KNOX COLLEGE
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS
OFFICES OF ADMINISTRATION

THE PRESIDENT

November 2, 1928.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I enclose a program and some newspaper clippings on the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debate held at Knox College, October 6.

These clippings reflect something of the extent and character of the interest taken in this celebration and indicate the place that the debate has taken in the history of America. You may wish either to preserve them as a record and a souvenir of the occasion or to pass them along to some interested friend.

Cordially yours,

Albert Britt.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th Street,
New York City.

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Seventieth Anniversary

OF THE

Lincoln - Douglas Debate



In commemoration of the debate

between

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas

held on this spot

October 7, 1858

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

Committees for Lincoln - Douglas Celebration

Committee	*Chairman*
General Arrangements	Dr. W. L. Raub
Publicity and Theatre Tickets	Mr. Kenneth Lawyer
Entertainment of Guests	Dr. G. T. Sellew
Platform and Seating Arrangements	Mr. Willis Terry, Jr.
Play—"Abraham Lincoln"	Mr. C. L. Menser
Pageant	Mr. Sam Harrington
Music	Mr. Everett Hinchliff
Ushers and Seating	Captain Herbert Wheeler
Civic Decorations	Mr. J. Willis Peterson
College Decorations	Miss Grace A. Stayt
Trustees' Dinner	Miss Mabel Heren
Historic Exhibits	Mr. Kellogg D. McClelland
Invitations	Mr. Z. L. Smith
Program and Speakers	President Albert Britt

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Program

Saturday, October 6th, 1928

March To Old Main

In this march the thought is to present reverently a little of the spirit and the color of 1858. Exact historic accuracy is not attempted.

The line of march begins at Beecher Chapel at 1:30 P. M., ending at Old Main where commemorative exercises will take place.

Commemorative Exercises

The Knox College Band.

Invocation—Rev. Richard Haney.

(Note: Rev. Haney is a grandson of the Rev. Richard Haney who led in prayer on the day of the original debate).

President Albert Britt.

Doctor William Eleazar Barton.

Double Quartet.

Mr. Carl Sandburg.

Dr. Edgar Johnson Goodspeed.

Double Quartet.

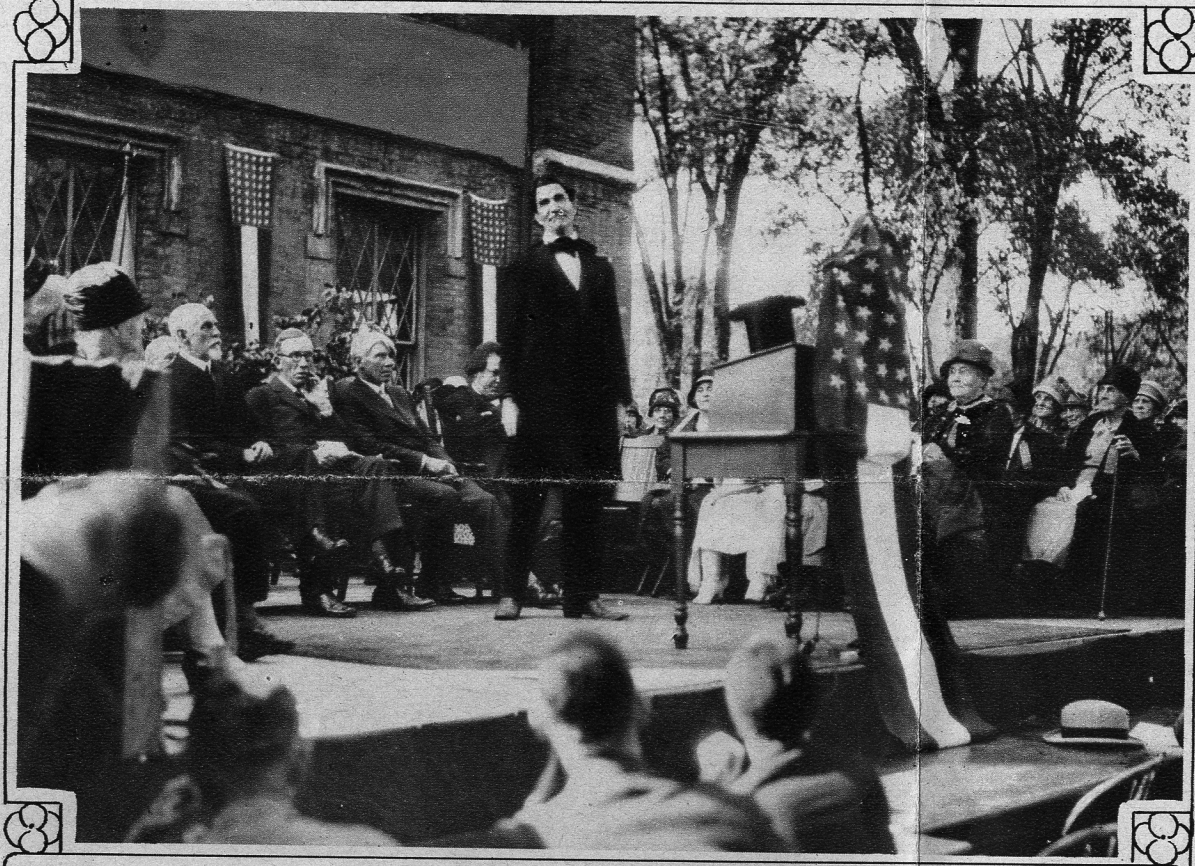
General Nathan William MacChesney.

Dr. Emanuel Hertz.

Old Main, the oldest building on the Knox campus, was less than two years old at the time of the Great Debate. Today it is the only building in existence that is definitely associated with the historic encounters between Lincoln and Douglas. On the day of the Galesburg debate its walls bore above the speakers' heads a banner carrying the legend, "Knox College for Lincoln." This sentiment was given further support less than two years later, when the Board of Trustees conferred upon Mr. Lincoln his first honorary degree, that of LL.D.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

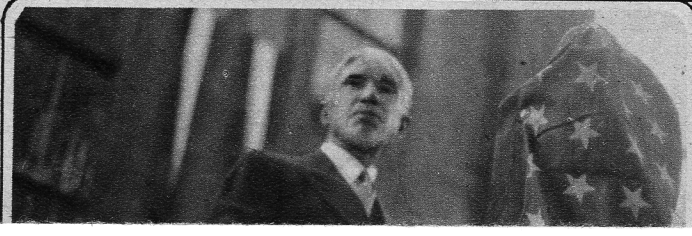
KNOX COLLEGE CELEBRATES SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE



"Judge Douglas cannot say rightfully that anybody has a right to do wrong." Frank McGlynn, impersonating Lincoln at the recent celebration in Galesburg, repeats the famous sentence which in 1858 made the debate on the Knox College campus outstanding in the series in which the tall, gaunt attorney engaged the "Little Giant" on the slavery issue. The historic debate was re-enacted verbatim at the celebration.



Lincoln and Douglas pay their respects to the ladies: Frank McGlynn, with A. B. Pierson, an attorney of Galesburg, representing the two characters of the famous debate. The ladies are Mrs. Lincoln, impersonated by Betty Bennett of Des Plaines, Ill. and Mrs. Goliath Blow, who is Edyth Barlow of Galesburg. They took these parts in the play "Abraham Lincoln" which was given as a part of the celebration, McGlynn making the trip from New York especially to carry the title role, with Knox students completing the cast.





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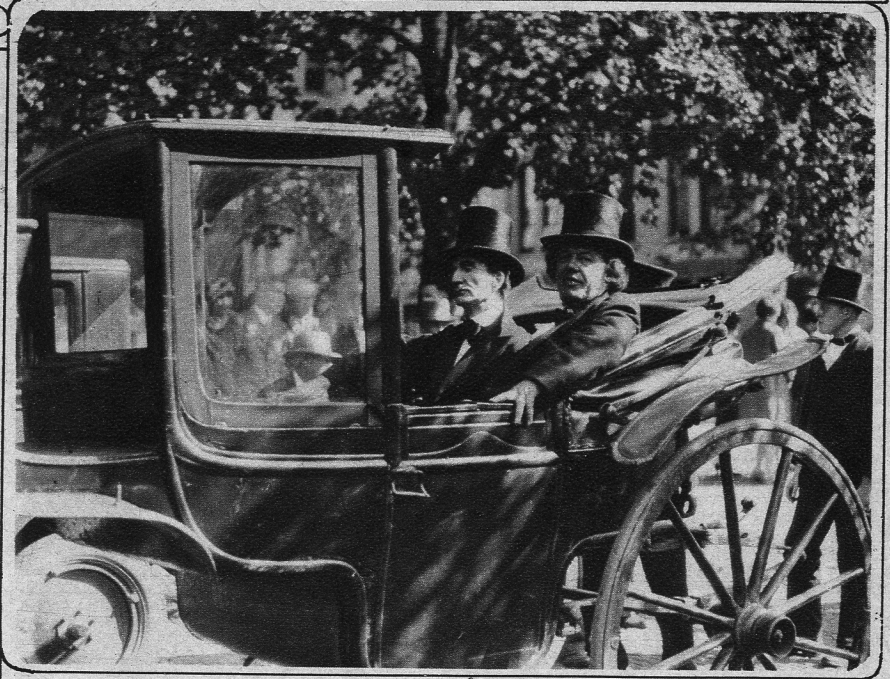
Carl Sandburg, poet and Lincoln biographer, as he addressed the audience. He was one of several Lincoln authorities who gave addresses.



Banners carried by Knox students in the parade which was a part of the celebration. The posters in the original parade of Oct. 7, 1858, carried these same words.



The buggy in which Lincoln rode across the prairies to deliver speeches during the campaign of 1858 was pulled in the parade by Knox men in R. O. T. C. uniform. The parade followed the main lines of the original. This buggy is owned by H. K. Tabler of Plymouth, Ill., and was loaned to Knox for the parade.



An old barouche, like the one in which Lincoln and Douglas rode, carried their impersonators when the parade was repeated.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

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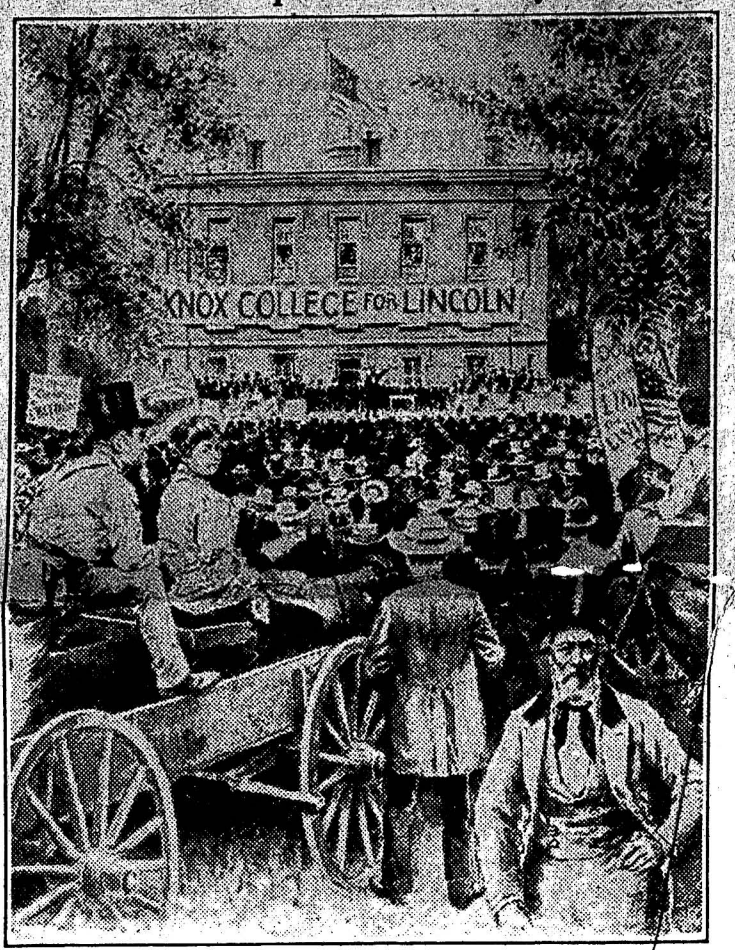
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An Epoch in History



When Great Assemblage Poured Into Galesburg, Ill., Oct. 5, 1858, to Hear Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas Hold the Fifth of Their Seven Debates on Slavery.

Debate of Lincoln and Douglas Re-enacted at Galesburg, Ill.

Knox College Campus Is Scene of Observance of Famous Episode of 70 Years Ago Which Paved Way to Lincoln's Election

SPECIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

GALESBURG, Ill.—The scene of 70 years ago, Oct. 7, 1858—when more than 20,000 men, women, and children of northern Illinois came here on foot and by wagon and train, to hear Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas debate the issue of the day, slavery, was reproduced on the original site, the east side of "Old Main" at Knox College, Oct. 6. Preparation had been made to welcome an audience almost equaling that of the first event at the re-enactment of the famous debate.

The assemblage which greeted Lincoln and Douglas in the '50s was estimated as the largest Lincoln ever addressed on a purely political subject. The two men were candidates for the United States Senate. Lincoln had challenged Douglas to debate the slavery issue and interest was intense. Joint meetings ensued in seven Illinois cities—Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton.

Douglas Won Senatorship

versity of Chicago, and Brig.-Gen. Nathan W. MacChesney, Chicago attorney.

Three Celebrations Held

The re-enactment of the debate marked the third such celebration that Knox has held. In 1896 Chauncey M. Depew spoke. On the same program was Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, a Knox trustee for many years, who on this occasion, it is said, made his only public speech regarding his father.

In 1899 President McKinley and all but one of his Cabinet attended the celebration and spoke. After the ceremony President McKinley had a regular meeting of his Cabinet at the home of Clark Carr, formerly United States Minister to Denmark. At the fiftieth anniversary in 1908 President Taft was the principal speaker.

"Old Main" at Knox is the only structure now standing in its original form which was definitely associated with any of the debates. Lincoln lovers have proposed to college authorities that it be made into a permanent shrine and it is

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years ago on this spot. The
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Mr. Goodspeed said in part: "
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Springfield Republican Convent
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Plans to Revise College Syst

Abolition of Smaller Un sity Colleges Is Propose in South Africa

SPECIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE M

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SPECIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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Douglas Won Senatorship

Douglas, the Democratic advocate of slavery, won the senatorship, but out of these vital discussions grew the overwhelming sentiment which soon made Lincoln President of the United States.

The atmospheer of 1858 was appropriately revived in this twentieth century episode. Attendants at all of the original debates in the seven Illinois towns were invited to be the guests of Knox College on the seventieth anniversary celebration, and about 30 of them came. They had places of honor around the stand at the east steps of the college main building, were the guests of the Knox board of trustees at the men's dormitory for dinner afterward, and then were taken to the college theater where they had choice seats for the presentation of John Drinkwater's drama, "Abraham Lincoln," presented here for the first time by an amateur cast.

The ante bellum atmosphere was typified also in the procession from the Knox Chapel to "Old Main," a distance of several blocks. The parade followed exactly the same route as that of 70 years ago, when the two orators were the central figures. In the parade was an old Lincoln buggy, used by the Emancipator in his Illinois campaigns. It was drawn by Knox men, and surrounded by a military guard of students.

Characters Impersonated

Then came an old open carriage of the type used by politicians three-quarters of a century ago. Frank McGlynn, New York actor, impersonated Abraham Lincoln. A. B. Pierson, Galesburg attorney, impersonated Douglas.

At the rear were 50 college students garbed in typical 1858 outfits, carrying historical banners of the same inscriptions used in the original parade.

Arriving at the platform at the east side of "Old Main," the principals took their seats and the re-enactment began. The Rev. Richard Haney of Webster City, Ia., a grandson of the Rev. Richard Haney who delivered the invocation on the day of the first debate, led in prayer.

Albert Britt, president of Knox, gave a short address, and then several nationally known men who have made a study of the life of Lincoln spoke. Among them were Carl Sandburg, Chicago poet; Ida M. Tarbell, historian; Dr. William Barton, former Oak Park (Ill.) pastor; Emmanuel Hertz, New York attorney; Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed of the University of Chicago.

authorities that it be made into a permanent shrine and it is expected that steps to bring this about will soon be taken.

Mr. Britt, in speaking of the celebration, said: "Knox College regards it as a patriotic obligation to the Nation to renew frequently the moral fires lighted by Abraham Lincoln in these great debates with Stephen Douglas three-quarters of a century ago."

Mrs. Tarbell's tribute was:

Eulogies by Speakers

Miss Tarbell said in part: "The special importance of the debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas held on Oct. 6, 1858 on the campus of Knox College is that here for the first time in the great series Mr. Lincoln effectively lifted his argument from economic, political, social and biological grounds and placed it squarely in the realms of morals."

Mr. Barton's tribute was, in part, as follows:

"Three score and ten years ago, as Abraham Lincoln might have said it, our fathers assembled upon this spot to listen to memorable words by Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. The world then noted and has long remembered what they said here; and we have met upon this battlefield of our Nation's political and moral struggle to remind ourselves anew of the significance of that event. No other college campus heard Lincoln in any notable address, and Knox was the first college to confer upon him, while still a candidate, an honorary degree."

In his address Mr. Sandburg said, in part:

"Three great actors or human forces took part in the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The orators, Lincoln and Douglas, were two of the actors in the drama. The third was The People. Perhaps a thousand years from now there will be a mi-

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Among the visitors from va parts of the world who regis at the Christian Science Publi House yesterday were the follo

Luella Mae Barton, Pittsburgh, P
Victoria H. Berger, Los Angeles,
Mrs. Florence M. Miller, Herkimer,
Miss Mary O. Mellor, London, E
Mrs. Cornelia W. Jones, Athens, O.
Mrs. F. W. Bush, Athens, O.
Elizabeth F. Errig, Atlantic City,
Miss Jane B. Webb, Brooklyn, N.
Miss H. Ackroyd, Cleveland, O.
Mrs. Edna Phillips Hill, Oak Parl
Mrs. Nellie Hazen Medrick, Columb
Mrs. G. S. Anderson, Pittsburgh, I
G. S. Anderson, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mrs. Minnie Compton, Paterson, N.
Mrs. Grace Grove, Paterson, N. J.
Mrs. Henrietta Duff, Hollywood,
Mrs. Mina T. Hamlin, Mansfield, O
Mrs. Ada McWilliams, Oakland, Ca
H. L. Standeven, Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. H. L. Standeven, Tulsa, Okl
Mrs. Cora M. Record, Kansas City
Mrs. Anna Anderson, Kansas City
Mrs. Ruby Kinsey, Hollywood, Ca
George H. Kinsey, Hollywood, Ca
Mrs. Edwin I. Golding, New York
Mrs. Beatrice Sessions, New York
Mrs. Lillie B. Reed, Tampa, Fla.
Mrs. Lou Marion Sawtell, Athol,
Mrs. Edith L. Atkins, Muskogee,
Miss Helen Selby, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Alice W. Dick, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Walter W. Powers, Boston,
Mrs. Floren L. Wright, Patchogue,
Mrs. Mildred S. Sorrell, Patchogue,
Luther S. Laws, Bridgeport, Con
Mrs. Sarah W. Laws, Bridgeport,
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RE-ENACT DEBATE THAT PUT LINCOLN IN WHITE HOUSE

Galesburg Observes Event of 1858.

Galesburg, Ill., Oct. 6.—[Special.]—Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas stepped from the pages of history here today to reënact their slavery debate of 70 years ago, the debate that carried Douglas to the United States senatorship and Lincoln to the presidency.

On the exact site of the original event, a platform over the east steps of the main building at Knox college, the debate was reproduced. A. B. Pierson, Galesburg attorney, represented the "littie giant," and Frank McGlynn, New York actor, impersonated Lincoln.

Forty men and women who were present at the first debate sat on the platform as honored guests. Over their heads on the walls of the building just as it hung at the time of the debate three score and ten years ago, was a huge bannér, "Knox College for Lincoln."

Parade Depicts Former Day.

A parade that followed the main outlines of that of 1858, preceded the reënactment. An old buggy in which Lincoln did much of his campaigning in Illinois was drawn by Knox men in R. O. T. C. uniforms. McGlynn and Pierson, impersonating the political enemies of the former day, rode in a horse-drawn barouche. Back of them came two Knox students dressed in costumes of the 1850 period and carrying political banners like those of the original debate.

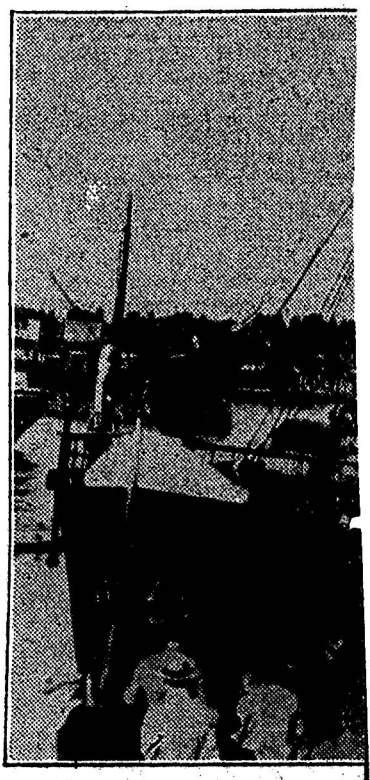
After "Judge Douglas" and "Mr. Lincoln" delivered their debates, the tone of the program was changed to the modern day and with President Albert Britt of Knox, a nationally known Lincoln authority, recounted episodes in connection with his life and appearance here.

"Knox has an abiding claim on Lincoln, because it numbers him among its alumni," Dr. William E. Barton, minister in Oak Park, Ill., said. "This college was the first institution of learning to recognize that Lincoln was an educated man and confer on him the first academic honor he had ever received, the degree of doctor of laws."

Owed Election to Debates.

Dr. Barton said that but for the debates Lincoln would not have been elected to the senate, and that but for his victorious march which took him to the presidency," he said.

FIRST



Bert Hassell and Parker C holm and were forced down in Gr expedition. This picture shows th

LARRY SEMON, FILM COMEDIAN, CRITICALLY ILL WITH PNEUMONIA

San Bernardino, Cal., Oct. 6.—(AP)—Larry Semon, film comedian and director and former vaudeville performer, lay dangerously ill with pneumonia at a Mojave desert sanitarium, near Victorville, late today.

A message from Dr. H. Garcelon, Semon's physician, said that the actor had declined rapidly and that he was "very low."

Earlier in the day a report came from the desert town stating that some one purporting to be Dr. Garcelon had telephoned that Semon had died. Semon was removed to the sanitarium from his ranch, where he had been ill for several months.

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Owed Election to Debates.

Dr. Barton said that but for the debates of 1858 Lincoln could neither have been nominated nor elected president, because it was these discussions which first made him a national figure.

Carl Sandburg, Chicago poet and Lincoln biographer, saw the debate as a drama with three forces, two orators and the people.

"To the campus of Knox they came in the cold rain of a raw October day," he said. "That crowd of 20,000 persons was an instrument, a factor in history, that the minds and tongues of the orators tried to control and direct. In seven years both orators were dead. But the people go on and on."

Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed of the University of Chicago recalled incidents connected with the debate as they were told him by his father who was a student at Knox when the two debaters met.

"In 1858 my father was a boy of sixteen, studying in the preparatory department of the Knox college," said Dr. Goodspeed. "He was already keenly interested in politics, and had the great good fortune to witness the Galesburg debate.

"The Knox students had taken possession of the roofs of the low one story dormitories that flanked the meeting place, and my father sat among them.

"Three things marked the debate: It was the most largely attended of the whole series; Mr. Lincoln made his ablest speech; and he answered the charge made against him by Mr. Douglas at Ottawa that he had participated in the supposed Springfield Republican convention of 1854.

Douglas Opened Debate.

"Mr. Douglas opened the debate. He was perhaps the foremost man in American political life, and a debater of national reputation—the 'Little Giant from Illinois'; but on this occasion, where my father sat, not a word from him could be heard. He had used his voice up in weeks of campaign speaking.

"When he had spoken for an hour, Mr. Lincoln was introduced and then came the second surprise of the day, [illegible] the great his victorious march which took him to the presidency," he said.

On the platform as a guest was Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, of 5844 Harper avenue, Chicago.

A crowd of 10,000, half as many as witnessed the original debate, saw the reënactment.

Knox college conferred the honorary degree of doctor of letters upon Mr. Sandberg. President Britt made the presentation of the degree at the close of the program. Mr. Sandberg is a graduate of Lombard college here.

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FROM NEW YORK TIMES, OCT. 7, 1928. EDITORIAL BY DR. JOHN H. FINLEY.

WHERE LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS DEBATED.

The only building intimately associated with any one of the seven Lincoln-Douglas debates in seven Illinois towns—Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton—that is still standing is known as "Old Main" on the campus of Knox College at Galesburg. It had been completed only two years before the debate, which was held there seventy years ago today. The original plan was for a meeting in the public square, but as a northwest wind was blowing, a platform was improvised in the shelter of the college walls. About it were gathered that October day more than twenty thousand men, women and children, chiefly from Northern Illinois, who had come on foot, by wagon or train, to this then little prairie town to hear the Little Giant and the Rail Splitter discuss slavery—the largest assemblage, it is stated, that LINCOLN ever addressed on a purely political subject.

Dr. THOMAS W. GOODSPEED of the University of Chicago told of the disappointment of the Douglas followers, because though his voice was most powerful, it was deep and husky and could not be distinctly heard at a distance, while LINCOLN, who spoke in a higher key, was heard and understood by the great crowd. And it was his voice in those debates that was heard throughout the country, through newspapers and printed copies of the speeches. This is suggested by the opening sentences of LINCOLN'S reply to DOUGLAS:

My fellow-citizens: A very large portion of the speech which Judge DOUGLAS has addressed to you has previously been delivered and put into print. I do not mean that for a hit upon the Judge at all. If I had not been interrupted I was going to say that such an answer as I was able to make to a very large portion of it had already been more than once made and published.

The site of this debate has become a Lincoln shrine. It is one of the few places where the son of LINCOLN spoke. President MCKINLEY once took his entire Cabinet with him, save only one member, for a celebration, after which a regular meeting of the Cabinet was held. President ROOSEVELT spoke at the same place, and President TAFT made the address at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the debate. It is especially remembered that HORACE E. WHITE of The Evening Post was at the original debate as a reporter, and that MELVILLE E. STONE was there as a mere lad of ten or eleven years, having ridden thirty miles in a wagon from an Illinois farm.

So does history make its shrines. This particular one should be kept in perpetual repair as the site of one of that series of memorable contests which began a new chapter in history and gave the world one of its immortals.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1830-1944, Allegheny College