

The Banner

Published Quarterly by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

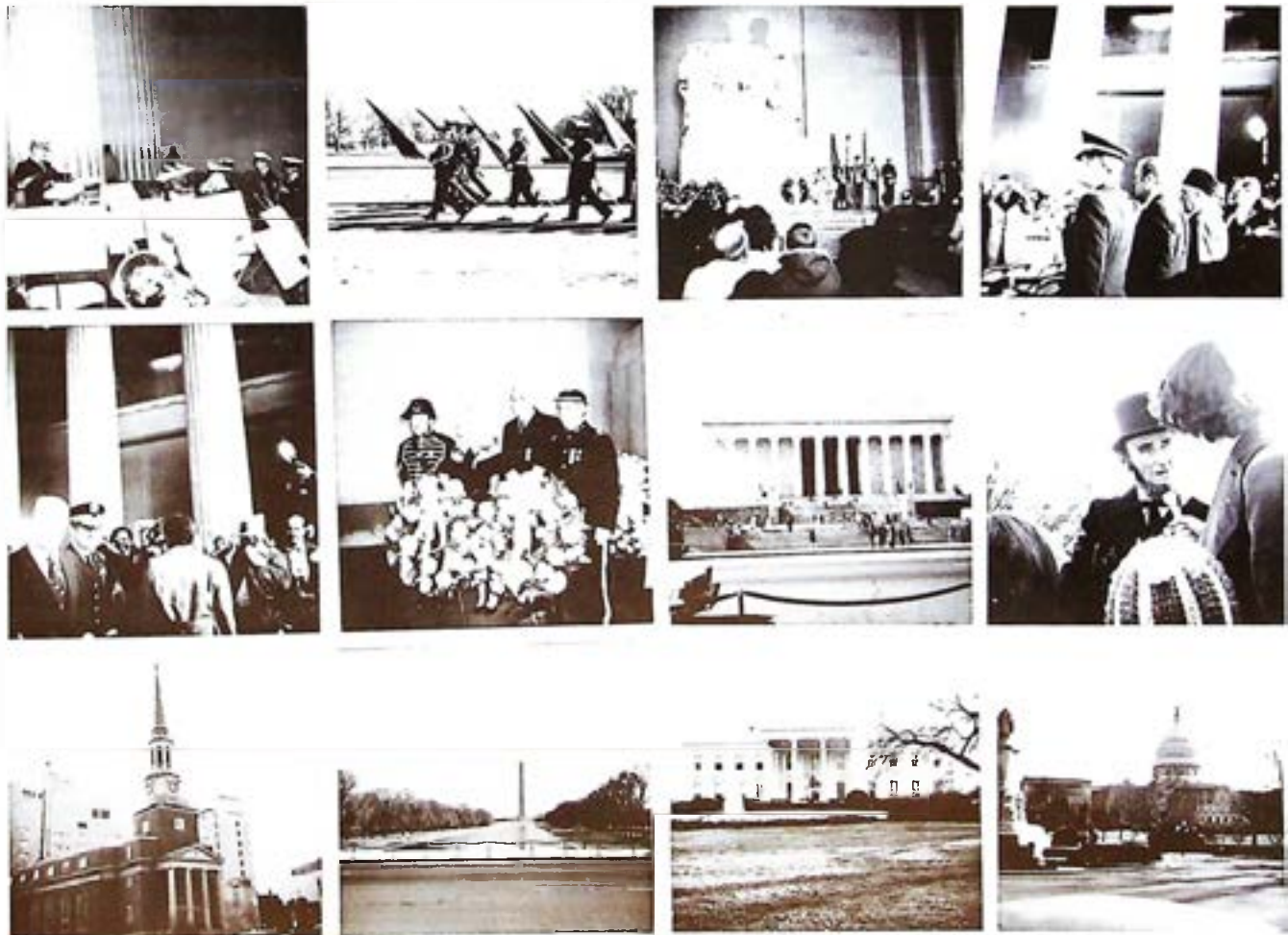
Organized 1881 — the only male organization recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic — Chartered by Act of Congress

Volume 80

APRIL, 1976

No. 2

Lincoln Honored in Nation's Capitol



Pictured above are scenes taken in Washington, D.C., on February 12, 1976, while a grateful Nation remembered a martyred President and Mother Nature paid tribute by providing sunshine and moderate temperatures. Top row (l. to r.): The United States Navy Band in Concert; Advancing of the colors to the Monument; Color Guard of the Five Armed Services posted at Lincoln's Statue inside the Monument; President of the United States Gerald R. Ford, flanked by escorts, arrives for the services. Center (l. to r.) President Ford leaves after placing his wreath at the statue of Abraham Lincoln; Sgt. Barry Snyder, S.V.R., who escorted National President of the Auxiliary to SUVCW Caroline E. Riddell, and Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW Clarence J. Riddell and his escort, Elton P. Koch, are shown with the wreaths which were presented on behalf of our National Organizations; the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C., where the ceremony was held; Arthur L. "Abe" Johnson, who has been impersonating Mr. Lincoln for a good many of the 80 years of his life, talks with a television newsman. Bottom (l. to r.) The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Abraham Lincoln worshipped and meditated while in office; the Washington Monument as it looks from the Lincoln Memorial; the White House, home of the Presidents; the Capitol, home of the Legislative Branch of the Government.

President Gerald R. Ford spoke and placed a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. on February 12th to mark the 167th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. In calling "for rededication to the goals for which Abraham Lincoln lived and died," Mr. Ford said, "it is less for the power of his words that we honor Lincoln than for the force of his faith in America and in the people of this great Republic." The President went on to say, "The Union was saved and the Republic endures; it is to Abraham Lincoln that we owe the opportunity to observe our national Bicentennial in peace among ourselves and with all nations."

(Continued on Page Two)

LINCOLN HONORED . . . (Continued from Page One)

The program was sponsored by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in cooperation with the National Parks Service.

During the course of the wreath-laying ceremonies, Maj. Elton P. Koch, S.V.R., assisted Commander-in-Chief Clarence J. Riddell in placing the memorial wreath from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Sgt. Barry Snyder, S.V.R., carried the wreath for the National President of the Auxiliary (SUVCW) Mrs. Caroline E. Riddell.

Ambassador Francis L. Dale of Cincinnati, U. S. Representative to the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva, recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Music for the program was provided by the United States Navy Band. The Colors were posted and retired by the Joint Color Guard of all five Armed Services. The rigid protection by the Secret Service guarding the President of the United States, especially since he is a candidate for reelection, prohibited the carrying of arms for the service except by the combined Armed Services Color Guard; therefore, the Sons of Veterans Reserve representatives were not permitted to have their Color Guards.

The playing of Taps concluded the program.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1. The 94th Annual National Encampment Proceedings (Rochester, N. Y., August 10-14, 1975) were mailed from National Headquarters on January 31, 1976. One copy was mailed to each National Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief and Registered Delegate (present or not present). Sufficient copies were shipped to Department Secretaries for distribution of one to each Camp and Department Headquarters. Those who did not receive their copies should contact the National Secretary-Treasurer.
2. By June 30, 1976 each Camp, by action of the 94th annual National Encampment, is required to make two (2) photocopies of its Camp Charter and to forward the copies to Department Headquarters where one of the copies will be filed and the other copy will be forwarded to the National Secretary-Treasurer by the Department Secretary. The Department Secretary is also requested to forward to the National Secretary-Treasurer a photocopy of the Department Charter. All Camp and Department Secretaries who have not to date fulfilled this responsibility are sincerely requested to do so immediately.
3. Department Secretaries are reminded that, by action of the National Encampment held in Palm Springs, California in August 1973, any Department having a candidate for any National office is now required to forward a Letter of Endorsement to the National Secretary-Treasurer prior to the opening of the National Encampment.
4. Orders for Camp and Department supplies must be submitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer on the 1976 requisition form. Otherwise, orders cannot be honored and will be returned. Copies of the 1976 requisition form can be obtained from the respective Department Secretaries.

Fred H. Combs, Jr.
National Secretary-Treasurer
P. O. Box 6193
Lawrenceville, N. J. 08648

**G.A.R. HIGHWAY OFFICER
SEEKS INFORMATION**

Wallace Macomber, National G.A.R. Highway Officer, requests Department Commanders or Department Secretaries of those Departments through which the Grand Army of the Republic Highway (U.S. Highway No. 6) passes, or which may be adjacent to states through which it passes, to write to him providing information about the condition and frequency of appearance of the "Grand Army of the Republic Highway" markers and any other general information of interest about the Highway. The states through which the Highway passes are: California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

Brother Macomber would be pleased as well to receive information of interest about the Highway from individual members of the SUVCW who may live in any of the above-named states, particularly those in which there are no Departments of the SUVCW. Letters should be addressed to him at Greenville Ave., Johnston, R. I. 02919.

ADDRESS CHANGE

The new address of the National Vice President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW is: Mrs. Margaret Gehret, 14325 Gaskill Drive, N.E., Alliance, Ohio 44601.

**ATTENTION
ALL DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES
AND ALL CAMP SECRETARIES**

A directive has just been received from the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., stating that, in addition to the Employer Identification Number (EIN) which you presently record on your IRS Form 990 when you prepare it, you must also show in Part I, item 18(b), our National Group Exemption Number which is (GEN) 0429.

Fred H. Combs, Jr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

1976 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

August 15-19

The Niel House in Columbus, Ohio will be the site of the 95th annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the annual conventions of the Auxiliary to the Sons and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, August 15-19, 1976. Earnest endeavor has been put forth by the Ohio Encampment Committee as it has planned to guarantee an enjoyable and interesting time for all who attend. The Encampment will open on Sunday with the traditional Memorial Service and Campfire Program. Business sessions will be conducted on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday will be a free day to provide time for sightseeing, trips and pleasure.

Reservation cards may be obtained from each Department headquarters, or you may write directly to the hotel to make reservations. The hotel rates, per room, per day are:

Single occupancy \$18.00
Double occupancy \$24.00
Parlor suites are available from \$50.00 to \$140.00

All reservations are held until 6:00 p.m. unless accompanied by a deposit of one night's lodging.

You are extended a very warm welcome to journey to Columbus where you will be able to relax and enjoy pleasant, constructive and meaningful meetings and events and fellowship with others.

**SEVENTH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE**

August 28 through September 6, 1976
Port Jervis, N. Y. — Matamoras, Pa.

Sponsored by the
LIONS CLUBS

of
Port Jervis, N. Y. and Matamoras/Westfall, Pa.

Hosted by
**COMPANY E, 15th REGT.
NEW JERSEY VOL. INF., S.V.R.**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1976 — 2:00 P.M.

REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF
CEDAR CREEK, VIRGINIA
Civil War History Relived
Infantry — Artillery — Cavalry
Battle Drill Competition

PARADE MILITARY BALL
MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES

**HE GAVE ALL
THAT HE HAD
— LIFE**

by
GEORGE L. CASHMAN

Past Commander-in-Chief

and

Former Curator, Lincoln's Tomb

"I would die a thousand deaths before I would betray a friend or be false to a duty." Those words, spoken by a young Confederate soldier about to be hanged as a spy, are reminiscent of a by-gone era, when young Nathan Hale, facing the gallows, said, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Young Sam Davis was born on a farm near Smyrna, Tennessee, on October 6, 1842. He received his higher education at the Military Academy at Nashville, under the supervision of Bushrod Rust Johnson, later to become a brigadier general in the Confederate Army.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, young Davis, barely twenty years old, felt the call of duty. He enlisted in what was to become Company I, 1st Tennessee Infantry. After several months of training, his regiment was sent to Virginia. In the mountains of Western Virginia, under General Robert E. Lee, Davis received his baptism of war. Later, after having taken part in several battles and skirmishes, Davis returned to Tennessee as a member of "Coleman's Scouts."

This group was organized by Captain H. B. Shaw, who had assumed the name "Coleman" in order to hide his real identity, since he operated, unsuspected, within the Union lines posing as a wandering herb doctor. Shaw moved with impunity around the area of Nashville gathering information useful to the Confederacy. The "scouts" were not in any way disguised as in event of capture they would likely be treated as prisoners of war, not as spies.

Union General Grenville M. Dodge had moved his 16th Corps from Corinth to reinforce General Grant at Chattanooga. When he reached Pulaski he fortified that place. All of his movements were quickly reported to the Confederacy, and Dodge was anxious to apprehend the person or persons responsible for leaking information to the enemy. He was satisfied that much information could only have been supplied by a traitor in his official household.

As a "Coleman Scout" Sam Davis had a number of narrow escapes. In the Fall of 1863, he and five of the "scouts" were detailed to obtain information concerning troop movements and other plans of the Union forces in central and western Tennessee. This was a particularly perilous assignment, since should they be caught with papers on their persons, they would undoubtedly be treated as spies.

The activity of the "scouts" was most irritating to General Dodge, and he ordered the 7th Cavalry to locate and wipe out the band of spies if possible. The life of the spy hung on a slender thread, for if caught, death could be the penalty. As the cavalrymen were getting too close for comfort, the "Coleman Scouts" met by prearrangement in November near Pulaski. It was agreed among them that they should all leave for Alabama on the 19th., each man for himself. Sam Davis was entrusted with papers for the Provost Marshal of the Army of Tennessee, and with other papers for General Bragg at Decatur, Alabama.

Good fortune finally deserted Davis, and he was captured at Minor Hill, Tennessee, together with Shaw, Brown and Moore, and all were incarcerated in the jail at Pulaski. The papers Davis carried were found hidden in the soles of his shoes and in the seat of his saddle. There could be no doubt of his role as a spy. The others were more fortunate as no papers were found on their persons. General Dodge pleaded with Davis, but to no avail. Dodge warned him of the seriousness of his situation, but Davis declared that he was ready to take the consequences for his activities, he would not divulge the name of the person through whom he received information.

Time and again, Dodge tried to break down his resistance, and offered leniency if he would answer questions honestly, informing him that death was the only alternative, but Davis was adamant. Dodge, making no progress in his interrogation, reluctantly

ordered that a court-martial be held. The court found Davis guilty as charged and ordered that he be hanged by the neck until dead. The death sentence was carried out on November 27, 1863.

The State of Tennessee has taken over the Davis home at Smyrna as a memorial. There are also memorials to Sam Davis at Nashville, Minor Hill, Pulaski and Murphreesboro, tributes to the "Nathan Hale" of the Confederacy.

A PERSONAL ODE TO OLD GLORY

by YOLANDA MAURER
News Columnist

(This article won a George Washington Honor Medal Award presented by the Freedoms Foundation when it was first printed two years ago. It was reprinted in the Fort Lauderdale News on Memorial Day, May 26, 1975.)

I'm angry.

In fact, I'm boiling mad.

I've been mad and shaken with anger ever since the news of the desecration of the flags on Memorial Day by local vandals came out in the paper.

Normally, I don't take too kindly to flag-wavers and patriotic speech makers.

I figure that love for your country is as natural as love for your family; you don't have to talk about it all the time to convince yourself or others of it.

But for anyone to abuse the American flag — and on the graves of soldiers besides is too much.

If whoever did it is found, I think that fines or even prison would be ridiculous.

I think we should reinstate the good old torture system of the medieval days — and let them have a little of it at a time . . . for each soldier who died for that flag.

This may seem like a pretty violent reaction to you.

SO MAYBE IT IS.

Maybe it is because I remember how I saw the American flag close-up for the first time.

It was through the bars of a military prison in North Africa, where the Germans had imprisoned a group of hostages. I was one of them.

We had been there for a few weeks, and we knew that our only chance of not being shot was if the Americans made it on time.

There had been the sound of battle raging outside all that night, and, at dawn, from inside the jail, we didn't know who had finally won . . .

SUDDENLY, there were shouts outside, trucks driving up, men getting off . . . men running through the corridors, doors banging open all the way down the halls . . . and suddenly, they were there!

The Americans were there . . . tall, handsome, dirty, smiling, grinning, kissing, looking to us like the Angels from Heaven themselves . . .

And behind them, in the bright sunlight of the courtyard, a sun we hadn't seen for many a day, there was a beautiful flag waving gently in the sun, a flag full of stars and stripes, the flag of America.

We had waited four long years of shame, frustration and anger to see this flag fly freely — with all that stands behind it.

Nothing since, except the sight of a loved face — has ever looked as beautiful to me.

THIS IS PERHAPS why I take the desecration of the flag as a personal injury.

I am not American-born.

America is my country by adoption, by choice, so to speak. Sometimes, people love their adopted children even more than their natural ones.

Because they didn't just happen to be born.

THEY WERE chosen, selected, desired, and wanted eagerly. You have some of these same feelings when you "choose" a country and leave behind that of your birth.

You can't stand to see it abused, debased or vilified.

This doesn't mean that you are blind and deaf to its shortcomings and its failures.

IT'S JUST THAT, with all the things wrong with America — and believe me, I know them all — I still can see all the things right with it.

Continued on Page Eight)



General Order No. 3 Series 1975-76

Headquarters COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 3437 N. Howard Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19140 Phone: (215) RE 9-5796

- 1. My sincere appreciation to the Department Commanders who have served our Organization during the year. To those elected to serve I extend my best wishes for a most successful term. You have a year when Patriotism is foremost in everyone's mind. Take advantage of it — talk up our organization and its purposes. I am sure with a little publicity and a concentrated effort of every member we can show an increase in membership during this Bicentennial year. Let us all try to bring in at least one new member before August.
2. As May 30 approaches we, the successors to the Grand Army of the Republic, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, should do all we can to honor, with reverence, the men and women who have given their lives that we may enjoy a nation free of tyranny. It is our patriotic responsibility and privilege to honor these persons and my hope is that every Camp will arrange a special program for this occasion.
3. Please remember to send your contributions for the National Patriotic Instructor's Fund to Frank Clark, 4 Jacata Road, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746, so that he may reach the goal set by the National Council of Administration. He is working hard but needs your help too.
4. We are hoping for a large Encampment in Columbus, Ohio August 15 to 19. The committee is working hard to make it an outstanding and interesting Encampment. I hope to see you there. More details will appear in the next Order.
5. It was my extreme pleasure to present the wreath for the National Organization at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. on February 12. I was escorted by Major Elton P. Koch, S.V.R. This was a wonderful and inspiring occasion, and one I will long remember. I am now looking forward to attending the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois on April 15.
6. We have just returned from our trip to the West Coast. The meeting in Fresno, California was most inspiring. Dept. Commander and Mrs. Greely, Dept. President Bessie Ward, P.N.P. Lenore Glass, and 31 Brothers and Sisters made this a very happy occasion.
7. Our next stop was Portland, Oregon. Dept. Commander and Mrs. Lawrence Allison, Dept. Secretary Ralph Marshall and Dept. President Rena Green were our hosts. A dinner meeting was held on February 27 with 18 present and a banquet and official reception on February 28 with 71 present. This was like a young convention and showed much enthusiasm. I had the privilege of obligating three new Camp members. I was also very honored and most happy to be made an honorary member of the Oregon Blue Brigade by Capt. Ross, S.V.R. This is a very active Department and I hope it will continue to keep up its good work. Our sincere thanks to Brother and Sister Allison for the time they shared with us in taking us on a wonderful tour of their city.
8. The next stop was Colorado Springs. This was a luncheon meeting with 14 men and women present. After the luncheon Brothers William Woolsey, Eugene Hartle and Charles Shaprock took me on a tour while the women held a meeting. It was a very enjoyable day.
9. The last stop on this trip was Des Moines, Iowa. Commander Howard Cleveland, Dept. President Myrtle Lowe and Brother Charles Lowe and Sister Ethel Jones were our hosts. The dinner meeting was attended by 46 and was certainly inspiring. Due to an ice storm about 15 cancellations were necessary. It was, however, a wonderful affair.
10. Our sincere thanks to those Departments that have arranged for "called meetings". We sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

- 11. Dept. Commander Allison of Portland, Oregon, is hereby appointed a National Aide for having secured three new members.
12. On behalf of the National Organization I extend sincere sympathy to all Brothers and their families and Sisters of the Auxiliary and all members of our Allied Organizations who have lost loved ones. To those who are ill, my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

CLARENCE J. RIDDELL Commander-in-Chief

PERMANENT FUND

Our Permanent Fund was authorized to unite and to assure a permanent association. No member is obligated to contribute nor may he be assessed. All funds in the Permanent Fund must be voluntary to fulfill its intent and purpose. Any member may contribute in memory of his family or Civil War ancestor to honor and perpetuate the memory of his name.

To — Fred H. Combs, Jr., National Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 6193, Lawrenceville, N. J. 08648 Kindly enter the following Civil War record on the HONOR ROLL FUND. Name of Veteran Company & Regiment Enclosed find (\$10.00 or more) donation to the HONOR ROLL FUND from Name Address (Donations, legacies, and bequests to this fund are welcome and will be preserved.) (Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes — Section 170 of the Code of 1954)

The following contributions have been received since the last issue of The Banner:

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: (purchased 12/75) Lemuel Holmes, Chaplain P.G. Cook Camp No. 223, N. Y. \$100.00 David Holmes, Chaplain P. G. Cook Camp No. 223, N. Y. \$100.00 Jerry L. Wolford, Philip Triem Camp No. 43, Ohio 100.00 From Blondell T. Fenton, Clearwater, Florida, In memory of Clement T. Fenton, Companies A & B, 23rd N. J. Vols. \$ 25.00 From Leona Butler, Waterville, Maine, P.D.P., Dept. of Maine, Auxiliary to SUVCW, In memory of Pvt. George Cochran, Co. E, 3rd Maine Regt. and a member of G.A.R. Post No. 97, Dept. of Maine 10.00 From the Massachusetts Department, SUVCW, In memory of Robert L. Wood, P.D.C. 10.00 From Merrille M. Miller, Bridgeview, Illinois, In memory of Pvt. David Somerville, Co. C, 82nd. Pa. Vol. Inf. 15.00 From John B. Tipton, Dept. Cmdr., Colo. & Wyo. Dept., Colorado Springs, Colorado, In memory of his father, John N. Tipton, Co. C, 59th Ind. V.V. Inf. 10.00 From Appomattox Camp No. 2, Wilmington, Del. In memory of Howard C. Barlow, member of Appomattox Camp, who died December 25, 1975 15.00 From Appomattox Auxiliary No. 2, Wilmington, Del. In memory of Howard C. Barlow 12.00

MORE ABOUT 1976 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS

Table with 4 columns: Dept., City, Date, Hotel. Rows include Colorado & Wyoming (Manitou Springs, June 6-8, Manitou Springs City Hall), Illinois (Chicago, June 10-13, Bismark Hotel), Iowa (Des Moines, June 17-19, Hotel Kirkwood), and Maine (Waterville, June 18-20, Howard Johnson Motel).

THE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A hearing on a bill to return the observance of Memorial Day to May 30 in Wisconsin was held before a committee of the state Assembly on January 27. Your chairman testified in favor of the measure as did spokesmen from several veterans' organizations. To date the committee has not acted on the bill which passed the state Senate last September.

In a recent interview, Pres. Ford was asked for his reaction to the return of Veterans Day to November 11. The President observed that as a Member of Congress, he had come to the conclusion that it had been a mistake to have included Veterans Day in the Monday Holiday Act and added, "November 11 is an historic date for most Americans. Honoring our veterans on that date will help to preserve the spirit of patriotism, love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good symbolized by this very special day."

It appears that the work of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee will be sharply cut back if a recommendation of the Senate Rules Committee is accepted by the full Senate. Led by Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, the Rules Committee voted to cut \$100,000 or about one-third of the budget proposed for the Subcommittee over the next two years. Hatfield argues that the panel has been ineffective in dealing with subversion and would have preferred to have seen it abolished altogether. But Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and other backers of the Subcommittee contend that it is the only official body left that is charged with the responsibility of investigating subversive activities. The publication of several studies dealing with terrorism was cited as sufficient reason to ensure the continued existence of the panel.

Legislation designed to control the manufacture or sale of small, concealable handguns appears to be dead for this session of Congress. For several weeks the House Judiciary Committee has been working on the details of the measure. But on March 2, the bill was returned to a subcommittee for redrafting, and its sponsor reportedly holds out little hope for its revival in the 94th Congress.

A federal judge in Montgomery, Alabama, has dismissed a private suit that sought to restrain the State of Alabama from flying the Confederate flag from a point higher than it does the Stars and Stripes. Federal District Judge Robert Varner concluded that the practice does not violate either the Constitution or the U. S. Flag Code. Alabama flies the Confederate flag and the State flag from the roof of its Capitol Building while Old Glory flies from a pole erected on the Capitol grounds. An appeal from the decision is anticipated.

Rep. David N. Henderson has announced his retirement from the Congress at the close of his present term. The North Carolinian is chairman of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee in the House of Representatives. That panel oversees all proposed legislation relating to federal holidays.

Respectfully submitted, THOMAS L. W. JOHNSON, Chairman



YOUR GLORIOUS FLAG

Have you looked at the flag lately — I mean really looked? Have you noticed the red stripes seem to be a deeper richer red — the white more brilliant and the blue more vibrant? Even the stars seem to be clustered more closely together than ever.

It has always been the most beautiful flag in the world. Born in times of adversity, it seems to become more beautiful with every crisis the Republic must face. Perhaps that is why it is now more beautiful than ever.

It has fluttered proudly in parades and has draped gracefully over the caskets of heroes. It now flies on the moon, placed there by a new, remarkable breed of men who follow in the footsteps of other remarkable men — men who are not ashamed to have silent tears of pride flow down their cheeks at the sight of the Stars and Stripes.

Why would hardened, battle-scarred men weep at the sight of this "brightly colored piece of cloth" and give their very lives rather than see it torn from a flag staff or fall into the mud of a battlefield?

Because this "brightly colored piece of cloth" represents the dreams, the hopes, the blood, the pain, the sacrifices and the lives of all those millions who wished to preserve "the Republic for which it stands" — not for themselves alone, but for others.

Because this "brightly colored piece of cloth" is the symbol of the best form of government ever conceived on God's earth. It is the emblem of a people who know true freedom — a people who can only be shackled by their own individual limitations.

Under our Republic, everyone regardless of who they are or where they come from can reach their full potential as a human being.

Only the weak and self-deluded do not recognize the gift God gave them when he provided them the opportunity to live in this Republic. They would surrender the flag to save their meager selves.

The strong and the wise know they are living in the best country on the face of the earth — now or ever. They would die rather than disgrace the flag.

The strong and the wise know there have been millions of others who have felt this way for the past two hundred years. They want still others to do so for as long as man remains on this planet.

How can all this be wrapped up on one "brightly colored piece of cloth"?

Have you looked at the flag lately — I mean REALLY looked? If you haven't, please do. Just look up — it's there and always will be. Above . . . and to the Right!

(Author Unknown)

Baltimore, Maryland, National Cemetery . . . CIVIL WAR HEADSTONES TO BE REPLACED

As a result of tireless efforts put forth by Charles R. Harrison, Jr., a freshman at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus and a national member at large of the SUVCW whose great-grandfather served as a private in the Union Army of the Potomac, 276 headstones on graves of Civil War veterans in Baltimore National Cemetery in Loudon Park, are going to be replaced by the U. S. Veterans Administration National Cemeteries System.

While searching for his great-grandfather's grave in the cemetery, Brother Harrison had to conduct extensive research before finding it and while doing so he discovered approximately 300 headstones on which names could hardly be read (see photos left). Brother Harrison then wrote to William W. Vanderhoof, Jr., National Graves Registration Officer of the SUVCW who supported and assisted Harrison by contacting Bobbie R. Beller, Deputy Director of the Veterans Administration National Cemeteries System asking that immediate attention be given to the situation. The combined efforts of Harrison and Vanderhoof bore fruit, thus the promise to replace the illegible headstones. Brothers Harrison and Vanderhoof are deserving of much praise and commendation as Sons of Union Veterans for seeing the matter through on behalf of the Union Veterans of the Civil War whose deeds and memories we are organized to perpetuate.



Department News



ILLINOIS

On February 12th the annual observance of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday was held in Springfield and was followed by publicity on all the Chicago TV new shows. The 55th Illinois Infantry (Reactivated) participated and added much color to the observance.

Gen. Custer Camp No. 1 and its Auxiliary No. 30 of Chicago observed Lincoln's Birthday on February 14th at a well-attended luncheon at the Carleton Hotel in Oak Park. The Lincoln Memorial Award was presented to Mr. Frank Kinst, President of the Abraham Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Cicero. Mr. Kinst has outstanding collections of Civil War items both at his home and at the bank.

Approximately 200 persons attended an observance on February 21st in the G.A.R. Memorial Hall of the Public Library Building in Chicago honoring the birth of Abraham Lincoln and the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. A tribute was also given by Rev. Preston Wood, formerly 1st Lt. U. S. Marine Corps, to the Four Chaplains (two Protestant, one Catholic, and one Jewish) who gave their lives on February 3, 1943 in the sinking of the USS Dorchester. Music was provided by the U. S. Navy Band from the Great Lakes Training Station; wreaths were placed in memory of President Lincoln by C. H. Bournstine, P.D.C., and in memory of the sinking of the Maine by Edward Suchman, Past National Commander, Sons of Spanish War Veterans.

INDIANA

Gen. William P. Benton Camp No. 28, Wayne G. Klusman, Commander, is spearheading a drive to get written legal assurance from Mayor Clifford J. Dickman of the City of Richmond that a stone memorial marker at South Ninth and E Streets dedicated on October 8, 1926 and locating the site of a Civil War camp and the entrance to the original Wayne County fairgrounds will not be moved no matter who buys the vacated fire station in front of which the marker stands. Benton Camp, greatly concerned about the ultimate fate of the marker, would not like to see the purpose for which it was placed defeated by its removal. Six volunteer regiments were activated here for duty in the Civil War — the 16th, 36th, 57th, 69th, 84th, and 124th Indiana Regiments.

Argus Ogborn, a member of Benton Camp No. 28, who is very knowledgeable about Civil War history, was called on by the mother of an 8th grade pupil, Donny Ellison, to provide information about a Civil War soldier whose tombstone from Civil War days was uncovered by Donny while digging behind his home. The headstone was under approximately six inches of dirt and a tree was growing around it. Upon checking, Brother Ogborn found that the person named on the tombstone, John W. Roberts, had enlisted on August 4, 1862 in Co. B, 5th Regt., Ind. Vol. Cav., but never made it to war because he got sick in Indianapolis and died there at the age of 21. How the stone got to where it was found has created a mystery, the solution to which is being sought.

MAINE

The Bosworth Memorial Civil War Museum has been evicted by urban renewal from 44 Free Street, formerly Bosworth Post No. 2, G.A.R. Our collections and memorabilia have been given to various state institutions, and all pertinent documents, official correspondence and printed material have been presented to the Maine Historical Society. Among the items still to be given to that Society is a set of the Proceedings/Journals of the annual encampments of the Department of Maine, G.A.R.; however, three are needed to make a complete set — the Proceedings of the 31st Annual Encampment (1898) and the Journals of the 41st

(1908) and 44th (1911) Annual Encampments. It is our hope that some member of the SUVCW or a Camp may have a duplicate of any of the above that they would be willing to donate. We would also be very grateful for any Department of Maine, G.A.R., material that anyone can spare for inclusion in the Department of Maine, G.A.R., Memorial Collection at the Maine Historical Society. For further information, or to arrange for presentation of any of the above materials, please contact William B. Jordan, Jr., Vice President, Bosworth Memorial Association, Department of History and Government, Westbrook College, Portland, Maine 04103.

Commander-in-Chief Clarence J. Riddell and National President Mrs. Caroline Riddell will make their official visits to our Department at a called meeting to be held May 5th.

MARYLAND

The 89th annual Department Encampment of the Sons will be held at the Holiday Inn, 4000 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware, Saturday, May 1st, commencing at 1:15 p.m. The banquet will be held at the same place at 6:30 p.m. also on May 1st. Tickets are \$6.75, and all reservations with remittance must be made prior to April 27th to the Department Chief of Staff, Frank M. Heacock, Sr., 421 S. Sycamore St., Wilmington, Del. 19805. Persons desiring overnight room reservation cards may also contact Bro. Heacock. The Department Auxiliary will conduct its meetings at the same Holiday Inn on May 1st and May 2nd.

Four new members were initiated into Lincoln-Cushing Camp No. 2 of Washington, D.C. at its annual dinner meeting on November 22nd. On the evening of February 11th members of our Camp sponsored a reception and dinner in honor of the birth of Abraham Lincoln at the Officers' Open Mess, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.; the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States co-sponsored the affair. At the conclusion of the dinner a closed circuit TV preview by video tape of "Echos from Cemetery Ridge" was shown. This documentary was prepared by the U. S. Military Historical Collection, Army War College and the U.S. Military Academy. On February 12th we participated in the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial.

Appomattox Camp No. 2 held a luncheon in Wilmington, Delaware on March 27th. The occasion marked the official visit of Commander-in-Chief Clarence J. Riddell, who was accompanied by National President Caroline E. Riddell.

MASSACHUSETTS

We have been saddened by the death of P.D.C. Robert Wood, Department Musician, of Dorchester. Brother Wood, a member of Camp No. 9, was loyal and devoted and will be sorely missed.

Wreath placing and related ceremonies in honor of Lincoln's Birthday were held on February 12th at 12 noon at the Lincoln statue, Park Square, Boston. David Brenner, Department Patriotic Instructor, was in charge of arrangements. Numerous past National and Department officers and a large representation of members of the Sons, Auxiliary, and Allied Organizations attended. The annual Lincoln-Washington Banquet was held in Rockland G.A.R. Hall on February 23.

The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston held a dinner meeting on March 20th at the Parker House in Boston. An illustrated talk, "A Lincoln Adventure," was given by Frank L. Williams, president of the Lincoln Group of Boston, a distinguished attorney and Lincoln scholar.

Department Commander Gene Russell and several members of the Sons, Auxiliary, and Daughters of Union Veterans attended the installation of officers of a new Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans in Woburn — the only one in New England. Commander Leon Basile read a paper on "The Reconciliation of the Blue and the Gray." Commander Basile was a guest at the 1976 Sons of Union Veterans Department Encampment in early April.

NEW JERSEY

Legislation (Assembly Bill No. 733) restoring the observance of Memorial Day as a public holiday to May 30th each year has been introduced in the State Legislature and to date has had second reading in the General Assembly — the lower House. Members of the New Jersey Department are requested to write to their representatives in the Assembly urging passage of this important bill.



The Department observed Lincoln's Birthday on February 14th with a dinner at Nassau Inn, Princeton. Robert E. Gerke, toastmaster, introduced Joseph Ellis, an instructor at Trenton State College, who spoke on the subject, "Lincoln — His Views on Racism." Approximately fifty members and friends joined to make the affair most enjoyable. Mrs. Genevieve Orme, Department Patriotic Instructor of the Auxiliary, presented a flag to several representatives of a Lawrenceville Girl Scout Troop, and everyone joined in the singing of "God Bless America."

Pictured above at the Lincoln Dinner are (l. to r.) John Ellis, Speaker; National Chaplain Gertrude Deckenback; Robert E. Gerke, Toastmaster; Department President Joan L. Clark; National Patriotic Instructor Frank L. Clark; and Department Secretary-Treasurer Richard D. Hines.

Sister Orme attended a public gathering at the Livingston (N.J.) Mall recently. She was recognized as having been a member of the Girl Scout Organization for 59 years. During her brief remarks she made reference to the Auxiliary to the SUVCW and the office of Department Patriotic Instructor which she now holds.

The Spring dinner meeting of Lincoln Camp No. 100 will be held April 24th at Nassau Inn, Princeton at 6:00 p.m. A slide program on Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain will be presented with narration by Roger Semplak.

Plans for cemetery decoration and special services for Memorial Day should now be in the process of being made. All Camps and members are urged to take part.

NEW YORK

The General Grant National Memorial, 122nd Street and Riverside Drive, New York City, will be the scene of the annual service to commemorate the 154th birthday of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant on Sunday, April 25, 1976, at 1:30 p.m. Appropriate ceremonies will be conducted and wreaths will be placed in memory of Gen. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, by the New York Department Commander and Department President, SUVCW, respectively. The annual observance is sponsored by the Camps and Auxiliaries of the Department of New York. Paul Furst is chairman of the planning committee. Albert A. Morey is chairman of the Dinner which will follow the service. Other members of the committee are: J. Herbert Guion, Vice-Chairman; Chester E. Hudson, Patrons and Memorials; Cecil M. Baer, Honored Guests; Arthur T. Knowles, Program; Edith M. Paulding, P.N.P.; Florence R. Parsons, P.D.P.; Leila M. Kroepke, P.D.S.; and Mary L. Cronin, D.P.I.

The Dinner following the services will be held at Stouffer's, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York City. A social hour will begin at 3:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. The price of the meal is \$8.00 which includes tax and gratuities. Reservations and checks should be sent before April 17th to Albert A. Morey, 123-19 85th Avenue, Kew Gardens, New York 11415.

Chaplain P. G. Cook, Camp No. 223, is proud of the following members who became life members of the SUVCW in December,

1975: David Holmes (at age 14), Lemuel Holmes (David's father), David C. Laing and Frank Bellinger (Past Camp Commander). Robert Hughes was installed as Commander of Camp No. 223, succeeding Frank Bellinger who served as Commander for five years. Mrs. Bobbie Breedlove is the new President of the Auxiliary to the Camp (Aux. No. 8) Past Commander-in-Chief Norman Furman installed both. Camp No. 223's first "Citizen of the Year" award was presented to George R. Torge, Editor, WBEN-TV-4, Buffalo, on February 12th.

Reenactment of the First Memorial Day and a Bicentennial Celebration will be held in Waterloo, N.Y., the Birthplace of Memorial Day, on May 1st and 2nd, 1976.

OHIO

The Ohio Department was saddened on December 24, 1975 by the death of immediate Past Department Commander Kenneth Swift. His final resting place is the Mount Vernon, Ohio, cemetery. Brother Swift was very active with the Mount Vernon Fife and Drum Corps and will be greatly missed by both the Corps and the Ohio Department.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the District No. 2 meeting to be held in Mansfield on May 16th; we will be honored by the presence of Commander-in-Chief Clarence J. Riddell and his wife, National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, Caroline Riddell.

McClellan Camp No. 91 of Alliance and its Auxiliary held a Lincoln banquet and a reception for Department President Ramona Greenwalt and National Vice President Margaret Gehret on February 16th.

A membership contest is in progress to recruit new members; attendance at regular meetings is being stressed.

PENNSYLVANIA

Gettysburg Camp No. 112 is heading the Gettysburg Joint Veterans Day Parade and Service Committee for the Memorial Day observance to be held on Monday, May 31. A five-Division parade is being planned. We expect President Ford to attend this year.

As a result of the efforts of several members of Ruhl Camp No. 33 of York and the Commander's wife, the York County Commissioners recently turned over to the care, custody and control of the Camp four 3-inch ordnance cannon which had been presented to the County in 1902. For many years the four cannon were located at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in York but recently, due to vandalism, their condition had become very poor.

RHODE ISLAND

Leo E. Burrows, Sr., the last of the family of the late Charles Burrows, veteran of the Civil War, and a devoted member of the SUVCW, passed away on January 6th at the age of 95. Brother Burrows kept abreast of information about our organization by avidly reading each issue of The Banner until approximately a year ago when his eyesight began to fail.

WISCONSIN

The annual luncheon held in observance of the birthdays of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and William McKinley took place in Milwaukee on February 28. Honored guests present were Dept. Commander Grover R. Huff; Dept. President Mildred Biering; and Lilyan Behnke, Department President of the Ladies of the G.A.R. Thomas L. W. Johnson spoke on the topic, "Wisconsin's Legacy from the American Revolution." Ellinore K. Johnson gave an inspiring rendition from memory of "The Gettysburg Address." Rhoda Lemanski, President of Auxiliary No. 4 of Milwaukee, presided. Despite the fact that the affair had been postponed a week due to a snowstorm, attendance was good and enthusiasm ran high.

William M. Fogo Camp No. 34 and its Auxiliary presented an exhibit of Civil War articles at Brookfield Square in Oconomowoc February 7th and 8th. On display were the exhibit of Oris and Rocky Nelson of Rockford, Illinois (artifacts from the battlefields of Wilderness and Chancellorsville); George Nuoffer's Civil War token collection; and the weapons display of Brothers Bob and Ed Huff and Burt Kannenberg.

(Continued on Page Eight)

WISCONSIN DEPT. NEWS . . . (Continued from Page Seven)

The Sons wore Union Army uniforms with equipment, and the Auxiliary members were in Ante-Bellum gowns and hoops. Live music was provided by the 15th Wisconsin fife and drummers, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Eight new members for both the Sons and Auxiliary obtained as a result of the two days' activity were sworn in at ceremonies held in the Summit Town Hall on February 15th.

MEMORIAL DAY — A DAY FOR REMEMBERING

(A message from the National Patriotic Instructor)

May 30th — Memorial Day — so designated by General John A. Logan as the day set aside to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead — has always been and will always be a Day of Remembering for the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This day has always been a day of great importance to us and it has become even more so now that the last members of the Grand Army of the Republic have answered the last roll call.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War made a solemn promise to those Grand Army men that with the passing of the last Veteran, the Sons would assume the responsibility of carrying on the tradition of grave decoration and appropriate patriotic observances to properly remember that Day. This we have endeavored to do and will continue to do as long as humanly possible.

We have broadened our scope, however, to include the Veterans of all wars who, like our Grand Army Comrades, were willing to give their all to uphold the principles and ideals of our United States and to make supreme sacrifice, if necessary, that these principles and ideals would be preserved. We feel that our Grand Army Comrades would want us to do just that.

In planning your Day of Remembering be sure to include the youth of our country, since they are our future leaders. Teach them to be inspired, as we were inspired, to carry on the fine traditions laid down for us by the men and women of our Country who gave so much that we might enjoy a freedom that is not enjoyed by numerous people in some other countries of the world.

Other patriotic holidays celebrated during the year are days for festive occasions, but Memorial Day is a sacred day. Let us not be guilty of turning this day into a day of merriment and fun, but rather we should dedicate ourselves to the promise that this day of all days will be one of remembering our Comrades of the Civil War and the Veterans of all Wars who made our freedom our permanent security.

* * * *

As your National Patriotic Instructor, I assumed the responsibility of raising the funds necessary to carry on the Patriotic work of our National Organization for this year. The goal set by the Council of Administration is \$1,200.00. This is the minimum amount that will be spent, but it could go much higher.

It seems needless for me to repeat the National projects financed from this fund — you have heard and read of them many times. I can only tell you that in order to realize this money, I must solicit your continued support of our Organization. I cannot hope to achieve this goal alone. I can stress, however, that all of the patriotic projects undertaken by the National Organization are carried out in the name of the Grand Army of the Republic and as a memorial to those each one of us holds dear.

Please send your contribution in the form of a check or money order made out to the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to me so proper credit can be given each member who REMEMBERS:

Frank L. Clark
National Patriotic Instructor
4 Jacata Road
Marlboro, N. J. 07746

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 1975-76 (Not Previously Published)

MAINE

Commander — Edmond Butler, 5 Grove St., Waterville,
Maine 04901
Sec'y-Treas. — Robert C. Hunt, 37 Whitman St., Norway,
Maine 04268

ODE TO OLD GLORY . . . (Continued from Page Three)

America — and the flag for which it stands — has fed half the earth in times of need, has spanned the cosmos to walk on the Moon, has built more courtrooms to keep its people free, and more classrooms to educate them than any one else, has made the world safe from disease, and continues to do so, has been the first to come to the rescue of every country in the world struck by a natural calamity.

Its President, putting pride aside, takes the first steps and covers the world in search of peace and understanding.

WHAT other country could you pick to "adopt" that would make you prouder?

America, rebuffed by other ideologies, forgetting that it is the mightiest of them all, still tries with good faith and humility to build a bridge to live with others in understanding and peace.

BOOK ON LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION PUBLISHED

Thomas B. Hollowak, a member at large of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has suggested that readers of The Banner who are interested in the subject of President Lincoln's assassination might find of interest the reading of the book, "A True History of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the Conspiracy of 1865," written by Louis J. Weichmann many years ago but not published for the first time until the fall of 1975. The book is edited by Floyd E. Riswold who has provided an index and chapter notes. Weichmann was chief witness for the U. S. Government in the prosecution of the conspirators, but later became the chief scapegoat of many people's wrath after the hanging of Mrs. Surratt. Weichmann lived at the Surratt boarding house and was friendly with Mrs. Surratt's son John.

Weichmann, says Brother Hollowak, wrote in a very readable manner in the style of the 1870's. A unique feature, he adds, that makes the book worth reading is the style the author uses to take the reader back to that period. Weichmann gives a brief biography of each of the conspirators up until the time he was introduced to them by John Surratt and adds a personal opinion of each of them. Included in the author's work also is an account of his (the author's) life after the trial of the conspirators.

CURTIS-WARNER CAMP PRESENTS AWARD

Dr. Leslie Anders, Professor of History at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, received the 1975 Patriotism Award of Curtis-Warner Camp No. 64, at-large Camp of Missouri-Kansas. Glen L. R. Whitaker of Kansas City announced, on behalf of the Camp, the award which honored Anders for "literary contributions to the perpetuation of the memory of the Union soldiers and sailors of 1861-65. Anders is the author of books pertaining to Missouri units in the Civil War.

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG TO BE REENACTED

The 200th anniversary of our glorious nation and the 113th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg — the battle that saved our Nation — will be observed at Gettysburg on July 2, 3, 4, 5, 1976 by a reenactment of that battle on July 4th at 2:00 p.m. and many other activities of interest during the four-day period, including manual of arms and drill competition; Civil War parade through Gettysburg; Sunday morning church services in the bivouac area; military ball; battlefield trail hike; tug of war between the north and south; firemen's parade; ladies' Civil War gown judging; and a fireworks display. More than 1,000 Civil War organization "troops" are expected to participate. The event will be sponsored by the Gettysburg Travel Council; the Host will be the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

May I convey sincere appreciation to all officers and members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the kindness and cooperation extended to me during my twelve years of service (1963-1975) as National Treasurer. In fulfilling the trust and responsibilities that the position demands, I have been greatly rewarded by many acts of courtesy and fellowship. My sincere thanks to all.

Chester S. Shriver
Past National Secretary-Treasurer