

# LINCOLN LORE

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## THE LINCOLN YEARS AHEAD

Regardless of the discounting of good resolutions for the new year, which seems to be the vogue for the modern day, there is nevertheless a considerable measure of careful planning in the business world at the opening of a new twelve month's period. Sometimes one looks into the future for many moons in anticipating certain objectives which might be reached. This would be an opportune time to survey the prospects for featuring the Lincoln story in the years ahead.

### Lincoln Centennials

Another year and we will be moving into a long series of centennial celebrations which will commemorate the most important events in Abraham Lincoln's public life. We have his own confirmation about his political rebirth in these words: "I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again." One hundred years ago on February 2, 1853 there was introduced into the House "a Bill to Organize the Territory of Nebraska." Discussion on this bill brought to the front the question of the Repeal of Missouri Compromise. The repeal measure was first formally advocated on Jan. 16, 1854, assured by the passing of the Kansas Nebraska Bill on May 22 and consummated by President Pierce on May 30, 1854 when he affixed his signature to the Bill.

It is not too early to gather source material and necessary information about centennial anniversaries which will continue at intervals for a dozen years or up to the time the Lincoln burial rites were spoken in Oakridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. An unusual opportunity will be afforded to present an impressive display of pageantry which will allow the whole American people to observe important episodes in the most crucial era in American history. The development of television will be the most important contributing factor for providing a nationwide view of important historical events. The historical episodes taking place in the smaller communities of the middle west and the more populated cities of the East will make familiar to all the remarkable career of Abraham Lincoln.

Already, Omnibus, the Ford Foundation's television program is presenting scenes of Lincoln's early life. With a chronological arrangement of other important episodes attempted, the continuity might be so planned as to pick up the centennial celebrations beginning in 1954. The anniversary atmospheres or time elements, supplementing the orientation already given emphasis, would contribute much to the human interest feature in the project. This would be a long range enterprise under professional supervision.

The possibility of creating a major Lincoln epic through a series of pageants oriented in the very geographical locations where the episodes occurred is well illustrated by a recent celebration held at Gettysburg. The caption on the printed program follow: "Western Maryland Railroad Company on the Occasion of the Company's 100th Anniversary Presents Ray Meredith and the citizens of Gettysburg in *Mr. Lincoln Goes to Gettysburg*. Reenact-

ing the great Emancipator's Visit and His Immortal Gettysburg Address, November 18 and 19, 1863." The cast of characters contained over 1000 people and it demonstrated the tremendous possibility of pageantry in the modern day on a large scale. It is not difficult to recreate with the mind's eye the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Political Conventions, Elections, Inaugurals and the major episodes occurring in the White House Days which could be enacted with striking similarity to the original scenes.

### Civil War Round Table

Those who have observed the popularity of the Civil War Round Table are pleased to note that there is some effort being made to coordinate these independent groups into a great national organization. While we are convinced that the loosely organized non-partisan Lincoln Clubs which have been operating successfully over a period of years should continue, yet, there are many communities without a sufficient number of students primarily interested in Lincoln to warrant an organization. In almost any city of a hundred thousand population or over there are enough historically minded people to organize a Civil War Round Table which provides a much wider latitude of interest. The Lincoln National Life Foundation desiring to encourage the formation of these groups will be pleased to place any member of such an organization on its mailing list who may so request.

### Lincoln Lore

Two new features relating to Lincoln Lore will be introduced beginning with the new year. At the conclusion of each bulletin there will be published a list of former Lincoln Lore's which have discussed some phase of the same general subject appearing in the argument of the copy in hand. This will allow those who have a considerable run of back numbers to approach the contents with the least possible inconvenience and a more exhaustive coverage of the general subject.

The other service arranged is a clerical task which will systematize the documentation of statements made in the bulletins. The Foundation's master library copy of Lincoln Lore will be used for this process of annotation so that reference to sources used in the bulletins will be immediately available for those who may desire to have this information. The absence of footnotes in Lincoln Lore, we trust, has not left the impression that arguments put forth have lacked documentary support. The policy of the publishers to prepare a brief human interest monograph on Lincoln, has best been achieved we believe, by eliminating extraneous data in the bulletin itself.

Recipients of the bulletins may share in the selection of the most timely Lincoln editorial and cartoon published by newspapers during the week of February 12 by forwarding to the Foundation such clippings as may appear to be deserving of recognition. Assistance is also invited in calling attention to magazine articles on Abraham Lincoln, of special merit, that they may be acquired for consideration in choosing the outstanding monograph appearing during the first quarter of the year.