Gala Four-Star Ladies' Night Program—Friday, Feb. 13

Chicago Civil War Round Tablers and their belles are looking forward to a four-star annual Ladies' Night to be held Friday, Feb. 13, the day after Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Here are the stars of the evening:

Star #1: Dr. Philip D. Jordan, recently retired professor of history at the University of Minnesota and a world-renowned authority on Civil War and Western folklore, telling some lively yarns of the war era.

Star #2: Dr. Preston Bradley, beloved founder of the People's Church of Chicago, speaking on "If Lincoln Were Here."

Star #3: Bruce Catton, the greatest of all Civil War historians, who will be a special guest to receive a testimonial from the Chicago Civil War Round Table.

Star #4: The Central Building of the Chicago Public Library, now nearly 100 years old, which will house its first dinner party in almost a century of service to Chicago.

This year's Ladies' Night, a special gala arranged by Ralph Newman, will begin with a champagne reception at 6 p.m. in the second floor rotunda of the Central Building of the Chicago Public Library, Randolph St. and Michigan Ave. Guests are reminded that only the Randolph St. entrance to the library building will be open for CWRT Ladies' Night. A catered dinner, the first served in the library in its history, will follow at 7 p.m.

Civil War connections with the library building are numerous. The site was once a public park, part of the Fort Dearborn military establishment. During the Republican convention of 1860 the site was one of the locations where Lincoln's leather-lunged followers campaigned for his nomination. For many years the library has housed the Civil War historical collection of the Grand Army of the Republic and many of the unit standards and emblems of the GAR.

Our Ladies' Night speaker, Dr. Philip D. Jordan, will spin Civil War yarns under the title "Bayonets, Bowie Knives and Bloody Jacks" consisting of "lively yarns of unrest and criminal activities caused by the Civil War."

"It touches," Dr. Jordan says of the talk, "upon gambling in the army, upon the role of guerrillas and bushwhackers, upon the rate of crime, upon veterans who went to prison, upon the role of the ex-soldier as a tramp, upon the 'gunboat,' upon the fact that army life mirrored, to an astonishing degree, civilian life."

"There are sufficient case studies to keep (I hope) the audience awake no matter how many martinis they drink before dinner."

Dr. Jordan, endorsed by Pete Long as THE expert on Civil War folklore, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He taught history at Long Island University and Miami University of Ohio for 15 years before joining the faculty of the University of Minnesota as an associate professor of history in 1945. He retired as a full professor last June and now lives in Burlington, Iowa, the city in which he was born.

Among Dr. Jordan's books are "Singing Yankees," "Songs of Yesterday," "The National Road," "The People's Health," "Uncle Sam of America," "Edward Bonney and the Banditti of the Prairies" and "World of the Historian." He is also the author of more than 450 articles in historical and professional journals.

Recently Dr. Jordan has written introductions to a reprint of the rare edition of James W. Steele's "Frontier Army Sketches" and to Stephan Crane's "Maggie: A Girl of the Streets." The University of Nebraska Press this year will publish Dr. Jordan's "Frontier Law and Order." And a talk he gave to open the National Archives conference on the territories of the United States will appear in the next issue of "Prologue."

Recently elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society in England, Dr. Jordan is a member of more than a score of historical societies and professional associations, including the Civil War Round Table.
from the Editor's pen

At our January meeting Archer Jones titillated the sensibilities of Marshall Krollick and others with a provocative talk on military leadership—North and South. Jones took the unconventional view that Lincoln and Lee were the villains of the war because their strategy was not to gain territory but rather to annihilate the enemy, a strategic concept that was not shared by Davis or Grant.

Jones concluded "Grant got Lincolnian results, but not with Lincolnian means." He was promptly challenged by "Dr." Krollick who gave such a reasoned and scholarly answer to the talk that he was, in turn, complimented by no less a military tactician than Lloyd Miller.

***

There will be much committee activity prior to the March meeting. An executive committee meeting has been called by President Clyde Walton. And Brooks Davis, chairman of the nominating committee, said his group, which includes Clyde Walton and all past presidents, will hold its first meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13, prior to the regular CWRT session. Members are invited to make suggestions to the nominating committee or to any of its members.

***

A preliminary report on the Battlefield Tour indicates that the group will start at the Desoto Hilton in Savannah on April 30 and go on from there to Charleston. It is hoped that Gen. Mark Clark, noted World War II and Korean War commander, will speak to the group during the visit to the Carolinas.

Hal Hixon, co-chairman of this year's Battlefield Tour, fell and seriously injured his shoulder. It is expected, however, that Hal will recover in time to lead the charge on Fort Sumter.

***

At the January meeting Krollick's Kwiz Kwiz was won by—not surprisingly—Pete Long and our speaker Dr. Archer Jones. Seat the experts together, Clyde, and they are sure to take the prize. Marshall Krollick noted happily that instead of many 9's and 10's on the Kwiz papers, there were mostly 6's and 7's. One table, headed by Past President Jerry Warshaw, secretly used a copy of the Civil War Dictionary in a fruitless quest for the right answers. Somebody concluded that they failed because they “can't read.” But Jerry says that is just proves that everything that should be in the Civil War Dictionary isn't.

***

Speakers Bureau Chairman Gordon Whitney announced that all members are encouraged to pass along to civic, service and other clubs the news that speakers are available from the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Those who are interested may obtain application blanks from Gordon for registration with the speakers bureau. If you have a special Civil War topic that you are willing to discuss at public meetings, contact Gordon Whitney.

***

Applications for Civil War Round Table fellowships are available from the CWRT fellowship committee, at 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Round Table members and friends may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to the committee at the Chestnut Street address.

***

Collections of the past five years of this newsletter may be purchased for $7.50 a set from Elmer Underwood at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. A limited number of the collections is available for sale.
The Honey Springs Battlefield
Park Effort Needs Support

By LeRoy H. Fischer
Oklahoma State University

For some years there has been underway in Oklahoma an
effort to purchase the 2,993 acre site of the Civil War Battle of
Honey Springs for presentation to the U. S. government,
with the purpose of developing the location as a national
park. The Oklahoma legislature is now making annual
appropriations for this purpose, and the effort is fully
supported by the board of directors of the Oklahoma
Historical Society and supervised by the society's Honey
Springs Battlefield Park Commission. The 1970 session of
the Oklahoma legislature is being requested to appropriate not
less than $150,000 for the purchase of battlefield land. Your
support is urgently needed to accomplish this purpose.

Public awareness of the significance of the Battle of Honey
Springs has always been soundly based. From the beginning
the battle has generally been recognized as the largest and
most important of the 89 combat actions fought during the
Civil War in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma.
Approximately 6,000 Confederates and 3,000 Federals
were engaged at Honey Springs. Confederate and Federal
troops of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory as well
as forces from Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas and Texas partici-
pated. It was, in fact, not only the largest, but the most
significant battle fought at any time in what is now Oklahoma.

It was in both size and importance the Gettysburg of the
Civil War in Indian Territory, for it marked the climax of
massed Confederate military resistance in the area and opened
the way for the capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, by Federal
forces and their control of Indian Territory and much of
Arkansas. Perhaps, in terms of results, Honey Springs was the
Gettysburg of the trans-Mississippi West.

Although the Battle of Honey Springs is important because
it was decisive militarily, it is significant also as one of the first
engagements of the Civil War in which Negroes proved their
qualities as fighting men. The Negro unit involved was the
Federal First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The national, regional, and territorial importance and
relationships of the conflict at Honey Springs are pointed up by
the fact that it took place on July 17, 1863, during the same
month and year in which the major Federal victories occurred
at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Indeed, the Battle of Honey Springs was also a Federal victory
and closely paralleled in terms of results the military scene east
of the Mississippi River.

As one of the three most significant Civil War battles fought
west of the Mississippi, the Battle of Honey Springs rates in
importance with the Battle of Wilson's Creek, which occurred
on August 10, 1861, in the southwest section of Missouri near
Springfield, and the Battle of Pea Ridge, fought on March 7
and 8, 1862, in northwest Arkansas near Rogers. The sites of
the battles of Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge are now national
parks. These battle locations were purchased by the states
involved and presented to the U. S. government.

The Civil War in Oklahoma was unique as the Indian theater
of operations. Typical of the deep involvement of these
Indians during the Civil War was their wide participation in
both the Federal and Confederate armies at the pivotal Battle
of Honey Springs.

Please write to leaders of the Oklahoma legislature urging
that not less than $150,000 be appropriated for the purchase

***

Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone
associated with the Chicago CWRT are urged to promptly
contact President Clyde Walton or the CWRT through the
Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill.
60611.

TO THE LADIES--

Members of the Camp Followers will join members of
the Chicago Civil War Round Table at the annual
Ladies' Night in the Central Building of the Chicago
Public Library, Randolph St. and Michigan Ave., on
Friday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. for a champagne reception
followed by a catered dinner at 7 p.m. Guests must
use the Randolph St. entrance. Tickets for the Ladies' Night,
at $12.50 per person, may be purchased through the CWRT at 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago,
Ill. 60611.

SWAP SHOP

Our friend Charley Shields suggests a fresh feature for the
Chicago CWRT Newsletter: A swap shop or salver's post
exchange where members can offer or request Civil War items
they want to swap or sell. We think the idea is a good one
and we'll start the swap shop with an item sent in by Charley
himself.

WANTED: Vols. 1 through 6 or "Civil War History" (24
issues). C. J. Shields, P.O. Box 148, Frankfort, Ill. 60423, or
call 815-469-2593.

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Inc., Charlottesville, Va.,
invites CWRT members to visit seven Jackson shrines the
organization maintains in Virginia. Among them are Jackson's
home in Lexington, his military headquarters in Winchester,
and Robert E. Lee's boyhood home in Alexandria. More
information may be obtained from Stonewall Jackson Memori-
Val Inc., 543 Park Street, Charlottesville, Va. 22901. J. W.
Johns, president of the memorial, said the group will gladly
send literature to CWRT members.

Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table
Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which
publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships,
which include subscriptions to the digest, are $7.50 per year.

June Pyksacek, director of the Kingston Mines Theater,
announced to the Newsletter the world premiere production of
Robert Hvnor's comedy "The Assault Upon Charles
Summer," is continuing at the Kingston Mines Theater,
2356 N. Lincoln Ave., 525-9893. The production will run on
Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights for 10 weeks.

The play concerns one of the events preceding the Civil
War: the crippling assault on Massachusetts abolitionist Sen.
The assault took place in the Senate chamber on May 22,
1856, after Sumner delivered his "Crime Against Kansas"
speech attacking, among others, South Carolina Sen. Andrew
P. Butler, the uncle of Brooks.

"The timeliness of the play," said the director, "is found in
Hvnon's brilliant representation of the issues over which the
Civil War was fought, those issues which were never settled and
are still the burning problems of America today."

The play ranges from pre-Civil War days to the funeral of
the last slave in Ohio in 1938, moving back and forth in
history revealing the exciting events in Charles Sumner's life
through a variety of theatrical styles.

Kingston Mines Theater company won its recognition on
the Chicago theater scene with the widely acclaimed produc-
tion of Jean-Claude Van Itallie's "The Serpent," which ran for
14 weeks at the end of 1969.

The building that houses the theater, built in the late
1800's, was originally stable for horse trolleys. Twenty-two
young people are members of the company.
THE NEW BOOKS


Genovese, Eugene. THE WORLD THE SLAVEHOLDERS MADE. Two Essays in Interpretation. N.Y.: Pantheon, 1969. $5.95

Hunt, H. Draper. HANNIBAL HAMLIN OF MAINE, Lincoln's First Vice-President. Syracuse, Syracuse Univ. Pr., 1969. $9


Longstreet, Helen. LEE AND LONGSTREET AT HIGH TIDE; Gettysburg in the Light of the Official Records. N.Y.: Kraus, reprint 1904 ed. $12


Lothrop, Thornton K. WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD. N.Y.: Kraus, 1969. First pub. 1896. $15


* * *

Here is the solution to the first Civil War Crossword Puzzle by August Payne that appeared in the January Newsletter:

ACROSS
1. Famous hill at 1st Manassas
4. Commanded 6th Cavalry at Brandy Station about 1863 (Initials)
6. Actress in 'Our American Cousin' (Initials)
7. Thomas taught Hood a _______ at Franklin, Tenn.
10. Opposite of Volunteer Army (Initials)
12. Famous house at 1st Manassas
11. Constructed Bridges across Potomac for pursuing enemy. (Initials)
13. Captured John Hunt Morgan (Initials)
15. Known for the _______ Patch.

DOWN
1. CSA Lt. Gen. killed at Petersburg in 1865
2. Organized Military Telegraph HQ in Washington, D.C.
3. Covered Van Dorn's retreat from Corinth.
5. His Artillery stopped Pickett's charge.
8. Union Secy. of State's Land Deal. (Initials)
9. __________ Pond, Battle of Olustee, Fla.
12. Gov. of Iowa 1860-1862. (Initials)
14. This State tried to stay Neutral. (Initials)