

RECALLS LIFE IN LINCOLN HOUSEHOLD

Old Inhabitant Tells of Childhood in Home of Famous Statesman

By MARCHA LOUISE BAKER, Special Correspondent International News Service

WISCONSIN, Feb. 12.—Among the many who pause today to pay homage to Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of the one hundred and twelfth anniversary of his birth there will be few who do not lay claim to a personal acquaintance with the "Great Emancipator."

In this thriving little county seat of the "Sunny San Joaquin" valley there lives a tottering little old woman who had the rare privilege of knowing Lincoln as a member of the same household. She is Mrs. Susan B. Hines.

Her February 12 is a day of peculiar interest, describing her memories of the days when as a little girl in her teens she lived in the home of the Todd, father-in-law of Lincoln, at Springfield, Ill., with Lincoln and his wife, formerly Mrs. Todd, as members of the same household.

"Uncle Abe" is the familiar term in which she always speaks of Lincoln. His wife she calls "Aunt Mary," while she was always called "Sis" by them.

"Many an hour have I sat on his lap," she said, "listening to his stories which he would tell of his early life; of how he was reared in poverty; of his mother and her influence upon his young life; of seeing negro slaves brought in from the south, and of his vow to do all in his power to put a stop to this kind of thing."

"He used to tell me that when he was a very small boy he was put to bed at night on a bed made down on the floor in the corner of the room. Shucks and shavings made up the filling for the bed, with home-made suits for covering. And then he'd tell of how brave he became old enough to go to sleep in the loft in the cabin home."

His Great Mother Love. "I can't say any man loved his mother, Lincoln," said she. "Many and many a time I have heard him say, 'All I am or ever will be, I owe to my mother.' And every word he uttered was as true as the sun that shines," added "Grandma Hines."

"But whenever he would speak of his mother tears would fill his eyes. He would tell me how she taught him to always be honest in all things, and how she taught him to kneel at her knees and say a childish prayer. Her hand would be on his head as he said his prayer. After her death he would sit beside the empty chair to say his prayer, and he said he could seem to feel her hand on his head, and felt that she was near him watching over him."

When she spoke kindly of his step-mother according to "Grandma Hines," but would say that no person or no thing could ever mean as much to him as his own mother.

When "Uncle Abe" was another subject of which he would often talk to her. He told of his trip to the south when just a boy in his teens and of seeing slaves sold at auction. When he beheld a negro mother "bid in," and her nursing babe torn from her breast he made a solemn vow to strike a blow at this inhuman thing.

Lincoln's biographers all speak of his unflinching sense of humor, despite his apparent seriousness. "Grandma Hines" corroborates this statement, telling how he could relate the funniest kind of a joke without even cracking a smile. Many of his jokes were on himself, she says, many being about his homeliness.

One day he said to her: "Sis, don't you think I'm about the handsomest man you ever saw?" She hesitated a moment, then answered with childish frankness: "No, Sis, you are the ugliest man I ever saw, but you are the best man I ever knew."

This answer brought a look of peculiar delight to his face—to her surprise. This she afterward came to understand as the pleasure he took in knowing that she had heeded his advice to never tell a lie, even to please his best friend.

: SPORTS :

Sale of stock in the Wilmington baseball club which plans to operate a team in the Eastern Carolina league, is progressing satisfactorily, although quite a number of shares must yet be sold to insure the club a bankroll of \$10,000, the sum absolutely necessary to put a professional team in the field.

A more intensive canvass will be made during the first of next week by the special soliciting committee appointed Friday night by the ways and means committee of the tentative organization of Wilmington people interested in the eastern part of the state. Reports of progress will be made either Wednesday or Thursday to the ways and means committee, that body will have full power to either send a representative to Goldsboro to act for the city in the formation of a league or else "call off the dogs."

To date, the chief worry of the solicitors has been that lots of citizens have been willing to "let George do it"—presumably that if they didn't subscribe some one else would. Generally, in such cases, Mr. Some One Else also presumed a trifle, the result being that stock have been snapped up as it should have been. It has been definitely agreed that if sufficient stock is not sold by the middle of the coming week, that the ways and means body can call without professional baseball for another year at least. This is something most earnestly not wished by hundreds of citizens, who, to prevent disappointment, must act during the next two or three days if baseball is to be provided this summer. It thus develops that the "put up or shut up" period grows shorter and more acute—the time for subscriptions to talk is present if it is ever going to be.

Surplus talent from the Piedmont and Virginia leagues will be available to Eastern Carolina clubs, in the event means magnates to pass, and this means quite a bit on railroad fares and other expenses. Both the Piedmont and Virginia will be faster than last season and this means that many capable players will be available for the new circuit. Then too, some fast semi-pro and college players performed in the eastern cities last year and

they may be induced to don the spangles as hired men.

John McGraw, manager and part owner of the New York Giants, has almost a corner on recruits. A dozen and a half youngsters are to report to the Giants at San Antonio for training in the course of a few days. Among them is Roy Grimes, second sacker, who, with his twin brother, Ray, used to play with Durham in the Carolina league. Ray was a first sacker and the twin happened to be so much alike in appearance and mannerisms that James Kelly once had Roy, the best hitter, bat for Ray in a pinch. Ray was a first sacker and both brothers stood well over six feet in their spiked shoes.

Arthur B. Riviere, of Liberty, Texas, has become a member of the St. Louis National league club. Nothing remarkable about that until you know that the young man, in an independent Texas circuit last year achieved the wonderful record of hurling four complete games and allowing but one clean smack. He's a phenom, if there ever was one, but that doesn't mean that the big league buffers can be fooled as easily as those in the tall and uncut.

The Sally league advancing in Class B means that the Piedmont will not get the advantage it craved when it sought—and got—Class C rating. Had the Sally stood at C, it could not have drifted from Piedmont clubs, as the latter was elevated, but conditions remain just as they were last season when Charlotte got the jewel of the league in Duck Smith, the Greensboro first sacker, for just a handful of jack.

Virginia league moguls meet at Wilson next Thursday to adopt a playing schedule for the season of 1921. The season will be longer than last season and there is quite a difference of opinion as to whether it should be a split or whole season. The average bush league should do better under split season terms than as a whole, since it gives the club that starts out a hopelessly tall order a chance to get in sight of the money later on. A small city or town can easily become disgusted with its club if it is out of the running and a split in the playing schedule serves to resurrect interest when it is low down.

Tad's Tidbits of Sport

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Sporting writers in Australia are hoping that Jim Roland, a new heavyweight novice, advances as much in the future as he has in the past with his ring work.

Roland, whose real name is Dwyer, has won three or four contests down there and has shown great promise. Billy Shade watched him at a benefit performance one evening recently and was favorably impressed with the big fellow's work.

It would stimulate boxing greatly if Australia could step out with a first-class heavyweight a year or so from now. They haven't had one since they gave away watches with boys' suits, and you know that was many years ago.

A fellow has to skip quite a bunch of years before he can name the day that a good Australian heavy set his foot upon these shores.

They sent us the cream of the crop seven or eight years ago, but the cream was cream cheese. Bill Squires and Bill Lang were the two canvas kissers we wiped at.

Before that they sent over a boatload that will never be forgotten. That party consisted of Peter Jackson, Bob Fitzsimmons, Frank Slavino, Joe Goddard (the barrier champion), and Jim Hall.

Australia has, of course, always had little men who were masters of the padded mitts, but we haven't seen a star in any of the smaller classes lately either.

Low Edwards came over here and was knocked kicking by Ritchie Mitchell. He was looked upon as a world-beater, at that.

Too bad they can't dig up some of the birds that we saw in the 90's, such as George Dawson, Billy Murphy, Young Griffio and Abe Willis.

Criquet Using the Rabbit Punch. Below we reprint a clipping from the Sydney Referee. You will notice that the sporting editor, W. F. Corbett (W. F. C.) comments on the rabbit punch.

Abel Jack Fenely penned this: Reading your comment re Jack Green's defeat at the hands of Criquet through terrific uppercuts and jolts to the head, justifies my reminding you of Vince Blackburn's exhibition with Criquet. Cannot grasp why our boxers are so impetuous in boring in against Criquet. He, using good tact, does very little leading.

Next Saturday the New High school strict referee should pull him up on the rabbit-killing punches he uses in close work. (Why? the blow is not barred—W. F. C.) Godfrey, with his long leads, should gauge Criquet's power. He is the only one with a chance, and a punch in the early rounds to drop the great French fighter. If Jerry Sullivan boxes Criquet and steps out in mix-ups, he will win on points. All the French contingent are great experts in close quarters, and worthy of the titles they hold.

Canada's Chirps. Would you define the Shakespearean drama that Robert B. stars in a Mantel-piece? No, Absinthe, 'what we have we'll hold' is not the motto of seasick passengers.

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