

The Oregon Statesman

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Lincoln's Birthday

TODAY is Lincoln's birthday. It is 121 years since he was born in a Kentucky cabin. It is nearly sixty-five years since his death. But Time does not efface his memory. On this anniversary of his birth his name is honored not only in the country for whose unity he suffered martyrdom, but throughout the civilized world. Springfield has lifted a noble shaft over his tomb. Chicago has put his features in the deathless bronze of Saint Gaudens. A nation has reared at Washington a memorial of marble that will honor Lincoln through the ages. Even more enduring than these is the place which Lincoln occupies in the hearts of his countrymen. His greatness is respected and his noble character is loved. A man of the people, millions speak his name in reverence and admiration.

The story of Lincoln's life has been told and retold. Children love to hear of his boyhood, of his hardships, his struggle for an education, his labor splitting rails or tending flatboat, his efforts at law practice, his ventures and success in the field of politics, his wise leadership in a time of grave crisis. Over and over again has the story been told, as perhaps none other has been save that of Jesus. The story is one of the epics of America.

Fortunately, while there have been many myths grown up about Lincoln they are not so absurd as some which cluster about Washington. Fortunately for us, photography has given us many likenesses of Lincoln, and historians wrote his biography who were more honest than Parson Weems and Jared Sparks. We think however that some of Lincoln's idiosyncrasies have been exaggerated, and some of his characteristics have been overdrawn.

Thus Lincoln has been regarded by many as a crude, uncouth, ungainly fellow, some rustic boor. His political enemies sought to give that report and the effete east was shocked at the news of his nomination. Such a description may have fitted him in his early years, and through his life his great height frequently made him appear awkward and ungainly. But Lincoln possessed also a dignity and a manner that made him socially quite acceptable. When he rode from New Salem to Springfield on a borrowed horse, his possessions in a pair of saddle bags, Lincoln was typical of the country lawyer of his day. But in a surprisingly short while he had stormed the high citadel of Springfield society and captured in marriage one of its most famous belles. Dr. W. E. Barton writes of his participation in Springfield society thus:

"Almost immediately on his arrival in Springfield he was toasted at banquets for his share in bringing the capital of the state to that city. Before very long he was invited to parties and balls. He habitually attended these events. Young women were always interested in him, though they were inclined to resent his habit of withdrawing groups of young men who gathered about him and listened to his stories. He danced rarely and not very gracefully. Still he had a certain dignity of his own, and there was a kind of grace that inhered in his very awkwardness. In a pleasant social environment he responded to the stimulus of congenial companionship, and almost forgot his great hands and feet. . . . In the early days of his residence in Springfield we find his name prominent among the social leaders of that city. The local papers mentioned him frequently at social gatherings. A printed invitation is preserved in the library of the Chicago historical society of a cotillion party at the American House at seven o'clock p.m. on December 17, 1839. The invitation is signed by sixteen 'managers.' Among them are Ninian W. Edwards, John A. McLernand, Joshua F. Speed, James Shields, Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln."

Lincoln's social connections were with the "best people" of Springfield. Mary Todd, whom he married, lived with her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, and the Edwardses were of the Springfield aristocracy. Mary Todd was of aristocratic lineage herself, born of the best families of Kentucky. Among her suitors was Stephen A. Douglas, one of the dandies of Springfield. And the social distinctions in Springfield were much sharper then than in our own day. A governor was attended with pomp and ceremony. Coaches and footmen distinguished the elite. Blood counted for much. So it was something of a triumph for Lincoln to gain entrance into the polite circles of the state's capital.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln took their place in the social circles of Springfield. They went out; they entertained in their home. Mrs. Lincoln kept maids. In the final years of their residence in Springfield they occasionally gave very large receptions or levees, with caterers summoned from Chicago for the event.

So Lincoln was not the unkempt and uncouth fellow some have described him to be, perhaps to increase his popularity with ordinary folk. He was pretty much of the type of the prairie man of his time. Hundreds of men had similar personal history then and now in the sense that from humble and poor beginnings they emerged to positions of power and responsibility. The distinguishing thing about Lincoln was his intellectual power. His mind penetrated to the core of the slavery problem; he saw it and laid it bare. And the world today as it reviews his life and reads his addresses and his letters does not cease to marvel that a man of such mentality coupled with such deep human sympathy should arise from the prairies of the middle west.

It is good news to read that ten thousand loggers returned to work in the woods last week after an enforced vacation due to winter weather. It means the resumption of life-giving payrolls. If open weather continues farm work will start again, and road work and other outdoor construction activity. The weather is as vital a factor in our life as anything, and it is great news when the break-up of winter permits the resumption of labor on a wide scale.

A few weeks ago the university yanked high school kids by the arm to come and visit the campus at Eugene. This week the state college is yanking the other arm so they can see the wonders at Corvallis, and the frats and sororities will get busy to shuffle the sheep from the goats. Being a high school senior or a college freshman is a great life while it lasts.

Ed Howe confesses that he never could read Alice in Wonderland and can't see what people do it for. Hurrah for Ed! We always thought it too silly and full of boredom to read it too.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

We must confess never being able to get midway in the book, but always supposed the trouble was "us."

Oregon and Oregon State are in a row about "discourteous" at athletic contests. O. S. C. accuses Oregon of "boozing;" so Oregon must accuse O. S. C. of "mooching."

We notice that a group of farmers have made another assault on the tariff. Where is that tariff bill now, anyway? The last we recall was how the senate smote Smoot on sugar.

TIME TO REVOLT



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Governor Gaines:

Readers of this column are aware that the governor's mansion of the second appointed chief executive of the territory of Oregon still stands as it was in the fifties on the farm that now belongs to Ralph Cartwright, about six miles south of Salem, a mile or more north of the entrance gate of the Sky Line orchard. The east part of the present dwelling of Mr. Cartwright was the governor's mansion; but the part that was the kitchen presided over by the slaves, and the quarters of the slaves east of that are gone.

John Pollard Gaines was the governor who had his mansion on his donation land claim there; governor of the territory of Oregon from November, 1849, till May, 1853, according to lettering on his tombstone in the Salem Odd Fellows' cemetery — the tombstone that stands beside his grave and that of his wife; the latter being covered with a large marble slab giving date of birth, marriage, etc. That is, his first wife.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Sabra Coates, there has fallen into the hands of the Bits man the following, sent to her by B. G. Mathews of Keystone, Nebraska, who is a cousin of former Governor Gaines. It was written by C. Spencer Chambers of Walton, Kentucky, under the heading, "Walton's Great Statesman:"

"When Kentucky was but an infant state five years old, there came down the buffalo trail, soon to be named the Lexington pike, a covered wagon. This wagon was filled with a small stock of merchandise, and a scant amount of household goods. The owner of these possessions was the father of John P. Gaines, the two year old baby nestled in his mother's arms. This baby some day was to become Boone county's most famous citizen.

"John P. Gaines showed extraordinary bravery at the battle of the Thames, and in several other engagements. When the war was over, he returned to Walton, and read law. In 1816 he was admitted to the bar, and practiced in Walton, doing a large business examining and adjusting titles, as many grants overlapped. In a short time young Gaines was elected to represent Boone county in the state legislature, remaining as such for several years.

"As Walton's first merchant pulled up at what is now the Beaver grade and Main street, to consult with the mother, wearied by her long journey from Augusta county, Virginia, a decision was made that this corner had a future, although there was no cabin in sight. The buffalo herds crossing the Ohio river near what is now Hamilton, stopping at Big Bone springs for salt, instinctively pushed their way over the trail coming through Beaver, joining the much used trail leading to the blue grass section of central Kentucky. A business man would naturally make the deduction that settlers would follow these hoof beaten roads, as they were against the line of least resistance.

"The elder Gaines, his wife and baby boy camped here, sleeping in their covered wagon, until their large three room house was erected, by the assistance of John Walton, a planter living about a mile out on what is now High street in Campbell county, as Kenton had not become a county at this time. (This cabin is the rear part of the Moore residence in the '80's where Justice Hudson's home now stands.)

"The Gaines family lived in two rooms, using the third as a store. Soon settlers were coming over the trail and making their claims by patent, causing the Gaines store to be a profitable venture. The thirty merchant named the meeting of the trails, the friend who helped him erect his castle in the woods, so the village of Walton had its beginning.

"Mrs. Gaines had but one object in life, a commendable one for a pioneer mother, and that was to rear her son to make a name for himself. It was a mother's hope that grew into reality,

though at times deemed blasted. The success of the husband relieved the wife of much work and worry, so common to the wives and mothers of the Kentucky pioneers, making it possible to give the son the necessary time and attention to develop in him the qualities of greatness, then in the embryo state. Sallie Walton remained as such until her marriage to James Littler, settler farther down the trail.

"Even then Governor Gaines refused to recognize the opinion, which caused a period of unrest.

In 1852 the United States government approved the act establishing the capital at Salem.

"When the battle was lost, Governor Gaines wrote, 'I am retiring but not retreating; I intend to live on Oregon soil.'

"In 1852 he married Margaret B. Wands, one of the first school teachers sent to the territory. He retired to his farm in Marion county, where he died in 1858.

"There is but little doubt that at times, in the last few years of the governor's life, he grew reminiscent, and Mrs. Gaines, the former school teacher, heard many, many stories of the boyhood days of her illustrious husband, spent at the joining of the buffalo trails in Walton, Kentucky.

"Would it not be fitting for the citizens of the town, to which he brought so much fame and honor, to erect a monument to his memory?"

Yesterdays
... Of Old Oregon
Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

Feb. 12, 1905

That Salem will experience this spring the greatest building era in its history is the candid prediction of nearly every contractor and builder. Dozens of residences are now under construction and many more are being contemplated. Salem is certain, in addition to other structures to have the new high school building which will cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Portland—The climax to the land fraud cases were reached today when Judge Albert H. Tanner, law partner of United States Senator Mitchell, indicated February 8 for the crime of perjury in regard to the agreement of co-partnership between himself and Mitchell, went to the witness stand and entered a plea of guilty. The scene was a dramatic one. Judge Tanner entered the court room haggard and worn and bowed as if by the weight of years. Congressman John R. Williamson and U. S. Land Commissioner Marion R. Biggs were named in true bills yesterday, revealing the greatest sensation of the land fraud investigations.

The faculty of Willamette university is seriously considering putting a stop to permitting girls of the institution to play basketball.

The Safety Valve
Letters from Statesman Readers

Aumsville, Oregon
Feb. 5, 1930

Editor Statesman:
In yours of 3rd inst. note your talk on wells for irrigation. I am interested. That irrigation is our only need here. We have all the rest in this valley.

Hove had some experience in irrigation, and I believe individual wells will be the way. Then it will be possible to control the water.

The way it is now, Jones may not want to irrigate but to get the water to Smith Jones is like

Winter "Shut-Ins"

Dr. Copeland's Health Topic Today

Too Many People Forego the Pleasures and Health Benefits of the Great Out-Doors in Cold Weather, Says Authority.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.
United States Senator from New York.
Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

WINTER sports are becoming more and more popular each season. Fashions favor them, society favors them, and so do the doctors.

If you are tired out after the whirl of the city, of business and social cares, why not try a change of scene? And Winter sports? Nothing is more health-giving than a change of scene and some form of recreation which combines with it pleasure and the benefits of health.

What is more wonderful than a Winter's day on the mountain sides, or in the woods? You may skii there, or snow-shoe, for miles at a time, through unbroken paths. With the snow, pure-white and deeper, perhaps, than your head, you see Nature from a viewpoint that you cannot see in any other way.

Such exercise plays upon every nerve and muscle of the body. Your senses are keener, the blood is stimulated into new life, and with it new vigor comes. I often wonder that so many of us neglect these rare sports of the Winter time.

And after you return from the day's outing, it may be that kindred souls have gotten there before you. A blazing fire or a good sun, a drowsy banting, and you are at bed! Sleep is good. Maybe it never was so good!

Skating is a wonderful exercise without going far for it. In these cities, new, are the out-of-doors skating rinks where, for a small sum, the populace go, skating in hand, any day or evening. This has always been a exciting sport, and in Grandmother's time it was considered as much of an accomplishment to dance well as to dance well.

Never before, perhaps, have the out-door sports been more in evidence than this winter. In the San Moritz, Lake Placid in Canada, or in some of the colleges and schools with their Winter carnivals, people flock for healthful sports. All this gives an added impetus to sports everywhere.

Don't spend all your recreation time in the close atmosphere of publishing places. Be out-of-doors as you possibly can, as much time as you possibly can.

Muscular exercise is important because it stirs up the chemical and biological changes of the body. If you wish muscular strength, if you must exercise the muscles, if you have a weak heart, an active virile mind, you must exercise that.

Nobody can have good health without proper exercise, fresh air, and sunlight. Nutrition is of importance, too, but real bodily vigor depends upon all these things, combined. Healthful recreation is of vital importance to this end.

A—Due to a run-down condition on a severe cold.

2—It varies in each individual case.

3—She should weigh about 118 pounds.

M. D. H. Q.—How can I put on flesh around the ankles?

A—It is difficult to gain weight in any part of the body without gaining weight in general.

J. E. Q.—What should a girl weigh who is 14 yrs. old and 5 ft. 6 in. tall?

2—What should a boy weigh who is 14 yrs. old and 5 ft. 4 1/2 ins. tall?

3—What should a girl weigh who is 14 yrs. old and 5 ft. 2 1/2 ins. tall?

4—They should weigh respectively 120, 118, and 116 pounds.

The police plan to arrest and

release hoodlums until they decide.

Chicago police are too persistent to make residence here desirable—and tonight the "re-arrests" were awaited.

"Unless the drive is continued day by day, week by week, and month by month, it will do Chicago no permanent good," said Col. Robert Isham Randolph, president of the Chicago association of commerce. Colonel Randolph is the head of a new secret vigilante committee which is expected to voice the public wrath against the criminal enemy.

The total 559 were released because of no criminal record, 238 were arraigned in 12 municipal courts and released or taxed small fines on minor charges, 22 were held on continuances for action of the grand jury on charges of carrying concealed weapons, and the 60 still in the cells were being held without charges for further investigation. No gang leaders were arrested.

The police plan to arrest and

ly to have at least part of his land flooded.

Would it be possible to get one of those wells in our locality?

Very truly,

L. L. TURNER.

"You are wanted on the phone"

YOU ARE PROMPT to respond to the ring of your phone. The very idea that some one has a personal message for you intrigues your interest.

Has it ever occurred to you that back of every advertisement in this paper there is some one with a personal message for you? More often than not these advertisements were written with you in mind. It is impossible for most merchants and manufacturers to give you a phone call about their goods, their wares, or their services. So they pay us for the privilege of calling these things to your attention in our advertising columns.

Give an advertisement the same attention you give to a phone call. Many of them are just as important to you—and just as interesting. They will help you to economize and keep posted on news of vital interest to you and your pocketbook.

Don't lay this paper aside, today, without reading the advertisements.

They are personal calls for you