

Christmas with presidents

Portrait of smiling Lincoln was happy gift for wife Mary

By Barbara Craig

Did you ever see a picture of Abraham Lincoln smiling?

In most of his portraits, he is gaunt and grim — a sad-looking individual.

Yet, it has been written Lincoln had "mild features" and "dancing eyes." When he smiled, it was claimed he was actually handsome, rather than the homely legend he has become.

For reasons best known to himself — possibly shyness Lincoln lost his sparkle when he posed for a camera or portrait artist. This is the reason why practically all of his portraits have that melancholy look.

Yet, there are four portraits of a smiling Lincoln. Three are in New York museums and the fourth hangs in the residence center of Southern Illinois University. Artist Alton T. Conant painted them.

In 1860, Conant was hired to paint a portrait of the future president. It was to be a Christmas gift for Lincoln's wife, Mary.

"Mr. Lincoln," the artist complained after making a couple of rough sketches, "this portrait is a Christmas present. It's supposed to be a happy gift. Not a gloomy one. You have to smile for me."

Lincoln tried. He smiled and it stayed for a while, then faded away. The artist started telling him jokes and wild stories involving local characters. In time, he was able to keep Lincoln smiling long enough to complete the first of his four portraits.

Later, after Lincoln was elected president that year, Conant used the pencil sketches he had made as the basis for three other Lincoln portraits. All show Lincoln without his famous beard — all show him smiling.

As for Mary Lincoln, it was later written she was "very pleased" with her Christmas present.

"This is the way Abe really looks," she told friends who came to visit during the holiday season that year.

Thursday: Rutherford B. Hayes.



Abraham Lincoln

Liza suffers miscarriage

NEW YORK (AP) — One week after her marriage, singer-actress Liza Minnelli has suffered a miscarriage, her public relations agency said Tuesday.



Miss Minnelli was rushed to New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center on Monday and admitted to the maternity ward under the name of her manager, Deanna Wenble.

A hospital spokesman said she was released last Monday.

A woman at Pickwick Public Relations, who didn't give her name, de-

lined to comment on Miss Minnelli's condition.

But the New York Post quoted her as saying, "It's not a disaster because I'm fine."

Miss Minnelli, 33, was married Dec. 4 to Mark Gero, her longtime boyfriend and production stage manager.

"We were both heartbroken, and it's a big setback," she told the Post.

"The doctor says I can get pregnant again in January, and we're going to try."

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New vote count seals victory for Republican in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Republican David Treen's narrow lead survived a crucial new vote count Tuesday and the GOP claimed victory in Louisiana's cliffhanger race for governor.

The Treen campaign is popping champagne "a jubilant campaign aide said. 'It's all over.'

Treen campaign forces compiled a complete count from the state's 6,400 voting machines in all 64 parishes, or

counties, and announced a vote of 690,888 for Treen and 681,017 for Democrat Louis Lambert.

The margin, out of nearly 1.4 million votes cast in the Dec. 8 runoff, was 9,871.

A parish-by-parish check by The Associated Press was nine parishes short because clerks either refused to give the figures or claimed the information would not be available until today.

However, the 58 clerk of court counts checked by The AP tracked an official figures gathered Saturday night.

The tally ended Lambert's hope that enough errors were made in the hasty unofficial count to enable him to snatch victory from defeat.

Lambert's options were reduced to either a concession of defeat or an election challenge. There was no indication that a challenge was planned. Lambert was unavailable for comment.

No Republican has been governor of Louisiana for more than 100 years.

Of the 55 parishes which reported results to AP, 35 reported no change between totals reported Saturday night and those logged Tuesday. Changes in the others added a few votes here, subtracted a few there Lambert gained about 200.

Democratic hopes for an election turnaround began crumbling when the tally confirmed parish vote totals which Lambert forces had regarded as suspicious because Treen's vote there was a lot higher than pollsters anticipated.

In Orleans Parish, for instance, Lambert picked up 464 votes in Lafayette Parish no change in Baton Rouge, halfway through the check.

Lambert lost 20 votes.

The voting machines had been kept under police guard, as directed by a district court judge in an order ob-

jected by the Republicans, until the clerks of court broke the seals to begin the official count.

Under a court order, the figures in the machines also cannot be erased until the official count is certified.

Saturday night's unofficial vote count, compiled by The Associated Press, gave Treen a margin of more than 17,000, but two errors by parish election officials, discovered Sunday, lopped off 7,000.

Another unofficial vote count, this one made Monday by the Louisiana secretary of state at Treen's request, gave Treen a margin of 10,385 votes.

Observers were sent to watch the count because Louisiana elections have been beset by scandal and court fights

in recent years, with court records showing some elections decided by energetic vote buying and false votes.

In a statement issued by an aide, Lambert said he was confident this official count would be fair and square.

"Certainly we have heard of voter irregularities occurring in the general election from our supporters throughout the state. But to consider a frivolous lawsuit is not in the best interest of our state."



David Treen

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Aike depu in bu

By Becky H

AIKEN — A she three other persons the Aiken County day for criminal counts an insurance company

Deputy Paul J. suspended following gust, his mother, J. C. Heath and Rick charged in connectio incident.

Chief Magistrate dropped charges against last week, but Solicitor had presented the jury despite Nichols' matter.

Nichols held a pr on the case Nov. 30 charges against Mrs. the hearing. Nichols failed to show suffic the case over to the g.

Mrs. Westerdahl preliminary hearing, not been requested state's case at the he end by State Law En officer Buck Cockrell.

Edward Yarbrout tor who brought th Mrs. Henson, Paul, other defendants, weeks ago following SLED report. Coc agent Jim Friarson vigation that led t

It was reported, that Yarbrout app grand jury Monday grand jury is a secre not be ascertained connection with the

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