Philip R. Davis—‘Justice in the Confederacy’—Friday, December 15

Philip Richard Davis, longtime member of the Round Table and one of the most faithful in attendance, will appear as speaker at the December 15 meeting.

Philip, an attorney, has chosen the subject, “Justice in the Confederacy,” and he says he has found the research of it fascinating. He was “standby speaker” during the term of President Mike Lerner. Since all speakers appeared as scheduled, Phil was still on the sidelines as the 1966-67 year ended. Now he is on the program as a scheduled speaker.

Phil, a bachelor, long has been prominent in the civic life of Chicago. Not the least of his activities has been that of master of wit and anecdote. Our picture of Phil was taken when he was introduced at the annual dinner of contributors to the Line O’Type column of the Chicago Tribune. His first contribution was in 1960—and his signature “Philhardee” has accompanied many fine contributions over the years.

Regarding his talk, Phil said:

“The organization of the courts in the Confederacy was until 1861 an uninvestigated phase of America’s greatest internal tragedy. Historians, politicians, economists, writers, soldiers and playwrights dealt with the South and the era with slight regard for the administration of justice during the Confederacy.

“In many respects the Federal (Confederate) Constitution followed our own, with some improvements and changes we would do well to adopt.

“One notices no adequate reason, however, for the failure of the Federal Constitution to include the right of the states to secede, for if the South was right in its contention and action, then why its failure to include that right in its constitution?

“In any estimate of the state of law and its enforcement during the Confederacy, it must be remembered that the attitude of the Northern courts, was that all acts of the Confederate courts, its lawyers, district attorneys, and marshals, were a nullity, a situation that greatly impeded the work of reconstruction, by bringing about chaotic conditions regarding patents, property and civil rights of Southern litigants.”

After graduating from Northwestern University Law School in 1916, Phil served as an officer in World War I, helped organize the American Legion, and became the first Department of Illinois Judge Advocate. He is a member of the V.F.W., past president of the Army and Navy Club, Order of Lafayette, and Military Order of World Wars. He was president of the Abraham Lincoln Heritage group.

He is a member of the Chicago, Illinois, Federal, Inter-American, and Federal Communications Bar associations. He was chief counsel for the United States Senate Committee Investigating The National Defense Program, director speaker’s bureau Civil Defense Program, and hearing officer Illinois Commerce commission.

He was author of “Purple Platoon” and “Acid and Honey” (poetry), “A Country Editor Comes to Town,” “Let’s Be Sensible About Divorce,” “Crime Curbs,” “Obscene Literature and the Constitution,” “An Ancient Trial,” and many articles in legal publications. He was dramatic critic for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

Phil is a member of the Cliff Dwellers club and past president of the Boswell club. He has been a frequent speaker on radio and television on civic, literary and political subjects.
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illinois' 150th birthday

The Illinois Sesquicentennial year begins December 3
and 4 with receptions at museums and libraries
throughout the state.

Win Stracke, our balladeer, founder and president of
the Old Town School of Folk Music, 333 West North
avenue, linked the 10th anniversary of his school, December
3, with the Sesquicentennial observance. He scheduled
50 singers of the school for a reception from 3:30 to 8:30
p.m. with Sesquicentennial officials, state notables, and
prominent performers in a short formal program at 6 p.m.
Win and Norman Luboff, both Illinoisans, teamed to
write a Sesquicentennial cantata, “Freedom Country.”
It deals with the state’s decision in 1824 to become a
free, rather than a slave state. Edward Coles, Illinois’
second governor, who spearheaded the opposition to
slavery, is the hero of the cantata.

An independent event linked to the Sesquicentennial
is a $100 a plate dinner December 9 at the Seven
Continents restaurant at O’Hare airport. Proceeds will be
used to buy new furnishings for the public rooms of the
governor’s mansion at Springfield after its restoration.
Similar dinners will be held around the state, sponsored
by Carson Pirie Scott & Co. which is defraying the ex-
penes so the proceeds can go to the furnishing fund.
Carson’s will exhibit fifteen miniature “American
rooms” commissioned for the Sesquicentennial observ-
ance. Among the rooms are “Carl Sandburg’s Birth-
place, School Room, Farm Kitchen 1850, Jane Addams’
Office, Lincoln’s Law Office, and Carson’s Dry Goods
Store 1864.” After exhibition throughout the state, the
rooms will be installed in a museum.

Ralph Newman is chairman of the Sesquicentennial
Commission, Ver Lynn Sprague is executive director,
and Jerry Warshaw designed the Sesquicentennial flag.

from the
editor’s pen

Ladies’ Night at the Kingholm restaurant, November
10 attracted 170 members, ladies, and guests. The cock-
tail hour required two serving rooms. Diners filled the
main dining room and an overflow room. The smorgas-
board dinner was a treat and many diners returned for
“seconds” (perhaps some thirds). From there, the
program moved to the Theatre in Miniature.

President Ver Lynn Sprague noted that among the
guests were President H. Y. Livesay of Lincoln Memo-
rional University, Harrogate, Tenn., and Mrs. Livesay;
Dr. F. R. Geigle, vice president and provost of Northern
Illinois University, DeKalb, and Mrs. Geigle; and Elwell
Crissie, of Bloomington, Ill., author of the new book,
“Lincoln’s Lost Speech.”

Sprague announced that Lloyd Ostendorf of Dayton,
Ohio, authority on Lincoln pictures, will be speaker on
February 9. Jerry Warshaw gave new details of the
battlefield tour to Fredericksburg, Va., May 2 to 5.
Member Dr. Stewart McEveland of Indianapolis de-
liberated a eulogy of Newton C. Farr, “a gallant
gentleman.” Many members had attended funeral
services for Founder Farr in the afternoon.

Ralph Newman spoke on the subject, “Readin’,
Writin’, and Round Tables.” He began with many
humorous anecdotes. Then he turned to a more serious
discussion of the Civil War as “the greatest collective
experience of the American nation.”

On the stage, an audio-visual puppet show was
presented with excerpts from “Paint Your Wagon” and
“Sound of Music.” The pleasure-packed evening lasted
until nearly midnight.

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A letter addressed to the editor of Chicago CWRT
newsletter, from the CWRT of Virginia State Prison at
Richmond, Va., reads:

“This round table (Prison CWRT) deeply regrets
having to announce the death of Mr. J. F. Featherston
on September 1st. As you know, he was the founding
sponsor of this group and was mainly responsible for its
beginnings. Mr. Featherston had a deep interest in the
activities of this round table and was most cooperative
as an agent between the round table and outside groups
and obtaining sources of study material. All of the
members feel deeply the passing of Mr. Featherston and
we know that we have lost a true friend.

“Due to the fact that we had to temporarily dis-
continue our newsletter because of a heavy work load
in the print shop, we would appreciate your announcing
the death of our friend in your newsletter. We would like
for Mr. Featherston to be given the credit that is his
due. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.
We hope to resume printing in the near future.

(Signed) Stewart W. Newsom, Program Chairman.”

The letter was also signed by A. W. Finlayson, who
succeeds Mr. Featherston as principal of the prison
school.

“I REMEMBER ILLINOIS,” color television show to
mark the Sesquicentennial, will be broadcast at
3:30 p.m., Sunday, February 18, 1968, over the NBC net-
work. Steve Allen will be narrator. Participants include
Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa,
Teddy Wilson, Mahalia Jackson, Dave Garroway, Burr
Tillstrom with Kukla and Ollie, Win Stracke, Studs
Terkel, Senators Everett Dirksen and Charles Percy,
Senator Paul Douglas, Governor Otto Kerner,
Mayor Richard J. Daley, State Treasurer Adlai Steven-
son III, R. Buckminster Fuller, Newton M. Minow, Mark
Van Doren, and Mrs. Enrico Fermi. Walter Schwimmer
is executive producer and Harry Raksky producer-director.
Newton C. Farr Dies

NEWTON CAMP FARR would have been eighty years old on Christmas day, 1967. He lived his four-score years in Chicago, involved in Chicago activities, and concerned with the welfare of his city and its people. He was born in a house on Woodlawn Avenue in Hyde Park; and lived there for seventy years until he moved to a Lake Shore Drive apartment on the near North Side. He was senior member of Chicago's oldest realty firm.

He was a gentle, cultured, intelligent, responsible citizen who loved his city, his state and his country and gave completely of his time and fortune to the welfare of the American people and their institutions.

In the world of education he supported a vast number of activities, including service as a trustee of the Faulkner School for Girls (Chicago); Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago); Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, Tennessee); and Illinois State Historical Library (Springfield). He was deeply interested in American history, and particularly the American Civil War and its aftermath. He was a founder and second president of the Civil War Round Table. His fine collection of Civil War material was given to his alma mater, Cornell University, a few years ago. He was a life-member and president of the Illinois State Historical Society; a life-member of the Chicago Historical Society; and a life-member and president of the Chicago Geographical Society.

He served as chairman of the committee which sought to purchase the Oliver R. Barrett collection for the State of Illinois, and did raise funds (which included a personal contribution of $10,000) to buy material from the collection when it was sold at public auction. When the State of Illinois honored the memory of Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of his 150th birthday in 1959, Newton Farr served as chairman of the committee selected by the Governor to plan the occasion.

He was one of the first customers of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop when it opened its doors more than thirty years ago, and was a friend, benefactor, advisor and teacher to all of us who travelled along the Lincoln-Civil War Trail.

He cherished the American traditions, and loved the history of our country. His knowledge of the history of the middle of the nineteenth century equalled that of any professional historian. He was a member of The Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois and was a founder and director of The Ulysses S. Grant Association which is currently gathering for publication the Collected writings of our Eighteenth President.

Though he was the senior of most of us in the Civil War Round Table, he was young in heart, youthful in his interests, modern in his approach to business and education, and progressive in all community activities. He served as the model for the ideal citizen and public-spirited civic leader, and many of us, consciously or subconsciously, were motivated to a higher degree of public service by his example. That we shall miss him would be one of the understatements of the age; that we shall remember him, in Jefferson's words, is a fact that is self-evident. —Ralph Newman

TO THE LADIES

The Camp Followers will welcome Joyce (Mrs. Jerry) Warshaw in a return engagement as speaker at the December 15 meeting. Her topic will be "Illinois, the Schizophrenic State," and she will explore up-state, down-state, and in-between, discussing why we are the way we are. Joyce is assistant to the director of the Illinois Sesquicentennial commission in charge of Special Projects. She seems supremely qualified for her subject. This talk institutes a series of Illinois-oriented programs for the Camp Followers to introduce and celebrate the 150th birthday of the state. The meeting will convene at 5:30 p.m., December 15, at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. Cocktails will precede and a catered buffet dinner will follow the program. Call for reservations (in the evening) 844-5082.

—Betsy Ross Davis, Program Chairman

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL, Inc., and the Commonwealth of Virginia present to the museum of the United States Military Academy, West Point, a giant relief map of Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1862, with lighting effects and voice narration.

Our member Henry (Heinie) Bass of Enid, Okla., was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame at a dinner held on November 16, Oklahoma's 60th birthday.

FRICK SUIT DISMISSED. The right of historians to their individual opinions and judgment was upheld in the case of a suit brought by a daughter of Henry Clay Frick against a writer who pronounced him "sterne, brusque, autocratic," etc. etc. Noting the dismissal of the suit in a Common Pleas Court in Pennsylvania, an editorial observer on the staff of the weekly magazine America concluded that:

"Undoubtedly the opinion will strengthen the hand of historians and biographers who believe that the public is entitled to know the truth about the development of our country and the men who developed it. Members of the American Historical Association and the Society of American Historians will find in the Pennsylvania ruling both a liberation and a challenge to their sense of responsibility."

It was noted that Judge Clinton R. Weidner vindicated the freedom of scholars to judge a subject on the basis of "reasonable research." —Freeman Cleave in Crossed Flags, newsletter of CWRT of Northern New Jersey, Inc.

A BILL IN CONGRESS would authorize the secretary of the Interior and the administrator of the General Services Administration to negotiate and enter into agreements with the Washington Terminal Co., owner of the Union Station in Washington, D.C., so that part of the station could become a National Visitor Center and parking facility for 4,000 cars. The legislation also directs the secretary to use his existing authority to provide transportation of visitors by the federal government along the Mall and its vicinity. The Union station is near the Capitol and numerous points of intensive visitation along the Mall.

The Indiana legislature voted $20,000 to acquire a site in Gettysburg National Military Park and erect a monument there to Indiana men who served in the Civil War.

THIRTY-FIVE Civil War Generals are buried in Spring Grove cemetery at Cincinnati. Canister, the newsletter of Cincinnati CWRT, reports that James Barnett did the research, Paul Ashworth drew a map showing the locations of graves, and John Diehl is able to supply a photograph of each. Among the better known generals are Kirby, Butts, Hickenlooper, Gist, Wads, Hooker, Heath, McCooks, and Weitzel.
THE NEW BOOKS

LINCOLN'S LOST SPEECH, by Elwell C. Crissey (Hawthorn, 425pp, $7.50). Discussion of Lincoln's speech at Bloomington, Ill., May 29, 1856.

A WALK THROUGH OAK RIDGE CEMETERY, by Floyd S. Barringer and Richard L. Kahne (Sangamon County Historical Society, 36pp).

LINCOLN VS. DOUGLAS: The Great Debates Campaign (Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., $5).


CONFEDERATE ATHENS (U. of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga., $6).


SOCIAL REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, 1798-1862, by Harold D. Langley (University of Illinois, 338pp, $6.50). How anti-slavery crusade gave impetus to naval reform.

SOLDIERS ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL, by Leo A. Oliva (Oklahoma, 228pp, $4.50). Study of forts from 1829 to 1880.


WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD, by Glyndon G. Van Deusen (Oxford, $12.50).

BOOK NOTES

Dr. Floyd S. Barringer and Richard Kahne of the Sangamon County Historical Society and Springfield CWRT have collaborated on a delightful booklet, "A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery." The highlight, of course, is the tomb of Abraham Lincoln. But also in Oak Ridge are buried many other notable people and above them are interesting monuments. Among the many are governors Edwards, Tanner, Cullom, and Bissell. There are such familiar Lincoln and Springfield names as Irwin, Bunn, Lanphier, Stuart, Logan, Matheny, Iles, Coakling, Butler, Dabois, and Hatch. More: Nellie Grant Jones, daughter of U. S. Grant; the Rev. Charles Dresser, who sold his house to Lincoln; William Wallace, Ninian W. Edwards, and C. M. Smith, brothers-in-law of Lincoln; Vachel Lindsay, the poet; William H. Herndon, Lincoln law partner; Gen. John A. McClernand; Benjamin P. Thomas, Lincoln biographer; and Oliver R. Barrett, Lincolniana collector.

The Carte de Visite collection in the Confederate Museum at Richmond, Va., contains about 1,900 items. It ranges in scope from George Washington to Tom Thumb, from the White House of the Confederacy to European cathedral gargoyles. Three hundred fifty-one items in the collection were once the personal possessions of the Jefferson Davis family. Sixty of these were presented by Mrs. Davis when she served on the board of trustees during the first ten years of the organization of the museum.

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS: All on Friday Nights.
January 12 - Glenn Seymour, "Illinois in the 1850s."
February 9 - Lloyd Ostendorf, "The Faces of Lincoln."
March 8 - Shelby Foote, "General Grant Reaches Washington."
April 5 - Rodney Loehr, "Cavalry Operations of J. H. Wilson Around Selma."
May 2-5 - 18th Annual Battlefield Tour, to Fredericksburg, Va., area.
June 7 - William K. Alderfer, Topic to be announced.

SPECIAL EVENTS
December 3-4 - Receptions at museums and libraries around the state, launching the Illinois Sesquicentennial year.
December 4 - "Illinois Sings," by Illinois Bell Telephone on state TV channels at 9 p.m.
April 18-20 - Chicago, Spring Tour of Illinois State Historical Society (Fall Tour, Oct. 4-6 at Chester).

NEW MEMBERS: Dennis Donnellan, 1713 Central St., Evanston, Ill.; Norman Toberman, 615 Rockwell St., Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dr. Stewart McClelland to: 730 Braeside court, Indianapolis, Ind. 46260; Bernard Moschel to: 24 E. Scott St., Chicago 60610; Patrick Reardon to: 345 E. 73rd St., Apt. 8C, New York, N.Y. 10021; J. N. Stanbery to: 10424 S. Bell Ave., 60643.

DECEASED: Founder and Honorary Award Member Newton C. Farr, November 8, 1967.

AVAILABLE at meetings: Lapel pin, $2; Key chain with CWRT emblem, 50¢; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢.

ABE'S EYES is the title of a chapter in the book "Our Ophthalmic Heritage." Herbert Black, a Boston Globe reviewer, says: "It telescopes into five taut pages the suffering, the changes in appearance and personality and even the marks on history left by Lincoln's episodes of double vision and his inability to focus his eyes on a parallel axis. Lincoln's left eye was directed upward 8 to 10 degrees more than the right eye and actually was set higher in his head. This, plus a tendency for the left eye to roll during periods of emotion, made it difficult for him to fuse his vision. Some neurologists believe Lincoln's inability to focus properly (heterophoria) plus episodes of double vision (diplopia) and violent headaches arose from a kick in the head by a horse at the age of 10. Charles Snyder (one of the authors of the book) tells of Lincoln looking in the mirror after winning the presidency in 1860 and seeing two Lincolns. Snyder writes: 'Sensitive, patient, compassionate, simple of heart and humble...Lincoln took the simple episode of diplopia he had experienced and turned it into a sign of divine approval of the course he knew it was his lot to take.'"