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# SINNISSIPPI PHANTOMS | LOVESPARK OF LINCOLNLAND

1961

## A Cold War Time

An overmedicated Kennedy lost the match with Khrushchev in Vienna  
Warnings of War over Berlin by Winter and a wall rose in the Fall  
The Hammer and Sickle would get to space first  
JFK rallied a moon launch and an arms race  
And so aviation and military spending boosted the machine tool industry in Rockford  
and the machinists of Lovespark of Lincolnland began a prosperous time  
New Chevys in front of the Gi Bill cottages  
The neighbor boy Johnny Miles making Sharon Peak his bride who gave me a chaste kiss in her reception line  
Johnny's mom and dad Pat and Marg the elders of our Grand Avenue block  
where we all celebrated the national holidays together in backyards roasting Oscar Mayers  
covering under the booming fireworks at Forest Hills Country club Fourth of July  
watching the high school band march past the Faust Hotel on Labor Day  
with some windbag like Senator Dirksen posing in the back of a convertible with Bourbon courage  
following the Shriners on their white motorcycles  
and the rigid Phantom Regiment in purple and plumes blasting brass and drums  
The neighbor girls Trudy, Betty, and Nancy were all better than me in softball games on the lot on the creek  
And we all climbed the cherry trees in the sun and chased the lightning bugs in the twilight  
Kiddies went to Kiddieland where the neighbor Jake was the train conductor  
Summer Wednesday was the Kiddie Matinees at the Park Theater  
which hosted the high school play "Inherit the Wind" off campus  
because the pious protested its presence on public property

