AMERICA WAKE UP, No. 185

PANORAMA OF AMERICAN HISTORY

ANNOUNCER: AMERICA WAKE UP, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, State of Illinois, presents Phyllis Schlafly:

MRS. SCHLAFLY: The last session of the United States Congress passed a bill designating February 1967 as American History Month. It is good for all informed citizens, not only during February but every month in the year, to study the History of our native land so that we will better appreciate our unique American heritage. In line with this objective, let us recite a few interesting historical vignettes from the pages of American History.

The seven-year French and Indian War ended with a treaty signed in 1763 in Paris by England, France and Spain. By its terms, France ceded all her claims to Canada and to America east of the Mississippi, except for a small region around New Orleans. Spain gave up Florida to England. The importance of the French and Indian War was that it decided America and Canada would be English, instead of French or Spanish. It also promoted union of the colonies through their need of a common defense, and gave many American soldiers, including George Washington, necessary experience in the arts of warfare which they later put to good use in the American Revolution.

The poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, wrote these famous lines known to every school child: "Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world." Emerson's words referred to the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 which were the real beginning of the American Revolution. These were the battles for which Paul Revere, in his famous ride, had warned the patriots that the British were coming. The British had marched on Lexington

and Concord with orders to destroy military supplies supposed to be there. No one knows who fired the first shot, but the firing continued all day as the American Minutemen harassed the retreating Redcoats. Lexington and Concord were the beginning of a war which was to last seven long years and cost much blood, sweat and tears. But it was worth it to win our freedom and independence.

Bunker Hill is a name which is known to every American as the scene of one of the best-known battles of the American Revolution. Here the British, a force of 2,400 men, were swept back in two successive charges by the fire of 1,600 Americans who had only six small cannons. The third desperate charge of the British was successful, for the American patriots had exhausted their powder. The Battle of Bunker Hill was of great importance to our cause because it proved to General George Washington and other leaders that the untrained Americans could hold their own against seasoned British professional soldiers. The British won the battle, but suffered nearly 50 per cent casualties; and they wanted no more victories of that kind.

Most Americans know of the substantial help given to the Americans during the Revolutionary War by the French, but few know that important help was given also by the Spanish. At the time of the Revolution, Spain owned the province of Louisiana which extended from New Orleans up through St. Louis. Spain declared war against England on July 8, 1779, and all up and down the Mississippi River assisted the Americans with money and supplies. In 1780 a sizable British force launched an attack on St. Louis. But the Spanish forces were ready; they fought heroicly, and successfully defeated

the British in what is now known as the Battle of St. Louis. This victory for the American cause secured a post of considerable strategic importance during the American Revolution, and also prevented the British from capturing the fur trade.

Did you know that Louisiana was under three flags within 20 days? On November 30, 1803, the Louisiana Province was transferred from Spain to France. Twenty days later came the transfer from France to the United States at the Cabildo in New Orleans. The dramatic ceremony of transfer included the marching of militia companies, the firing of salutes by gaily dressed ships in the harbor, and the delivery of the keys of the city. As the ceremony ended, the French flag was slowly lowered while the Stars and Stripes went up. If you visit New Orleans, you may witness a colorful pageant in Jackson Square where New Orleans citizens reenact this ceremony.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson determined that the territory he had bought must be explored by Americans in the name of the United States. For this dangerous task, he selected his own secretary, Meriwether Lewis. Lewis and his friend and associate, William Clark, planned and carried out one of the world's most important explorations which is known to history as the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Commanding a team of 40 men, Lewis and Clark set out from Wood River, Illinois, near St. Louis, where the money for the trip had been raised. The Expedition went north and then west into territory which had never been explored before, all the way to the Pacific Ocean and what is now the State of Washington. The trip took two years and constituted the physical taking possession by Americans of the great western half of the United States.

Today Lewis and Clark are the names of twin bridges across the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers near St. Louis.

The most romantic and exciting part of American History is the winning of the West, as the American frontier moved westward. Our greatest frontier scout was Daniel Boone who left his home in North Carolina in 1769 to explore the western wilderness. He was to suffer every personal agony. Indians captured one of his daughters; two of his sons were killed; a traveling companion was shot and scalped; another companion was eaten by wolves; his brother was shot and scalped before his eyes. Captured by Indians, Daniel Boone was taken to Detroit. While there he learned that the Indians planned to attack Boonesborough. He escaped, walked 160 miles to the fort in four days with only one meal enroute. His warning came just in time. The settlers made frantic efforts to prepare. The Indians gave up when they learned Daniel Boone was there; they knew he would never surrender.

The most brilliant battle of the war between Mexico and the United States was fought at Buena Vista, a small settlement on the San Juan River. The battle ended in complete victory for U.S. troops on the afternoon of February 23, 1847. General Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," in command of a force of 4,800 American soldiers, defeated General Santa Anna with 20,000 Mexican troops. Santa Anna then retreated southward. The loss of this battle weakened the Mexicans and contributed to the success of General Winfield Scott's campaign in which he took Mexico City. Although the United States was the victor in this war, we agreed to pay Mexico $15

million for the land ceded to us. It included Texas, New Mexico, California, and much of what is now Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming.

On February 7, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur and the American troops under his command entered Manila, and drove the Japanese from the capital of the Philippines. After the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked the Philippine Islands, and American forces there were forced to withdraw. As he left, General MacArthur made his famous statement: "I will return." It took more than three years of a bloody war, and the lives of many brave American servicemen before MacArthur was able to keep his promise to return to the Philippines. This was dramatic proof that the pledged word of the United States was a sacred trust, and that the brave Philippine guerrillas had not fought in vain for three long years.

America was not only built by courageous explorers and soldiers, but also by men of science. An American inventor named Thomas A. Edison probably did more to advance our standard of living than any man who ever lived. Try to imagine what life would be like without the electric light bulb and the electricity generating plants, and then you will know how different our world would be today without the work of this great inventor. Thomas Edison is a perfect example of how our wonderful American way of life enables a man to start from poverty and lack of schooling, and, by hard work, rise to become one of the greatest geniuses and benefactors to mankind America has ever produced. In addition to the light bulb, Edison is chiefly remembered for his invention of the phonograph and motion pictures.

Edison patented more than a thousand inventions including a vote recorder, automatic telegraph repeater, quadruplex telegraph, printing telegraph, electric pen, mimeograph, carbon telephone transwriter, the microphone, the Ediphone, the electric valve, and an alkaline storage battery.

One hundred thirty years ago, a small sickly boy of 13, who had attended school only three years, was selling newspapers in downtown St. Louis. He had come there with his parents a few years before by crossing the Mississippi in a small ferry which had caught fire and sunk in midstream. The boy, James B. Eads, clerked in a store, but his leisure time was spent on the riverfront watching the boats and the derricks. He began to build small wheels and saws in the family basement. By the time James Eads was 22, he was a successful inventor. During the Civil War he performed the fantastic feat of building for President Lincoln eight fast armor-plated gunboats in 65 days. Nothing like this had ever been done before. After the war, Eads began his greatest work: construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis. To do this he had to go through 90 feet of rock and invent new engines to raise and place iron bars. This great bridge across the Mississippi, called Eads Bridge, was the wonder of its day. And it still is.

These are some of the men who made America great. They are still an inspiration to us today.

ANNOUNCER: The 76th Anniversary of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, was observed on October 11, 1966 with one of the most brilliant and exciting cultural and social evenings held in Washington, D.C. in many years. The scene of this gala event

was Constitution Hall, the beautiful auditorium owned and maintained by the DAR, which has just been completely redecorated and air conditioned. The DAR Anniversary featured the opening of the season for the National Symphony Orchestra, with Van Cliburn as soloist. The distinguished audience included President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, many members of the United States Government, representatives of foreign governments, and most of the officers of the Daughters of the American Revolution. All tickets were sold out weeks in advance. Dr. Howard Mitchell, director of the National Symphony, opened the evening with a brief speech in which he called attention to "this beautiful 1966 edition of this wonderful (Constitution) Hall which has been so generous to our orchestra." In extending her greetings to the guests that evening, the President General of the DAR, Mrs. William Henry Sullivan, Jr., told how Constitution Hall began as a DAR center, but "has become the cultural center of the nation's capital." The next time you are in Washington, be sure to attend one of the many different cultural events which are presented at beautiful Constitution Hall.

Listen in again next week at this same time for another in the series of programs called AMERICA WAKE UP.