CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
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100 Years After
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MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1862 ............... SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DEVELOPS

Mar. 1 - Gen. Buell telegraphs that the Southerners have abandoned Murfreesboro and are in full retreat toward the Tennessee River. Meanwhile Flag Officer Foote sends word Columbus has been evacuated. "So the last Rebel nest in Kentucky is broken up," says the New York Times.

Mar. 3 - Hon. Andrew Johnson accepts appointment as military Governor of Tennessee and prepares to leave for Nashville to organize a state government and arm it with guns sent from Washington to protect loyal citizens.

Mar. 5 - Union Gen. McClellan announces that regiments and batteries shall inscribe on their colors or guidons the names of battles in which they participate.

Mar. 6 - John Ericsson's new ironclad, the U.S.S. Monitor, after several trials, starts south from New York.

Mar. 6 - Mysterious writings favorable to the Union, appearing on walls and in other public places in Richmond, cause President Davis to proclaim martial law in the city. Several persons believed to be of Union sympathy are arrested.

Mar. 6 - In a message to Congress, President Lincoln recommends a policy of cooperation with any state which may adopt a gradual abolition of slavery, maintaining it would set up no claim of right by national authority to interfere with slavery within state limits.

Mar. 7-8 - In one of the West's major battles, a more numerous Confederate force under Van Dorn, including three Indian regiments, is driven in confusion from Pea Ridge in Arkansas by troops under Union Gen. Sam Curtis.

Mar. 8 - The Merrimack, renamed the C.S.S. Virginia, "looking like a submerged house with the roof only above water," appears in Hampton Roads, sinks the U.S.S. Cumberland and sets the U.S.S. Congress afire, causing her to explode hours later. During the evening the Monitor arrives from New York.

Mar. 9 - The first battle of ironclads takes place between the Merrimack and Monitor. The ships withdraw after fierce action, with the captain of the Monitor vessel badly wounded.

Mar. 11 - Union forces, finding the Southerners have evacuated Manassas and gone toward Gordonsville, occupy the town and set up their flag over the vacated quarters.

Mar. 11 - Lincoln issues orders placing McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac and Halleck in charge of the Department of the Mississippi.

Mar. 14 - New Bern, N. C., is occupied by Union troops under Burnside.

Mar. 22-23 - Stonewall Jackson, to prevent Union reinforcements from leaving the Shenandoah Valley to join McDowell for the Peninsula campaign, strikes Shields at Kernstown with the aid of Turner Ashby's cavalry and is badly defeated, but the action causes the Federals to make grave strategic errors.

Mar. 28 - Intelligence reaching Fortress Monroe says the Merrimack is ready to fight again and may be expected at any moment. The Monitor, meanwhile, stands by, its commander ordered by Lincoln to see that she "be not too much exposed."

PANEL DISCUSSIONS, WITH ACCENT ON AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION, will be one of the major features of the fifth annual assembly of the National Centennial Commission at Columbus, Ohio, May 4-5.

Plans for the meeting now are proceeding at a rapid pace. James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director, reports that he expects a record attendance.

The theme of this year's assembly will be Civil War History, with special focus on Ohio and the Middle West.

Major exhibits in which each state will have an opportunity to tell its story will be another part of the program. Among these will be "The General," the locomotive that featured in the historic Andrews Raid, soon to be relived in accurate detail. Already the L. & N. Railroad has had the engine renovated and put in condition to make the trip to Ohio. Recently it was put through preliminary trials and found to be in satisfactory condition for the program planned.

Music will be still another feature of this year's assembly. On the opening day, the Ohio State University Band will give a public concert. This will be followed the next day by a concert on the steps of the Statehouse by the Civil War Band of Springfield, Ohio, believed to be the only band of its kind in the country.

SENATOR JOHN G. TOWER OF TEXAS is the newest member of the National Centennial Commission. He was appointed by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson recently to take the place of Senator Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, whose heavy Senate duties forced him to resign.
PEA RIDGE CEREMONIES

Elkhorn Tavern, shown at right, used as a hospital in the battle of Pea Ridge, will come again into public interest this month when Arkansas observes the centennial of the great conflict.

As one of the highlights, a memorial program will be sponsored by the Pea Ridge Memorial Association at the Baptist Church in Pea Ridge March 11. A short ceremony will follow at Elkhorn Tavern. In Bentonville, a marker will be placed at the old Eagle Hotel, now the Town House, where Union General Franz Sigel was chased away from the breakfast table by Confederates on March 6, 1862.

Fifteen markers in all will be erected at historic sites in the area as a part of the observance. In addition, a 100-page brochure about the battle will be distributed, and the Benton County Historical Society will issue this month a special edition of its PIONEER.

In the meantime, it has been announced that the dedication of the Pea Ridge National Park, originally scheduled for May of this year, has been postponed until May 30-31, 1963.

MONTANA is not waiting until 1964, the anniversary of its beginning as a territory, to take part in the Centennial. Scheduled to come off the press about April 1 is a publication from that state to be titled "The Civil War in the West," an 80-page book, heavily illustrated, that will sell at Helena for $1. Michael Kennedy, director of the Historical Society of Montana, writes concerning it: "I know of no other publication in print covering the material that will be in this one."

THE 'CENTENNIAL FIGURE OF THE YEAR' AWARD, to be offered annually by the Long Island Association of Centennial Commissions in cooperation with the Nassau County (New York) Centennial Commission, will be presented on March 3 to Paul J. Sedgwick, chairman of the District of Columbia Centennial Commission. It will be in recognition of his contributions during 1961, with particular reference to the programs arranged in Washington in observance of Lincoln's first inaugural and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

This year, as a further contribution to the Centennial, the District Commission will publish 50,000 copies of a map of wartime Washington and 25,000 copies of a booklet on the story of civilian life in the capital during the war. Both will be distributed without charge from the commission headquarters at 910 Seventeenth Street, N. W. The map will be ready March 10 and the booklet April 15.

DOZENS OF LETTERS BY MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS in which they describe the episodes during the Civil War which brought them the coveted award are now on display at the Lincoln Museum in Washington. Owned by Charles Kohen, a local manuscript collector, they will remain on exhibit until May 1.

'DID WESTERN GOLD WIN THE CIVIL WAR?' This question will be discussed in detail at the 15th annual Pacific Northwest History Conference, to be held at Boise, Idaho, April 13-14, with the Idaho Historical Society as host. Both Dr. Kenneth Owens and Dr. Arthur Throckmorton, respectively from the History Departments of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., and Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Ore., will speak on the subject.

H. J. Swinney, director of the Society, points out that this year is a particularly appropriate time for the discussion. Mining production at several newly-discovered bonanzas in Idaho reached full swing in 1862 and led to the claim that gold from that state, reaching as high as 20 per cent of the nation's production during some years of the war, swung the balance in favor of the North. The conference will be open to the public.

ELEVEN OUT OF 42 ONE-ACT PLAYS submitted in the playwriting contest on the theme of the Civil War sponsored by the District of Columbia Recreation Department have been found suitable for production. The three winning plays, to be produced locally this fall, were written by R. S. Jaster, Annandale, Va., J. Randolph Norris, Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. Harold Williamson, Washington, D. C. Honorable mention was accorded those authored by Alex Bilanow, Bethesda, Md., and Bruce Callender, Vienna, Va.

GETTYSBURG, PA., encouraged by a recent state appropriation of $100,000, is making definite plans for a commemorative program next year of the great battle fought there nearly a century ago. A director and committees are busily at work.

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