

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



DAVIS TAKES OATH — On Feb. 18, 1862, the band played "Dixie" and, after a prayer, Jefferson Davis arose and read his inaugural address. Then turning, he placed one hand on the bible, lifted the other, and listened to the oath. At the end of the oath, in a solemn

voice, he exclaimed, "So help me God." He lowered his head in tears and hundreds wept with him as he became President of the Confederate States of America. The scene above shows the crowd assembled at the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala., as Davis took the oath. (UPI Telephoto)

Davis Becomes CSA President

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

Jefferson Davis' journey from his plantation rose garden below Vicksburg, Miss., to Montgomery, Ala., to become the first president of the Confederate States of America was, as a writer of the time put it, "one continuous ovation," with speeches, fireworks and cheering crowds.

After leaving Jackson, Miss., the president-elect made 26 speeches before he reached the temporary Confederate capital.

Eight miles outside Montgomery a committee of the Provisional Congress plus distinguished citizens met Davis. He was escorted into the city by two companies of militia at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, Feb. 16, 1862, "amid the huzzas of thousands and the booming of cannon."

"Our separation from the old Union is complete," he told the welcoming crowd at the Exchange Hotel in his 27th speech. "No compromise; no reconstruction can now be entertained... Heaven will prosper the Southern Confederacy..."

Visitors Crowd Montgomery

Over Sunday Davis put together his inaugural address and conferred with political leaders.

Montgomery, bulging with visitors, turned out bright and early Monday the 18th, for the ceremonies.

Newspaper accounts of the period reported: Promptly at 10 a.m. Col. H. F. Watson, the grand marshal, and a Montgomery man, began lining up the order of the procession which, the official program said, would move in this order:

"Music.

"Military escort of the Montgomery German Fusiliers, the Montgomery Rifles, the Bufala (Ala.) Rifles and the Columbus (Ga.) Guards (all under command of Capt. Paul Jones Semmes of the Columbus Guards, who would die of wounds suffered at Gettysburg.)

"The president-elect and the vice president (Alexander H. Stephens) in a carriage drawn by six (white) horses.

"Various committees, all in open carriages.

"Ministers of the Gospel, in carriages.

"Citizens generally, in carriages.

"Citizens generally on foot."

"Dixie" Becomes Symbol

One of the bands played a two-year-old tune written by Dan Emmett, a famous minstrel, which was destined to

live forever as a symbol of the Confederacy — "Dixie." This was the tune's first identification with the C.S.A. It had been sung first in New York.

After a prayer, "President Davis arose and read his inaugural address; then turning, he placed one hand upon the Bible and with the other uplifted, listened to the oath. His face was upturned and reverent in expression. At the conclusion of the oath, in a solemn earnest voice, he exclaimed:

"So help me God." He lowered his head in tears, and hundreds wept as they viewed the solemn scene.

"Thus was officially launched on a tempestuous political sea the Confederate Ship of State."

Howell Cobb of Georgia, president of the Provisional Congress, slipped a wreath of flowers over Davis' arm. It had been fashioned by Eleanor Jackson Noyes, a Bostonian turned southerner.

To make certain it was fresh, she wrote the next day to a sister in Boston. "I did not begin to collect the flowers until 9 o'clock in the morning."

Address Has Teeth

Davis' inaugural address was hastily written and consisted largely of a defense of secession and expressions of hope that any separation would be peaceable.

But the address had some teeth.

"If passion or lust of domination should cloud the judgment or inflame the ambition of those states (the North), we must prepare to meet the emergency, and maintain, by

the final arbitration of the sword, the position we have assumed among the nations of the earth."

Not many of Davis' colleagues believed the North would go to war.

T. R. R. Cobb, Howell's younger brother — who would die at Fredericksburg — wrote at the time:

"The almost universal belief here is that we shall not have war... the firm conviction here is that Great Britain, France and Russia will acknowledge us at once into the family of nations."

Davis also was acutely aware of the northern potential.

"Only fools doubt the courage of the Yankees," he told the fire-eaters.

Two days later something of his hidden thoughts came through in a letter to his wife, Varina Howell Davis.

"The (inauguration) audience was large and brilliant. (The younger Cobb estimated the crowd as between 3,000 and 10,000.) Upon my weary heart were showered smiles, plaudits and flowers; but beyond them I saw trouble and thorns innumerable. We are without machinery; without means, and threatened by a powerful opposition; but I do not despair..."

Cobb Disillusioned

Young Cobb wrote home about some of the "thorns."

"I am sick at heart with the daily manifestations of selfishness, intrigue, low cunning and meanness among those who at this critical moment should have an eye single to the protection of the people..."

"It looks now as if there

was nothing but office-seeking."

Of Davis he wrote: "President Davis sits at our table every day. He is chatty and tries to be agreeable. He is not great in any sense of the word..."

"He is obstinate as a mule. Many are regretting already his election..."

"Mr. Davis... receives no advice except from those who press their advice unasked..."

There were two inaugural balls in Montgomery that night. One at Estelle Hall and one at Concert Hall. Mrs. Noyes was there, wearing "my brown silk with blue brocade flowers which had entirely been made over into a low-necked dress with skirt in puffs and ruffles..."

"Every home, big and little, was illuminated from the Capitol to the Exchange (hotel) last night..."

"In short, it was a great day for Montgomery..."

Elmo Smith To Head Cancer Crusade

Portland — Former Gov. Elmo Smith will head the 1961 Cancer Crusade in the state of Oregon, William B. Feidenheimer, president of the American Cancer Society's Oregon division, has announced.

The Cancer Crusade will be under way throughout April, the month formally designated by the national congress as Cancer Control Month. Funds raised during the Crusade will support Cancer Society programs of research, professional and public education, and service.

Smith, publisher of the Albany Democrat-Herald, served as state senator and senate president prior to his election as governor. Working with him on the Crusade will be chairmen to be named in seven districts throughout the state as well as chairmen who will head the campaign in each county in the state.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

Ever Been Truffle Hunting?

The game can't run, crawl, fly or escape. They have no means of defense or offense, yet the favorite time to "hunt" them is at night, and by the use of a specially trained dog with a "nose for truffles."

Inasmuch as the truffle grows entirely underground, a trained dog is a necessary part of a truffle hunter's equipment. Without the dog the human hunter of this member of the fungus family might better stay home. And, because the best time to hunt truffles is at night, it is imperative that a white dog be used. Why, you may ask, is the night-hunting better?

The truffle hunter can't answer directly, maybe all the seekers after this fungi just always did, so they always will — hunt 'em at night.

Family of Fungi

Botanically, a truffle is a member of the family of fungi. There are about 50 varieties, all of which hide underground. Never does a true truffle raise its head above the surface of the forest floor. All the truffles are deliciously edible, if your taste buds are educated to their rather peculiar flavor.

Truffles, like all growing things, vary in size from ones about the size of a Brazil nut to a full grown adult which may be as large as a big potato. The outside color is black or bluish-black, but the interior is snowy-white. In appearance they look more like a potato than they do like truffles.

The experienced truffle-hunter, being familiar with

the habits of his quarry, selects an oak or a birch forest, preferably one with a limy soil. The truffle, like the other members of the family of fungi, is terribly short of chlorophyll. It receives no sunlight, it cannot make its own food, so must feed upon vegetable matter which of course is abundant in the litter of a forest floor. Truffles have no imagination, no desire to be anything but a "stick in the mud." They don't have much fun, just hiding there all the time in the gritty darkness. They should be glad to be dug up.

The truffle hunter, too,

must select a hunting ground where there are no hogs, for these animals are fond of the truffle and will dig them out and eat them. In some sections of France hogs have actually been trained to "hunt truffles." In England, the dogs called truffle-hounds are used. Armed with a shovel and a trained dog, the human hunter selects a suitable night and begins his strange hunt. If he is successful, and his dog is alert, he may gather a bushel of truffles, which he will consider a good night's work. And, too, he can hardly wait to start eating what he has "bagged."

Truffle hunting doesn't seem like a very exciting sport. By the wildest stretch of the imagination this sort of hunt lacks the thrill of the chase. The poor old truffle, being securely anchored underground, can't get away. It is never flighty and certainly a quarry that is easily "outwitted."

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Communist China Staging Executions

Hong Kong — Students returning from Communist China have reported the Communists are staging public trials and executions of "bad elements" in a purge of minor party officials designed to appease the famine-stricken public.

The Communist party central committee itself admitted

a purge was underway last month and the students said it appeared to be gaining ruthlessness and momentum as the Red masters sought to lay blame for the famine.

Eight students came from Red China on passes to celebrate the Chinese lunar new year. Only a few said they were going back.

They said "all the blame for the acute food shortage" was falling on secretaries and chairmen of the communes of forced labor.

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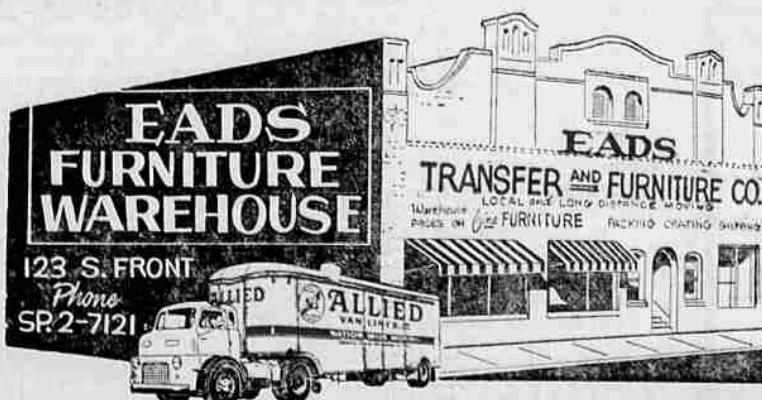
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