

Happy, indeed, is he or she who, confronted with a problem, does his best to find a solution. Having expended upon a solution, the application of it should be accompanied by optimism. It is utterly foolish to decide up on doing something and, at the same time, continue to worry about it.

Lincoln Anniversary Has Much Meaning for Wing Lake Man



CARL SANDBURG, some years ago, spent a night in the "Lincolnook" in the home of William Springer. Discussion went into the wee hours of the morning before the two Lincoln enthusiasts finished pleasant hours of their avocation, and retired.

By William H. Thomas

To many people, Sunday will be a day for church, visiting, or perhaps just the end of another weekend. A few people may realize that it is an anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Very few persons will be aware that it marks the 147th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

One of these persons who knows not only the date of Lincoln's birth and death, but many of the details in between, is William Springer, 6065 Franklin road, who has one of the foremost privately-owned collections of works about Lincoln in the world.

Housed in the Springer library are about 2,000 volumes on Lincoln, the Civil War, slavery and collateral material, and over 1,000 pamphlets, including political and commemorative tributes and sermons after the assassination.

INCLUDED, TOO, are over 1,000 pieces of articles in periodicals and magazines, hundreds of newspaper clippings, and nearly 400 photographs of Lincoln, his cabinet, his generals, family and friends.

In what Springer calls his "Lincolnook" can be seen a variety of Lincoln sheet music, over 500 miscellaneous pictures, including Currier and Ives political cartoons, plus a large assortment of contemporary as well as modern statuary, bookends, mourning badges, and over 100 campaign and commemorative medals. Rounding out the collection are stamps, coins and over 300 Congressional signatures of the period.

OF INTEREST is a confederate officer's pardon. Springer can show one of Lincoln's executive letters, a pass to Ford's theater in which Lincoln was killed, steel wedges and one of the axes which the Great Emancipator used to split rails, and an etched metal plaque which hung on the wall of Lincoln's funeral car.

Springer first became interested in Lincoln when, in 1928, he met Dr. William E. Barton, one of the foremost lecturers and Lincoln students of the period.

BARTON, in the process of writing, "Women Lincoln Loved," presented the youthful Springer, then a serious student of classical literature, with his first book on Lincoln and advised Springer that "no man in American history had lent himself to a better study for life's responsibility than Abraham Lincoln."

With the passing of the years, Springer became more and more devoted to the study of Lincoln, and so, with the founding of the New Center News in 1933 by Springer, it was only natural that he would devote some of his space to his ideal.

ONE OF THESE, published in the Feb. 21, 1955 issue, was judged as one of the three most original articles on Lincoln during the year by the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

In it are names well-recognized in the Birmingham area. Springer reaches back to 1848 in his article, describing a trip made by the then Congressman Lincoln by boat from Buffalo, passing Detroit, to Chicago.

"WHILE SAILING and enjoying the cool breeze of our great little old Lincoln realize that with in the reach of his voice, there would be a campaign biographer printed of him by a Canadian-born American, George G. Booth, who migrated to Detroit in 1827. It was this same George G. Booth who married Ellen Warren Scripps, founded Cranbrook in Detroit, and subsequently the Cranbrook Institutions in Bloomfield Hills.

"THE CRANBROOK Press was at first published by the firm of Booth and Scripps, and devoted strictly to the fine book craftsmanship and printing. It is believed that through the association of his wife, Ellen Warren Scripps Booth with her third son, John Locke Scripps Dyer, daughter of John Locke Scripps, Mr. Booth was influenced to print the original copy of the campaign biography in an elaborate book form with a title page which reads: 'The first published life of Abraham Lincoln, written in the year 1860, by John Locke Scripps, reprinted in the year 1900, by the Cranbrook Press, Detroit.'"

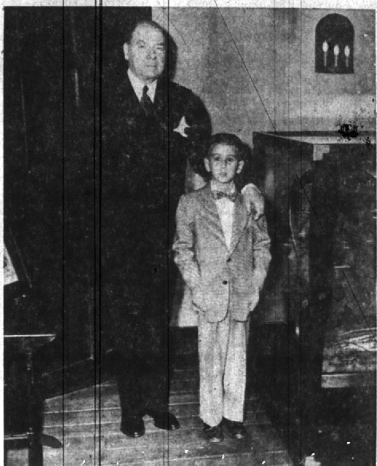
Springer has a copy of this first biography in his collection which is divided, for easy reference, into periods of Lincoln's life, his death, viewpoints from both the northern and southern historians and other writings related to the times.

OTHER LOCAL residents who figure in the Lincoln collection is James J. Flack of 708 W. Lincoln, who contributed to Springer's collection the paper weight that held the surrender papers during the signing by Generals U. S. Grant and Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, Va., at the McLean home.

Flack explains that while living in Boston he resided next to a family who had been well-acquainted with the McLeans of Virginia, and before he entered service in World War II the clear glass book was presented to Flack as a remembrance.

SPRINGER has passed on his enthusiasm as well as his name to his son, William L. II, who presently is the youngest member of the Abraham Lincoln War Roundtable of Michigan, an organization which Springer helped found and of which he was first president.

Men, known and unknown, have visited Springer to take the man who "preserved the Union."

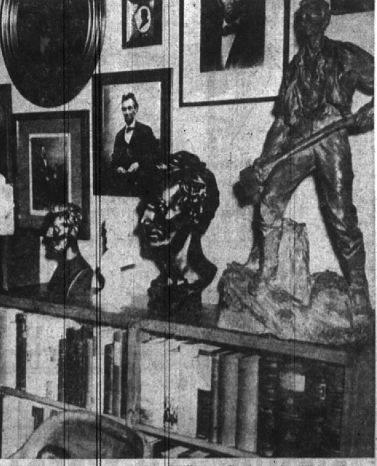


OLDEST AND YOUNGEST of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Roundtable of Michigan, which Springer helped to found, are Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones and William L. Springer II, by the chair in which the Great Emancipator was assassinated and which may be seen at the Lincoln Courthouse, Greenfield Village, Dearborn.



WILLIAM SPRINGER, 6065 Franklin road, has one of the foremost private collections on Abraham Lincoln in existence. Here he views a manuscript turned over to him by Fred L. Black, who did an exhaustive research on the death of John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassinator.

he was born in a log cabin, and Springer cited the lack of integrity that would be about it, said rest in governmental affairs, this Springer, who pointed out that a area included, and expressed the lot of people in the United States desire to see more interest taken could benefit by a study of Lincoln. in basic government and honesty.



ALL KINDS OF MEMENTOS may be found in William Springer's "Lincolnook." The white statue (extreme left) was executed by Leonard W. Volk from life in 1860. Young Lincoln with axe in hand, is a more recent work by Dr. Arvid Fairbanks, then Dean of Fine Arts, University of Michigan. This is a three-foot scale model from which Fairbanks executed a nine-foot bronze for Eva Plant-

Flack Joins Brook Staff

Fred M. Brook, President of Max Brook, Inc., oldest Birmingham Realtors, has announced the appointment of James K. Flack as a member of the sales organization.

Flack has had many years of experience in sales management and direct sales work in the East and the Middle West. During World War II he served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations, and at present is an active member of the Army Reserves with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He has been active in the local real estate field for the past two years.

Flack and his wife, Sara, live at 708 W. Lincoln. Their son James, Jr., is attending Albion College.

The Brook organization, established in 1895, has expanded its operations during the past several years, keeping step with the innovative developments of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Tax Deductible Auto Expenses Listed by AAA

The annual question of what automobile expenses are legitimate income tax deductions is answered for Michigan motorists this year in a six-page pamphlet available to the public at the Birmingham office of Michigan's Automobile Association.

Prepared by American Automobile Association, the pamphlet lists deductible expenses for drivers using their cars for business, pleasure or a combination of the two, according to Douglas Brown, Birmingham division manager.

Taxpayers who do not use their cars for business purposes can deduct costs of license plates, operator's license fees, state and municipal taxes on automobiles, state gasoline taxes, interest on money borrowed on the security of an automobile, losses from fire, accident, storm or theft not compensated for by insurance or otherwise, and costs of repairing damages which do not result from a willful act of negligence.

CARS USED in trade, business or profession may claim deductions for costs of gasoline, oil, repairs, garage rent, insurance and other necessary operation and upkeep expenses as well as for depreciation.

Other aspects covered in the pamphlet include gains or losses on trade-in, employees using their own cars for employers, car pools and using one's car to look after income-producing property.

Building Permits For 2 Buildings

Building permits have been issued by the city of Birmingham for an office building on Lincoln and an addition to a radio and TV store on East Maple.

The new office building will be at 920 Lincoln between Woodward and Grant. Wilson and Sons is the builder for Marvin Hahn, 635 Williamsburg, Birmingham. The builder estimated the cost at \$55,000 but the building inspector's estimate is \$28,800.

The addition will be to the McCullum and Dean, radio and TV



ONE SECTION (above) of William Springer's "Lincolnook" in his Franklin road home, is an indication of the size of Springer's collection. Books shown above deal with slavery, the Civil War from both northern and southern viewpoint, contemporary collateral material, and some volumes on Detroit and Michigan. There are 2,000 volumes on Lincoln, and related subjects, as well as 1,000 pamphlets, newspaper clippings, over 1,000 articles in periodicals and almost 400 photos in Springer's collection.

Ranch Room Provided For Birmingham Youth

Interviewed this week about his term as president of the board of the Community House, 'Andy' (Edwin J.) Anderson, of Bloomfield Hills, president of the Detroit Lions and president of the Goebel Brewing company, said, "I'm afraid I broke an unwritten rule by being president of the Community House for two terms." (1946-48)

Besides modernizing the kitchen and hiring Mrs. Velma Isley as director, Anderson's main project was developing the basement into the Ranch room.

"Kids in Birmingham have no place to go in the evening," he said. "They can't go to the clubs Friday and Saturday night; just a movie, a chocolate milk-shake and go home. Kids need each other and they need a cozy place to go. Actually, that was the building we conceived the Ranch room."

"Dr. Dwight B. Ireland was on our board at the time and was interested in it. It was just about the time that the high school seniors and fraternities were being thrown out—technically and legally.

"WE ASKED for things from everyone," Anderson laughed. "Kelvinator, gave us refrigerators. We had a 'Grand Opening' and the Ranch room became very popular—really a gathering-place for everyone.

Although Illinois-born and a graduate of Beloit college, he and his cousin, Mr. Anderson considers this area most attractive.

"And a lot of people were attracted to Birmingham because of the Community House," he said. "It's a very charming building from the outside."

Anderson also fought for tax exemption for gifts to the House. With Harry Allen, ex-mayor of Birmingham, he presented a case before Internal Revenue. This tax exemption, based on the fact that the Community House is a non-profit institution, finally came through several years later during the presidential term of Walter Skinner.

ANDERSON increased the budget of the House 50 percent as was necessary for the times.

Considering the future of the House, he said, "Twenty years ago we had the same Community House and except for the Ranch room there has been no real change. Now population has doubled or tripled but the Community House hasn't changed."

Anderson agrees with a suggestion made by Mrs. Charles Shain that the Birmingham-Bloomfield area needs an auditorium.

"Times are prosperous," he said. "We own the lot directly north of the House and that's the logical place for it. We should be able to seat 5,000 people. Yes, I'm all for the auditorium idea, and I'll work

FOURTH IN A SERIES