

LINCOLN LORE

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AN EIGHT WEEKS LINCOLN SPEAKING ITINERARY

A speaking itinerary extending through eight consecutive weeks in which the editor of Lincoln Lore made over 100 Lincoln addresses including 11 radio talks was brought to a close on March 17. While an attempt to give even a condensed summary of the trip would require much more space than one issue of this bulletin provides, a few of the contacts with Lincoln students are presented, but numerous personal favors shown to the speaker by other friends will have to be left unacknowledged.

Stopping at Wichita, Amarillo, El Paso and Phoenix enroute to the coast many Lincoln friendships were renewed. Upon arriving at San Diego a painful message awaited me in the form of a telegram announcing the death of Judge James Bollinger, who for many years was a member of the Foundation Advisory Group. Addressing an audience at the San Diego Club I was introduced by Judge Clarence Harden, whose forebears came from Hardin County, Kentucky. At a Lions Club luncheon I met Judge J. L. Shell, a reader of Lincoln Lore for many years. Two radio recordings were made at San Diego for release on Lincoln's birthday.

Moving up to Long Beach for Sunday, February 4th, I addressed a Boy Scout assembly and was presented by E. Roy Jordan an ex-president of the Long Beach Lincoln Club and a reader of Lincoln Lore from the publication of the very first issue.

Los Angeles, the center of Lincoln interest in the west, and the headquarters of the Southern California Lincoln Association, always has a gracious welcome for a Lincoln student as many visitors to the city can testify. The annual meeting of the Lincoln group was held on February 10 at the home of the president, Ralph Lindstrom. The editor of Lincoln Lore read a paper entitled "Repairing the Supreme Court Bench." Secy. F. Ray Risdon pronounced it one of the best attended annual meetings of the association.

The bay area comprising San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and other cities was the mecca for the week of Lincoln's Birthday with the outstanding program in San Francisco City Hall arranged by the city officers with Mayor Elmer E. Robinson as honorary chairman. Previous to my address the members of a large number of patriotic societies placed wreaths at the base of the Lincoln statue which stands on the municipal square. The widow of Alonzo Rothschild, noted Lincoln author, was among those present. Other appointments in San Francisco brought me before the Golden Gate Breakfast Club where W. S. Pedley of the Wisconsin Lincoln Fellowship was present. At the Pacific Traffic Association I met Howard G. Tobin, a descendent of Allen Gentry, Lincoln's boyhood associate, and at the Mutual Businessmen's Club, a relative of the Kentucky Hankses was chairman of the day.

Across the bay at Oakland many acquaintances of long standing were renewed with speeches at the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club. Addressed the Piedmont Community Church youth group of 200, directed by Mrs. H. D. Kendall, a descendant of the Hayercraft family of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, also spoke to the history classes at St. Mary's College taught by Prof. Pattencourt, former student of Dr. James G. Randall. The director of the Foundation sent a cablegram from San Francisco to the American-Japan Cultural Society holding a "Lincoln Day Celebration" at the Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo on Lincoln's Birthday.

An appearance before the Masonic Lincoln Club at Sacramento allowed me to meet several Lincoln students. I was also interviewed in Sacramento by a descendant of Hananiah Lincoln, cousin to the President's grandfather.

A delightful breakfast group at Portland, Oregon was brought together by C. A. Gerken, one of the outstanding

Lincoln students on the Pacific coast. The large Rotary Club there with Edward C. Sammons as president contains many ardent admirers of Abraham Lincoln whom I had the pleasure of greeting.

Hotel Meany at Seattle where I spoke before the University Lions Club seems to have retained some of the genial atmosphere of Professor Edmond S. Meany, Lincoln author, for whom the hotel was named. Hugh S. Bell, a Lincoln student of wide acquaintance who sat beside me had a Lincoln article in the February issue of *The Insurance Field*.

My inability to put the State College at Pullman, Washington on my itinerary caused a delegation of Lincolmites to come to Spokane for my talk before the Kiwanis Club. F. E. Balmer and Thomas N. Phillips, well known to Lincoln students in the northwest, headed the delegation. Joel E. Ferris, native of Carthage, Illinois, gave me some interesting data on Lincoln's kindred.

At Whetworth College I was greeted by the president bearing the name Warren. He showed me the most beautifully bound set of Lincoln books, Nicolay and Hay History, I have ever seen. The special hand tooled bindings and the magnificent slip cases made for each of the ten volumes seems to have cost the original owner a total of \$1200.

Billings, Mont. was visited for the first time while enroute to Salt Lake City and I found a keen Lincoln interest there. Spent a day at Salt Lake City, in the rooms of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Here without doubt is the finest collection of microfilm on early American court records and important European genealogical documents ever assembled. There were twenty-five microfilm readers in constant use and a waiting line. Attended a family birthday dinner for Avard Fairbanks, Lincoln sculptor, one of the days I was in Salt Lake City.

At Colorado Springs I had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with another well known Lincoln sculptor, Miss Nellie B. Walker, who created the excellent study of a young Lincoln near Vincennes, Ind. Missed seeing at Colorado Springs an enthusiastic Lincoln student and collector, Robert W. Hendee, who was called from the city just before my arrival. Did however have the pleasure of meeting again Hon. David P. Strickler who has several lectures he delivers on Lincoln.

Homer Talbot was instrumental in having me appear before several groups at Denver, and present at the City Club luncheon was Governor Dan Thornton, from early childhood an admirer of Lincoln, also Justices: Hay, Jackson, Fetyer and Dillard, and ex-Justice Barbee all of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Made my first addresses in Wyoming at Cheyenne and the following day at Scottsbluff, Nebraska met several people who had interesting reminiscences about their forebears acquaintance with Lincoln, especially one family which had preserved a Mary Lincoln Letter.

One would anticipate that there would be much interest in Abraham Lincoln in the state capital of Nebraska, named for the Emancipator and a special dinner was arranged by S. C. Waugh that I might meet some of the students in Lincoln most interested in the martyred President. Omaha University has an enjoyable coffee hour for the history students, who apparently have received basic training in the Lincoln theme.

My last stop on the long itinerary was in Des Moines where I met friends of the late Judge Bollinger. Lincoln students there were also lamenting the passing of Harry D. Bruner, another Lincoln student of note. George Gibson, one of the most active present day collectors of Lincolniana, was present at one meeting I addressed and at my last appointment there was present Ronald Dietveld our youngest full fledged student of Lincoln, who began collecting Lincolniana at five years of age.