

**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 date .....18.13  
 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 presi-  
 dent 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 sym-  
 pathetic 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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