

An American Story Retold

On February 12, 1809, Nancy Hanks Lincoln expressed her gratification that her newborn baby was a boy. Little did Nancy Hanks Lincoln dream, on that day in Hardin County, Kentucky, that she had given birth to a man who—with Washington—would become one of the most famous and inspirational of all Americans.

Lincoln's first American ancestry came from Norwich, England, and settled in Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1638. He was Samuel Lincoln and his descendants migrated to the West and South, moving to such states as Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky. Abraham Lincoln's early life was not an easy one and, after his birth in Kentucky, where he lived in various towns, he moved to Spencer County, Indiana, and then later to Illinois.

Lincoln worked as a farm laborer and served as a volunteer in the Black Hawk Indian War. He also had a go as partner in a general store, and when this business venture failed, he was left heavily in debt. Turning to politics, he was elected to the State Legislature at the age of twenty-five, after having served as postmaster in New Salem, Illinois.

In 1839, when the capital of Illinois was moved to Springfield, he moved there and opened a law office. In 1846 he was in Washington and, in 1858, he was nominated to run against Stephen A. Douglas, the Democratic candidate for the Senate. He was the Republican Party's nominee.

When he lost that race, he decided to retire, but he had made such an impression on the people of the country that his fame grew, rather than diminished, and, in 1860, he was nominated for the Presidency at the Republican Convention at Chicago in May. Because

the Democratic party split and named two candidates, Lincoln was elected and took office in March of 1861.

Almost immediately, he was plunged into the work of guiding the nation during a terrible war and throughout that conflict, he remained steadfast in his belief and ideals. When the war finally ended, in 1865, Lincoln was an aged man, but the entire country needed his services then more than ever before. Unfortunately, however, John Wilkes Booth, an actor, assassinated the President as he sat in Ford's Theater, watching a play. Lincoln died the next morning, only a few days after the war he had guided for four long years had ended.

Perhaps the most prophetic comment made upon his assassination was that of Secretary of War Edward Stanton, who remarked as he gazed upon Lincoln's lifeless face: "He now belongs to the ages." His tragic death and his courageous efforts during the war, which almost split the Union, have combined with Lincoln's friendly and wise policies to make him, perhaps with George Washington, the most revered American in the history of the country. Millions of Southerners, who had disagreed with Lincoln on the Secession question and who fought against his soldiers, agreed, at the time of his assassination, that they would hurt the South more than any other section, since Lincoln was a man too broad and too wise to support the shortsighted and punitive measures which followed during the tragic Reconstruction Era in this country.

Today, he is looked upon as a national hero, and is known the world over as the personification of the American story—a log cabin boy who became President of his country and saved the Union.

Hokum About Big Four Meet

Now that the foreign ministers of the Big Four (actually the Big Three and France) nations have met, a number of writers have begun pounding out the editorial theme that the Berlin meeting resulted in dashed hopes and disappointment—and was a blow to all those who had hoped for an agreement on Germany.

This was a natural reaction to Foreign Minister Molotov's obviously dishonest efforts to gain control of Germany, just as Russian dishonesty and double-cross gained for the Reds Poland in 1944. But the editors of the country who are turning the Big Four meeting into a bitter disappointment are off the mark, probably because they are optimists.

They are the ones who had hopes that something would be accomplished. This very naive hope is what the Russians play on in every international conference. It is our Christian outlook which has enabled them in the

past to wring concessions out of us. We have accepted their promises as if they would be honored and, of course, honor ours. When they fail to keep their pledges, and we keep ours, they gain material advantages and we get nothing.

There is no doubt that this policy sometimes hurts the honest nations in the short term, but over the long haul those nations which uphold honesty and integrity win out, because they have the majority of the world on their side and the truth eventually seeps out to enough people to make the difference.

If diplomats from the West had gone to Berlin merely to play on world propaganda, peace hopes, and German sentiment for unification, and had concentrated on out-propagandizing Molotov, they would have accomplished more, and probably would have gained more respect from the Reds.

Defense Secretary Provoked

The other day Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson said something that made so much sense everyone in the country ought to hear about it. He was talking to a group which had come from an area hit hard by unemployment.

During the conversation, the spokesman from the area said not only was slowing defense work putting people out of work in his area but adding to that was the reduced number of draftees being called. Wilson said later he had been "extremely provoked" by that argument.

The Secretary rightly reasons that young

men with ambition, and a willingness to work, would prefer to get out and find a job to being drafted. And on this point Wilson later told a group:

"No one should be so selfish that they think they have a vested interest in war."

In modern times we seem to be losing some of the old work and hustle spirit, preferring to depend on the Government, or somebody else, to take care of our needs. When it comes to depending on war, or a war boom, for jobs, we are getting pretty soft, in two departments, and we applaud the Wilson approach to that attitude.

Scout Leaders Honored

One of America's far-reaching organizations, the Boy Scouts of America, is marking its 44th birthday during Boy Scout Week, Feb. 7 to 13. On this notable milestone we find the Boy Scout movement at its peak in membership.

Today 2,440,000 boys are enjoying the "game of Scouting" in its three distinct programs, Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Exploring, each appealing to boys of various age levels.

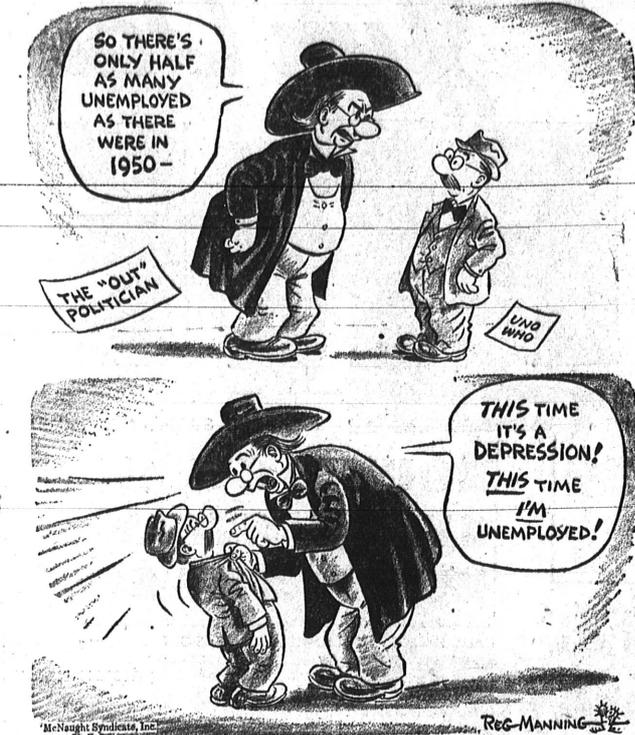
We seldom stop to think that this great work is made possible largely through the active sponsorship of the church, the school and other community institutions. But perhaps even more significant is the fact that some 800,000 adults share their time as volunteer

leaders with the boyhood of America. Theirs is a devoted service. A large number have served for many years.

Boy Scout Week this year has been dedicated to honoring the Cubmasters, the Scoutmasters and the Explorer Advisors—the men who bring Scouting directly to the boys.

To them has been entrusted the care and guidance of our boys and young men. It is their influence upon the Scouts of today, with whom they work and play, that held mold these boys and young men into better citizens and better proponents of the American way of life.

These unselfish men who give leadership in Scouting are performing an outstanding act of citizenship. Our nation owes them much.



CAPITAL NOTES

MARCH DRAFT

The Army has announced that its draft for March will be for 18,000 men. The March quota is the same as that announced for February, when the Selective Service call was reduced from the 23,000 level maintained since last July. Including the March quota, 1,643,000 men have been drafted or slated for involuntary service since the resumption of Selective Service in September, 1950.

WHOLESALE FOOD PRICES

The wholesale price of food reached the highest point in two and a half years in the Dun & Bradstreet index on Jan. 12. The index was 2.6 per cent above the figure for the preceding week, and well above the index for the same period a year ago. Sharp increases in coffee and cocoa contributed to the rise, with wheat, barley, beef, hams, tea, eggs, raisins, prunes, steers, hogs, and lamb also higher. Only flour, corn, rye, oats, lard, butter and cottonseed oil were lower.

SAVINGS BONDS

Last year Americans bought \$4,363,000,000 worth of "E" and "H" savings bonds—a 7-year record—according to Treasury officials. They bought \$211,000,000 more than they cashed in. "E" and "H" bonds are sold only to individuals. The "H" bond is essentially the same as the more famous "E" bond except that it pays interest every six months while the "E" bond pays only when cashed in.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Technical Assistance Program of the United Nations, profiting from the lessons of the past three years, is now planning to place more emphasis on projects for increasing food and industrial output quickly, and less on social welfare.

HEALTH "REINSURANCE"

In his health message President Eisenhower asked Congress for a system of Federal "reinsurance" of private health insurance plans, expanded research on cancer, heart and other major ailments, and increased vocational rehabilitation assistance.

Defense Contracts

The share of defense contracts awarded to 100 large corporations continued to grow during the three-year period just past until it now stands at 64 per cent, according to the Defense Department. General Motors leads all corporations, with 7.2 per cent of the total, followed by Boeing Airplane Company, with 4.4 per cent and the General Electric Company, 3.8 per cent. General Motors defense contracts were valued at \$7,095,800,000 against the country-wide total of \$98,723,000,000 for the three-year period which roughly coincided with the Korean War.

I Remember

(Ed. note.—The following collection of "I Remembers" about the early sports life of Torrance has been gathered dust in a desk drawer at the Herald for a number of years. We're not even sure it hasn't been run before, and we don't know who the author was. We do know he didn't move to town this week.)

I REMEMBER WHEN... The Union Tool Co. was Southern California semi-pro baseball champions. And the team included such players as Harry Atwood, Gene Gomes, Hollis Leake, Ralph Riggs, Billy Weidner, Charlie Newby and Clyde Beck. Beck played for years with the Chicago Cubs.

When Sam Kaspar was the fighter of the day in 1922. And fought at the old Legion Hall on Border Ave. Spud Murphy was the promoter. Jimm Scott of Scotty's Roofers was an up-and-coming wrestler at the same time.

When the crowds at the Union Tool games which were played on the lots now occupied by Paul's Chevrolet were larger than the crowds now attending the games at the city park. And more enthusiastic.

The American Legion in the early 20s had a football team. And amongst the players were Wallace Post and Sam Levy.

And the population of Torrance was all of 2000 people. In the middle 20s when Torrance High had a championship lightweight basketball team, Ray Sleppy was the big star. Undeafened in league competition.

In the late 20s Al Pennington scored the first touchdown that Torrance ever scored against Narbonne. When football was first played in Torrance. In 1924, to be exact. When the old CCMO baseball park was at Torrance Blvd. and Maple.

When the Pacific Electric and Union Tool Co. were bitter rivals in softball in '26, '27, '28, and '29. When Howard Morning and Dave Gribben were the star softball pitchers.

When Dee Williamson pitched in '28. The Torrance Red Jackets played night ball in '30 and '31 on the lots at Carson and Border now used as a parking lot. Amongst the players were Bud Edwards, Dan Leonard, George Watson, Carl Burnmaster, Dale Merritt, Pete Hargis, Louis Neva, and Louis Dossi.

The Torrance Bluebirds won the National League and Southern California softball championships in '33. And won 20 out of the first 21 games they played. And won 15 in a row. They also played and won a 19-inning thriller when, with Torrance trailing by two runs in the last of the 19th and two outs, Hal Forney hit a home run with two runners on base.

When Bell beat Torrance High 102-0 in football. When Torrance won its first Marine League championship in football. When Bernie Donahue was the coach of that team.

When Louis Zamperini ran the mile in 4:21.3 for a world's high school record. When he was a member of the 1936 Olympic team. When Billy Stewart of Torrance High held the world's high jump record for about thirty minutes. When, when, when—far into the night.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

CONGRESS MUST HAVE LAST WORD

Proponents of amendments to curtail presidential power in foreign affairs do so to plug certain loopholes which exist in the Constitution. It is not a reflection on President Eisenhower or Secretary Dulles, because they are sponsored mainly by Republicans and supported mainly by Republicans. The Constitution of the United States in stating... "All treaties made under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land, anything in the Constitution or the laws of the States to the contrary, notwithstanding," provides a loophole which can, under certain circumstances, impose on the sovereignty of the United States and dangerously threaten the security of its citizens.

Secretary of State Dulles was asked recently: "Can executive agreements or State Department agreements with foreign countries take away the rights of an American under the Constitution?" Mr. Dulles answered: "It is my view very clearly that it is not possible for any rights of American citizens to be in the slightest degree impaired by any action which falls short of a treaty ratified by the Senate or by Congressional action."

The facts in the following case concerning an American citizen, Private Richard Keefe, indicate that Secretary Dulles is in error in his interpretation that an American citizen's rights cannot be impaired by executive agreements with foreign countries.

The Tragedy of Private Keefe

Private Richard Keefe was drafted in the U. S. Army from Riverdale, Maryland, and sent to France. He did not leave the United States on his own volition. Like thousands of other GI's, he believed that so long as Uncle Sam decided to send him to Europe, it was OK with him. He also believed that no matter what Uncle Sam would protect and take care of him. But because of a recent treaty entered into by the State Department (with the approval of the President) with NATO countries, to the effect that soldiers stationed in such countries are subject to the laws of the individual countries, Private Keefe and thousands of Americans like him are left to the mercy of foreign nations, foreign courts and foreign laws.

As boys often will, Private Keefe, out on a lark in Paris, saw a taxi at the curb with the motor running and jumped in to try his hot-rod technique on the boulevards of Gay Paree. He lost his way through the Bois de Boulogne and came up on the seventh hole of a swank golf club. The gentlemen did not consider the unorthodox approach to the putting green a bit amusing and Richard went to jail.

The French judge who heard the charges agreed with the police and sentenced Richard to a whopping five years in prison. Richard's family in Riverdale, Maryland, were outraged at the severity of the sentence and appealed to the U. S. District Court in Washington for a writ of habeas corpus. Federal Judge Edward Curran listened sympathetically, but rejected the plea on the grounds that U. S. courts had no jurisdiction. Of course, Judge Curran is le-

IT'S A FACT

by JERRY CAHILL

