



Since Lincoln's death 95 years ago next Friday,  
it's been a center of  
the unusual,  
ranging from  
body snatching  
to historical boners



## The unknown story of LINCOLN'S TOMB

By **GEORGE L. CASHMAN**

Curator, Lincoln's Tomb, Springfield, Ill.

as told to Bernard Asbell

**L**IGHTNING, which they say never strikes twice, has in the last decade twice struck and damaged the tomb of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Ill.

I'm not a bit surprised. For the past nine years, I have been curator of the Lincoln Tomb, observing what a strange—and often-times stormy—place it is.

For example, before I became curator I considered myself something of a Lincoln expert. My wife and I have given scores of lectures on the Great Emancipator. But if we were to believe what some visitors have "taught" us about Lincoln, we'd throw all the history books out the window.

Several tourists have tried to convince us, for instance, that Lincoln is not buried in the tomb at all. One insisted that he was sure Lincoln was buried in France, another

said at sea, another at Arlington. Still another was absolutely sure the body had been stolen and never recovered. It happens this misguided chap was almost right; but that's a story I'll get into later.

I don't mean to give the impression that our visitors are mostly pests; far from it. Most of the 2,700 visitors we average in a day—including kings, presidents, and scholars—come with a reverent curiosity about the most interesting man America has produced. But occasionally there are odd people and odd incidents—it's been that way since Lincoln died April 15, 1865.

For a time, it seemed there was never to be peace around Lincoln's resting place. While Lincoln's funeral train was still journeying mournfully from Washington, 15 of his friends in Springfield began to raise

(Continued)

### COVER:

Just a glance at sparkling Doris Day and the world seems brighter. For more, see her own story, "Who Says I've Changed?" along with pictures of her career (page 12).

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