

ultimately would furnish of him an appropriate biography in some Who's Who of Iowa Writers.

"I addressed such a letter to Mr. Ellis Parker Butler, born in Muscatine. 'If you will send us a copy of your choice of your books, suitably inscribed,' I added, 'it shall be kept and treated as a sort of memorial to you. This, in a measure, I hope may compensate for your gift which I am obliged to ask of you for the reason that our public support does not amount sufficient for us to tender to you the price of the book.'

"In a few days I received his response in full compliance, and his book 'Pigs Is Pigs' in which he had written:

'Dear Iowa, state of my birth,
Accept this book, a quarter's worth
Oh State of Corn! Take it from me,
And ever let my motto be
Three millions yearly for manure
But not one cent for literature.'

THROUGH THE FREEDOM TRAIN

In its long trek of 33,000 miles across the nation and return to Washington, visiting more than 300 communities, the Freedom Train reached Iowa in June, as a dramatic feature of the program of a Year of Rededication.

The foundation, sponsors of the national rededication program of which the train is the principal feature, said that to date at least 38,000,000 persons have taken part in week-long ceremonies preceding visits of the train to the nation's cities. Now on the road eleven months, the train started on its itinerary from Philadelphia last September. It is scheduled to wind up its tour at Camden, N. J., October 18. Up to the present, the train has criss-crossed 40 states from Maine to California.

The seven-car train was freighted with a precious exhibit of documents, records and mementoes of the growth and development of democracy in the world. One hundred separate exhibits included original draft of the Mayflower Compact, Roger Williams' statement on religious

freedom, Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's copy of the constitution, the Bill of Rights, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and his Gettysburg Address, a thirteenth century manuscript of the Magna Carta, the first printed letter by Columbus on the discovery of America, down to the charter of the United Nations.

"Freedom's holy flame" was lighted upon the altars of newly liberated nations, and rekindled upon others. The privilege afforded to view these historic papers called upon our people and our fellowmen everywhere to reaffirm and dedicate anew the intellectual, moral and spiritual sources of the freedom we enjoy, through which we have obtained our great and cherished institutions.

The train equipment was capable of admitting 10,000 visitors each day, and as evidence of appreciation by the public there were nearly always those waiting who could not gain admittance. As an educational project, designed to reach not only school children and college students but adults as well, there has been nothing like it in our history. The documents marking man's first struggle for personal liberty were viewed with awe and veneration at every stopping place across the nation. The film strip "The Birth of Our Freedom" was inspiring, challenging the patriotism of all.

THE FORTY-NINER'S CENTENNIAL

It was August 19, 1848, when a letter written from San Francisco in April previous, was published in the *New York Herald*, containing the first information had in the east about the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, California. But little attention was paid to this, and not until December 5, that year, when President Polk confirmed the news, did the country begin to burn with excitement. By New Years day, 1849, twenty-six days later, 6,000 miners were reported digging gold in California.

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