



LINCOLN, FRIEND OF THE FARMER

Picture Story No. 132

Master Caption

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States is best known as the emancipator of slaves and the preserver of the American Union.

A farm boy himself, born in a log cabin on the Kentucky frontier, he had a rustic childhood and a hard-working youth. He performed all the farm tasks, clearing the land of brush, splitting rails for fences and buildings, herding hogs, putting up hay. By ferrying produce to market down the winding river because the country roads were impassable, he learned early the hardships confronting the farmers of his day. When he took office as President of the United States in 1861, inheriting a country split by sectional strife, he still found time to think about his friends on the farms. His administration saw important steps taken to benefit American agriculture. He founded the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1862 to improve methods of farming and marketing. He signed the Land Grant College Act to establish agricultural schools, and the Homestead Act to open up vast stretches of the public domain for private settlement. He authorized the building of the transcontinental railroad for shipping the produce of the farms to the nation's two seacoasts. He set up the National