

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 989

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

March 22, 1948

## A WESTERN ITINERARY

One of the compensations for making long, and often tiresome, speaking itineraries, is the pleasure of meeting students of Abraham Lincoln. The recent trip of the director of the Foundation which took him as far west as the Pacific coast, not only allowed him to make many new acquaintances but also afforded the privilege of renewing friendships of many years standing.

Addresses before high school and college groups are especially fruitful in personal contact with executives and instructors, many of whom have been lifetime students of Abraham Lincoln. Return engagements at Northeast High School, Kansas City, Missouri, and Friends University at Wichita, Kansas, were typical of such assemblies.

A visit to Amarillo, Texas, always invites a call on Dr. J. J. Crume, whose great-grandmother was Mrs. Mary Lincoln Crume, wife of Ralph Crume. Mary was a sister of Thomas Lincoln, father of the President. At El Paso, Texas, there is serving as librarian for Radford School for Girls, Miss Julia Drake, a descendant of the New Salem Camerons—spelled Camron in pioneer days—who is doing a novel on a traditional love affair of Abraham Lincoln.

The Hiram Club of Phoenix, Arizona, contains many admirers of Abraham Lincoln; several are former citizens of Kentucky and Illinois, who lived in the Lincoln country in these respective states. At San Diego it was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with some of Lincoln's relatives on his mother's side of the family, Mr. William M. Boyce, and his sister, Miss Boyce, whose mother had passed away since my last visit. Mrs. Eliza Hanks Boyce was a granddaughter of Joseph Hanks, Jr., youngest son of the pioneer Joseph Hanks, Sr., who came from Virginia to Kentucky about 1790.

Everything which occurred at Fresno was overshadowed by the news of Gandhi's death and its many incidents parallel to the Lincoln assassination. At Pasadena several former residents of Fort Wayne were in attendance at one of the engagements, including Mr. B. P. Mossman, a director of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, which sponsors the work of the Foundation.

It is always an inspiration to speak to the Long Beach Lincoln Club which has been an active organization for many many years spurred on by Clyde Doyle, Judge Martin De Vries, and Elmer Persons, the latter especially interested in Lincoln pictures. Reaching Santa Ana another descendant of Joseph Hanks, Sr., was discovered who had preserved some reminiscences about the connections of her forbear, William Hanks, of Decatur, Illinois, with Abraham Lincoln.

Several important engagements at Los Angeles made this stop, as usual, a high point in the itinerary, as Lincoln's birthday fell within the time allotted to this city. A paper entitled "Sifting the Herndon Sources" was read before the Southern California Lincoln Fellowship, which meeting was attended by several students whose names are well known in Lincolniana. Ralph Lindstrom presided with Roy Risdon serving as secretary.

Possibly the most impressive ceremony, in which the director of the Foundation participated on Lincoln's birthday, was held in the Church of the Reversion at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale. The well-known Bill Hay was program director and, preliminary to the address, Francis Bushman recited Edward Markham's "Lincoln Man of the People," followed by the Hoover High School A Capella Choir which rendered a musical composition entitled "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

The annual banquet of the Lincoln Club of Los Angeles held on the evening of February 12th at the California Club was also a gala occasion, the editor of Lincoln Lore sharing the speaking responsibilities with Edward D. Lyman and Joseph Scott. Hon. Louis W. Myers, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, presided.

So many students of Abraham Lincoln introduced themselves to the editor of Lincoln Lore in the San Francisco Bay area, that it would seem as if the Northern California Lincoln Club might again be revived with an assurance of successful gatherings. At San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Vallego, and Sacramento, several people expressed their deep interest in Lincolniana. A visit was enjoyed with Mr. John Howell, venerable proprietor of the Howell Book Store at San Francisco, and a publisher of Lincoln items. Dr. Milton Shutes at Oakland was a host for an evening. Dr. A. Lincoln is the professor of history at San Francisco University, and another Lincoln is president of the Kiwanis Club at Vallego. One side of the building containing the San Francisco office of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company has been used as an improvised mammoth canvas, on which there has been reproduced possibly the largest Brady portrait ever painted.

At Sacramento there is a branch of the California Writer's Club which the editor of Lincoln Lore had the pleasure of addressing, and two recipients of Lincoln Lore were present. The finest collection of Lincolniana in Oregon belongs to C. A. Gerken, who many years ago was the president of the Northern California Lincoln Club. He has a room set apart for his excellent collection. A dinner in his home, to which other Lincoln students were invited, was thoroughly enjoyed.

An address before the Seattle Bar Association offered the opportunity of meeting, and making possible an afternoon conference, with Judge Walter B. Beals, of the Supreme Court of the state of Washington, who had just returned from presiding over some of the Nuremberg trials in Germany. He came up from his home in Olympia for the meeting and is proud that he owns one of the comparatively few complete sets of Lincoln Lore. Samuel Lincoln, the President's first American ancestor, is also a forbear of Judge Beals.

The Tacoma Bar Association also furnished its quota of Lincoln students, which is usually the case when lawyers come together, and the Salt Lake City Bar Association was no exception to this display of interest. Another group of judges and practicing attorneys was brought together for a Lincoln luncheon at Denver, Colorado, by the enthusiastic Lincoln booster, Homer Talbot.

A Chamber of Commerce meeting at Omaha, a joint Kiwanis-Optimist luncheon at Sioux Falls, and engagements at Des Moines, where an evening conference with a well known Lincoln student, George M. Gibson was enjoyed, ended an eight weeks itinerary. Over 100 addresses on different phases of the Lincoln story were delivered.