MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1861

Mar. 2 - It is rumored from Washington that one of the first acts of the Lincoln Administration will be reinforcement of Fort Sumter. Warns the New York Herald: "Should this report be verified we shall soon witness the inauguration of civil war."

Mar. 4 - Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as 16th President of the United States, with Hannibal Hamlin of Maine as Vice President.

Mar. 5 - Reaction, especially from the Southern states, indicates Lincoln's inaugural message is regarded as a declaration of war.

Mar. 7 - General P. G. T. Beauregard, dispatched by the Confederate Government to take command at Charleston, S.C., says he is confident Fort Sumter can be reduced.

Mar. 11 - Lincoln's new Cabinet meets to decide whether Fort Sumter shall be reinforced.

Mar. 13 - Newspapers report that Lincoln has refused to receive three peace commissioners sent to Washington from the South.

Mar. 20 - Press reports say an armistice has been agreed upon and that "a peaceful separation seems now to prevail even in Republican counsels."

Mar. 27 - Ward Lamon, the President's special envoy to Fort Sumter, returns to Washington and reports, but his findings are not made public.

Mar. 28 - Senate adjourns sine die after failing to act on a resolution to the effect that "the true way to preserve the Union is to enforce the laws of the Union."

Mar. 30 - Newspaper correspondents warn from Charleston, S.C., that if Fort Sumter is not soon evacuated it will be attacked.

PROGRAM FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the National Centennial Commission at Charleston, S.C., April 11-12, expected to be the largest and most active of any of the meetings so far held, now is nearing completion.

Principal speaker at the annual banquet the night of April 11 will be Ashley Halsey, Jr., associate editor of The Saturday Evening Post in charge of the Civil War Centennial series now appearing in that magazine. A native of Charleston, he has had a busy career as a journalist and naval intelligence officer. His Civil War interests include his role as commandant of the Hampton Legion of the North-South Skirmish Association.

As an added feature of this year's assembly, Postmaster General J. Edward Day will be present to unveil to the public the first of a series of Civil War commemorative stamps. It will mark the firing on Fort Sumter and will be placed on sale April 12 at the main postoffice in Charleston. This presentation will follow dedication at Fort Johnson of a new monument to the man who opened the firing a century ago.

Those who plan to attend the assembly are urged to make their reservations at once with William Cole, manager of the Francis Marion Hotel at Charleston, rather than through Centennial Headquarters at Washington.

ARKANSAS, under the chairmanship of Sam Dickinson of Little Rock, is facing a busy schedule this year. The Pea Ridge National Military Park will be dedicated at a memorial program March 5. The entire first week in May will be devoted by Saline County to commemorative ceremonies that will include art shows, flower shows, guided tours, reenactments and displays. Costume balls, meanwhile, will be arranged at every American Legion post in the state to raise money for battlefield markers.

THE NINTH ANNUAL GOLD MEDAL of the Washington Round Table will be awarded on April 18 to Karl S. Betts, executive director of the National Centennial Commission. Governor J. Millard Tawes of Maryland will make the presentation, and Senator Sam Ervin, Jr., of North Carolina will deliver the principal address.
FIRST MANASSAS (BULL RUN) REENACTMENT

The endless and wide variety of work that goes into the planning of a major reenactment is symbolized by this stable of 50-odd horses now undergoing training near Manassas, Va. On July 22 and 23 they will be used to pull into position 24 historic guns to blaze away as they did there in the battle a century ago. Examining the animals, shown under the direction of Trainer Phil Vail, are Major-General James C. Fry, executive director of the First Manassas Corporation (left), and Francis Wilshin, superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Plans for the reenactment, General Fry reports, are well advanced. Tickets for seats have been on sale for months and have been reserved by people as far away as France.

As an adjunct to the reenactment, a national drive now is under way to raise $50,000,000 with which to erect a Civil War Hall of Fame on the site of this first major battle of the war. Commander W. S. Stuhr of New Jersey is national chairman. Contributions should be forwarded to him at Box 1703, Washington 1, D.C.

MASSACHUSETTS, one of the few states without battlefields, took part nonetheless in the formal opening of the Centennial with a ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Boston Common. The main address was delivered by Governor Volpe. A National Guard artillery detachment fired a 21-gun salute, and an honor guard made up of Boston Latin High School cadets assisted. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion was represented.

FIVE THOUSAND BOY SCOUTS from six or more states are expected to take part in the seventh annual U. S. Grant Pilgrimage at Galena, III., April 29. Advance reservations are required and may be made through the U. S. Grant Council, Boy Scouts of America, 616 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, Ill.

FORD TIMES, the handy little magazine sent out by the Ford Motor Company to 1,300,000 car owners, will devote about half of its March, April and May issues to stories of Centennial events, related historical backgrounds, and nearby general interest touring attractions. Events covered are chiefly those scheduled for the current year.

VIRGINIA'S CENTENNIAL COMMISSION has issued a chronology of events leading up to that state's break with the Union. Entitled "Virginia Joins the Confederacy," it is a 24-page folder produced in limited number, but with permission for it to be reproduced with proper credit.

AN EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF ROBERT E. LEE on the grounds of his one-time home in Arlington National Cemetery is provided for in a resolution (S. J. Res. 50) recently introduced in Congress by Representative Oren Long of Hawaii, the newest and most distant state.

LONGMEADOW, MASS., an old New England town that for generations has paid tribute to its war dead on the Sunday nearest Memorial Day, this year will stage a program devoted to the Civil War. The speaker for the occasion will be Professor Henry Commager of Amherst College.

ANACHRONISMS, Peter K. Malone, catalogue of the Oakland Public Museum at Oakland, Calif., points out, are "cropping up with alarming frequency" in Civil War scenes posed for photographic purposes. He cites particularly dark sunglasses, wrist watches, and pressed trousers.

'IRON HORSE RAMBLES' is the name given to four special excursions the Reading Railroad will run to the Gettysburg battlefield this spring. The train to be used will be made up of 16 cars and will be drawn by two giant steam locomotives. The starting points are scheduled as follows: Jenkintown and Wayne Junction, Pa., April 22 and May 7; Bethlehem-Allentown, Pa., May 14, and Reading, Lebanon and Hershey, Pa., June 17.

'A BALLAD OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH,' a musical work written specifically for use in connection with the Centennial, has just been published by Associated Music Publishers, Inc., 1 West 47th Street, New York 36. Its authors are Paul Angle, Earl Miers and Normand Lockwood.

NEW JERSEY'S CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, planning ceremonies in connection with its Salem Church monument project, has decided because of weather and other reasons to postpone them until April 9 or 10, making them coincide with its trip to participate in the national assembly at Charleston, S. C. In the meantime, a special joint session of the State Legislature was held last month, with Anthony Quinn, Broadway actor, in the role of Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Roy P. Basler of the Library of Congress as principal speaker.