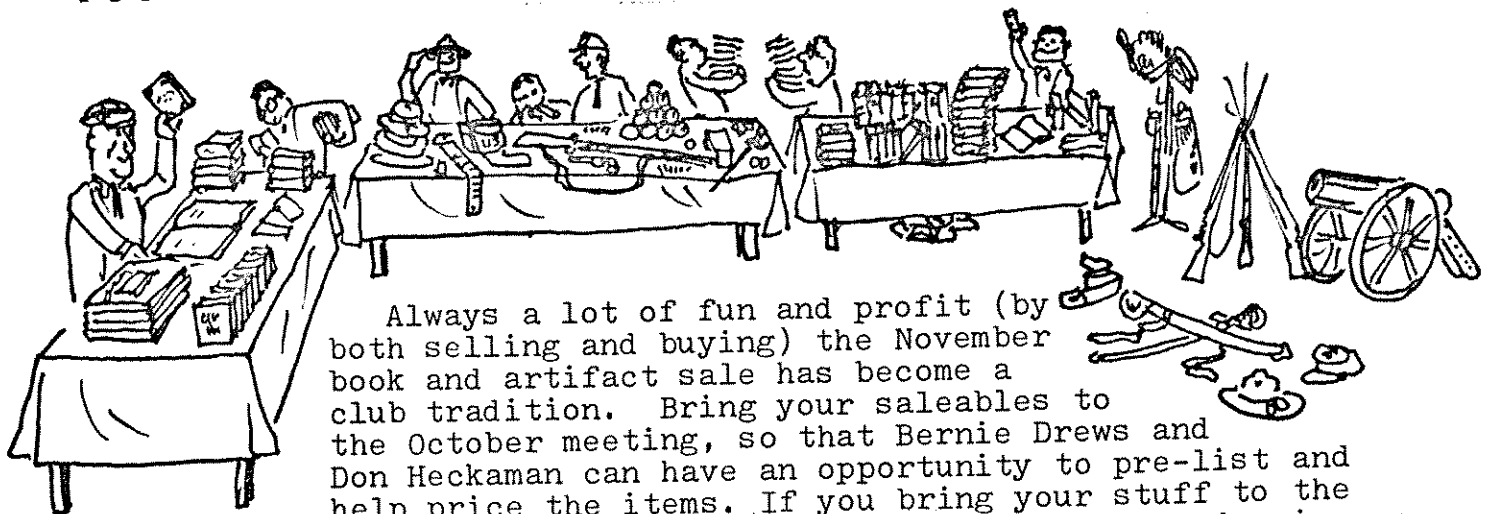
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13th
SPEAKER: EARL J. COATES, of Baltimore, Md.
SUBJECT: SUPPLYING SHERMAN'S ARMY - ATLANTA CAMPAIGN
PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB
TIME: Cocktails at 6:00 P.M. Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Coates, our speaker this month, is presently curator of the collection of historical equipment of the National Security Agency and does historical research for that organization. A graduate of Loyola College, Baltimore, he has published several articles on the Civil War and is currently working on a book on quartermaster operations in that war. Mr. Coates has been a student of the C.W. for 25 years and is especially interested in the Quartermaster's Department of the Union Army and the manufacture of its uniforms.

Earl was born in Ashland, Ohio, is a member of the Company of Military Historians (since 1962); Council of Abandoned Military Posts; North-South Skirmish Ass'n., and the Order of Indian Wars. He is a collector of Civil War photography.

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November - Books and Artifacts *SALE*



Always a lot of fun and profit (by both selling and buying) the November book and artifact sale has become a club tradition. Bring your saleables to the October meeting, so that Bernie Drews and Don Heckaman can have an opportunity to pre-list and help price the items. If you bring your stuff to the November meeting be sure you put your name and price on the books or memorabilia. We will also have our annual quizz that night.



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

DUZE ARE DUE-- DO IT NOW!

Our fiscal year is from September to September. Let's start this season out with enough in the treasury so we won't have to waste space like this harping on the subject. Send your check to Treasurer Neil Evans TODAY!!

18740 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Hts.
Ohio 44112

YORKTOWN---CONTROVERSY?

It didn't take much imagination at our last meeting to think we were actually listening to a private in the Army of Lord Cornwallis, explaining why they had to give up at Yorktown. Or more exactly, how that army had got itself into a besieged position.

Craig Schermer, historian and artist, appeared in the full redcoat uniform of the 64th Regiment of Foot, and with English accent traced the events leading up to the siege and surrender at Yorktown. His presentation, strictly from the British point of view was convincing, well-planned, dramatic, and altogether fascinating.

He started with a toast to King George and followed with a toast to the revolutionary leader, George Washington. (We noted that the latter was received with much more enthusiasm.)

Private Schermer made a good case for the talented British General Cornwallis, with the fiasco at Yorktown blamed mostly upon the eccentricities and bad communications of his commander Lord Clinton. During the talk our speaker often pointed out the various officers he spoke about depicted in the portraits that decorated the room. These colorful paintings were done by Mr. Schermer himself.

During the question and answer period, our knowledgeable hecklers were unleashed (always a mistake in your editor's opinion) and shot several holes in the speaker's theories. It made for a lot of fun, and we must tip our cocked hats to the bogus Limey for his rejoinders, and for a most enjoyable evening.

As mentioned in the last Charger, Craig Schermer, and our president, who is also a member of the 64th Regiment of Foot, will take part in the reenactment of the Surrender on its 200th Anniversary. Some 6,000 uniformed men will be present to create the three-day spectacle.

FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

GETTING IT STRAIGHT

The Jefferson Scandals: A rebuttal by Virginius Dabney, Dodd, Mead. 1981

This carefully written book quietly and neatly punctures the gassy bag of humbug about Jefferson's love life reinflated a few years ago by Fawn Brodie. The story about Jefferson and Sally Hemings is not new. It seems to have been started by a job seeker taking a cheap shot at Jefferson after Jefferson turned him down, and the story was swallowed whole by Brodie, who used it to cash in on the current and profitable genre devoted to blackening the big men of our history. Any story that portrays these heroes as whited sepulchers seems to make the cash register jump.

We have been told recently that Washington faked his expense account and that John Adams, that almost priggish patriot, was a British spy. No hero is immune from this lurid humbuggery. Freeman, in his impeccable work on Lee, relates how a Boston newspaper in 1863 printed as gospel a story that Lee, the soul of Christian rectitude, whipped a woman slave at Arlington and bathed her bleeding wounds in brine. No evidence except a story repeated by an unnamed Union soldier.

Far too often these florid canards flourish without any attempt to publicize historically sound refutations of the titillating nonsense. Here, in the case of Jefferson and poor dusky Sally, we can thank Virginius Dabney for setting the record straight. Mr. Dabney, the distinguished Pulitzer prize winning editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch and a Virginia gentleman (in the true old Southern sense) of sound scholarship, has done a thorough, dignified and conclusive piece of work demolishing the outrageous undignified lies of others.

I hope a million people will read the book.

Addenda:

Here's an afterthought on the review I mailed yesterday:

Virginius Dabney's credentials, which I made sound pretty bounteous, are easily checked by reading a book he wrote, really with great modesty, entitled Across the Years and subtitled Memories of a Virginian (Doubleday, 1978). F.G.

Thanks to reader Bob Snodell of Chicago for again setting headlines.



Ed. Note:

In the museum below the giant "Archway to the West," in St. Louis, Mo., there is a bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson. Not on a pedestal, but with the feet on the floor, this sculpture is so life-like and exact life-size, you can walk right up, like I did, and stand there face-to-face and talk to the great man.

I forgot to ask him about Sally.

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP

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By Neville Bayless

Twelve members entered Chattanooga Thursday, September 17, on the double quick to begin the 25th annual field trip. Members reporting for duty were: Drews, Heckaman, N. Bayless, R. Bayless, Riel, McCrae, Evans, Chamberlin, Spiegle, Wilson, Gillen and Tanger.

Friday morning the tour began under the expert guidance of Ed Bearss, than whom there is no than-whomer re Civil War battlefields. First stop was the Chickamauga Park Headquarters where the gun nuts in the group were permitted to drool at length over the outstanding Fuller Collection of American long arms. Next the intrepid band drove to the west side of McLemore's Cove to understand Rosecrans' wide dispersal of his advancing forces. At Dug Gap and the Davis Crossroads there was discussion of several Confederate failures to destroy Negley's dangerously advanced troops.

Next points of interest were Crawfish Springs and Lee & Gordon's Mill. The afternoon and most of Saturday morning were spent in a thorough exploration of Chickamauga, the Bloody Battle of the West. Stops were made at Read's Bridge, Alexander's Bridge, Jay's Mill and the barricaded Federal defense line of the first day.

At the Brotherton House, the scene of Longstreet's break-through was studied. The Widow Glenn farm site including the Wilder Tower, the Snodgrass house and farm, and Horseshoe Ridge completed the battlefield tour. Return to Chattanooga was via Dry Valley Road and McFarland's Gap, the Federal line of retreat.

After dinner at the historic Road House, Professor Livingood spoke, telling about how the unusual terrain of the area affected the logistics of the siege of Chattanooga.

Saturday, a box lunch was devoured halfway up Lookout Mountain. Next a stop was made at familiar Point Park with a panoramic view from Ochs (rhymes with sox) Memorial. Halfway down the mountain a visit was made to the Craven House, scene of the so-called "Battle Above the Clouds." After in-town stops at Orchard Knob and the National Cemetery, the trip was concluded with a tour of Missionary Ridge with stops at the Bragg Reservation, the DeLong Reservation, and the Sherman Reservation.

Wiser in spirit but weaker in the flesh, everyone headed for Cleveland. Thus concluded a splendid trip thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Charlie Spiegle.

* * *

Arkansas member Leigh Tanger, who joined the group at Chattanooga, brought along a batch of newspaper clippings on various subjects pertinent to the Civil War and sent them to the Charger via Bernie Drews. They covered items such as the organization of a new Arkansas Civil War Round Table; Confederate Knives, etc.. One full page of the Arkansas Gazette carried a story about a Pine Bluff resident who collects cavalry articles: uniforms, saddlery and weapons, with the subject's picture in an authentic Union cavalry officer's uniform.

But the thing that caught your editor's eye was an article at the bottom of the page by a columnist who told a story that happened when he was stationed at Fort Chaffee, near the city of Fort Smith. It seems that a history professor from Kansas State was arranging a field trip and wrote to the president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce for the names of some local hotels. One of the hotels was widely known to the military establish-

continued on page 6

CHICKAMAUGA ECHOES



ROSECRANS RIDES
FROM FAME TO OBSCURITY



GARFIELD'S
MEANINGLESS
RIDE TO JOIN THOMAS
MAKES POLITICAL
HAY AFTER THE WAR



WITHOUT THE
HELP OF GRANGER
THOMAS MIGHT NOT
HAVE BEEN A ROCK



BRAGG DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW HE'D WON - WAS
ALREADY BLAMING
HIS OFFICERS

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

From the Civil War Round Table Associates, an organization dedicated to the preservation of our battlefields and keeping CWRTs on their toes, comes this message:

There are two points we need to work on, both positive for a change. We need you to write your Senators on these two points, and they can go in the same letter. First, a certain amount of money for the acquisition of parks' lands has been restored to the budget, overriding Interior Secretary Watt's 'moratorium' on purchasing additional land. The Manassas acreage, authorized in Congressional action last fall, was caught in the moratorium, and there's no guarantee that it would be purchased with these restored funds. Please write your two Senators and urge them to see to it that the Manassas property is included in any Park Service acquisition plans. In the same letter, express your approval of the Park Service's actions to restore the historic scene at Civil War Parks (this means removing non-historic vegetation and replanting historic vegetation, so that the part will look now, vegetation-wise, as it did in the 1860's). We must always remember to express our support for and approval of Park Service policies when we can. Please write your two Senators today, c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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Excerpts from the Newsletter of the South Florida CWRT:

....reading about the War is a convenient source of endless enjoyment, collecting and re-enactment are special pleasures. But there is simply not anything to equal the understanding that comes from standing on the very spot and imagining the scenes that took place.....Fortunately, our grandfathers saved some of these scenes, so that future generations of Americans could not only read about their history, but would have the rare experience of actually "being there."

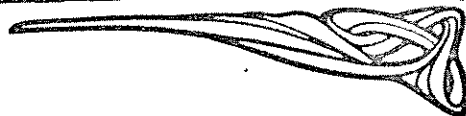
....there has never been a time when our inheritance of these treasured sites has been in such danger.....When an historic building is bull-dozed...when duplexes are thrown up on fields where men died for principles which are just as important today as they were back then, when irreplaceable documents and artifacts are destroyed- these heritages are gone forever.

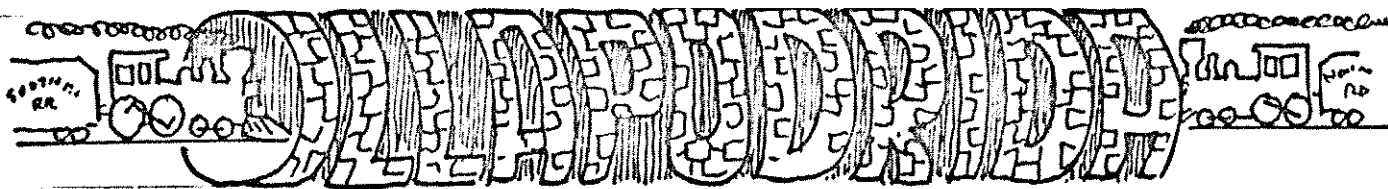
....Today, there is a mindless, vicious and deliberate effort to wipe out the Civil War...to the unfortunately wide range of people - from the neighborhood vandals that kick over the ancient headstones...to the intellectual vandals, who invent and distort history - the obvious belief is that, somehow, today is better if we destroy the past.Developers join hands with bureaucrats, shouting "jobs" and "progress" to justify their destruction of historic structures and lands.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER ALLAN SOGG. WE ARE ALSO GLAD TO HAVE DR. JACK WILSON BACK IN THE FOLD. Both were present at the September meeting, and Jack Wilson was a member of the field trip group.

A bequest of \$57,000 from a park admirer will enable Appomattox Court House National Historical Park to beautify and provide additional interpretive material at the spot where Lee bade a last farewell to his troops. The funds came from the settlement of the estate of Gary Stuart Cheatham, of Bluefield, West Virginia, who died in 1976. Preliminary plans call for a ramp and trail widening project to increase access to the site, especially for the handicapped, the clearing of undergrowth, and the construction of a new wayside exhibit.





General Adna R. Chaffee, U.S.A., and his oldest brother, Major Orestes P. Chaffee, C.S.A., were both engaged in the battle of Look-out Mountain, although this was unknown to either; in that same battle, their younger brother, a Union soldier, was killed.

From The Confederate Veteran, 1916

* * *

Given to us by reader Bill

Weldon

Button, button, who'se got dem buttons now?

An unique and priceless bracelet constantly worn by Miss Mary Lee, only surviving child of General Robert E. Lee, is made of Confederate buttons. The central button is from her father's coat, and on one side of that is a button from the coat of her eldest brother, General Custis Lee; on the other side of the central button is one from the coat of Gen. W. H. F. Lee, another brother, while the remaining buttons are from the uniforms of near relatives who served the Confederacy. These buttons are joined together by gold links.

From notes from 1916 meeting of

* * *

United Daughters of the Confederacy.

America has often chosen military heroes as it presidents. Witness Generals Washington, Andy Jackson, W.H. Harrison, Taylor, Pierce, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Benjamin Harrison and Eisenhower. Lower ranks included Teddy Roosevelt, Monroe, Lincoln, McKinley, Truman, Kennedy and Carter. Harry Truman, they say, could cuss better than any of them.

* * *

Gen. Jefferson C. Davis of the United States Army was sometimes confused with the Confederate President. There is a story that once, when he was in a small town in northern Georgia, an old codger whittling in front of a store asked him, "Gineral, which pays you the most, gineralin' fer the North or Presidentin' fer the South?"

Davis achieved notoriety by shooting to death his commanding officer, General William "Bull" Nelson in September, 1862, in a hotel in Nashville. Amazingly, he was never even tried for this, perhaps partly because of the politically powerful influence of his home state Governor of Indiana, Oliver P. Morton.

From newsletter of District of Columbia
CWRT several years ago.

* * *

General Henry Price (1811-1889) graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1835. Twice brevetted during the war with Mexico, and seriously wounded, he stayed in the regular Army. Promoted to brigadier general in 1862, he was in command of Auger's Division at Cedar Mountain and was captured there. Later exchanged, he took part in the Rapidan campaign and was unfairly blamed for the Mine Run affair. Retired from the Army in 1879, he committed suicide in London a few years later. Anyone have more details about this man's life? If so, please send them in.

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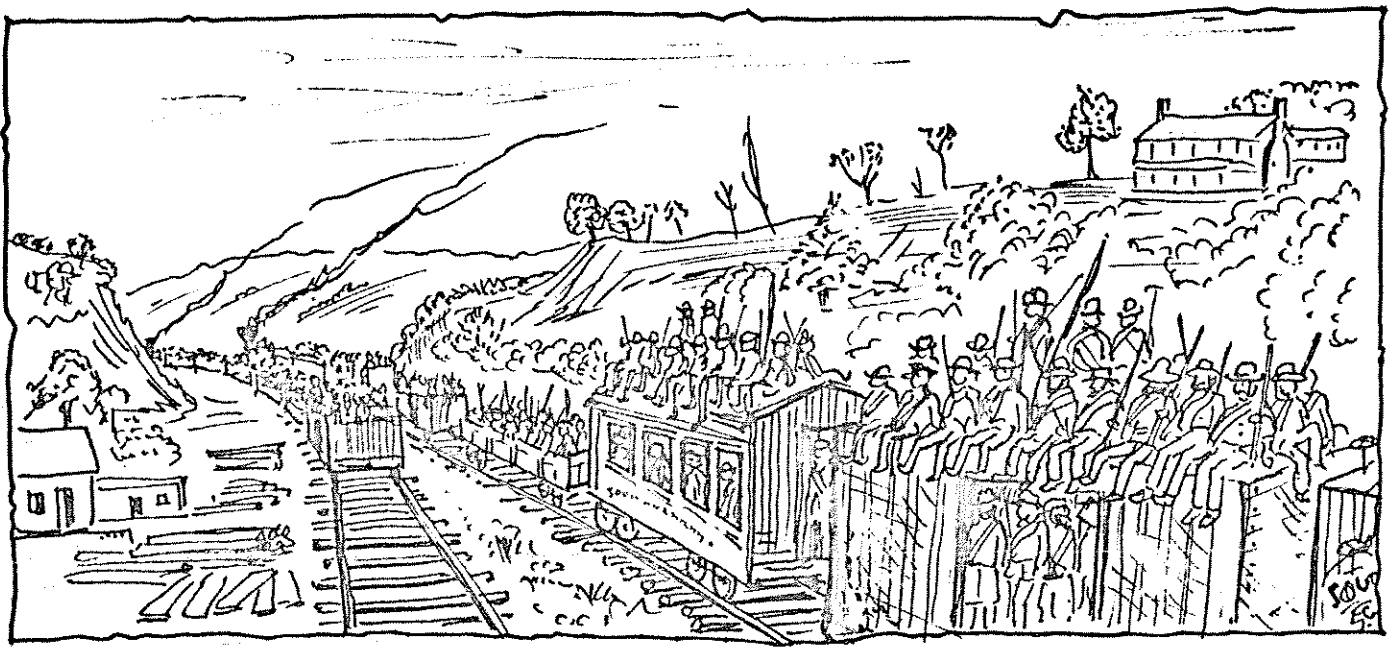
By the summer of 1863 every Southern soldier killed had cost the lives of two Federal soldiers, either in battle or from disease, plus \$100,000.00.

Glen Tucker, Chickamauga

* * *

Two good Civil War novels recently read: Long Day at Shiloh, by Bannister. How an English author could get so much local color and the feel of the participants will make you wonder. Elkhorn Tavern, by D.C. Jones brings to life the suffering of civilians in the area of the battle that raged at Elkhorn Tavern and Pea Ridge. It also puts Earl Van Dorn in a little different light.

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



With Meade warily waiting before the Army of Northern Virginia and Grant laid up because of an accident, Longstreet's Corps was detached and sent by rail to reinforce Bragg in Miss.. Rosecrans had covered himself with glory in outmaneuvering Bragg in Kentucky and Tennessee, and it looked like the Army of Tennessee was in trouble. Davis and Longstreet wanted Lee himself to go and lead the Confederate forces in the west, but he declined (Glen Tucker calls this the greatest mistake in Lee's military career) and sent Longstreet,

Indirect routes had to be employed, from the Rapidan through the Carolinas and north Georgia, mainly the line from Richmond via Petersburg, Va.; Weldon and Wilmington, No. Car.; and Augusta and Atlanta, Ga.. The distance 925 miles. Brig. Gen. A. R. Lawton, one of Jackson's best lieutenants in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, was assigned the task of transporting the largest body of men - approximately 12,000 - that had yet been moved by railroad such a distance in the entire history of war.

One of the difficulties in the long route was that the railroads did not have uniform gauge. Another problem was that most of the rolling stock was in even more miserable condition than the roadbeds. A hodgepodge collection of cars was made hastily and nearly everything in the southeast that could roll on tracks was hurried to the railheads south of the Rapidan.

The long trains presented a singular sight. Crowded with soldiers clad in new gray uniforms, a gift from Gov. Vance, of No. Car., never had such crazy cars been employed to transport an army - passenger, freight, box, baggage, mail, coal, and flatcars. Day after day the loading continued, Hood's Div. first, then McLaws', the only ones to arrive in time.

Longstreet's passage through Richmond and the South was a series of ovations. Every town and city they passed through drew crowds, showering the troops with food, flowers, and affections. Many of the men were going through their home towns, and the temptation to steal a few days with families that had not been seen for the first time after a long absence was another problem.

Only five brigades arrived in time to fight in the Battle of Chickamauga, none of the artillery getting there in time. But it was those first brigades that chased Rosecrans all the way back to Chattanooga. Then Bragg blew it.

CONFEDERATE HUMOR

There have always been joke fads in this country. Remember the "Little Audrey" and "Shaggy Dog" stories? or the "Little Moron did-you-hears?"

Did you hear about the little moron who stayed up all night studying for a blood test? or the little moron who drank eight cokes and burped 7 UP? or the little moron who wore a blindfold so he could go on a blind date? These are a few that come to mind.

Then there were the "knock-knock" sayings: "Who's there?" "Felix." "Felix who?" "Felix Cited." "Knock-knock; who's there?" "Thistle." "Thistle who?" "Thistle be a lesson to me."

And the Confucian sayings: Confucious say, "Ostrich that keep head in sand too long during hot day, get burned in the end;" or, Confucious say, "Woman who sow oats hope for crop failure," etc., etc. ...

In Volume 2 of Douglas Southall Freeman's great four-volume biography of R.E. Lee he mentions a joke fad that went the rounds in the Army of Northern Virginia while in camp one year.

"Humor had its place with religion and music. Along with pranks and bon mots, the standing joke in the Confederate Army did hourly duty in a hundred forms: a cavalryman comes rejoicing in immense top boots, for which in fond pride he had invested full forty dollars of pay; at once the cry of a hundred voices follow him along the line: 'Come out of them boots! Come out! Too soon to go into winter quarters! I know yer in thar! - see yer arms stickin' out.' A bumpkin goes by in an uncommonly big hat; 'Come down out o' that hat! Come down! 'Taint no use to say y'ain't up thar; I see yer legs hangin' out!'

"A fancy officer was horrified at the irreverent reception of his nicely twisted mustache, as he heard from behind numerous trees: 'Take them mice out o' yer mouth! Take 'em out! No use sayin' they ain't thar! - see their tails hangin' out! Another, sporting immense whiskers, was urged to 'come out of that bunch of har! I know yer in thar! I see yer ears a-workin'!'"

Fred Gill called our attention to the above

WRONG HOTEL-CONTINUED

ment at Ft. Chaffee for its contingent of "soiled doves." Naturally, the G.I.'s called it a "cat house," and that is where the delegation from Kansas wound up.

After the field trip, the president of the Chamber of Commerce received a scathing letter from the good professor containing a number of uncomplimentary remarks, the least of which was to the effect that never again would the writer ask the Chamber of Commerce for any recommendation on any subject whatsoever.

At one point the letter turned blistering. The professor's main complaint was that neither he nor his students were able to get any sleep during their stay at the hotel because of the repeated gentle knocking on their doors. The president felt badly after reading the professor's letter, but he was considerably mollified a week or so later when he received letters from all 20 students thanking him for making their stay in Fort Smith the highlight of the field trip.

One student reported that three busloads of history students had already signed up for the next field trip.

