Boyle's Column

Lincoln Still Top Man In The Mind Of Manhattan

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (AP)—An Illinois boy who never rode the subway is still making good in Manhattan.

Fellow name of Abraham Lincoln, born 138 years ago today.

I went behind the usual oratorical hurrah that greets his birthday to find out what the men and women in the streets, offices and bars really think of him.

Of thirteen I talked to only one said she didn't like him, and she changed her mind. Most thought he would be a handy man to have around right now. Here are their reactions:

A private secretary:

"I like him above all because he was a humanitarian. He had principles—not like the politicians of today. He was our greatest president after Washington and Jefferson."

An office boy:

"The main thing to remember about him is his belief in democracy—and that America should should stay unified. I think the lesson of his life for us is that you can rise by hard work, self-education and perseverance. He had the best command of English of any president. I rate him and FDR as the tops."

Second to Roosevelt

A Canadian telegrapher:

"Canadians believe Lincoln was one of the greatest men who ever lived. In our second grade readers we studied his Gettysburg address. I put him second only to Franklin D. Roosevelt."

An editor:

"To me he was just another politician—but our greatest president. He personified the virtues of honesty, simplicity and straightforwardness."

A middle-aged Irish bartender:

"My boy was born on Lincoln's birthday, and I just bought him a book on the story of his life. I don't know much about him, but I like that speech he made at Gettysburg. Greatest thing he ever said. He talked only a few minutes and thought he flooped. The other fellow talked an hour—Stephen Douglas, it was, I think."

"Yeah," said another bartender, "that was Stephen Douglas."

(Actually it was Edward Everett, a famous orator who spoke two hours and admitted the next day in a note to Lincoln that the president had done a better job "in two minutes.")

"Grandest Guy"

Three merry showgirls well into their cups at the bar began arguing among themselves.

"He's just the grandest guy America has ever known," said the first. "His code's still being lived by many great Americans. We're all great in America. Can anybody else do better? I'd pick "Teddy" Roosevelt first, Coolidge second—yes, I did too say Coolidge—and Lincoln third."

"I like Lincoln," said the second, "I'll just let it go at that. I like him."

"I don't like what he did to the south," quarreled a third. A moment later she said, "ask me again. I think I probably really like him. Only why didn't he free the theatre first?"

An elderly elevator operator:

"Lincoln means nothing to me—nothing. I have to work just the same. I think Washington was a better president. I'd put FDR near the bottom."

A young actor:

"I like Lincoln because a lot of actors have found work in portraying him. But none have succeeded. You know why? Lincoln was a great individual. To act like him you'd have to feel like him. There aren't many people like that."

An Australian film worker:

"Lincoln, Washington and Franklin D. Roosevelt are the only Americans who have real significance to the Australian people. They appeal because they all believed people had rights and believed in the fundamental honesty of people. Australians believe that too."

Two hatcheck girls in a famous nightclub declined comment until they could check to see whether the management had any opinions on Lincoln, whom they couldn't place at first. One finally announced:

"We're too busy at present to talk about Lincoln. Excuse me. I yam sor-r-r-r-e-e-e-e-e ccc."

But up the street a few Neon signs away a young nightclub doorman of foreign parentage wasn't too busy to tell what Lincoln meant to him:

"He made the greatest contribution to humanity in history—giving a beaten-down people an even break. He had no airs about him. He was true and sincere. What he said came from the heart—and that's the best you can say for any man."

Street Worker Held For Kidnap

ALBANY, Feb. 12 (AP)—Lynn Albert Llewellyn, 24, a street department worker here, was held today under $1000 bond for grand jury action after waiving a preliminary hearing on a charge of child abduction.

Police said Llewellyn was charged with luring a four-year-old girl 20 blocks from her home on a promise of taking her to a skating rink. Passersby told police he spanked the girl to quiet her, then abandoned the child.

City Delivery Service. Ph. 8417.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF BOND SALE

Sealed proposals will be received by the Common Council of the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon, for the purchase of street improvement bonds, Series 77 and 78, aggregating Fourteen Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy-one Dollars ($14,471.00), duly authorized by ordinances of the said City of Klamath Falls, for the construction and improvement of the following improvement units situated in Klamath Falls, Oregon, as follows:

Improvement unit No. 80, extending along Martin Street from South Line of Main Street to the North Line of Home Avenue; and, Improvement Unit No. 81, extending along Michigan Avenue from the North Line of Main Street to the South-Easterly line of Esplanade Street and Menlo Way from the Northeasterly line of Michigan Avenue to the Southwesterly line of the U. S. R. S. Canal right-of-way.

Proposals to purchase said bonds will be received by the undersigned up to and including the 10th day of March, 1947, at the hour of seven-thirty o'clock p. m., of said day and opened at a regular meeting of the Common Council immediately thereafter; said bonds shall be dated the 15th day of March, 1947, and shall be in amounts of $500.00 each, except bond No. 1, of each series, which shall be for the fractional part of said sum, and all shall be due ten years after the date of issue, payment of the entire bonds optional with said City at any coupon paying date on and after one year from the date thereof. Said bonds will bear interest at the rate of not to exceed six per cent per annum, payable semi-annually on September 15 and March 15, of each year, principal and interest payable at the office of the treasurer of the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

All proposals must be unconditional and accompanied by a certified check for five per cent of the proposal.

The Common Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Authorized by ordinances of the Common Council dated January 27, 1947.

HAROLD T. FRANEY,
Police Judge of the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

J 30; F 1; M. 5 incl.—No. 5099.

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TWO DUPLEXES
Located at 10th and Lincoln. These duplexes have three bedrooms each, living room and kitchen. Oil furnace, tile construction. Hardwood floors on first floor. Terms if desired. To be sold as a unit. $15,000.

CLOSE IN
Nice five-room modern home, six blocks from Main St. on the North Side. $6000, unfurnished; or $7000 completely furnished.

23 ACRES
All irrigated, six miles from town. Four-room house, barn, chicken house, seven acres in alfalfa, eight acres in pasture, balance grain land. $7000.

800-ACRE STOCK RANCH
On West Side of Klamath Lake, 150 acres of meadow land, completely equipped. Plenty of outside range. $17,000.

HOT SPRINGS
Beautiful three-bedroom modern home on corner lot. Garage, basement, oil furnace, fireplace.

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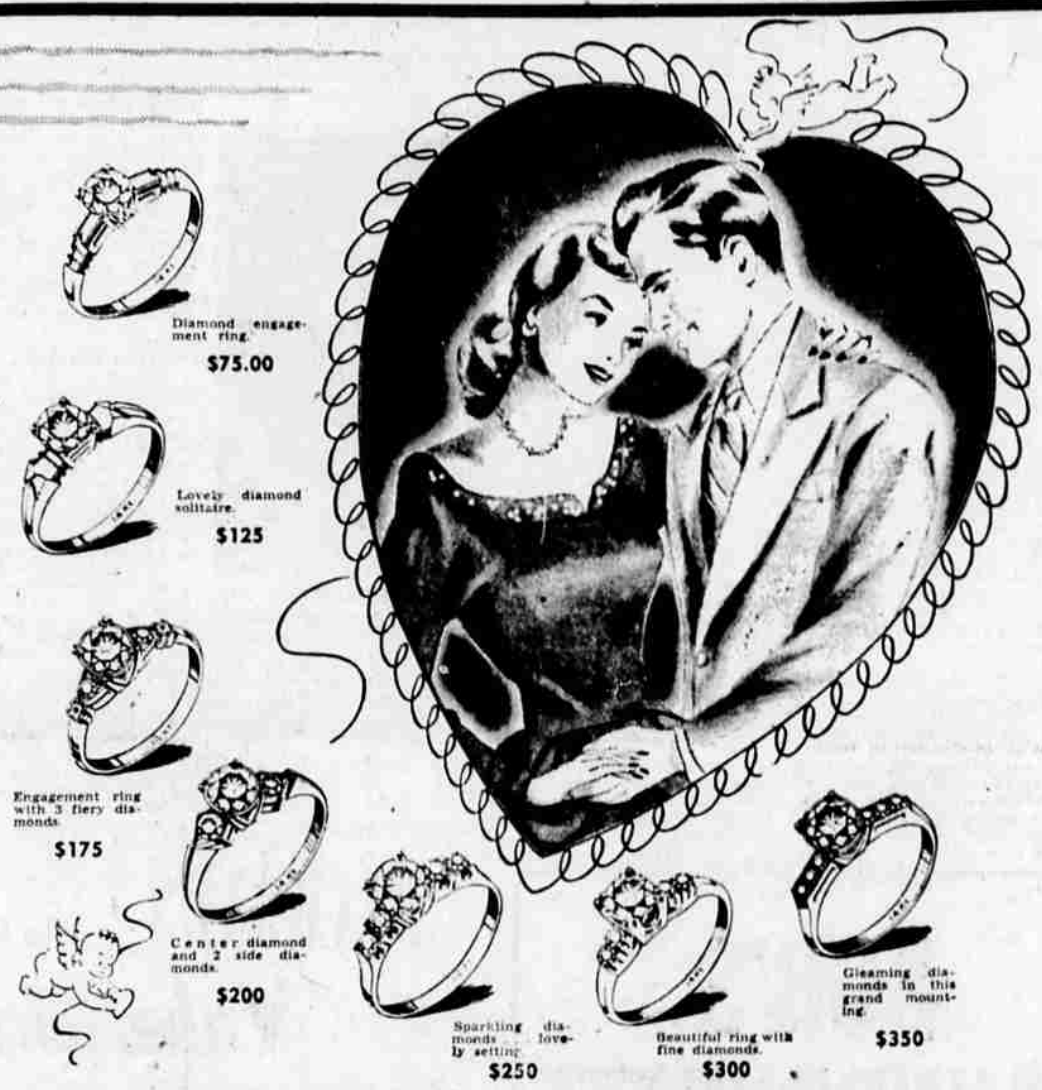

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