Star Dust
STAGE · SCREEN · RADIO

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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 sidewalks 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 uptown 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 youngster you'll see in "The Strange Woman," playing Hedy Lamarr as a child, is the star's own discovery. She's Arianne 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 Arianne 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 "Maisie" 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 Ives taught him to play the guitar. . . Dinah Shore and George Montgomery have an unusual collie on their Encino ranch; they know somebody's coming when he stops barking.

Lincoln Established Department Of Agriculture 84 Years Ago

Great President Always Remained A Farmer at Heart

Abraham Linclon sat at his desk studying a document a clerk had laid before him. Now and then he would raise his eyes to 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.

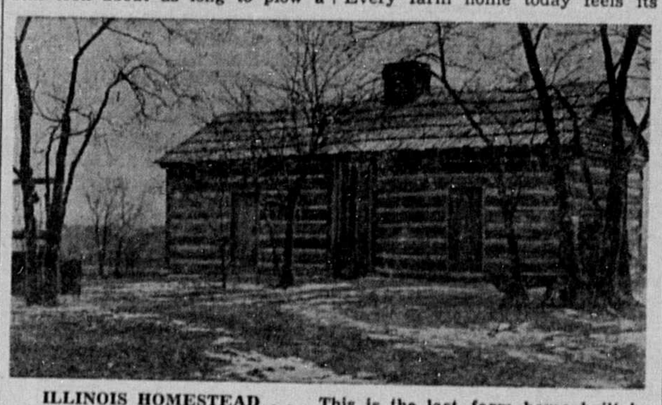
As a successful lawyer riding the Illinois circuit and visiting neighboring states occasionally to try cases, Lincoln was a close student of agriculture. He was often invited to speak before farmers' meetings. One of the most notable instances historians record of his appearances before farm groups came 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 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.



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.

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 years 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:

"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 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.

Practical Training.

"These colleges equip young men to apply their training to practical farm work. Here and in the agricultural experiment stations, agronomists are carrying on tests with crops, soils and fertilizers. The benefit of this information is available to any farmer seeking advice in applying nitrogen, phosphorus and potash to his land for profitable crop production."

The third great agricultural measure which marked Lincoln's contribution to the future of American farming was the homestead act which he signed May 20, 1862. Since the day this act became operative approximately 250 million acres of public domain have been thrown open to farm ownership.

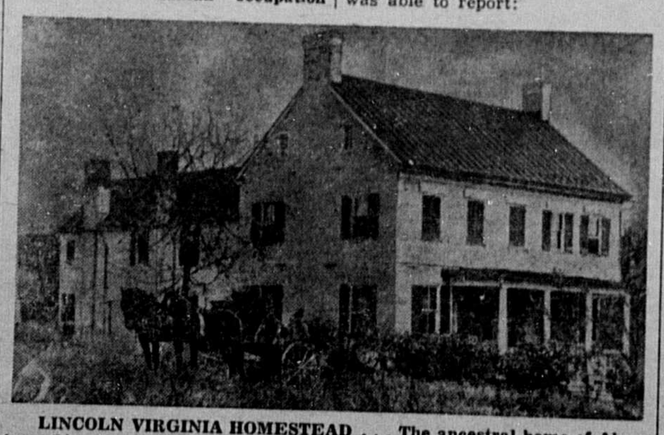
The effect of the homestead act in promoting farm production during and after the Civil war was tremendous.

By its provisions, 160 acres of land was given free to every settler who would live on it for five years. Landseekers rushed to take advantage of the offer. Before the war ended 2.5 million acres were allocated—or an average of 15 thousand farms of 160 acres each.

Railroad lines were extended to link the western farm lands with the markets of the east. The food these new farms produced helped supply the union armies, and combined with the agricultural output of the east, built up a surplus that found a profitable market in Europe.

Following the Civil war the homestead act was instrumental in building up the farming empire west of the Mississippi which became the land of opportunity for the veterans of that war.

As America hails the 137th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, agriculture acknowledges its debt to him. The progress farming had made in the past 80 years would never have been possible without his help.



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 Kanasas 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 crystalizing 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."

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ASK ME ANOTHER
A General Quiz

1. A shark has no bones. Of what is its skeleton composed?
2. What does the word esoteric mean?
3. What is the unit of lumber measurement called a board foot?
4. Greyhounds were first used by whom?
5. What sea has no shore?

The Answers

1. A shark's skeleton is composed of cartilage.
2. Abstruse, marked by secrecy, confidential.
3. One foot by one foot by one inch.
4. The Pharaohs of Egypt, for hunting.
5. Sargasso sea (entirely surrounded by the Atlantic ocean).

GRANDMA SPEAKIN'...

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• • •

BLESS MY SOUL, there ain't nuthin' easier than makin' sure ye're gittin' a top-quality margarine. Jest look fer the words "Table-Grade", Nu-Maid Margarine's Table-Grade. Sez so jest as plain as the nose on yer face right on the package.

• • •

QUICKEST WAY to lose friends is to tell 'em what's wrong with 'em.

• • •

YOU CAN'T get blood out of a turnip, and you can't expect a seasonin' to give vegetables good flavor 'less it's got good flavor of its own! That's why I allus use Table-Grade Nu-Maid Margarine fer my seasonin'. I like that churned-fresh flavor. So'll you!

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Table-Grade
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FOR QUICK RELIEF FROM
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Stiff Joints • Strains • Bruises

What you NEED is
SLOAN'S LINIMENT