

**THE LINK, VOL. 30,  
NO. 4, APRIL 1972**

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The Link, Vol. 30, No. 4, April 1972 by Edward I. Swanson

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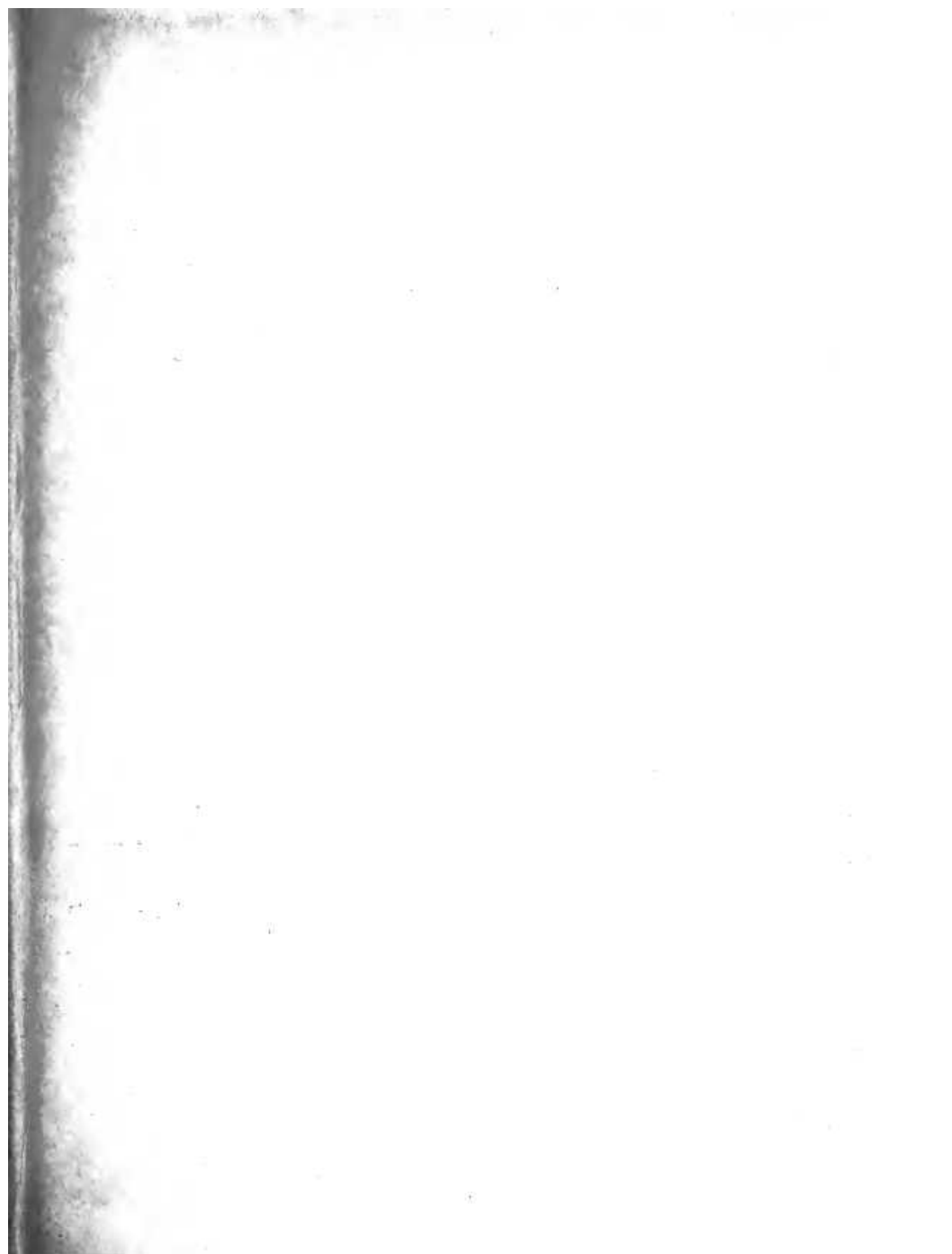
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**EDWARD I. SWANSON**

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The Day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over With hymns of victory.  
—Henry Smart, c 1835



# THE LINK



VOL. 30

APRIL 1972

NO. 4

## STORIES

LOVE IS THE ETERNAL LILY .....	L. D. Eddy	34
TO BEGIN AGAIN .....	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	50

## ARTICLES

SCHWENDEL OF IOWA .....	Caspar Nannes	5
THE MAN GOD SENT TO TAME THE WEST .....	Art Fee	9
HANDEL: STAR OF THE BAROQUE ERA .....	Bonnie Newton	14
ROBERT E. LEE'S FINEST HOUR .....	Charles Ludwig	18
ONE THOUSANDTH OF AN INCH .....	Mariana L. Brierton	25
HANDICAPPED? GIVE SPORTS A TRY! .....	Ron Calahan	28
NEVER CHEW YOUR PILLS! .....	W. J. Smart	39
TAPS .....	Frances Wolf	44
CAN I GET THERE FROM HERE? .....	J. Wallace Talley	46
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE .....	Haydn Gilmore	56

## OTHER FEATURES

DAILY BIBLE READINGS .....	33
WORTH REPEATING .....	43
NEWS IN PICTURES .....	60
THE LINK CALENDAR .....	62
ONE OF OURS .....	63
BOOKS ARE FRIENDLY THINGS .....	64
PRAYERS .....	65
AT EASE! .....	66

## COVERS

Front: "Pure, and fresh, and sinless" (S. Baring-Gould, 1865). Transparency by H. Armstrong Roberts.

Back: "'Tis the spring of souls today" (John of Damascus, 8th century). Cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial. Photo by Gene Ahrens.

Inside Front: Before an improvised but lily-bearing altar, military personnel around the world celebrate Easter. Shown here are crewmen of the destroyer tender, USS *Sierra* (AD-18). U.S. Navy Photo by PH-2 James C. Crutcher.

Inside Back: "Am I early or late for the service?" Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.

ART WORK Illustrations by Stanton V. Levy.

To  
LINK  
Readers around the World  
*Hearty Greetings and Best Wishes  
for a Most Joyous Easter!*  
From the LINK Staff

**S T A F F**

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All scripture quotations, unless otherwise designated, are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.



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# *Schwengel of Iowa*

By Caspar Nannes

## The religion of a Congressman

**T**HERE is nothing in the long run politically right that initially is morally wrong or could lead to a moral wrong."

This is the philosophy that motivates Representative Fred Schwengel, Republican of Iowa, and underlies the factors determining his votes on issues before the House of Representatives.

"Religious convictions determine a great deal my voting actions," the tall, still athletic-looking Congressman from the Midwest recently declared. "I operate from a moral basis. I like to paraphrase George Washington by saying 'Religion and morality are indispensable to prosperity.'"

There are specific instances where Schwengel's religious principles set the course of his voting record. Take the case of the Civil Rights bills that he favored, although there are few blacks in his district to sway his decisions politically.

"I believe in the teachings of brotherhood so I have to accept the philosophy of equality of opportunity," the prominent Baptist layman pointed out. "That determined my votes on these bills. Some of my political friends criticized me for this, but I felt there was a moral question involved and I have to be on the right side of a moral issue."

More recently, the Prayer Amendment that would propose a constitu-

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tional amendment permitting state-set prayers in public buildings was before Congress. Many felt the bill was loaded with political dynamite for those who voted against it. Some believed their constituents might regard voting against the Prayer Amendment as being like voting against motherhood. Schwengel took a firm stand against the Prayer Amendment.

"It was a moral question entirely with me whether or not to let a state come into the picture," he explained. "I hold that religious freedom and liberty are probably the most important heritages we have and they are not to be tampered with."

The Iowa-born Congressman comes by his religious convictions naturally. His parents, "Baptists in Germany where Baptists were a minority," instilled in the child a devotion to the church and attending Sunday services that has never left him. He has evidence to substantiate his consistent churchgoing; he takes notes of the sermon each time he goes and keeps a record of them.

#### **Rotarians, Take Note!**

"If I have to miss church on Sunday, I make it up by doing some other assignment, like speaking at the International Crossroads Breakfast meeting in the Central YMCA in Washington," he explained. Many times during the year Schwengel fills the pulpit at churches throughout the United States on Sundays. He recently spoke at the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A member of First Baptist Church at Davenport, Iowa, since 1937, Schwengel attends Calvary Baptist Church when in Washington. At the Davenport church the Congressman has held practically every office open to a layman — deacon, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, member of the board of trustees, and so on.

Although Schwengel is a dyed-in-the-wool Baptist, he has developed through the years a great respect and interest for all religions.

"I am very much in favor of the ecumenical movement, so much so that I like to associate with, learn from, and cooperate with the other great religions in the world, including Buddhism and Hinduism and all the other -isms," he explained.

Born and raised on a farm in Franklin County, Iowa, the Congressman recalled with pleasure that he was once the cornhusking champion of his area, with a record of 184 bushels in one day. And only last year he showed his skill by winning a one-hour cornhusking contest in Eldridge, Iowa, coming away with the title "Mr. Clean."

Schwengel's lasting interest in Abraham Lincoln grew out of two incidents at Northeast Missouri State College, where he won letters in football, track, and basketball, as well as being president of his 1930 senior class.

"The impetus came from a talk by one of my favorite professors, Dr. John R. McClure of the political science department. Soon after that talk I went with the football team to Kansas City, Missouri, and while



**Congressman Fred Schwengel**