

LINCOLN LORE

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DIARY

The 19th annual speaking itinerary of the foundation director began at Canton, Ohio, on January 21, 1952. Eight addresses, including one radio talk, were presented during the two-day schedule and at one of these meetings I had the pleasure of meeting John Ramsay, a well-known authority on Lincoln lithographs. At Pittsburgh a radio recording at station WJAS on Miss Jane Eileen Ball's program was among the several engagements arranged. At Youngstown and its environs during the week-end, four radio transcripts were recorded for February 12, and several other addresses were delivered before various groups.

The second week brought me to Cleveland where the radio phase of the itinerary was still going strong and two recordings were made at the Cleveland Public School station WBOE. At Park Synagogue I had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with Albert A. Woldman, author of *Lawyer Lincoln*, who now has two other Lincoln books on the way to the press. At Erie, Penn., a high spot was an afternoon with Robert P. King, the nation's outstanding authority on Lincoln numismatics. I greatly admired his unparalleled collection at the Erie Museum as well as the items at his home. Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, author of the "Ten Don'ts" credited to Lincoln, called on me at my hotel at Erie. One of the most elaborate boy scout programs in which I have ever participated was put on at Warren, Penn., in anticipation of the boy scout anniversary. The second week ended at Scranton, Penn., where interesting Lincoln programs were arranged.

The eastern coast engagements began in the Newark area where Borglum's famous statue of Lincoln is located and from there I moved on to Philadelphia. President Burton P. Fowler of the Germantown Friends School, a long time admirer of Abraham Lincoln, as are several members of his faculty, presented me to his student body. At the Friends Select School, J. Theodore Peters was my host. Rabbi Bertram Korn of Keneseth Israel Synagogue whose congregation I addressed is the author of *American Jewry in the Civil War*. I had the pleasure of meeting at a social gathering following the services several well known Lincoln students of Philadelphia.

Another Lincoln student at Philadelphia with whom I had the pleasure of lunching one noon is F. M. Barden. He was in the midst of delivering several Lincoln lectures arranged for the Lincoln birthday season. Among other appointments at Philadelphia, a return engagement at the Philadelphia Athletic Club luncheon should be mentioned.

The fourth week of the itinerary which embraced Lincoln's birthday, around which the entire schedule is built, was spent in Washington and Baltimore. A whole copy of *Lincoln Lore* could be written on the interesting three days spent in the capital city and Bert Sheldon, as usual, was especially helpful in setting up some of my engagements. Congressman Reed, newly elected president of the Washington Lincoln group, served as a guide to places of historical interest. Possibly the outstanding Lincoln gathering of the week was the annual Lincoln program held at Ford's Theatre on Sunday afternoon, February 10, where I had the privilege of serving as chairman of the meeting, being introduced by Edward J. Kelly, superintendent of National Capital Parks. A whole bevy of Lincoln students were in attendance but lack of space will prohibit the naming of any except those publicly introduced or appearing on the program. Three well-known members of Congress, Rep. George Dondero of Michigan, Rep. Clyde Doyle of California, and Rep. Chauncey Reed of Illinois, all students of Lincoln, were present. Rev. George M. Docherty of the New York Ave. Presbyterian Church asked the invoca-

tion and Bruce Catton, author of *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, gave the principal address on "The Tragedy of Hate."

On the same day, Sunday, February 10, I spoke before an audience composed of delegates from many Relief Corps, auxiliaries to the Grand Army of the Republic; the United States Marine Band Orchestra furnishing the music. On Monday morning, February 11, I had breakfast with Harry T. Thompson of the Interior Dept. National Park Service, and Eric Gugler, famous architect and grandson of Gugler, the engraver, so well known to collectors of fine prints. Addressed the United States Chamber of Commerce on this day. On the eve of Lincoln's birthday I had the honor to appear before the Washington Civil War Round Table where again several Lincoln students were in attendance, including a Hoosier friend of long standing, Francis M. Van Natter. The feature of the Feb. 12 program was a broadcast to Europe on Abraham Lincoln over the "Voice of America." On February 12 I spoke to the Optimist Club, where Bert Sheldon, a former member, introduced me.

At Baltimore, among the many engagements as on a previous occasion, I had the privilege of speaking to a group at John Hopkins University assembled around a table which was used by Woodrow Wilson while professor of History in that institution. Free from engagements on the week-end I had an opportunity to go over the papers of the famous Barrett collection in the art galleries of Parke-Bernet which were to be sold on February 19. Former commitments made it impossible for me to attend the sale but I did meet many students of Lincoln at the galleries looking over prospective purchases.

One of the most impressive settings for a speaking engagement on the entire trip was arranged for me by Avis Mary Custis Cauley before the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Penn., which was largely attended. The meeting was held in the former home of Simon Cameron at Harrisburg, Penn. Here I had the pleasure of meeting many people deeply interested in the story of Lincoln.

At Petersburg, Virginia, where I had a return engagement to address the Kiwanis Club, I met a collector with whom I had often corresponded, M. F. Partridge. Moving on to Norfolk I reviewed again Lincoln's little known visit to the city and then on to Raleigh, N. C. At a joint meeting of luncheon clubs in Sanford, N. C., I met a new Lincoln enthusiast, Charles Hall. Reaching Jacksonville, Fla., at the beginning of the sixth week my schedule called for a speech at Gainesville where the University of Florida is located. At a luncheon engagement there I had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with Dr. W. E. Baringer, whose new book on Salmon P. Chase is already on the press. I had a pleasant chat with Warren L. Jones, at Jacksonville, who has one of the finest collections of Lincolniana in the south. The Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary clubs, of Miami which I addressed were greatly increased in attendance by visitors from all over the nation. I was hospitably entertained at Miami by Indiana friends, wintering there, as well as local acquaintances.

The seventh and last week of the itinerary was spent enroute to Fort Wayne with the first stop at Atlanta, Georgia, where I was graciously received, and spoke to several educational institutions. Spent one day at Rome, Georgia, where I addressed the famous Berry schools. Before the Kiwanis club at noon made a Lincoln speech which was broadcast. At Cincinnati, my last stop, a return engagement at the Rotary Club gave me an opportunity to renew friendship with Lincoln students and also work in a few hours research session at the Philosophical Society at the University of Cincinnati.