

ESSAYS ON LINCOLN ARE WELL WRITTEN

Typical School Paper Shows Acquaintance with Civil War President's Life.

Unusual interest has been taken in the Abraham Lincoln essay contest which closed at the high school Monday and which was sponsored by the school in conjunction with the present showing of the film, "Abraham Lincoln," at the Colonial theatre in Eugene this week. The contest was divided into four sections representing the four grades, with prizes of free theatre tickets being offered the winner of each group.

The winners of the contest by classes are as follows: Freshmen, Dorothea Frese, Betty Mersdorf, and Lela Squires; sophomore, Florence Vail; Juniors, Hazel Shelly and Eldon Elliott; seniors, Dale Daniels, Faye Parsons and Enid Travers.

Teachers at the high school read the papers and decided upon the winners. Some very good essays were handed in by the students as a result of the contest. A typical essay, although not necessarily the best one entered is one by Florence Vail, sophomore. It is published herewith. The subheads are our own.

LINCOLN, THE STORY-TELLER

Lincoln, the story-teller! What a wealth of stories this phrase brings to our minds as we think of the many stories we have heard of "our" great President. Not only his stories but also stories of his deeds and problems.

He was humorous and he knew just what to say and when to say it. It seems that he had an answer to any remark on the tip of his tongue. If there was need it could be cutting, abusive, invective or it might hold humor or sympathy. It truly seemed that he was capable of expressing any emotion on an instant's notice.

Others Tell Stories

Lincoln's stories were seldom of his own making. Indeed, he once said, "I am only a retail dealer," when referring to his stories.

He loved stories. From his earliest years he listened to every good story or joke he could and he was very adept at remembering them. He once described the manner in which his memory worked thus: "I am slow to learn and slow to forget that which I have learned. My mind is like a piece of steel—very hard to scratch anything on it, and almost impossible after you get it there, to rub it out."

He did not usually tell a story for the sake of an anecdote but rather to clinch a fact to conceal his purposes or sometimes to let an ardent office-seeker down gently. Most of his stories were told as parables and had a point or moral to them.

A Typical Story

Lincoln once told this story which was prompted by an editorial opposing his renomination.

"A traveler on the frontier found himself out of his reckoning one night in a most impossible region. A terrific thunderstorm came up to add to his trouble. He floundered along until his horse at length gave out. The lightning afforded him the only clue to his way, but the peals of thunder were frightful. One bolt, which seemed to crash the earth beneath him, brought to his knees. By no means a praying man, his petition was short and to the point "O, Lord, if it is all the same to you, give us a little more light and a little less noise!"

Stories Have Purpose

Lincoln had and still has this reputation of being a story-teller but he said he did not deserve the name, "for it is not the story itself that interests me but its purpose or effect." He often avoided a long and

useless discussion by others, or a laborious explanation on his part, by a short story which illustrated his point of view or took the sharpness off a refusal or the edge off a rebuke by telling an appropriate story which saved wounded feelings and yet served the purpose.

He said, "No, I am not simply a story-teller, but story-telling as an emolument saves me much friction and distress."

Too much story-telling?

So some people thought.

People Criticized Stories

He was criticized severely for his incessant story telling and he was said to have caused some very grave blunders with his stories. The feelings of these critics are expressed somewhat in this incident which took place shortly after the beginning of the Civil War.

Lincoln was requested by a Mr. Wade to dismiss General Grant. In reply to one of his remarks Lincoln said, "Senator, that reminds me of a story."

"Yes, yes," Wade shouted angrily. "It is with you, sir, all story, story! You are the father of every military blunder that has been made during the war. You are on your road to hell, sir, with this government, by your obstinacy; and you are not a mile off this minute."

Lincoln's answer was cool. "Senator, that is just about the distance from here to the Capitol, is it not?"

Wade as Lincoln put it "grabbed up his hat and cane and went away."

Yes, he was criticized by some but these few hardly counted against the multitudes who believed Lincoln was a wonderful man, above criticism, that his stories helped to make his mind so great and that through them he was able to reach the level of the "common people" and yet be at ease with the aristocrats of the country.

Lincoln, the story-teller!

The retailer of the stories which helped to enshrine him in the hearts of the millions of people, who lived then, live now and shall live as "The Man of the Common People."

Forty-seven per cent of the estimated expense of the city of Baker for 1931 will be met by sources outside of taxation. The total estimated expense is \$186,532.

The city of Bandon is looking for a new dump site. The present site is so located that drainage from it flows across land used by R. R. Davis for a cranberry bog.

The total tax on motor vehicle fuel oils during the period January 1-December 31, 1930, was \$1,898,409.27, according to a report prepared at Salem by Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state. Sales included 6,803,374 gallons of gasoline and 307,243 gallons of distillate.

All but two small pieces of right of way for the last section of the Willamette highway between Black canyon and Oakridge have been secured and everything is about in readiness for the letting of the grading contract by the federal bureau of public roads.

Property owners of Roseburg will pay taxes this year slightly higher than last year. The tax rate will be 48.5 mills as compared with 44.6 mills last year. The increase is due to a 2-mill tax for the north Umpqua highway and additional levies voted by the people.

Completion of a tunnel into the Ghost chambers of the Oregon caves has been announced by government contractors. Re-gravelling of the highway leading from the Redwood highway to the mouth of the caves is under way and will be finished before the spring influx of tourists.

Eugene will entertain the Oregon older girls' conference March 6, 7 and 8. About 500 delegates and 50 adult leaders and advisers are expected to attend. The conference is held under the auspices of the Oregon Council of Christian Education.

At The Colonial



Scene from D.W. Griffith's "Abraham Lincoln"

NO PICTURE EVER MADE HAS POWER OF "LINCOLN"

"Abraham Lincoln" which opened yesterday at the Colonial for 4 days, is pictorial drama at its greatest. Though the picture possesses all of the ingredients of an historical spectacle—big sets, battle scenes and mobs—its greatness is founded on the simplicity of its direction and the sympathetic treatment of its romantic and tragic scenes.

The whole of Lincoln's life is paraded on the screen, from the time of his birth to his assassination at Ford's Theatre in Washington just as he had realized a successful conclusion to the Civil War.

Lincoln's heroic figure is seen in all its multiplicity of strange methods. The artistry with which this feat in characterization is accomplished is largely due to the superb acting of Walter Huston.

The cast, which numbers over one hundred principal speaking players, was chosen wisely. Una Merkel, a newcomer to the screen, plays the role of "Ann Rutledge," Lincoln's boyhood sweetheart. Her love scenes with Huston are remarkable for their quiet beauty, and the scene at her death bed is tragedy, sublimely directed and acted.

Kay Hammond plays the irascible "Mary Todd Lincoln" perfectly since her voice and mannerisms are ideally suited to the nagging, caustic Mary Todd of history.

Ian Keith does splendidly as the sinister "John Wilkes Booth," whose cruel stab ended Lincoln's life. Others in brilliant portrayals are Jason Roberts, as "Herndon"; Hobart Bosworth, as "Robert E. Lee"; Frank Campeau, as "Sheridan," and Lucille La Verne, as the matron officiating at the birth of Lincoln.

FREE AIRPLANE RIDES OFFERED LOCAL PEOPLE WITH PURCHASES HERE

Merchants of Springfield are co-operating with the Springfield School of Flying in offering free airplane rides to their customers who save the tickets which are given with purchases. The customer has the option of saving enough tickets to gain a free ride, or else saving designated numbers, which are printed on the tickets, and paying a small sum in cash for the airplane ride.

Yellow window cards are displayed by those merchants who are cooperating in this sale with the flying school.

WILL TRADE—Standard 6-tube electrified radio set for wood. Call Eugene 1259J.

SCREEN PLAY "BROTHERS" AT REX ON SUNDAY

Another of last year's successful stage plays has been brought to the screen. It is "Brothers," the Columbia dramatic vehicle with Bert Lytell in his original dual impersonation role, "Brothers" at the Fox Rex Theatre, Sunday and Monday.

The stage play was considered one of last season's brilliant successes. It ran for eighteen months on Broadway and the road. The film is even more thrilling than the play. Bert Lytell fascinated the audience with his clever dual portrayal.

The story is concerned with the lives of twin brothers, separated in infancy and the effect of contrasting environments on their personalities. One is brought up in an atmosphere of wealth, the other in poverty. In unfolding, it reveals the dissolute life of the rich boy ending in murder and the wholesome life of the poor boy. Because of the physical resemblance, Eddie Connolly, the poor boy, is accused of the crime of his twin.

"WORLDLY GOODS" IS SHOWN AT FOX REX

"Worldly Goods" is one of the best yarns that Screenland has projected in some time. It was adapted from Andrew Soutar's novel and is just chock full of gripping episodes that make for a super film. The blind-man feature in the picture has been treated with superb dexterity.

James Kirkwood was splendid as John Tullock, the profiteer. He cleverly wove a cumulative interest into the misunderstood nabob's acts, and rose to the heights in the thrilling finale. Merna Kennedy was sweetly alluring in the part of Mary Thurston. Ferdinand Schumann-Heink's delineation of the blind soldier's star-crossed life was smoothly persuasive, especially in the closing scenes; and Shannon Day's Cassie was cleverly hit off, her work being particularly noteworthy in the attempt to win Tullock's affection.

COMEDIES FEATURED AT THEATRE NEXT WEEK

Tonight is the last time to see that funny comedy "From Soup to Nuts" by Rube Goldberg, at the Bell theatre. Friday and Saturday will bring Wally Wales, Virginia Brown Faire, and Buzz Barton in "Breed of the Law." Sunday will bring John Mac Brown and Wallace Beery in "Billy The Kid." "Those Three French Girls" will play at the theatre Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

GRETA GARBO NOW AT McDONALD; "INSPIRATION"

What an "Inspiration" Greta Garbo is!

In her new talkie of that name now at the Fox McDonald Theatre, Garbo had no need to exert herself to be accepted convincingly as the inspiration of the foremost artists, writers, sculptors, poets and composers of Paris. She is all of that, more glamorous than we have ever beheld her before, more alluring, more elusive—all that an inspiration should be—even in Paris.

The story has a racy, modern background and is based upon a theme of tragic sacrifice with Robert Montgomery as the provincial lover for whom Yvonne, the heroine, turns her romantic world topsy-turvy.

Made-to-Order Role

This is a role written for Garbo. We know of no other actress whom it would fit as well.

Montgomery, in his initial appearance with the exotic star, registers splendidly and is certain to find himself more popular than ever by reason of his performance. What a cast was assembled by Clarence Brown for this new Garbo talkie! Not a single character has been slighted. The supporting players come to the front so strongly that we wonder how credits could have been arranged in anything but an alphabetical order.

Lewis Stone, without whom no Garbo picture seems complete, adds another superb characterization to his glowing record and Marjorie Rameau of the stage renders an outstanding depiction of a somewhat passe demimondaine with a passion for cocktails and composers. Others perfectly cast include Judith Vossell, Beryl Mercer, John Miljan, Edwin Maxwell, Oscar Apfel, Joan Marsh, Zella Sears, Karen Morley, Gwen Lee, Paul McAllister, Arthur Hoyt and Richard Tucker.

Both the direction and the pictorial beauty of the film are noteworthy and Miss Garbo's gown is especially commended as a treat for eyes of either sex.

THURSTON HIGH WINS AND LOSES BASKETBALL GAMES

Thurston high school girls won their basketball game with the Moore Cycle club team 25-23, at the St. Mary's hall in Eugene last night, and the boys' bicycle team defeated the Thurston boys team immediately afterwards by the score of 19-11. This was the first game of the season for the girl bicycle riders and they played a good game. They were never more than three points behind their experienced opponents. The boys played a ragged game.

The Wendling Ravens will meet the Bicycle club team on the Eugene floor next Wednesday at 8:00. The Shaw all-stars, a Y. M. C. A. team will play the Bicycle club's second team in a preliminary game at 7:00.

Marriage Licenses
During the past week marriage licenses have been issued to the following: Stephen Rodgers, Greenville, and Eva May Linton, Junction City; O. N. Bodker, and Mabel Koek, both of Junction City; Howard Swearingen, Drain, and Marie Toner, Yoncalla; George Peret and Leona Bard, both of Portland; Ray Haynes, Portland, and Mianle Kythson, Fall Creek; Glen Syphers, Blachly, and Daisy Hickman, Veneta.

FOX REX
CONTINENTAL PICTURES PRESENTS
FRIDAY SATURDAY

WORLDLY GOODS
with JAMES KIRKWOOD
MIRNA KENNEDY SHANNON DAY
TALKING PICTURE
ALL TALKING FEATURES

BROTHERS
with Bert LYTELL
Bertha SEBASTIAN
of COLUMBIA
COMING SUNDAY MONDAY

Coming Tuesday for 3 Days

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
with John BOLES
LAURA LA PLANTE
A STIRLING MEDICAL DRAMA OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
Inspired by LA MARSEILLAISE
ALL TALKING A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

TO-DAY FOR 3 DAYS

THE WONDER PICTURE OF THE CENTURY!

A titanic spectacle mirroring the adventurous career of a great master of men. No picture made in the last ten years can compare with this vital romance of humanity's great champion who lived with mercy toward all and malice toward none.



UNITED ARTISTS' FIRST RUN SUPER-ATTRACTION

THE WONDER PICTURE OF THE CENTURY!

D.W. GRIFFITH'S "ABRAHAM LINCOLN"
with WALTER HUSTON and UNA MERKEL

United Artists First Run SUPER-PRODUCTION

Matinees, 2 and 4 35c
Nights, 7 and 9 50c
Kiddies 10c
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One Large Package of White King Granulated Soap	Both For	34c
1 Bar of Mission Bell Soap		
Total Value 55c		
Carnation Milk 4 Large Cans	25c	
BLACK PEPPER 4 oz. Can	15c	
Bread Brown or white 2 large Loaves	15c	
Mustard Best, Pint Jar	10c	
Grape Fruit No. 2 size 2 Cans	25c	
SWIFTS BONED AND TIED PICNICS	Excellent to bake or fry. 1/2's or Whole Per pound	24c
Laundry Soap White, 10 Bars	25c	

FOX WEST COAST THEATRES
McDONALD
Direction FOX WEST COAST THEATRES.

NOW PLAYING!

GRETA Garbo
in
"INSPIRATION"
Clarence BROWN'S PRODUCTION

COMING SUNDAY!

GEORGE BANCROFT
in
"SCANDAL SHEET"
with CLIVE BROOK and KAY FRANCIS