

Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech Second Fiddle To Main Address

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent
Washington—UPI—Four score and 15 years ago, on Nov. 19, 1863, two speeches were delivered at the dedication of a military cemetery near Gettysburg, Pa.

One was two hours long, the other two minutes. Contemporaries hailed the two-hour speech as a great oration. They virtually ignored the two-minute speech. History has done just the opposite.

The two-minute speech, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln, has been memorized by generations of school children. It is surpassed only by the Lord's Prayer and 23rd Psalm in frequency of recitation.

The two-hour speech, delivered by Edward Everett, has survived in national memory as the object of ridicule. It is mentioned in the history books, but only to contrast Everett's wordiness with Lincoln's brevity.

Unjustly Malignd
What did Everett actually say at Gettysburg? Did he just ramble along, spouting pious platitudes, as the legend suggests?

Not at all. Anyone who reads Everett's address—and copies of it can still be found in big libraries—is struck by the fact that this is one of the most unjustly maligned documents of history.

Edward Everett was one of the finest scholars and public speakers America has ever produced. He had a richly varied career of public service—as a Boston minister, as a professor of Greek, as president of Harvard university, as governor of Massachusetts, as United States senator, ambassador to Britain, and secretary of state.

When he was asked to deliver the principal address at the dedication of the battlefield cemetery where the tide of civil war had been turned one year before, Everett applied himself to the task with characteristic thoroughness.

He spent two months preparing his speech. He interviewed survivors of the battle, studied the official reports of Union army commanders, spent hours tramping over the battlefield to fix key locations in his mind.

Most of his speech was devoted to a detailed analysis of the battle and its significance to the Union cause. Historians say it is a remarkably accurate and valuable account of the great three-day battle.

By the somewhat bleak standards of modern oratory, Everett's rolling phrases may sound a bit plush. But they did not seem overdrawn or affected to his 15,000 listeners at Gettysburg. He was simply talking the way orators were supposed to talk when he began:

"Standing beneath this serene sky, overlooking these broad fields now reposing

from the labors of the waning year, the mighty Alleghanies dimly towering before us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with hesitation that I raise my poor voice to break the eloquent silence of God and nature . . ."

Even his language was not unlike Lincoln's, particularly when he concluded with a pledge to the Gettysburg dead that "no lapse of time, no distance of space shall cause you to be forgotten."

The pooh-poohing of Everett's excellent speech is only one of the ways in which legend has eclipsed historical fact about the ceremony that took place 95 years ago. Much phony folklore has also grown up about Lincoln's own address.

Much of it can be traced to a little book called "The Perfect Tribute" written 50 years ago by Mary R. S. Andrews. Many people, including the authors of other books, have accepted its sentimentalized account of Lincoln's address as authentic history. But it is fiction, of the same genre as Parson Weems' fable about George Washington and the cherry tree.

Written at White House it was Mrs. Andrews who popularized the notion that

Lincoln scribbled his famed address on a scrap of wrapping paper while traveling by train to Gettysburg. The fact is that he wrote the first draft before he left the White House, on stationery bearing the Executive Mansion letterhead. The original is in the Library of Congress.

The same book records that the audience was so awed by Lincoln's speech that it did not applaud its silence being the "perfect tribute." But the best evidence from eyewitness

accounts is that Lincoln received perfunctory applause. It is true that most newspapers of the day played up Everett's address and hardly mentioned Lincoln's. But there was a reason for that, which any modern newspaperman can readily understand. Everett's text was made available well in advance, and set up in type.

The telegraph facilities out of Gettysburg were so limited that most reporters were unable to file more than brief

accounts of Lincoln's role in the ceremony until the following day.

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SETTING WORLD RECORD for nine French paintings, hotelman Arnold Kirkesby's collection is auctioned in New York for \$1,548,500. Highest price was paid for this early Picasso "Mother and Child," which went for \$152,000.

ILLINOIS VALLEY Society Holds Meeting

By RUTH RAUSCH

Cave Junction—The newly organized Cave Junction Latter Day Saints Relief society held their initial social evening this week in the home of Mrs. Otto Tryon of Selma.

The course of study for the year was introduced by the theology, homemaking, literature and social science teachers. The remainder of the evening was devoted to games and entertainment.

The regular meetings of the Relief Society will be held every Monday evening at the Evergreen school.

The social club of the Western Star Chapter, Order Eastern Star will meet at the Masonic hall in Kerby, Dec. 2.

Harry Swift of Los Angeles is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams this week.

Elmer Flemming, school superintendent, and Vernon Larson, high school principal were guests at the Evergreen grade school for lunch Tuesday when Thanksgiving turkey dinner was served.

Wayne and Terry Smith with their family are in California for the holidays visiting relatives.

Second graders have been receiving post cards from Mrs. Harold Crowl and her sister, Mrs. Don Elliott, of Medford, where they will visit their brother, Bill Sheets.

O. L. Reagle, brother of Mrs. Les Henry, has started moving from San Jose, Calif., to his newly purchased property in the valley.

On Thursday, Reagle with the Les Henrys will spend the holiday with Mr. and Mrs. William Burk in Crescent City, Calif.

Dr. Bowman Returns From Conference

Ashland—Dr. Eugene Bowman, professor of math and education at Southern Oregon college, has returned following the biennial conference of Phi Delta Kappa Nov. 21 and 22 in Spokane, Wash.

Five campus chapters and eight field chapters, including Beta Iota which Dr. Bowman represented, were represented at the district convale.



TOO LATE NOW—Mrs. Edyth Klumpp, 40, in the jail at Cincinnati, breaks down and cries at receiving a bar of her favorite candy, sent to her by her nine-year-old son. Mrs. Klumpp has confessed killing the estranged wife of her lover, whom she was afraid she was going to lose. Mrs. Klumpp's son believes that his mother is ill, does not know that she is in jail.

Klamath Man Shot by Police

Klamath Falls—UPI—A 21-year-old man was shot in the abdomen by a city patrolman here Thursday morning when he tried to make a get-away from a stolen car on a dead-end street, police said.

The victim was identified as Paul R. Hawk. He was reported in fair condition in a hospital here after emergency surgery.

Police said the auto was spotted by an off-duty state officer who reported it to the city police and then kept a watch on the car.

Patrolman John Kennard, sent to apprehend the driver of the car, said he saw it speeding down Summer Lane. He said Hawk jumped from the car at a dead-end street and started running around buildings in an effort to get away.

Kennard said he warned Hawk three times to stop and then fired his gun. Hawk fell to the ground with a bullet in his abdomen.

Statue of Actress Sold To Museum

Havana—UPI—Sepi Dobronyi, a Havana sculptor and art dealer, said today he has sold a controversial gold nude statuette of Anita Ekberg to a "private museum in Norway" for an undisclosed price.

The statuette, which Dobronyi says was executed shortly after he first met the Swedish actress in 1954, caused bad feeling between the sculptor and her husband, British actor Anthony Steele. Steele took a punch at Dobronyi at a recent Florida cocktail party.

The first sheep to reach the British colonies in North America arrived in Virginia in 1609.

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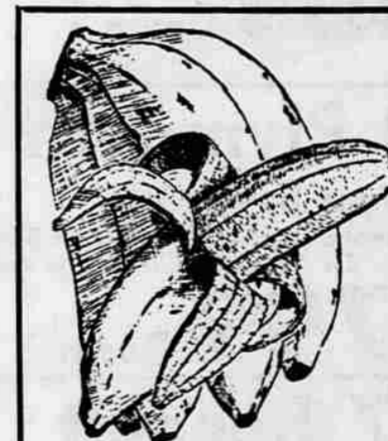
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