

Four Generations! Matt, Elizabeth, Phillip and Morrie Dadd.



Just another president

by Al Schneider

We are a nation all too quick to forget her heroes, yet slow to write off losers. This is especially evident with our past presidents. Ulysses S. Grant is one example.

Biographer Joan Waugh writes, "Most Americans today are unaware of how revered Grant was in his lifetime." In fact, our 18th president maintained high popularity throughout the 19th century, long past the movements of Civil War celebrations. He was, during his brief tenure in the spotlight, every bit as popular as Washington and Lincoln. But then, with the advent of the 20th century, his stock generally faded and now he ranks among the populace "as just another president." He was more than that.

Serving the nation as president during a period when much bitterness remained from the Civil War, Grant proved capable of maintaining civility. Reconstruction, though often painful and unpopular, proceeded with the president's best interest toward both sides.

Brilliant as a field general, and likeable as president, Grant was honored with an imposing memorial in the nation's capital. There he sits astride his horse, "Cincinnati," upon a 272 foot marble platform, the world's second largest equestrian statue. Four bronze lions, also on pedestals, guard the four corners of the memorial.

How popular is this memorial now? I lived and worked in the Washington D.C. complex for two years and was unaware of its existence. This, despite my well-above-average interest in such matters.

Like most of us, I'm much more aware of Groucho Marx' popular question to those who failed to win money on his show. "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" Most were able to answer that correctly. But what if the question were, "Where is Grant's tomb?" Hmm? Are you surprised that his tomb is in New York City? How likely is it that someone born of poor stock in Missouri and raised mostly in rural Illinois, would ever find himself buried in the big city? This is, I feel, another testament to his success and early popularity.

All was not well for the Grants early on. He attempted farming in Missouri, but constantly found himself "dead broke." He borrowed the money to buy seeds for the farm. At the end of the harvest, he was still broke. He moved to St. Louis and then to Galena, Illinois where Grant was finally able to get on his feet. During these disappointing times, he did manage to build a log home which still stands as the "only home hand-built by a president of the United States."

Grant encountered much of the same plight after his presidency. Presidents were not granted pensions back then, and the Grants, living in New York City, found the going tough. He continued to be admired by the citizenry. So much so, that when word went out that Grant liked cigars, he was showered with them, approximately 10,000 of them. He gave many away. Still, it is little wonder that Grant was soon diagnosed with throat cancer and then died soon afterward. Grant's burial site in New York's Riverside Park is the largest mausoleum in North America.

Unfortunately, the Grant administration was marked by corruption. Though Grant appears not to have been personally involved, the numerous political scandals have harmed his reputation. He was better than that.

The old soldier is just a memory now, but one that should be kept alive. Should another such person come our way, we should be quick to grab him and insist that he lead the nation. Leaders like Grant seem hard to find. •

Edgewood nights at Burger Crest scheduled monthly

by Mary Weimer

Here's your chance to enjoy a great meal at Burger Crest and support the students at Edgewood Elementary School at the same time.

Burger Crest will donate a portion of their sales between 4 and 7 p.m. to the school. Staff members from the school will be serving the meals and cleaning up. The dates are as follows:

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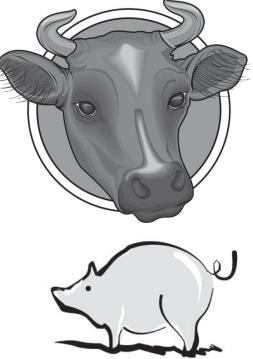
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