

LINCOLN ASSASSINATED

51 YEARS AGO TODAY

Washington Man Who Was Witness of Tragedy Gives Vivid Story of Incidents at Theater.

Today is the fifty-first anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln in Ford's Theater on 10th street, April 14, 1865. A Washington man, who was an eyewitness, today interestingly described the tragedy. He is William T. Kent, 3710 Keokuk street, Chevy Chase. He says he was seated directly opposite the President's box, and was one of the first to reach the box after the shooting. It was his knife with which the surgeon slit open Lincoln's clothing in hunting for the wound, and he treasures it today as a sacred relic. He comforted Mrs. Lincoln as she was moaning.

Tells of Actual Shooting.

In telling of the actual shooting Mr. Kent says: "We all were startled by the sharp crack of a pistol shot. As no stir was made, we thought it was behind the scenes—an incident of the play. My attention was drawn to the sudden appearance of a man in the front of the President's box with face white as marble, framed in a mass of black hair. He vaulted over the balustrade of the box to the stage below, about twelve feet. In leaping he lost his poise, caused by his spur catching in one of the national flags with which the box was draped. He alighted in a crouching position, but at once rose to his feet. Holding aloft a dagger, he exclaimed in a loud voice, Sic, Semper Tyrannis, the motto of Virginia.

After giving intimate details about what occurred in the President's box, including the heartrending wails of Mrs. Lincoln and a description of how Laura Keane, the leading woman of the play, sat on the floor of the box with the head of the President in her lap and tried to give him a drink of water, Mr. Kent said: "That scene in that narrow box has lived in my mind these more than fifty years. There stood poor Mrs. Lincoln moaning in the agony of the crushing blow that had fallen upon her so suddenly; the actress in her blood-stained robe—stained with the lifeblood of our beloved President—and he prone on the floor, his eyes closed, and his lips sealed—the lips that gave to the world, as he took upon himself for the second time the burdens of his high office, the words 'with malice toward none, with charity for all,' sealed forever—and the hands that had stricken off the degrading shackles that had crushed the life out of thousands of his fellow beings and had given them their heaven-

born heritage of life and liberty now lay nerveless at his side."

Finding of Assassin's Pistol.

In recounting how he had found the assassin's pistol Mr. Kent said he was then living within a block of the theater. He went home to tell the news, but, being unable to find his key, returned to the theater, thinking he must have dropped it in the box as he took out his knife. "In pushing my foot slowly over the carpet," he says, "I felt it strike something hard. I reached down and picked up a pistol. Holding it up, I called out to the few persons wandering about: 'I have found the pistol.' I did not know that the assassin had been recognized. I thought the pistol might lead to his identification. I handed it, after marking it, to L. A. Gobrigh, agent of the Associated Press."

Mr. Kent vividly recalls many incidents connected with the assassination, threats of lynching, the funeral cortege and the trial of the conspirators.

INDORSED BY MR. WILSON.

Miss Evangeline Booth's Campaign for Memorial to Her Father.

President Wilson has telegraphed to Miss Evangeline Booth, commander of the Salvation Army, indorsing a campaign to raise \$500,000 for a memorial to her father, the founder of the army. Miss Booth sent word to the President that the money would be used to provide in New York a new hospital wing for the army's rescue home for unfortunate women, and a suitable training school building for the equipment of officers of the organization.

In reply the President said:

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