

## AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

On April 12, 1961, less than 9 months from now, the country embarks upon the most elaborate commemorative celebration in American History.

The date marks the 100th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor and the beginning of the American Civil War.

President Eisenhower has named a commission to supervise the national observances -- books and magazines are stressing the dramatic events of the era -- TV networks are planning Civil War Spectaculars.

Centennial programs will commemorate the battles, the military and political campaigns, from Fort Sumter to Appomattox.

This increasing emphasis on the entire Civil War period should assure strong reader emphasis for AMERICAN CENTENNIAL.

Five times a week, AMERICAN CENTENNIAL looks back to the corresponding date 100 years ago for a nostalgic glance at the people, places and events of the Civil War era.

Stories of Lincoln, Sherman, Grant, Lee. Of gold discoveries, Indian wars, slave ships, stage coaches and river boats. And, of course, the progress toward secession and war.

I'm attaching reproductions of AMERICAN CENTENNIAL from the editorial pages of the Omaha World Herald.

For personal credentials:

Currently writer and producer with CBS News in Los Angeles. Previously, manager of News & Special Events for NBC's Pacific Division for eight years; 15 years reporter, columnist and editorial writer on various Southern California newspapers.

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## American Centennial—

### It's the Start of 'Going Up'

New York,

September 2, 1860.

A special demonstration of the new steam "elevator" in the Fifth Avenue Hotel will be arranged for the Prince of Wales during his visit to this city next month.

Although apparently completely safe as it travels up and down on a huge screw 20 inches in diameter, turned by a steam engine in the basement, the elevator is avoided by many guests as a dangerous and untested innovation.

The car is elaborately finished in carved mahogany, with plush seats around three sides.

The hotel management says it's a financial boon since the rooms on the top



floors now can be rented without a discount.

Otis G. Tufts, who installed the elevator, predicts his device eventually will permit construction of buildings 12 or even 15 stories tall.

## American Centennial—

### Can 'Africa' Be White?

Charleston, S. C.,

September 20, 1860.

Robert Barnwell Rhett's Charleston Mercury is repeating as fact the scurrilous gossip that Hannibal Hamlin, the Republican candidate for Vice-President, is a mulatto.

The story is being circulated so widely in the South that Republican spokesmen have felt it necessary to repudiate it.

The rumor apparently originated because Mr. Hamlin's father, a history-minded resi-



Hamlin

dent of Maine, gave his five sons the names Hannibal, America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The Mercury has joined other Southern papers in arguing that it is impossible for any one named Africa to be white, and since Africa Hamlin is Hannibal Hamlin's brother, then Hannibal Hamlin also must be of Negro ancestry.

Although the Mercury circulation is only 550 copies daily, the paper has great influence because of the social position of Rhett, who owns two large plantations manned by 190 slaves.

## American Centennial—

### South Controls the Army

Washington,

September 30, 1860.

Republican political leaders are studying the make-up of the Army high command with increasing anxiety as talk of secession and civil war increases throughout the South.

Gov. Winfield Scott, a Virginian, has favored Southern officers for advancement during his long term as Commander-in-Chief. Five of the six Army departments are commanded by officers from the slave states.

Another disturbing situa-

tion is the distribution of the 14 thousand men in the Army.

Fewer than one thousand are stationed in the East, the others in Texas, Utah, and on the Pacific Coast. More than six thousand are on duty in Texas and New Mexico, most of the remainder in Oregon California and Utah.

Secretary of War John B. Floyd of Virginia explains that the Army is needed on the frontier to prevent Indian uprisings, but admits it would take months to mobilize the troops on any eastern front.

## American Centennial—

### So, Go Pitch Your Tent

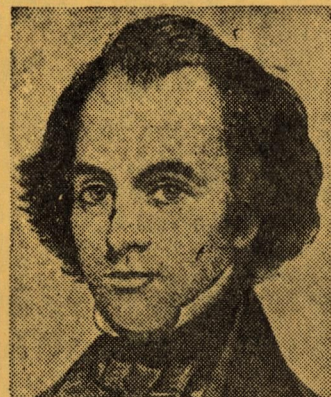
Concord, Mass.

August 24, 1860.

Nathaniel Hawthorne is planning a complete remodeling of his home here, but tells friends he fears Mrs. Hawthorne's elaborate redecorating plans will bankrupt him.

The Hawthornes returned to Concord in June after seven years abroad, and again took up residence at the Wayside, which they purchased from Bronson Alcott in 1852 for 15 hundred dollars. Later the author purchased 13 adjoining acres for 313 dollars.

Hawthorne, whose novel, "The Marble Faun," is being published this summer, estimated originally the alterations would cost five hundred dollars, but Mrs. Hawthorne then suggested redecorating the entire house, including painting and papering the walls and



Nathaniel Hawthorne . . .  
"It is folly for mortal man . . ."

re-covering the furniture.

After listening to his wife's plans, Hawthorne remarked:

"What will be the use of having a house, if it costs me all my means to live in it? It is folly for mortal man to do anything more than pitch a tent."



## American Centennial—

### The Bumpy Trip by Stage

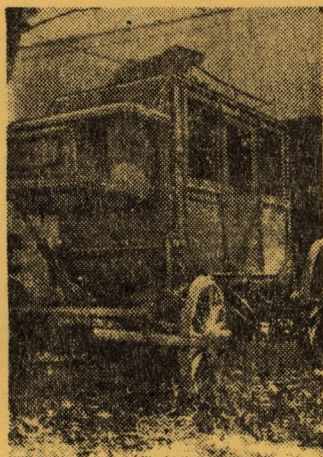
Tipton, Mo.  
August 18, 1860.

John Butterfield, owner and manager of the Overland Mail Company, said today that reports of dangers and hardships on the overland stage trip are much exaggerated.

In the 23 months the line has operated over the route from Tipton through Fort Smith, El Paso and Los Angeles to San Francisco, only 10 stage drivers have been killed, Butterfield revealed.

Despite the two-hundred-dollar fare for the through trip, a 10-day wait is common before a seat becomes available. The stages roll night and day on a schedule calling for 22 days between Tipton and San Francisco.

Passengers who have made the journey admit the trip is difficult, because of the desolate country in Arizona and Southern California. Roads are few, and passengers get little sleep because of the rumble of the coach, the shouts of the driver, or the din at



"Only 10 stage drivers have been killed."

way stations as teams are changed.

One passenger on reaching his destination reported:

"In rough country, three in a row we would solemnly rise from our seats, bump our heads against the low roof, and returning, ram the rising seat we had just abandoned."

## American Centennial—

### Beefing Up Fort Sumter

Charleston, S. C.,  
September 29, 1860.

Capt. John G. Foster of the Army Engineers has begun to sign up workers for the task of completing Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor and strengthening Fort Moultrie across the channel on Sullivan Island.

Officers at Fort Moultrie express bewilderment at the War Department's decision to build up fortifications in Charleston Harbor while refusing to assign men to man the works. Some openly voice the suspicion that

Secretary of War John B. Floyd, a Virginian, plans to turn the forts over to South Carolina if the state secedes.

Floyd has refused repeated requests to increase the garrison here. Only 61 men are stationed at Fort Moultrie, one ordnance sergeant in Castle Pinckney, and 14 enlisted men at the U. S. Arsenal.

When completed, Fort Sumter will require a compliment of 650 officers and men, and Moultrie about the same number.

## American Centennial—

### Way the Army Thinks

Washington,  
August 22, 1860

Officers in the Army Ordnance Bureau scoff at predictions that some day the muzzle-loading smooth-bore musket will be supplanted by breech-loading rifles.

Replying to a remark recently by Secretary of War John B. Floyd that the muzzle-loaders are becoming outdated, the ordnance specialists point out that they are still in use by every army in Europe.

Although admitting that sporting rifles have been

produced that use the breech-loading method, the Army thinks they are too unreliable for military use.

The fact that breech-loaders fire much more rapidly than muzzle-loaders is regarded as a defect.

Ordnance officers are unanimous in saying an Army equipped with rapid-firing weapons would consume more ammunition than could possibly be provided for it in the field.

The musket now in use can be fired twice a minute by a trained infantryman, and this is regarded as the maximum desirable.

## American Centennial—

### Stop Being Funny, Abe!

Springfield, Ill.,  
August 25, 1860.

Abraham Lincoln's propensity for jocular remarks has gotten him into serious political difficulty in several Midwestern states, and has forced him to explain and apologize for at least one of his statements.

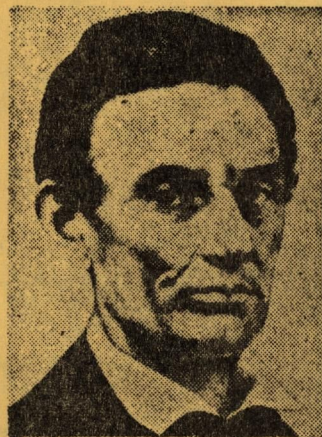
Recently Lincoln wrote to Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Ky.:

"You suggest that a visit to the place of my nativity might be pleasant to me. Indeed it would. But would it be safe? Would not the people lynch me?"

Haycraft took the joking comment literally and released the letter to the newspapers with an angry defense of Kentucky hospitality.

As a result, Lincoln wrote twice to Haycraft to reassure him of his real meaning, and had anonymous explanations printed in several papers.

In an attempt to quiet a



Lincoln in 1860 . . . a pre-election portrait.

storm of criticism, Lincoln wrote to friends in Kentucky and elsewhere that he did not intend to charge Haycraft with an attempt to get him into the state to do him violence.

His political advisers are warning him to avoid attempts at humor in future written communications.

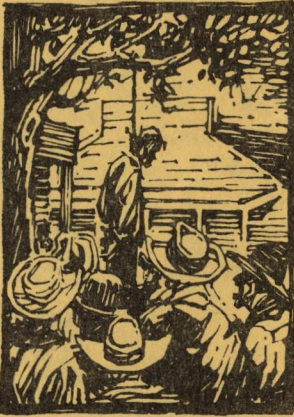


American Centennial—

## Justice by the Vigilantes

Denver,  
Colorado Territory,  
June 27, 1860.

The fifteenth murder in 15 months in this town of fewer than four thousand



people brought swift retribution today from the self-appointed Vigilante Committee and Peoples Court.

With William Person presiding, William T. Had-

ley was sentenced to hang for the butcher-knife killing of J. B. Card, and was swung up shortly afterward on a cottonwood tree outside town.

The court convened in the street before a mob of four hundred miners. Witnesses all told the same story about the knifing, and a makeshift jury found Hadley guilty.

When "Judge" Person shouted to the crowd to ask if the verdict was just, the spectators roared approval. One prospector shouted "no" but he was ignored as being obviously in liquor.

In the last 15 months, 13 men have been killed by shooting or stabbing, and two have died in duels. There have been numerous near-fatal clubbings, cuttings and shootings despite threats and executions by the Vigilantes.

American Centennial—

## Pistol-Packin' Politicians

Washington,  
June 24, 1860.

The turbulent first session of the Thirty-Sixth Congress ends tomorrow with a record of stalemate on every major issue and increased bitterness between North and South.

The sectional deadlock paralyzed action on the admission of Kansas as a free state, a subsidy for stage and mail service to California, a Pacific railroad bill, and a new tariff measure.

Personal disputes became so violent that duels were twice avoided only by the intervention of Congressional leaders. Representatives Potter of Wisconsin and Pryor of Virginia were placed under five-thousand-dollar bonds to keep the peace after Potter accepted a challenge from Pryor, but to the latter's consternation



chose bowie knives for weapons.

Most members of both houses carried weapons to their seats in the Capitol. Senator Hammond of South Carolina commented, "The only persons who do not have a revolver and knife are those who have two revolvers."

American Centennial—

## No Money in the Movies

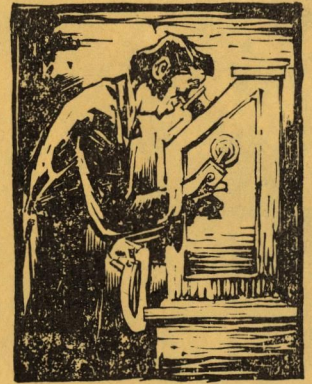
Philadelphia,  
August 9, 1860.

Coleman Sellers, a Philadelphia mechanical engineer and amateur photographer, is being urged to patent a strange device by which still pictures are given the illusion of motion.

By peering into the machine and turning a crank, the viewer watches a series of pictures which appear and disappear so rapidly they deceive the observer into thinking they move.

The machine is composed of paddle wheels carrying a series of photographs taken at successive moments of the action to be pictured. When turned, the wheels whirl the picture.

Friends tell Sellers he could exhibit the machine



and charge admission for the "moving pictures." Sellers feels, however, that the task of taking the necessary series of photographs, which are needed in numbers for each small movement, precludes making any profitable use of the machine.

American Centennial—

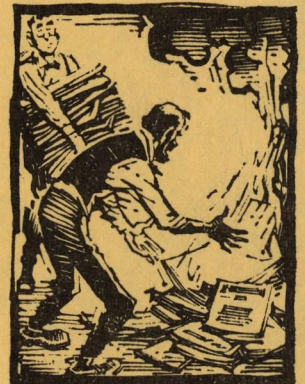
## Paper Fires in the South

Washington,  
July 29, 1860.

Northern editors have complained again that literate Southerners are prevented from learning the truth about the Presidential election or the worldwide movement against slavery by a concerted censorship of the mails.

Most Northern newspapers are banned in the slave states, and even Harper's Weekly, regarded as friendly to Southern interests, is excluded from many communities because of the anti-slavery views of its editor, George William Curtis.

Postmaster General Holt has agreed with Governor Wise of Virginia that Federal control of the mails ends at local postoffices. The result is that thousands of newspapers, religious journals and maga-



zines are destroyed weekly by Southern postmasters.

Among the papers kept from their subscribers are the New York Tribune, the Springfield Republican, the Cleveland Leader and the Chicago Tribune. Earlier this year, the sermons of the English divine, the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, were publicly burned in Montgomery, Ala.