

THE EVENING NEWS
CARL D. SHOEMAKER,
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1912.

DAILY WEATHER REPORT.

U. S. Weather Bureau, local office,
 Roseburg, Ore., 24 hours ending 5
 a. m. February 12, 1912.
 Precipitation in inches and hun-
 dredths:
 Highest temperature yesterday 54
 Lowest temperature last night 36
 Precipitation, last 24 hours..... 0
 Total precip. since let of month .97
 Normal precip. for this month 4.72
 Total precip. from Sep. 1, 1911,
 to date18.13
 Average precip. from Septem-
 ber 1, 1877..... 21.42
 Total deficiency from Sep. 1,
 1911..... 3.39
 Average precip. for 34 wet
 seasons (Sep. to May inclu-
 sive)32.36
WILLIAM BELL,
 Observer

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

One hundred and three years ago
 today there was born in a log cabin
 in Hardin county, Kentucky, a boy,
 whose later life was destined to play
 a most important part in American
 history. Of his early boyhood little
 is actually known. There are many
 tales related but their authenticity
 has not been settled. But one thing
 is generally accepted and that is
 that the boy's life was filled with
 hardship and privations, with no
 chance for education except that
 gathered at night with a wooden
 shovel for a blackboard, a piece of
 charred wood for a chalk and the
 flickering flame from burning logs
 for a light. Under such conditions
 did this boy get the rudiments of
 an education. But these hardships
 only stimulated his desire for learn-
 ing and it is recorded that when the
 opportunity finally presented itself
 he became a most indefatigable read-
 er of the better books that were in
 circulation in those days and commu-
 nities.

His father was of a roving dispo-
 sition and when the boy was a mere
 youth the family moved first to
 Indiana and later to Illinois where
 a homestead was located. The boy,
 now grown to young manhood, may
 be found splitting rails and killing
 hogs for a living, and he was an ex-
 pert at both, receiving one yard of
 homespun cloth for every 400 rails
 split and 20 cents a day for killing
 hogs. Later he went into the gro-
 cery business, and failing in this he
 was made postmaster of a little of-
 fice. He was captain of a company
 for service in the Indian wars but
 did no fighting. He went down the
 Ohio and Mississippi rivers on a river
 boat to New Orleans and there saw
 slaves sold to the highest bidder
 from the auction block. He came
 back to Illinois and after drifting
 from one thing to another he finally
 read law and located in Springfield
 in 1837.

No pecuniary success had attend-
 ed any of his labors up to this time.
 In fact financially this man was a
 failure. He couldn't get on in busi-
 ness. His law methods were not
 suited to the needs of business. Yet
 he was a good, hardworking man.
 He told a story well, made a fair
 speech, was witty and above all he
 was rigidly honest. But the real
 man emerged when he entered the
 legal profession. On the shingle sus-
 pended from the door of his office
 was painted in crude letters "A
 Lincoln, Lawyer."

The years of hardship, of failure,
 of penury, of ridicule, of aimless
 wanderings had left their imprint in
 the mind of this man who now was
 ready to listen to the tales of others
 and help them to a solution of their
 woes.

Law and politics have always gone
 hand in hand and Lincoln was early
 in the field. In fact prior to being
 admitted to the bar he had been a
 candidate for the state legislature
 but had failed of election. He serv-
 ed with some credit later, four terms
 in the state legislature and was
 elected to and served in the Nation-
 al House of Representatives for two
 years.

He aspired to the United States
 Senate, but Stephen A. Douglas, the
 Little Giant, was successful after a
 long series of debates with Lincoln.
 These debates brought Lincoln
 prominently before the people not
 only of Illinois, but of the nation.
 The slavery question was then im-
 permost in the hearts and minds of
 Americans and in the debates with
 Douglas, Lincoln gave his views on
 this question. There was a new
 party in process of organization
 which favored certain progressive
 ideas and among those ideas was a
 clearly defined one in regard to slav-
 ery. In 1860 Lincoln was made the
 nominee of this party which has
 since been known as Republican and
 on a tidal wave of popularity Lincoln
 was carried into the office of pres-
 ident of the United States. The im-
 pending crisis in our national life
 soon came and the great rebellion
 was on.

The gaunt, silent, morose, sym-
 pathetic Lincoln was at the helm in
 this great struggle. The wisdom that
 came from the severe schooling at

adverse experience was big enough
 to cope with every situation.

No period of our history needed
 more the services of a great intellect,
 a judicious guidance and a sympa-
 thetic judgment. Lincoln combined
 all three of these. From early
 morn till late at night he planned,
 he guided, he advised, he counseled,
 he gave his whole soul and life to
 the salvation of the republic. Slav-
 ery was not the issue in this con-
 flict. The sovereignty of the nation
 was at stake. Whether the state had
 rights superior to the nation was the
 real issue. The liberation of the
 slaves from their bondage was an
 incident to this greater problem. But
 Lincoln saw clearly everything. His
 mind comprehended every danger,
 every pitfall. He was a good judge
 of men. Although he was maligned
 and abused on all sides he said noth-
 ing to or about his defamers, but
 continued in his course, wisely and
 honestly to the end.

Such characters as Lincoln seem to
 spring into being to meet a critical
 need. The life or death of our
 nation was in the balance. The exist-
 ence of our liberties was threatened.
 Lincoln guided the nation through
 the conflict and when his work was
 done he rested for a moment and in
 that rest the assassin's bullet was
 fired and the life of America's great-
 est son soon passed away.

He gave to the youth of the world
 an inspiring example; to those in dis-
 tress and trouble, encouragement
 and sympathy; to the hard-hearted
 and wicked, compassion; and to the
 nation, his life.

POEM FOR TODAY.

The Last Word.

Creep into thy narrow bed;
 Creep, and let no more be said;
 Vain thy onset! All stands fast,
 Thou thyself must break at last.

Let the long contention cease.
 Geese are swans and swans are geese.
 Let them have it how they will,
 Thou art tired. Best be still.

They out talked three, blazed three
 tere three?
 Better met fared thus before thee,
 Fired their ringing shot and passed,
 Hotly charged and sank at last.

Charge once more, then, and be
 dumb.

Let the victors when they come,
 When the forts of folly fall,
 Find thy body by the wall.
 —Matthew Arnold.

LAUGHING GAS.

Etiquette is Fatal.

Etiquette, we know, is prescribed
 for, and required by, good breeding,
 to be observed in social or official
 life; but since the case of State vs.
 Flanagan, 54 Southern Reporter,
 919, we are left in doubt as to the
 propriety of conventional decorum
 with a jury. Defendant was tried
 for murder, and the polite jury
 brought in a verdict reading as fol-
 lows: "We, your jury, beg leave to

return a verdict of manslaughter,"
 Defendant filed a motion in arrest of
 judgment on the grounds that the
 jury had failed to find him guilty or
 not guilty, and had brought in no
 verdict which would afford a suf-
 ficient basis for exception. The mo-
 tion being denied, an appeal was
 taken. The supreme court of Louisi-
 ana holds that the motion should
 have been sustained. The court says:
 "The jury was expected by its ver-
 dict to answer the question, 'Is the
 accused guilty or not guilty?' and it
 has not answered it." The result
 might have been different had the
 judge been equally polite, and an-
 swered their "beg leave to" with a
 kind, "Yes, sirs; you may," and then
 received the verdict.

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