

# Loose in the Foothills

by Bob Ring

## Inviting Historical Figures to Dinner

The question of the month is: Which four historical figures would you invite to dinner?

I started thinking about this during a recent world history project (Foothills Star, Feb. 25) when I reviewed a book about the 100 most influential people in history.

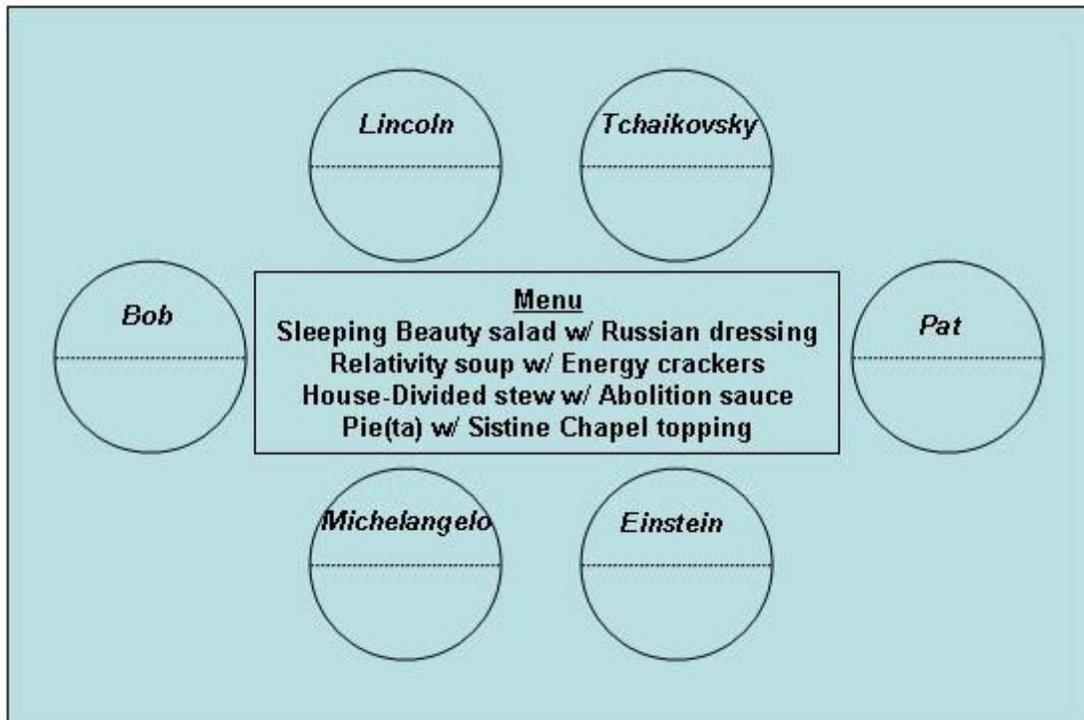
That brought to mind an old PBS TV series from the late 70s and early 80s called Meeting of the Minds, starring Steve Allen. Mr. Allen interviewed oddly-matched groups of historical persons like Cleopatra/Theodore Roosevelt/Thomas Aquinas/Thomas Paine and Emily Dickinson/Attila the Hun/Charles Darwin/Galileo. I thought the series was fascinating – even for non history buffs.

So how would you choose four persons from history to invite to your dinner table? Would you pick from your heroes, people you most admire, perhaps Eleanor Roosevelt; people you have questions of, maybe to ask the pirate Blackbeard where he hid all his treasure; someone you'd like to get to know better like Gandhi; someone you'd like to slap around for his horrible actions in his lifetime, like Hitler; someone you'd like to dazzle with today's technology, like Thomas Edison; or a group that might spark interesting conversation like those from Meeting of the Minds?

Pat and I had fun discussing this, but never agreed on who to invite. Oh well, I guess that means we'll have two special dinners.

You can see my selections in the accompanying figure. I'm not going to try to convince you that my guests are the best or even disclose why I picked them. Let me just say that these are the four people I most respect or appreciate in their fields. Each of you will have different ideas.

I've left room on the "place card" for you to write in your choices. You'll also have to come up with your own appropriate menu.



*Here's my choice of four historical figures to invite for dinner. (Courtesy of Bob Ring)*