

LINCOLN LORE

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AN EIGHT WEEKS SPEAKING ITINERARY

A recent eight weeks speaking itinerary took the editor of *Lincoln Lore* to the western coast during which he spoke in 33 cities located in 12 states. Altogether 109 speeches were delivered to a total of 34,000 people, not including the listeners on ten radio and four television programs.

The first day of February was spent in Albuquerque where an acquaintance was renewed with book dealer James Threlkeld, an old college friend whom I had not seen for thirty-eight years. At the Chamber of Commerce luncheon the leading business men of the city were addressed and at a radio broadcast I spoke on a program for women. A school assembly allowed me to reach the youth of the city and also a television program for children was arranged, at which time pictures of the Lincoln family, including the President's three boys, were featured. Moving on to El Paso the following day it was discovered that this year, for the first time in the history of the state of Texas, Lincoln's Birthday would be observed as an official holiday. Rotarian, Lions and Optimist clubs were addressed at El Paso. Thursday and Friday at Phoenix 5,400 high school students were told about the Lincoln story and a large number of the adult population heard about Lincoln through two radio broadcasts. San Diego on the west coast was reached on Sunday, February 7, where I spoke to a congregation honoring the Boy Scouts. On Monday a luncheon club engagement was scheduled and a radio broadcast and a television appearance were also arranged at San Diego.

Arrived in the Los Angeles area Tuesday morning where the student body of Chapman College was addressed and later a wire recording for station KNX was made. An impressive display of rare Lincoln manuscripts from the collection of Justin D. Turner was on display at a downtown department store where I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Turner and congratulating him on his valuable acquisitions.

Several luncheon club engagements were arranged for me in the Los Angeles area and a side trip was made to Redlands to address the annual banquet of the Lincoln Shrine Association. The following morning the student body of beautiful Redlands College proved to be an interesting audience.

In my triennial visits to Los Angeles on each of seven consecutive occasions I have appeared before the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Their program is broadcast over station KPOL. On Lincoln's Birthday I addressed a women's group. The Friday Morning Club, and in the evening was a guest of the Lincoln Club of California where many Lincoln students including men of distinction in educational and political circles on the west coast were present. Of course for real fellowship the Lincoln Club of Southern California, which met the following day, always offers a rare treat for those interested in Lincoln. President Lindstrom and Secretary Risdon, as usual, presided in the same gracious manner which has characterized their labors all these years. Mr. Henry Bass of Enid, Okla., collector of Lincoln poems, was also a guest on the occasion and told in an interesting way his search for Lincoln poetry. A trip with F. Ray Risdon to the Spanish American Institute was also enjoyed. Just before leaving Los Angeles Sunday night on the famous streamlined train, "The Lark," I addressed the evening service of The First Methodist Church.

Arrived in the San Francisco Bay area on Monday morning, February 15, and appeared before the California Club where I met a descendant from the Lincolns of Hingham, Mass. One of the engagements was a dinner speech in the church for which an old collegemate, Neal McGowan, ministers. Later the same evening I spoke at St. John's Presbyterian Church. Several engagements

were made before luncheon clubs in surrounding communities.

Possibly the high point of my San Francisco Bay contacts was at Oakland on Friday evening where I was a dinner guest of the venerable John Howell and his wife. That evening several distinguished citizens were invited to the spacious home and after my talk on the domestic life of the Lincolns, Reginald Pole assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Wyman Spaulding read Mr. Pole's new Lincoln play "With Malice Towards None."

The California state capital was reached on the morning of Washington's Birthday. High schools and universities seemed to be in order the following day with the results that more than 4,400 young people at Sacramento were reached with the story of Lincoln. At Portland, C. A. Gerken, a long time friend made it possible for me to meet other Lincoln students at an evening program at the First Unitarian Church. Upon arrival back in Fort Wayne word reached me from Portland that Mr. Gerken has since passed away. Several other engagements were made for me at Portland and one at Corvallis before 80 members of the Triad Club of Oregon State College, which comprises the heads of departments of the institution.

George L. Buck, a *Lincoln Lore* subscriber, and George Washington authority was helpful in setting up at Seattle some interesting engagements, especially one before the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. This was one of the few formal dinner groups on the itinerary. The Sierra Club and the Lions Club were the two luncheon clubs addressed and a business college and a television appearance were also arranged. One day stops at Spokane and Butte were occupied by speeches at clubs and schools and at Billings talks were made at an elementary school, a parochial high school and two universities, as well as a luncheon club.

Three cities in Utah were on my schedule, Salt Lake City, Provo, Ogden, where the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, and Lomond High School, respectively, were included. Of the several luncheon groups and other meetings a complimentary dinner arranged at Salt Lake Country Club in my honor by Mr. N. G. Morgan, Sr., was especially appreciated. Mr. Morgan and one of the guests, Sculptor Avarad Fairbanks are the moving spirits in the project planning for the presentation of a bronze Lincoln statue to New Salem by the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

Three cities also were visited in the Colorado country; at Denver I spoke before 300 members of the Chamber of Commerce with a wire recording to be broadcast the following Saturday; at Colorado Springs before the First Presbyterian Church Men's Club and at Canon City where a banquet of 200 cattlemen and their wives were told about the Lincoln's western migrations.

Cheyenne, Wyoming offered the opportunity to discuss "Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief" for 400 officers at Fort Warren, and in the evening to talk on Mrs. Lincoln before a ladies group in the home of Ewing T. Kerr, one of the Wyoming candidates for the Senate in the coming election.

Limited space in the bulletin will permit but a brief mention of the three Nebraska cities visited; Scottsbluff where engagements with 3,000 people in attendance were addressed; Lincoln, where 2,460 persons were in four audiences supplemented by a television and two radio appearances; Omaha, where the Chamber of Commerce, Creighton College and two parochial schools were on the schedule. On the final two days of the itinerary at Des Moines, both Rotary and Kiwanis, as well as two educational institutions and a radio talk were scheduled. Ronald Rietveld, the boy who discovered the "coffin" picture of Lincoln was a guest at Kiwanis.