

Eighty Years Ago Chicago's Wigwam Was the Scene of an Historic Event: Lincoln's Nomination for Presidency

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

"MR. CHAIRMAN, I wish to announce that the Ohio delegation transfers four votes from Mr. Chase to Abraham Lincoln."

Eighty years ago these few words touched off a thunderous round of applause and sent word speeding across the nation that Abraham Lincoln was the Republican choice to run for President of the United States.

The scene was the Republican Wigwam in Chicago, where delegates had gathered from 24 states to choose their candidates for President and vice president. Now, 80 years later, on May 18, Republicans of Chicago are holding a commemorative ceremony in the building which stands on the site of the Wigwam, to mark this momentous occasion four decades ago.

The Chicago of 80 years ago was a metropolis of 109,260 persons, according to the census taken in June of 1860. The city was outranked by seven others in size—New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans and Cincinnati. It was very much of a frontier town and its reputation was such that one of the leading candidates for the Republican nomination, William Henry Seward of New York, came to the city with a "body-guard of plug-uglies," to defend himself from the uncouth natives.

Seward and his delegation arrived with extreme confidence. They could hardly believe that a man from Illinois would stand much chance of being nominated for the presidency, despite the record of honesty, integrity and sincerity which Abraham Lincoln had built. But he was a "backwoodsman" and uncouth, so the Seward crowd was not much worried.

Following two days of convention routine, the delegates got down to the job of selecting candidates. The Seward men were out parading and whooping it up on the streets for their candidate. When they reached the Wigwam they found the place jammed with friends of Lincoln and barely managed to get in.

Seward's Men Confident.
There was little abatement of the Seward confidence when the roll was called for the first ballot. The vote showed that out of the 466 votes cast, Seward had 173½, Lincoln 102, and the rest were scattered among a dozen favorite sons. It took 234 votes to nominate, and the Seward supporters were confident that after the routine of voting for favorite sons was out of the way, the swing would be to their man.

The second ballot was taken and the count showed a shift to Lincoln rather than to the Easterner. Seward had 184½ and Lincoln 161. The Lincoln delegates worked strenuously before the third ballot, and the Chicago Press and Tribune of that date reports that intense excitement prevailed.

The tally started and when the twenty-fourth state had voted, the count showed Seward 180, Lincoln 231½. Ohio had been dividing its vote between Chase, McLean and Abraham Lincoln. A few minutes after the vote on the third ballot was announced, the leader of the Ohio delegation, a Mr. Carter, arose to announce the switch of four votes from Chase to Lincoln. Ohio had cast 29 votes for Lincoln, 15 for Chase and 2 for McLean on the third ballot.

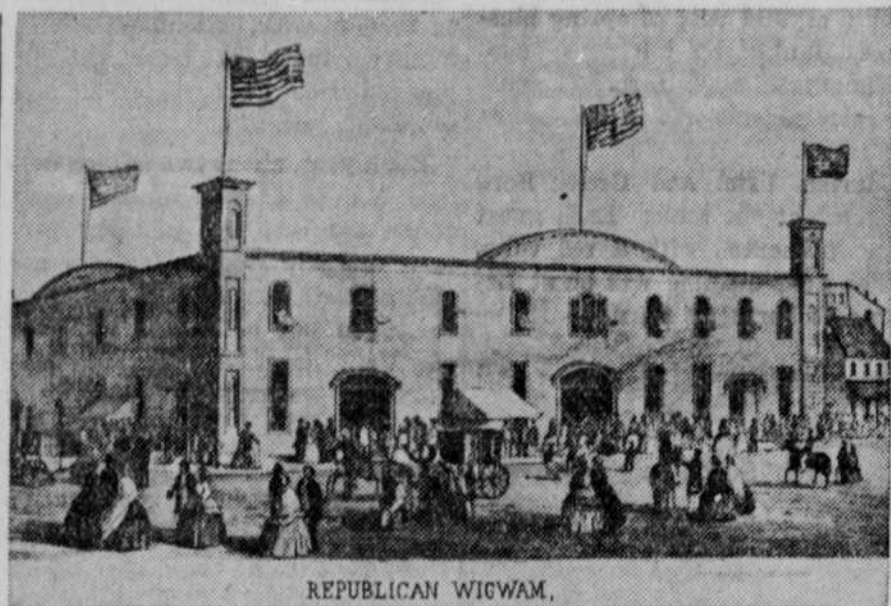
This gave Lincoln the required majority and touched off a tremendous salvo of applause. State after state fell in line and finally the leader of the New York delegation, which had been solidly behind Seward, moved to make the vote unanimous.

Lincoln followers had placed a cannon on top of the Wigwam and let go a blast which shook the structure and notified all of Chicago that Illinois was furnishing the Republican nominee. The newspaper accounts of the day report a celebration running far into the night.

Hambal Hamlin of Paris, Maine, was Lincoln's running mate, as the vice presidential candidate.

Lincoln had been building his national following for some time. The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1859 had of course attracted widespread attention, and in early 1860 he had been speaking in many states on the question of slavery.

The Chicago Press and Tribune on February 16, 1860, declared that Abraham Lincoln was the



REPUBLICAN WIGWAM.

peer of anyone named in connection with the nominations. A week later the paper suggested organization of Lincoln clubs to build his candidacy.

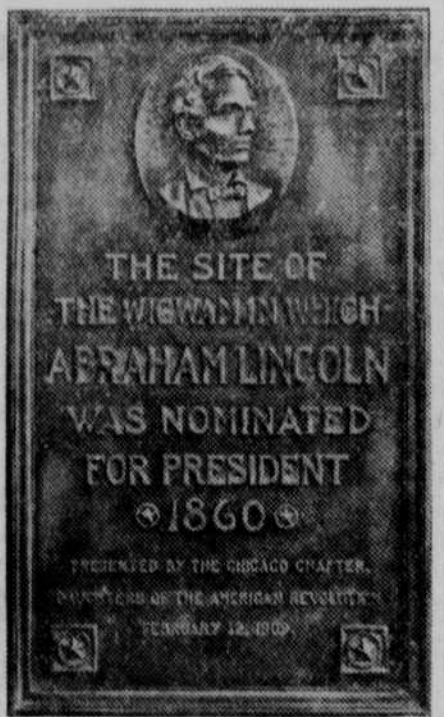
Editorially in the period from early February until April comment was made from time to time that Seward admittedly was the leading candidate, but the Press and Tribune urged that Lincoln was the better vote-getter.

When the Illinois Republican convention was held on May 9 in Decatur, Lincoln was chosen as this body's choice for President.

The Democrats Split.

Great attention centered on the Democratic convention, held in Charleston, S. C., beginning April 30. Douglas was the most prominently named candidate as the Democratic nominee, but bitter opposition to his selection was heard on all sides. The Democratic convention battled through three days and finally split into two sections. No candidate could be named. The rump section adjourned to meet in New York on June 18.

The Press and Tribune repeatedly cited election trends in many states and cities in the spring of 1860 as a trend toward Republicanism. In Chicago, the city elec-



Tablet on Goodrich building in Chicago which stands on the site of the wigwam.

tions had given the Republican candidate a clear victory over his Democratic opponent.

The meeting of 1860 was the first of 16 political conventions held in Chicago to date. The Republicans have come to Chicago 11 times and the Democrats five times, to select their candidates for President and vice president and to approve platforms.

The Democrats return again this year, meeting in July at the Chicago Stadium. Located 15 blocks west and 3 blocks south of the Wigwam site, the Stadium is a sharp contrast to the structure set up 80 years ago to hold the Republican meeting.

Largest Convention Hall.

In its day, however, the Wigwam was a cause for national comment. It was the largest convention hall in America at that time and was a testimony to Chicago's energy and ambition to show the nation that the city was something more than just another frontier town located out the other side of nowhere.

When it was decided that the Republicans would come to Chicago to hold their convention, citizens immediately started work raising funds with which to build the convention hall. On March 13, during the fund-raising campaign, the Chicago Press and Tribune suggested that Republicans who won money in the recent city elections contribute their winnings to the building fund, "thus using pro-slave dollars for the purpose."

The site chosen already had a historic background. Located at the fork of the Chicago river, which in those days flowed into Lake Michigan instead of out of it, in earlier times the place was known as Wolf Point.

Here had stood the Sauganash inn, the first hotel in Chicago and

one of the first two frame buildings ever erected in the city. There is a dispute in the records on this latter point. Some claim the Sauganash inn was the first frame building, but others insist it was the second.

In any event, the Sauganash inn was famous far and wide. It had been built by Mark Beaubien when he came from Detroit in 1828. Beaubien is a name which occurs repeatedly in early Chicago history and still is frequently seen in the news columns of Chicago papers.

Chicago's First Election.

Here on August 10, 1833, came the entire list of qualified voters (all 24 of them) to select the town trustees for the City of Chicago, the first election held in the city's history. Here likewise was the first drama in the West produced, in late October of 1837.

Beaubien sold the building in 1834. It burned to the ground on March 3, 1851. It had been abandoned as a hostelry in the late forties, apparently, and was occupied by only one man at the time of the fire. The property in 1851 was owned by the Garrett estate, which later founded the Garrett Bible institute and provided the foundation for establishment in later years of Northwestern university.

The townspeople who were working on the Republican convention obtained the site from the Garrett estate and started construction of the great Wigwam in April, 1860. The structure was 100 by 180 feet, with its main entrance on the street known now as Wacker drive.

A gallery was built on three sides, a stage constructed across one end. The stage would seat between 600 and 700 persons and the hall itself was constructed to seat between 10,000 and 11,000 persons.

The Wigwam was lighted by gas. Its interior was left in a rough, unfinished state, to be decorated "by the light, graceful and entirely successful handiwork of Republican ladies," to quote the Press-Tribune of the day. The ladies banked the walls with freshly cut evergreens. Seals of the states were hung around the walls, and busts of prominent men of early American history were placed on the supporting pillars. Over the stage was suspended a huge gilt eagle.

The structure cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000. There was a deficit to clear, so on the night of the dedication, Saturday, May 12, an admission charge of 25 cents was assessed. Between 7,000 and 8,000 persons came to the dedication, which seems to have taken care of the deficit since no further comment is found on the subject.

The Wigwam building was used for various meetings during the next few years, and was destroyed in the great fire of 1871.

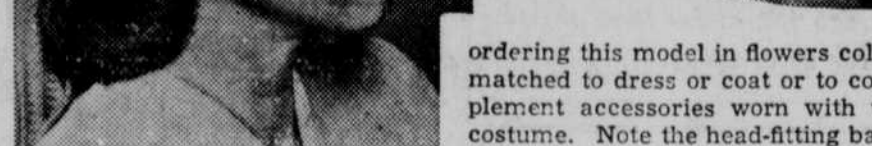
Interesting Coincidence.

An interesting coincidence is noted in connection with the building now standing on the corner where the Wigwam was built. The building today is occupied by district headquarters of three divisions of the B. F. Goodrich company, which this year is marking its seventieth anniversary. In the celebration on the Wigwam site, both the Republican and Goodrich representatives are re-enacting history-making events in which both played significant roles. Heading the delegation from Minnesota to the Republican convention of 1860 was Judge Aaron Goodrich, described as the first territorial officer ever to set foot on the soil of Minnesota.

The national committee man from Massachusetts at the same convention was John Z. Goodrich. Aaron Goodrich, John Z. Goodrich and Dr. B. F. Goodrich were distant cousins, all descendants of William Goodrich who came to America about 1648. Another cousin, Grant Goodrich, an attorney, was prominent in Chicago early history, active in municipal affairs and it is said he at one time offered Abraham Lincoln a partnership in his Chicago law firm.

Flower and Fruit Hats Accent Fashion's 'Be Pretty' Trend

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



MILLINERS are turning out perfectly charming hats this season. The myriads of little flower hats that grace every collection are the very essence of loveliness. Add the wispy colorful veils so all-prevailing and enchantment is the word.

Challenging the style supremacy of the cunning flower confections are many superbly beautiful fruit garnished hats, with the result that a keen rivalry is going on between the two. About the only sure way to settle the matter is to indulge in both after persuading yourself that two new hats are better than one in any fashionable wardrobe.

There is no doubt about fruit hats being tremendously smart this season. The fact that they look decidedly new argues in their favor. See the two fruit-laden models pictured above in the accompanying illustration. The model to the left is radiantly colorful because of the profusion of luminously red currants, together with green berries, that encircles its crown.

The other fruit hat shown plays up the fashionable black-and-white theme. In this instance frost-white berries and foliage strikingly contrast the jet blackness of the straw hat they trim. A snow-flecked veil adds the finishing touch.

Because of their universal becomingness little flower plateaus that dip right over the forehead after the manner of the one pictured to the left below, are numbering among the season's favorites. Women are

ordering this model in flowers color-matched to dress or coat or to complement accessories worn with the costume. Note the head-fitting band and streamer of lacy-mesh jersey at the back.

The lady of fashion to the right is following a leading trend of thought that features dainty finger tips as part of the color scheme together with hat and accessories. She carries out the idea in that the hat she wears of gleaming braid and the flowers that trim it, blend to the new red-sequin shine of her nail polish, sparkling fingertips being a cleverer vogue introduced by Peggy Page this season. At her wrist she wears a glittering bauble that repeats the chic red-sequin of her fingertips.

The winsome little bonnet type centered in the group places the accent on youth. A single lovely creamy rose, together with golden mimosa sprays poses atop the cap-like crown with bewitching grace. The latticed transparency that frames her pretty face in a flaring fringe adds infinite charm. The very essence of coquetry is expressed in the baby cap ribbons that tie so quaintly under the chin. As to the flower trim on this cunning bonnet, it carries a most important message in that fashion this season places the accent on roses used either singly or en masse.

Veils! Hats are simple swathed in yards and yards of airy whimsy veils that add a very ecstasy of color to the picture. In fact the veil this season really keynotes the color scheme of one's accessories. The fashion-wise are wearing jewelry and gloves and carrying bags matched to the color of their veils. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Sheer and Lovely



Fashion is going in for sheer and lacy lingerie blouses with an enthusiasm that knows no bounds. Here are two lovely types. The sheer white blouse pictured at the top is of the sweet simplicity type that captures the fancy at a glance. Bands of embroidered organdy and lace alternate in the other blouse, with a tapering waistline that zippers down the front under a lacy fringe. Here is a blouse that will do double duty in that it can be worn neatly under a suit and it also looks well with a long skirt for evening because of its waistcoat style.

New Turbans Have Sophisticated Air

Draped and molded with a knowing hand, the new turbans have an air of sophistication that distinguishes them from the casual wrap-around kind which have flourished during the past few seasons. Printed silk scarfs are wound, twisted, pleated, stiffened and stitched with the greatest ingenuity. One charming example is the bonnet-crowned turban designed by Florence Reichman. It has a stiffened heart-shaped crown that is held in position with a twist of silk banding extending over the head from front to back and around the crown.

Here's an Umbrella That Stands Alone

At last our troubles are over. That is so far as positioning your umbrella so it won't topple to the floor. The aggravating problem is solved. Now showing in leading stores is man's latest invention—the umbrella that stands alone. It seems there is a little cuplike contrivance devised that looks like an ornament at the umbrella tip that sets on the floor upholding the umbrella so it does not have to be propped up against some object—the wall, a chair or counter. Bravo! Why didn't someone think of this long ago?

Tri-Color Housecoat

Red, white and blue is the color scheme chosen by a West coast designer for a becoming flannel housecoat.

Taffeta Turbans

Frisulous topping for severe black tailored ensembles are the new draped turbans of bright plaid taffeta.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



LINE CRATE WITH OIL CLOTH-TACK CHECKED SKIRT TO SIDES-WHITE FRILL EDGES COVER FOR TOP

IN THIS column we have shown how to make useful, attractive things out of everything most from spools to tin cans, but several readers have reminded me lately that I have neglected orange crates. Here is a pair of tables to match a smart new bedspread.

The spread is made of green and white checked gingham trimmed in bands, monogram and frills of white muslin. The bed is an old iron one that has been cut down and then padded and covered with the gingham (detailed directions are in Book 3). The orange crates for the tables are lined with green oil cloth and each wears a green and white checked skirt; and a top cover frilled in white. The lamps are white and the shades are old ones covered with a plain ruffle of white held in around the top with a band and a bow of green cut from the check material.

NOTE: Directions for making lamp shades and bedspread are in Book No. 1; complete alphabet for monograms in Book 2; streamlining old style bed in Book 3; and

Book 4 contains 32 pages of original homemaking ideas. Books are 10 cents each. With each order for four books will be sent FREE a set of three Early American Quilt Block patterns, including the Ann Rutledge, which Mrs. Spears sketched from the original in the Rutledge Tavern at New Salem, Illinois. Send order to:

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Drudgery Necessary

Drudgery is as necessary to call out the treasures of the mind as harrowing and planting those of the earth.—Margaret Fuller.

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