

Booneites

Paid Lincoln Homage

Abraham Lincoln, candidate of the newly founded Republican party, was elected the 16th president of the United States in the fall of 1860. On the morning of February 11, 1861, Lincoln and his family left their Springfield, Illinois home to begin the tiring 12-day trip to Washington, D. C., where he was to take the oath of office on March 4th.



Traveling from Lafayette to Indianapolis over the Lafayette & Indianapolis railroad, later to become the Big Four, the Lincoln train passed through Boone county in the waning afternoon. Brief stops were made at Thorntown, Lebanon, and Zionsville with the president-elect making short speeches to cheering throngs of well-wishers from the platform of the rear passenger car.

The Lincoln party spent the night in Indianapolis, domiciled in the Bates House, then the capital city's most pretentious hotel, to resume its way eastward the morning of February 12th, the day Lincoln was observing his 52nd birthday.

When the crowds next gathered at the L. & I. stations

by Ralph W. Stark

in the little Boone county towns along the way, they were assembled in sorrow and in mourning for the nation's beloved leader who had preserved the Union and freed the slaves.

Struck down by the bullet of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, in Washington's Ford theatre on the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln died the next morning. Following a state funeral in the White House after two days of lying in state in the Capitol, the body of the martyred president was placed aboard a special train to be taken to Springfield for burial. Also aboard the train was the casket containing the remains of Lincoln's little son, Willie, who had died in Washington on February 20, 1862.

It was a long tedious journey by way of New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Chicago. At last, the train reached the Illinois capital, and Lincoln was laid to rest in Oak Ridge cemetery, on May the fourth, 1865. Here in Indiana, the remains of the great emancipator lay in state throughout Sunday, April 30th, in the old statehouse in Indianapolis, to be viewed by thousands of grieving Hoosiers.

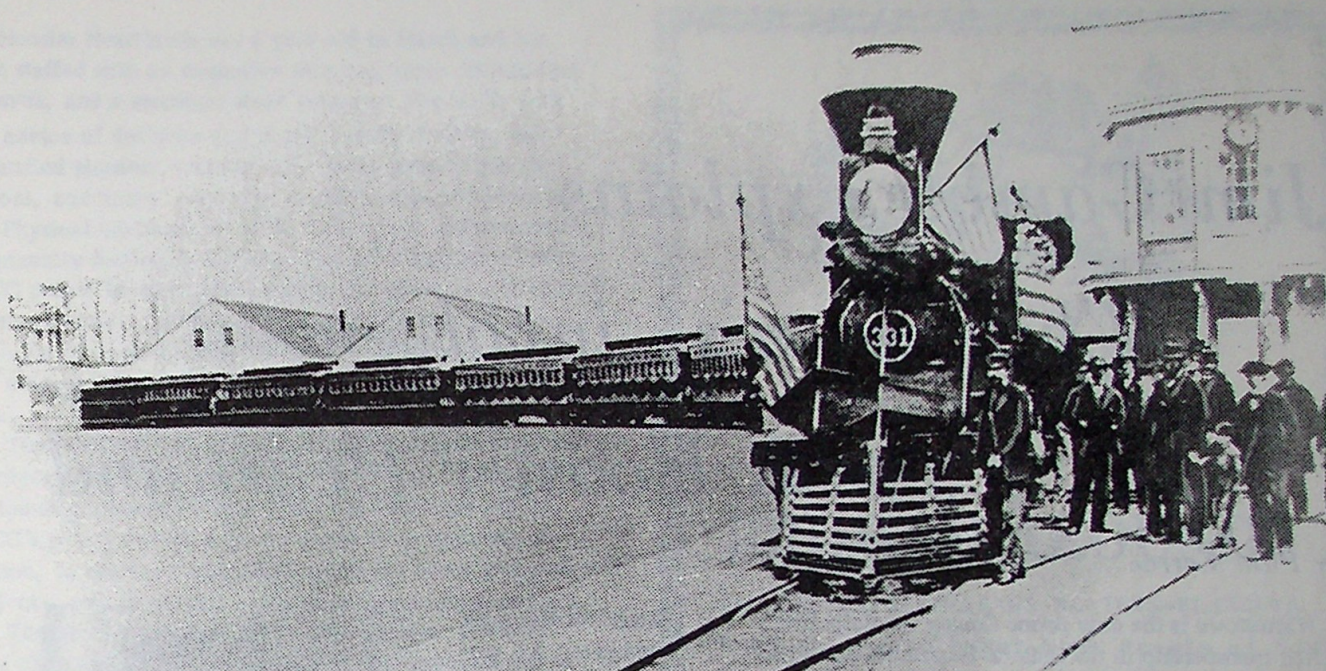
Around midnight, the funeral train left Indianapolis to continue its dreary course westward, crossing the Boone-

Marion county line about 12:30 a. m., Monday morning, May 1st. An Indianapolis Journal reporter aboard the train wrote: "At Zionsville, a large assemblage of people with lighted lamps and torches, assembled, and upon learning in which car was the president's remains, they flocked about it with the greatest anxiety, eagerly endeavoring to get a look at the remains."

At Whitestown, dating his dispatch at 1:07 a. m., he noted, "Around a large bonfire are congregated one hundred people. The men remained with uncovered heads while the train passed."



The Scene at Lincoln's Death



The Funeral Train

The train pulled into Lebanon at 1:30 a. m., passing by the depot then on South Lebanon street. In a lengthier paragraph, the newsman reported: "This is the county seat of Boone county, and it seems as if both town and county were gathered together to honor the dead. Lamps, torches, and bonfires send their brilliant light about the assemblage. Suspended from wires are transparent lamps behind which are dropped flags dressed in mourning. A beautiful arch of evergreens and roses was erected, under which the cars passed. This handsome structure was festooned with velvet rosettes, miniature banners, and other decorations. Colored transparencies lent their attractions to make the embellishments more fairy-like than real."

From Thorntown, the correspondent's dispatch read: "A large number of people were standing at the depot and on the side of the track, the men standing with uncovered heads as the funeral cortege passed. Bonfires were lighted. The community in and about Thorntown is composed principally of Quakers, and certainly their assembling thus to honor the dead is but additional testimony to their well-known devotional life."

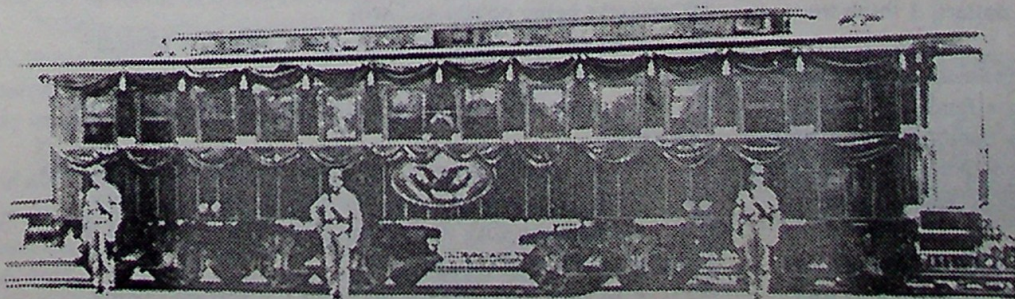
SPECIAL FUNERAL TRAIN		
For the Escort of the Remains of our late President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN		
Leave Indianapolis at 12:00 Night, April 30, 1865		
Arrive at Chicago at 11:00 A. M., May 1		
The time and regulations are by order of D. C. McCallum, Brev. Brig. Gen. Director and Gen'l Manager Mil. R. R., U. S.		
INDIANAPOLIS TO CHICAGO		
Miles		Pilot Engine
	Leave Indianapolis	11:50 P. M.
10	Augusta	12:30 A. M.
15	Zionsville	12:47 A. M.
21	Whitestown	1:07 A. M.
28	Lebanon	1:30 A. M.
33	Hazlerigg	1:55 A. M.
38	Thorntown	2:10 A. M.
48	Colfax	2:25 A. M.

In making the run from Indianapolis to Lafayette, a pilot engine, "Boone No. 2," preceded the funeral train by a mile or two. The funeral train itself was drawn by engine "Lebanon No. 7." The coach bearing Lincoln's body was the center car, painted a somber black and draped with black bunting.

The trip between Indianapolis and Lafayette was made without mishap with only one stop being made. This was at Hazlerigg Station where the wood-burning locomotive's

tender was reloaded from the railroad's woodshed at that place, and its water tank refilled.

At Lafayette, the train was transferred to the Wabash tracks with the locally named engines and the train crews returning to Indianapolis. In the mid 1860's, the L. & I. had 12 locomotives in use and all were named for towns along the route or for more or less prominent and noted men.



The Funeral Car