

Polk County Observer

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REMINISCENCES OF LINCOLN

BIRTHDAY WILL BE OBSERVED AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN OREGON FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Martyred President an Important Feature in the Early History of Oregon.

Fred Vincent writes the following interesting story:

Thursday, February 12th, is the 105th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, and Oregon for the first time will observe it as a legal holiday.

Oregon as a territory and as a state, played a prominent part in the life of Lincoln. A decade before he was elected president of the United States, he was appointed governor of what was then Oregon territory, and would have accepted save for the reason that Mrs. Lincoln objected strongly to living on the frontier.

But while Oregon, the territory, lost Lincoln as a governor, Oregon, the state, in turn was largely responsible in giving him the Republican nomination for president in 1860.

Oregon was admitted to the union February 14th, 1859, in the face of opposition on the part of the Republican congressmen, under the leadership of Senator Wilson, of Maine, backed by Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune.

They feared that Oregon might swell the Democratic majority in the senate. At the preceding session, Oregon's application for statehood had been refused. But in 1859, Eli Thayer, a member of congress from the Worcester district of Massachusetts determined to carry on the fight for the western territory. He won! Admission to the union of states was granted and as a result, Oregon was allowed three delegates to the Republican convention at Chicago, in May of 1860.

Greeley Represents Oregon. At that time it cost \$1000 to make the trip from Oregon to Chicago and the regularly appointed party delegates for this reason remained at home.

Meantime Horace Greeley in New York had been bested by the forces backing William Seward, in a fight for the position of party delegate. Seward was the chief candidate for the presidential nomination and Lincoln had hardly been mentioned.

The convention was soon to convene when the Oregon delegates decided to give Greeley their proxies. This gave the editor his coveted opportunity. An inveterate enemy of Seward, he went to Chicago, saw his own candidate had no show and anxious to defeat Seward, threw his influence and the Oregon votes to Lincoln and emerged victorious.

Had it not been for Greeley's activity and the chance Oregon gave him to work, it is generally admitted that William Seward would have been the party nominee. The rest is history known to all.

On March 4th, 1861, Lincoln was inaugurated president of the United States, and in little more than a month, was calling for volunteers to engage in a great civil war, which for four years raged, to the end that a nation, "half slave and half free," was made whole again.

There was a number of people in Portland and in Oregon who either knew Lincoln personally or have seen him during the stirring times of the secession. Among them are Joseph Buchtel, of Portland, one of the oldest pioneers of the state; C. A. Williams, assistant adjutant of the G. A. R. department of Oregon; and A. E. Borthwick, also of Portland.

The stories they tell concerning him go far to illustrate the wonderful character of the man, his great courage, simplicity wisdom and democracy.

Joseph Buchtel is blind now, but his mind is unshadowed and he remembers Lincoln in the "forties" when Mr. Buchtel was a youth called Joey and Lincoln a practicing lawyer of Springfield, Ill., who frequently appeared in cases at Urbana, Ill., 90 miles distant and Buchtel's home.

"Yes, I knew Lincoln and a more intensely human man I never knew," said the old pioneer at his home, East Washington and Forty-third streets. "Lincoln was practicing law at Springfield and for several years handled cases at Urbana, my old home. And he had a great reputation. Everyone said that you can't beat Lincoln and generally speaking they were right.

"The last time a friend of mine got mixed up in a breach of promise suit, I was a deputy in the sheriff's office at the time.

"There were no train connections and the defendant, Burt Carl engaged a man to ride horseback to Springfield to retain Lincoln and if he could not get away to retain a firm of lawyers known as Gridley and Bennett.

"The man rode all night, using relays of horses, and when he got there he found Lincoln had been engaged by the other side. When he returned and told Carl, Carl said: Well, we might as well quit. The jury will believe anything Abe Lincoln tells them." And they did in this case.

"In court Lincoln was invariably courteous to witnesses for the opposing side. He took pains not to offend them and would try and make them his friends. His system was to lead them around gently and then bring out inconsistencies in their testimony. He never got loud but spoke in conversational tones when arguing before a jury, and used very few gestures. He had a habit of walking up and down before the jury box while talking.

"He always stopped at the Geer house, and in the evenings a bunch of men would always be waiting for him to come out and sit on the bench in front of the hotel and tell stories. He could never invent them to suit the occasion if he happened to have none on tap that would fit.

"A good joke was something he looked for at all times, in those days. He was immensely strong, and his favorite trick was to sit down between two men, and then pretending he was going to rise, lay his hands on their legs and pinch. They usually rose much more rapidly than he did."

"Just to illustrate how strong he was: We had a blacksmith at Urbana who could throw a sledge hammer pretty far. One evening the boys thought they would get "Abe" as everyone called him, to compete with the smith. Rankin, the smith, hurled the iron a long distance and then Lincoln was asked if he could do it.

"Well, I used to be tolerably well at handling an axe when I farmed on the Sangamon," said Lincoln, pulling off his coat. Then he laid his tall stovepipe hat on the ground, spat on his hands, rubbed dirt on the sledge handle and grasped it with one hand. He gave it a swing and as it shot into the air, Rankin, seeing he was beat, shouted, "Someone go after that hammer, I don't want to see it lost." Lincoln was great at pitching horseshoes, too, but he could not run much because his feet were too long.

"At that time he did not wear chin whiskers but was clean shaven. He was very pale, the lines in his face deepened by study; his eyes were sunk back into his head, and one at first glance would feel sorry for him.

"He was not beautiful by any manner of means, but the gentleness of his manner, his democratic spirit, and his facility of making friends made him very popular and his arrival in town was always hailed with joy."

Williams Poses for Lincoln Portrait. And at this point, Mr. Buchtel told something which is almost a state secret. After Lincoln's death, the government wanted a portrait of Lincoln painted and invited a number of artists to compete. The prize picture, which now hangs at Washington, was posed for by the late Judge George H. Williams, the "grand old man of Oregon."

"Judge Williams told me this himself," said Mr. Buchtel. "The body of Lincoln is a copy of Williams, with Lincoln's head. There was a striking similarity between them as far up as the shoulders, and I found out about the picture when I remarked about this to Williams one day.

"Well, Joe," he said "I never told this but I posed for that portrait myself."

The Hop Situation. The hop market is N. G. at present and the Salem Statesman in its Sunday issue says:

The hop situation is getting worse and worse from the standpoint of those who still have unsold hops on their hands. As low as 17 cents was reported to have been paid for several lots yesterday. Among these was one lot of 113 and another of 115 bales. Three sales, amounting in the aggregate to 179 bales, were reported at 19 cents. However, these were choice lots. The prediction made some time ago that the price would go as low as 15 cents seems more plausible than ever and it is considered that it will be realized now within a few days.

Prominent Hop Dealer Dead. Mr. Leonard Krebs one of Oregon's well known hop dealers died at his home near Sidney, Oregon, Saturday of apoplexy. Mr. Krebs is well known in Polk County as he has transacted business with our hop growers for a great many years. When in Dallas he always stopped at the Gail Hotel and Mr. Serr speaks highly of the deceased as a man of integrity and a thorough business gentleman, and also one who always had a good word to say for Dallas.

They Safe Enough. Dr. Fink and son A. W. Fink, of Dallas spent several days the past week at the Peter Hansen and Victor Fink homes east of town. These gentlemen are old settlers in Polk County and well used to Oregon rains, but are now satisfied with the winter's precipitation and are ready to cry enough.—Sheridan Sun.

Our Special Features. The Observer is pleased to announce that it has made arrangements to run several special features this year. Practical talks by Government experts, Grange notes, Washington letters, The Woman's World, Short stories, Popular Mechanics and other items of interest. You will be pleased we know to read this class of interesting matter.

Are Busy in Hop Yards. J. R. Cooper started operations this week on his hop yards. Pearl Cooper and Mr. Crane have the property leased and have started about twenty five men to work cleaning up the yards, grubbing and otherwise shaping up the property. They expect to have a big crew of men employed from now on until the hop picking season is over.—Independence Monitor.

A Little Kissing. A little kissing Now and then Is why we have The married men. —Birmingham Age-Herald.

A little kissing Too, of course Is why we have The quick divorce. —Chicago Record-Herald.

A little kissing Lots of fun If you can kiss The proper one. —Cleveland Leader.

A little kissing Not enough A lot of kissing— That's the stuff! —Boston Herald.

A little kissing On the sly Is sweeter now Than by and by. —Yonkers Statesman.

A little kissing Is a whirl Of joy if it's A Texas girl. —Houston Post.

A little kissing Yes, and more If Oregon girl, 'Till lips are sore.

DEAD Breathes there a man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath said: "My trade of late is getting bad, I'll try another eight inch ad." If such there be, go mark him well; For him no bank account shall swell, No angels watch the golden stair, To welcome home the millionaire. The man who never asks for trade, By local line of ad. displayed, Cares more for rest than worldly gain, And patronage but gives him pain. Tread lightly, friends; let no rude sound Disturb his solitude profound. Here let him live in calm repose, Unsought except by men he owes, And when he dies, go plant him deep, That paught may break his dreamless sleep; Where no rude clamor may dispel The quiet that he loves so well. And when the world may know its loss, Place on his grave a wreath of moss, And on a stone above, "Here lies A chump who wouldn't advertise."

Last Saturday Night's Fire. During the absence of the family of I. H. Hamlin who resides at the corner of 11th and Academy Sts., a lamp exploded that was left burning and was discovered by the neighbors, who after some effort extinguished the flames. A wrong direction was given the fire department and it was some time before they could get the right location.

This fire proves that Dallas needs a more modern fire apparatus and it is hoped that our city dads will take steps to help the fire laddies by furnishing them with an automobile to be used to haul the hose cart. It is a hard task to pull the hose cart and some other method than the one used should be furnished and steps should be taken to do away with the old antiquated method now in use.

Pop Pop Club Were Here. The Salem Motorcycle Club made a run to Dallas Sunday and reports the roads in fine shape. The trip was made in 40 minutes, which is considered very good time for motorcycles at this season of the year. The only sloppy roads were found at the Salem end. Not an automobile was encountered on the entire trip. Those who made the trip to Dallas were: Ivan Farmer, Captain Richard Crothers, Ralph Schindler, Al Cleveland, Robert Perlich and B. S. Printy.

Sheriff Grant is in California. Sheriff Grant has gone to Stockton, California with a warrant for a former resident of Polk County, Lester E. Stone, who is charged with perjury in making a false statement to secure a marriage license. Mr. Grant was informed by wire that Mr. Stone was under arrest and held in jail in Stockton.

Court Notes. In the case of Mary A. Heth vs. Charles N. Zumwalt, verdict was given for the defendant.

Case of Elizabeth Ingram vs. Alexander Bayse and Louise Bayse, action for money plaintiff was awarded the sum of \$2,000.

Case of State of Oregon vs. Allen was dismissed on account of a defective indictment.

Case of State of Oregon vs. Hedgepath the defendant was found not guilty.

Investigating Wants of Constituents. Judge Teal accompanied by the other commissioner visited the Rickreall near the old Tillotson place Saturday to see if they could not devise some method to make a crossing at that point. Numerous requests have been received by the county court to give relief to the large number of residents in that section for some method to cross that stream. The court has taken the matter under advisement and will report later.

They Will Joke. Nothing like being popular. One of J. Bagley's numerous friends who was in Dallas last week attending court sprung a good one on him by informing the news gatherer, that he was in the city to take out his final papers so he could vote this fall, as Mr. Bagley has lived all his life in Polk County, his friends are having some sport with him by calling him an alien. Jasper's friends in the Lewesville neighborhood are laying low and hiding out as they have found out that some one is looking for the practical joker with a stuffed club.

The Moores Had a Time. At the regular meeting of the Dallas Moose Club last Thursday night after the session was over, the boys pulled off a boxing match that afforded much amusement. They first tried to secure the local prize fighters, but as one was a little disfigured and the other was hoarse from apologizing, they secured other talent to help out.

The first bout was between that well known boxer, Frank Tucker of Seattle and Harry Coulson of Dallas. After a hard three round battle the referee decided the bout a draw.

The next was a whirlwind affair. lots of wind was needed, they went at it hammer and tong fashion and after two rounds were boxed, that also was declared a draw. The participants in the second affair was Tom Tommonson and Al Blake, both of Dallas.

Independence Young Lady Engagement Announced. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cooper announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Dorothy Cooper, to Lieutenant George M. Parker, of the Twenty-first Infantry, Vancouver Barracks.

Miss Cooper is the daughter of J. S. Cooper, of Independence, a retired banker and pioneer of the early 60's. She is a college woman and has traveled extensively.

Lieutenant Parker is the son of the late Major George Parker, of Iowa, and has been stationed at Vancouver Barracks for the last two years. He has seen service in the Philippines



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

America again observes Lincoln's birthday. February 12th marks the one hundred and fifth anniversary of the birth of the great emancipator. Lincoln's birthday is now a legal holiday in twenty-two states of the Union. Each year sees added tribute paid to the memory of the martyr civil war president. This year the occasion is made especially memorable by the fact that the \$2,000,000 national memorial to Lincoln has just been started in Washington.

Monmouth Dedicate Church. Sunday was a red letter day in the history of the Christian Church of Monmouth, the occasion being the dedication of a \$4,500 church edifice. All the other churches assisted to swell the audience and take part in the interesting services. The dedicatory services were in charge of the regular pastor, Rev. Herbert F. Jones. At the 3 o'clock service, Rev. Crow of the Independence Christian Church and his choir assisted. A great deal of credit must be given to the former pastor, Rev. J. M. Oroek who has a charge now at Centralia, Washington, for the erection of this magnificent house of worship, as well as to the present pastor for putting on the finishing touches. There is seldom a dedication but what asks for funds to pay of the indebtedness but this church made a record as all funds were provided for and it is free from debt.

The following is part of the dedication program, want of space prevents from giving it in full. Invocation.....Elder Siekafoose Hymn.....Number 50 Scripture Reading.....Rev. Pollard Hymn.....Number 239 Prayer.....Rev. Gueffroy Offering.....Miss Hoham Solo.....Miss Hoham Hymn.....Number 141 Congregation standing. Minister—To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have built this house; To the honor of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord and Saviour; To the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of life and light; Congregation—We dedicate this house. Prayer of Dedication. Benediction.....Elder Wood

It Costs to Grub Land. C. E. Smart of Bridgeport was in Dallas Saturday. Mr. Smart has a contract to grub 9 acres of land for Isaac Yoskum at \$100 an acre and \$4.25 a cord for cutting the wood.

He Will Recommend Polk County. Chas Williams who lives in Iowa was in Dallas yesterday and is on the look out for a farm. He has a horror of real estate agents and is looking around on his own hook. Mr. Williams says that a number of farmers from his neighborhood will come to Oregon this summer and he will recommend Polk County as the best place to locate land prices and soil taken into consideration.

Committee Visit Fire Alarm System. The committee appointed by the city council to visit McMinnville and Corvallis to examine the fire alarm system that is installed in those cities returned home Friday and will make their report to the council at the next meeting. The following were the committee:—August Risser, W. L. Barber, C. B. Sunberg.

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MINERAL OUTPUT OF OREGON

\$3,650,000 WORTH OF MINERALS IN 1913 IS GOING SOME

State Bureau of Mines Issues its First Monthly Bulletin.

The information given below will be a surprise to many of our readers especially the new comers who no doubt are in ignorance of the vast wealth of this state.

Oregon produced \$3,650,000 worth of minerals in 1913 precisely \$10,000 a day.

This pleasing and somewhat surprising fact is brought out in the first issue of the monthly bulletin to be published by the Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology, which was created by authority of the last Legislature.

The report classifies the various products on a scale of the value of the 1913 output as follows: Metals, clay and ceramics, stone and gravel, coal, mineral waters and lime.

The year 1913, say members of the state bureau will stand for some time as a milestone in the history of the metal mining industry of the state. This is for the reason that the year marked a decided change over a succession of years in which the state's yield of precious metals decreased. Last year it increased, the total output representing a value of \$1,925,000, which is practically three times that of 1911.

Development Bears Fruit. The reasons for this change, it is pointed out, are found entirely in the Eastern Oregon mining region. About half a dozen deep mines have been in process of development there during the last three or four years, several of which came into production within the last year.

The Southern Oregon section has in certain localities some increases which in others are balanced by a similar decrease.

The total production of gold, silver, lead and copper in Oregon in 1913 was \$1,925,000. Of this amount \$225,000 in gold and silver came from the Southern Oregon mining district. In Eastern Oregon the total output in 1913 was \$1,700,000.

One of the most encouraging features of the Eastern Oregon situation is said to be the fact that the development of these steady producers has demonstrated that adventurous or random mining is being supplanted by mining as a business. Among the successful mines are enumerated the Rainbow, the Ben Harrison, the Cornucopia, the Humboldt and the Highland.

"There are other properties in Eastern Oregon," says the bulletin, which, with the aid of trained engineers, could also become steady producers."

Production of clay products for 1913 show a decrease of 10 per cent. The value was about \$700,000. This includes common and face brick, sewer pipe, hollow building blocks and partition tile besides stoneware, earthenware and pottery.

Coal Production Normal. Building, monumental and paving stone, crushed rock for macadam and concrete work and sand and gravel have been produced in about equal volume in 1911, 1912 and 1913. The increase in sand and gravel output in 1913 was about 1,300,000 or 25 per cent. greater than 1912.

The crushed rock and stone industry shows a slight decrease from 1912.

Only 40,000 tons of coal were produced in Oregon last year, most of it in Coos County. This is the normal production.

The bureau points with emphasis to the need of a further survey of the state's mineral resources.

The bulletin has been prepared under the direction of the entire commission on mines and geology, which consists of H. N. Lawrie of Portland, who is chairman; W. C. Fellows, of Whitney; J. F. Reddy, of Medford; C. T. Prall, of Ontario; T. S. Mann of Portland; P. L. Campbell of Eugene, president of the State University, and W. J. Kerr, of Corvallis, president of the Oregon Agricultural College.