

Lincoln Established Department Of Agriculture 84 Years Ago

Great President Always Remained A Farmer at Heart

Abraham Lincoln sat at his desk studying a document a clerk had laid before him. Now and then he would glance out the window at a blue-clad sentry pacing the White House lawn.

Soon he finished reading, took off his steel-bowed spectacles, reached for a pen and signed his name to the last page.

The paper he signed that May day in 1862 was not an army-shifting order that would change the tide of battles, but nevertheless its effects have been felt in war and peace in the three-quarters of a century that have followed. The document was an "Act to Establish the United States department of agriculture."

Thus in the agony of the Civil war was born an organization which today serves six million of the nation's farms.

Americans remember Lincoln best as the Great Emancipator whose principles have stirred men the world over. Few citizens, perhaps, realize the profound effect Lincoln and his administration had on the agriculture of the United States. For not only did he foster the act establishing the U. S. department of agriculture, but he promoted other legislation that gave farming an impetus that has speeded its development to this day.

Lincoln was farm bred. He never lost the feel of the earth. All his life he was a close student of agriculture. He knew its needs and the possibilities of its advancement as few presidents have before or since.

The story of Lincoln's boyhood on the farm is an American classic. His early days were spent on a 30-acre tract near Knob creek about 10 miles from his birthplace at Hodgenville, Ky.

Moved to Indiana.

When Abe was seven years old, the family moved across the Ohio river into southern Indiana. Tragedy was to come early into the young boy's life for it was here that his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died. The Lincolns had established themselves on a knoll surrounded by low-lying, marshy fields. Abe had to walk a mile to haul drinking water.

Thomas Lincoln had taken an option on 160 acres of land at two dollars an acre. He completed payments on about half of that total, varying his farming activities with hunting and occasional jobs of carpentry. Seven years after the family had arrived in Indiana, the farm's cultivated area totaled only 17 acres.

The Lincoln family moved to Illinois in 1830, taking up land along the Sangamon river in Macon county. Soon after arriving, Abe reached his 21st birthday. That meant freedom from his father's yoke. So he bade farewell to his family and moved on to New Salem.

Student of Agriculture.

As a successful lawyer riding the Illinois circuit and visiting neighboring states occasionally to try cases, Lincoln was a close student of agriculture. He was often invited to speak before farmers' meetings. One of the most notable instances historians record of his appearances before farm groups came in 1859 — a year before he was elected President — when he was invited to address the agricultural fair held by the Wisconsin State Agricultural society at Milwaukee.

On that occasion he said:

"No other human occupation

opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture. Every blade of grass is a study; and to produce two where there once was but one is both a profit and a pleasure. And not grass alone, but soils, seeds and seasons, saving crops, diseases of crops, what will prevent and cure them; hogs, horses and cattle; trees, shrubs, fruits, plants and flowers—each is a world of study within itself."

His words were prophetic of the research conducted today by plant breeders, animal husbandmen and soil scientists at state agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

There was great room for progress in agriculture when Lincoln entered the White House. Farming was still being done with horse power although an impressive start had been made in mechanization. But it still took about as long to plow a

"I have caused the department of agriculture of the United States to be organized to carry out the act of congress of May 15th last. The commissioner informs me that within the period of a few months this department has established an extensive system of correspondence and exchanges, both at home and abroad, which promise to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a current knowledge of recent improvements of agriculture, in the introduction of new products and in the collection of the agricultural statistics of the different states. Also it will be prepared to distribute largely seeds, cereals, plants and cuttings, and has already published and liberally diffused much valuable information."

The department of agriculture thus played its part in the Civil war. Its services to the nation's farmers have continued to grow. Every farm home today feels its



ILLINOIS HOMESTEAD . . . This is the last farm home built by Thomas Lincoln, father of the president. Abe Lincoln, then a grown man, helped his father build the house and visited it often. It is in Coles county, near Charleston.

field plant a crop and cultivate it as it had in George Washington's time. This was particularly true in the pioneer areas of settlement in the West.

Reaper Coming into Use.

The early 1830s had witnessed the introduction of the reaper but its use was not universal when the Civil war broke out. Farmers had been using the steel plow for about 25 years. The modern fertilizer industry was not established until 1850, after scientific experiments in Europe had demonstrated the value of plant feeding. By 1860 production had reached only 20,000 tons. Last year farmers used more than 12,000,000 tons.

Food production was just as important in the Civil war as in World Wars I and II. Lincoln and his advisers sought measures both near and long range that would strengthen the position of agriculture. The administration threw its weight behind three major bills and within a year they had become the law of the land. They were: the act establishing the U. S. department of agriculture; the land grant college act to which the nation's farmers today owe the existence of the far-flung system of agricultural colleges in every state of the union, and the homestead act.

Lincoln had advocated the establishment of a department of agriculture in his first message to congress, in December, 1861. Then he had said:

"Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only. While it is important that this great interest is so independent in its nature as not to have demanded or extorted more from the government, I respectfully ask congress to consider whether something more cannot voluntarily be given with general advantage."

By the time he delivered his second annual message, the department had been created and Lincoln was able to report:

benefits. Farmers everywhere are assisted by county agents in improving their tillage methods, testing their soil to determine plant food needs, so as to increase the output and quality of their crops.

The land grant college act or the Morrill act, signed by President Lincoln on July 2, 1862, marked a milestone in the development of scientific agriculture. The act gave to each state as many times 30,000 acres of public land as it had senators and representatives — this land to provide funds for the establishment and support of "a college of agriculture and mechanical arts."

"Today the state agricultural colleges which Lincoln's administration helped to create are one of the farmers' greatest allies," said a statement of the Middle West soil improvement committee recently. "Their scientists and teachers are constantly discovering new facts about the soil and its plant food needs, crop and livestock improvement and better farming methods.

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
By VIRGINIA VALE

A LOT of New Yorkers would kick themselves if they knew what has happened lately. For Bing Crosby heads the list of movie and radio stars whom most people would like to see in person. And Bing can't resist the side-walks of New York. Wearing a slouch hat, smoking a pipe, with the collar of his overcoat turned up on chilly days, he's travelled over miles of New York by foot; walked clear to the Battery one morning, and then rode all the way back up-town on a crowded bus, but nobody recognized him, though that bus probably was jammed with his fans. Even the crowd waiting to see "The Bells of St. Mary's" at the Music Hall didn't recognize him!

Ginny Simms was guest of honor at a scrumptious party for the press given by the Columbia Broadcasting system, at which, naturally, all the men crowded around Ginny. But the girls gathered around Helmut Dantine, whose latest picture



GINNY SIMMS

is "Shadow of a Woman." Ginny was cheering because Frank Gallagher, ex-army singer whom she introduced recently on the air in her "Give a Discharged Serviceman a Job" campaign, now has a radio show of his own. Every returned vet she's introduced has hit the professional jackpot.

Ray Milland is convinced that the sailing yacht Santana, which he used to own, has star appeal. He got interested in fishing, wanted a cruiser, so sold the yacht to Dick Powell, who honeymooned on it with June Allyson. Then Powell sold it to Humphrey Bogart.

The youngest you'll see in "The Strange Woman," playing Hedy Lamarr as a child, is the star's own discovery. She's Arienne Castle, daughter of Edgar Ulmer, also a Lamarr discovery. She chose him as director of her first independent film venture, then talked him into letting his daughter appear in the picture also — Hedy says Arienne looks exactly as she did at the age of eight.

"Holiday and Co.," which replaces "It Pays to Be Ignorant" on the air, is true to life. The story of ex-vaudevillians who played on bills with Jack Benny, Fred Allen, etc., its main characters, Tim and Shirley Holiday, are played by Ray Maher and Edith Evans, who know that background perfectly. It looks like one of the most promising of the year's new radio shows.

Loretta Young's stand-in in her new picture, "The Stranger," is Virginia Griffith, an old friend. The girls went to grade school together; now Virginia works when Loretta does, and falls heir to a good many of Loretta's picture costumes.

"The Teentimers Club," heard Saturday mornings over NBC, has been cited by the American schools and colleges association as the outstanding program for young people in the high school age group. The series won its honors for "good, clean entertainment used as a vehicle for straight, colloquial talks on tolerance," according to the citation.

Following a recent "Truth or Consequences" broadcast the operator on NBC's night switchboard in Hollywood reported that more calls had flooded the board than on either V-E or V-J Days. They were all from people requesting tickets to the Ralph Edwards show, so that they could try to identify that mysterious voice and win those fabulous gifts. People as far east as Buffalo phoned, offering to pay their fare west if they could be assured of a chance on the program—which, of course, they couldn't be.

ODDS AND ENDS—Jimmie Melton's friends presented him with a 2½ gallon container of custard ice cream, his favorite dessert, before a recent broadcast. . . You'll hear Ann Sothern doing comedy dialects on all the "Maizie" programs now; those she's done so far have been real laugh getters. . . Fred Waring's delighted to have Stuart Churchill out of the army and back with the Pennsylvanians; Churchill shared a tent at Camp Upton with Burl Ives, and lives tight him to play the guitar. . . Dinah Shore and George Montgomery have an unusual colliie on their Encino ranch; they know somebody's coming when he stops barkina.

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ESPECIALLY created for the larger figure is this flattering side button dress. Princess lines are figure-molding and graceful, and tend to make you look tall and slim. Shoulder shirring gives a soft feminine touch. A frock to wear everywhere.

Pattern No. 8951 comes in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Size 38, short sleeves, 4½ yards of 35 or 39-inch material.

Two-Piece Dress

AS SWEET as can be is this exquisite little two-piece dress for a tot of three to eight. Scallops make a pretty trim on the dainty jacket — the skirt is attached to a bodice for comfort and ease. Make it in taffeta, for best, in gay cottons for school wear.

Pattern No. 1440 is for sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 years. Size 4, dress, 2½ yards of 35 or 39-inch; bodice, ¾ yard; ¼ yard for collar.

Due to unusually large demands and current conditions, slightly more time is



If tumblers stick together, stand them in warm water and fill the inside one with cold water.

To remove soot from a rug without spotting, cover thickly with dry salt before attempting to sweep and there will be no resulting stain.

As you iron clothes, stack them according to the drawer or room in which they belong and set aside clothes that need mending.

Grapefruit sections, covered with honey and chilled, are delicious appetizers. Maple syrup may be substituted for honey.

Here's a clever trick for lining the sleeves of your child's play coat. Cut the foot off an old cotton stocking, insert the part that's left in place at the wrist and shoulder. You'll be surprised how much warmth and comfort it gives.

When winter winds cut like a knife . . .

CHAPPED LIPS SOOTHED QUICKLY!

A cracked lip—so cruel and painful! Caused when raw, bitter weather dries skin cells, leaves them "thirsty." Skin becomes sore—may crack and bleed. Soothing Mentholatum acts medicinally: (1) Gently stimulates the local blood supply to the "sore" area. (2) Helps revive "thirsty" cells so they can retain needed moisture. For chapped, raw skin, smooth on Mentholatum, the comforting medicated balm. Handy jars or tubes 30¢.

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When outdoor work and chilling winds leave muscles aching and sore—take the tested way to fast, happy relief. Just pat on Sloan's Liniment, warm away those muscular pains. No slow, painful rubbing. You'll feel this "heat treatment" penetrating immediately, stimulating circulation, relaxing tight muscles. Your handy way to solid comfort.

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Now you can get grand baking results time after time . . . no matter whether you're making light, puffy rolls, or one of the new Gooch's Best Sugarless cakes! So easy . . . because Gooch's Best uniform high quality is the secret of this better baking. Ask for Gooch's Best Enriched All-Purpose Flour. Then try the recipe for Sugarless Chocolate Cake.

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GOOCH'S BEST FLOUR

Enriched ALL-PURPOSE

Sugarless Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS

2 cups sifted GOOCH'S BEST ENRICHED ALL-PURPOSE Flour	½ cup shortening
1 cup syrup	½ cup water
1 tsp. soda	½ tsp. salt
2 eggs	½ cup cocoa
	1 tsp. vanilla

METHOD

Make the mixture of the following:
½ cup shortening
1 cup syrup
1 tsp. vanilla

Make a second mixture of:
2 cups sifted GOOCH'S BEST ENRICHED ALL-PURPOSE Flour
1 cup cocoa
½ cup salt

Combine all the first mixture with ½ the second mixture and mix well. Stir in two un-beaten eggs, then add remaining dry ingredients and beat well.

Mix ½ cup water and ½ cup syrup — bring to a boiling point. Gradually add to above mixture and blend thoroughly to a velvety texture.

Bake in a loaf in moderate oven until done—about 20 to 25 minutes.



LINCOLN VIRGINIA HOMESTEAD . . . The ancestral home of Abraham Lincoln in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. John Lincoln, great-grandfather of the martyred president, built the original house. Thomas Lincoln, father of Abe, was born here before the family moved to Kentucky.

Practical Farming Advice Sent Out By Agriculture Colleges

Most farmers are well acquainted with the news and advice sent out by their state colleges of agriculture. These colleges were established under the land grant college act. Typical stories are the following:

KANSAS
Probably the best insurance on any Kansas farm against costly machinery breakdowns is a good farm shop that can be heated and made comfortable for winter use. A

complete overhaul of all farm equipment every winter is a goal worth attempting and it's impossible if you have to work out in the snow.

OREGON
A serious breakdown in the Alumina plant at Salem has interrupted the production of ammonium sulphate for distribution to Oregon farmers, but repairs are being rushed so that shipments may be resumed this month if present plans work out, reports Art King, extension

soils specialist at Oregon State college. War substitute lining in the crystallizing equipment failed, causing the shutdown.

GEORGIA
"In making their 1946 plans, Georgia farm families should strive to maintain the gains they have made in recent years," Walter Brown, extension director, declared. "The inflation threat continues and inflation is almost certain to be followed by deflation."