

LINCOLN, YOUNG 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, heading 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 Academy of Sciences for the exchange of knowledge and the betterment of life on the farms as well as in the cities. He also did a great deal to support the country's economy, and to develop the agricultural resources and industries of the young nation.



8. In this old picture, of Lincoln on his way to make his famous Gettysburg address, can be seen the small wooden train of the day, with its two cars and its narrow track. Only local railroads were in existence then. (52-12854)
(It is suggested that pictures numbered 52-12854 and 53-15838 be used as a pair.)