



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1600

Fort Wayne, Indiana

June, 1971

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LINCOLN CARTOON - FEBRUARY 1971

Each year during the month of February the staff of the Lincoln National Life Foundation conducts a contest to determine the most significant Lincoln cartoon to appear during the week of Lincoln's birthday. This is the twenty-seventh year that such a contest has been held.

In screening the entries only original Lincoln cartoons being published for the first time are acceptable. They are first studied by the staff, and a few are usually eliminated because they do not fit our yardstick (format and subject matter) as to what constitutes a legitimate cartoon. This year seventeen entries were submitted to the eight members of the Bibliography Committee for final judging. Each judge cast three votes as follows: 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place and 1 point for third place. Of the seventeen cartoons submitted to the committee ten received votes.

First place went to Lloyd Ostendorf's cartoon, entitled "... Testing whether this nation ... can long endure ..." which was submitted by the *Journal Herald*, Dayton, Ohio.



CARTOON DRAWN BY THE JH BY LLOYD OSTENDORF

... Testing whether this nation ... can long endure ...

by Lloyd Ostendorf
First Place

(Reprinted with permission of the Dayton, Ohio
Journal Herald)

This cartoon received a total of eleven points (three first place votes and two third place).

Second place was won by the cartoon titled "Wisdom For Today" by Ed Kudlaty of *Newspaper Enterprise Association*, which was entered by *The Bridgeport Telegram*, Bridgeport, Connecticut. This cartoon received a total of eight points (two first place votes and one second place).

Third place, with seven points, was the cartoon drawn by James J. Dobbins, which was submitted by the *Boston Herald Traveler*, Boston, Massachusetts. This entry received one first and two second place votes.

In addition to the above, the following cartoons were entered in the contest:

1. 'Carry On!'

Nixon at desk reading "Southeast Asia Operations"—Lincoln in background with 1858 quotation; "Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men ..."

L. D. Warren — *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

2. (Untitled)

Lincoln figure stands before French's statue of Lincoln, observed by man and boy.

Joseph Farris—*Chicago Tribune*.

3. Let All Due Be Given Reverence, But A Greater Immortality Is His Timeless Inspiration

Lincoln stands with his hands on desk with quotation "Let us have faith that right makes might; ..."

Newton Pratt—*The Sacramento Bee* (McClatchy Newspapers), Sacramento, California.

4. "The Great Task Remaining Before Us ..."

Lincoln observes from a distance a battlefield.

Bruce Shanks—*The Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, Arizona.

5. Gone With The Wind

Lincoln and Washington look agast at birthday cake with lighted candles being blown out by figure representing "New Holiday System."

Borgstedt — *The Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



"Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it".

Abraham Lincoln, 1860.

Wisdom For Today
by Ed Kudlaty
Second Place

(Reprinted with permission of *Newspaper Enterprise Association*—Cleveland, Ohio)

6. Lest We Forget, This Is America!

Figure of Lincoln, log cabin and White House.

Charles G. Werner—*The Indianapolis Star*, Indianapolis, Indiana.

7. Growth Of An American

Small boy stands in doorway of cabin with figure of Lincoln in background labeled "Protector Of Dignity & Freedom Of The Individual."

Wm. Sandeson — *The News-Sentinel*, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

8. And To Think How Hard Some People Are Working To Close School Today!

Lincoln cabin exterior and interior depicting Lincoln studying before fireplace.

James J. Dobbins — *Boston Herald Traveler*, Boston, Mass.

9. (Untitled)

Lincoln looking out window at the United States Capitol and the Washington Monument. Quotation "Let us have faith that right makes might, ..."

Bob Stevens—*The San Diego Union*, San Diego, California.

10. A Trail For All Times

Lincoln blazes trail through forest for boy labeled "Youth Today." Trees are marked "Quest For Knowledge," "Striving In Spite Of Adversity," "Honesty" and "Self Reliance." Eugene Craig — *The Columbus Dispatch*, Columbus, Ohio.

11. (Untitled)

Partially sculptured head of Lincoln with quotation of Henri-Frederic Amiel.

John P. Lanigan — *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

12. Enshrined In Memory

French statue of Lincoln in Washington, D. C. Memorial.

Ed Kudlaty—*Newspaper Enterprise Association*, New York - Cleveland.

13. Will The Real Mr. Lincoln Please Stand?

Two beardless Lincolns sit at desk before television cameras holding signs. One bears inscription "The First Monday In February Celebration Of Lincoln's Birthday." The second sign bears the inscription "Feb. 12 Celebration Of Lincoln's Birthday." A baffled citizen looks at the scene.

Holland—*Chicago Tribune*.

14. What About Common Sense Power?

Shadow of Lincoln on brick wall marked "Black Power," "White Power" and "Power To The People." Edward Kudlaty—*Newspaper Enterprise Association*, New York - Cleveland.

15. February's Presidents

Washington and Lincoln.

Edward Kudlaty—*Newspaper Enterprise Association*, New York - Cleveland.

MOST TIMELY LINCOLN EDITORIALS — February 1971

This year the Foundation staff was able to collect twelve Lincoln editorials for submission to our Bibliography Committee. The method of scoring was the same point system used in judging the cartoons.

The committee selected as the first place winner the editorial titled "There Was Lincoln" by Don Oakley of *Newspaper Enterprise Association*, New York - Cleveland. This editorial received three first place votes, two second place votes and one third place vote for a total of fourteen points.

The second choice was an editorial titled "A Man Who Grew" by David F. Brinegar which appeared in the *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, Arizona. This editorial received two first place votes, two second place votes and one third place vote for a total of eleven points.

The third selection was a tie between two editorials, one titled "Strength in Principles" by Joseph A. Owens which appeared in the *Bridgeport Post*, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the other titled "Washington And Lincoln" by Frank Roberts which ap-

peared in the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Each editorial received three points each.

The permission of the copyright owners has been secured for the republication of the two winning editorials.

There Was Lincoln

We are now separated from the end of Abraham Lincoln's administration by a full generation more than he was separated from the beginning of Washington's.

From 1789 to 1865 was 76 years; from 1865 to the present, 106. The difference, 30 years, is the span usually considered to be the average difference between one generation and the next.

The years and decades go by. America approaches the 200th anniversary of its independence. Lincoln recedes ever further into history, yet somehow looms ever larger in history, casting a shadow from the horizon of the past as far as we can see toward the horizon of the future.

There are some who, despairing of the present and fearful of the future, predict that the nation will never celebrate a third centennial. But whatever men may finally record about the outcome of the American experiment in self-rule, one thing cannot be changed or ignored: There was Lincoln.

This man lived. He was not a king, born to rule, not a philosopher, steeped in knowledge; he was not a demigod but a human being, imbued with a profound love and understanding of humanity.

From the humblest of beginnings, with the most meager of educations, he rose by his own native ability and by virtue of the democratic system established by the Founding Fathers to the presidency of the United States in the hour of its greatest ordeal, when truly the experiment seemed near its end.

With power no king ever wielded, given him freely by the people, with a wisdom no formal schooling could have taught him, Lincoln led the nation to a new birth of freedom and a new resolve that this government of and by and for the people should not perish from the earth.

There were to be new crises and ordeals after Lincoln, undreamed of by the men of his time. The descendants of the slaves he freed still seek full realization of the equality and the right to pursue happiness promised by the Declaration of Independence.

We live in the midst of crises today, and ordeals undreamed of by us surely lie ahead for our children. But we can also look back on triumphs.

We need not wait for more generations for some historian of the next century or century after that to pronounce the verdict on the American experiment. That verdict is already in.

There was Lincoln.

A Man Who Grew

Great people grow. Abraham Lincoln was such a person. Pick almost any date in his life, from his teens

on, and one can find evidence that Lincoln drew on the world to nourish, develop, and expand his thinking.

The recognizable fact is that, as with most people, Lincoln was something different every day of his life. This development, begun under impoverished circumstances and cut short by assassination, reached a fulfillment and a fruition by 1861 so that he could stand forth as the leader of the forces insistent that the United States be a united nation.

Lincoln had no law to guide him. The legality of secession still could be debated in 1971, if there were any purpose to the debate. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that says a state may not withdraw. By his will, not by law, Lincoln effectuated the Union that Daniel Webster praised. To achieve that end, Lincoln courageously followed a course that closed with his murder.

Had Lincoln not prevailed, what might have happened?

One can only conjecture, for no proof exists. But there might now be as many as a dozen nations occupying the area of the contiguous 48 states of the Union. There might be the United States, the Confederate States, a Republic of Texas, a State of Deseret, an Oregon comprising the whole Northwest, and by all means a California. All those and more might have come into being, accursed with troubles, jealousies and wars.

The growth of character and the development of personality and ability were vigorous, progressive, consistent and broad in Abraham Lincoln.

Abe's earliest memory was of a flash flood that washed away the corn and pumpkin seeds he had helped his father, Thomas, plant.

Nancy Hanks, his mother, died when he was nine years old. He remembered her as "stoop-shouldered, thin-breasted, (and) sad."

The ruination of Abe's father by a lawsuit challenging Thomas' title to his Kentucky farm had considerable of an effect on his life. It caused the Lincoln family to move to Indiana, where they huddled in a "half-faced camp," a three-sided cabin with an outdoor fire on the fourth side. After that came the move, when Abe was 21, to Illinois, with Abe driving the ox team.

Now Abe Lincoln was beginning to show his growth. Sarah, his stepmother, helped. He had absorbed the grief of 12 years before, when as a ragged nine-year-old, he saw his mother buried in the forest. In later years Lincoln recalled those forest times: the panther's scream, the bears that preyed on the swine, and the poverty—always the poverty.

Lincoln said that at the age of 21, "I did not know much. Still, somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three; but that was all."

Only a few books can be identified with his boyhood, but he read them well. They included Parson Weems' "Life of Washington," as false a biography as one could imagine; "Robinson Crusoe," "Pilgrim's Progress"

and Aesop's "Fables," plus the Bible. From his earliest days, Lincoln knew the Bible, the Encyclopaedia Britannica says, "for it doubtless was the only book his family owned."

One must draw the conclusion that the hard work, the long winter nights of loneliness and grief, the life in the heart of the forest, the tantalizing taste of just enough education to make him hungry for more, the compassionate love given him by his stepmother, and the challenge of survival that existed every hour, combined to give him the ability to reason as few people of his century were able to reason.

He grew up in a nation that accepted slavery and racial inequality. It must be assumed that at first he accepted those things too. But he was the first president to free, by official executive act, any slave.

The Emancipation Proclamation had its ulterior aspects for the North, and it was inadequate; but it was a first and a courageous step. It was a step into the future, a step beyond Lincoln's own time, and it should be thus judged. So judged, it should be an inspiration for Americans to take bold steps beyond their own times for the betterment of the nation and the world.

Narrow confines of color, creed, sex, money, social position, or political partisanship do not fit the memory of Lincoln. Whatever follies he engaged in, he out-grew.

The sounds of the forest he knew, now echo across the plains, the deserts and the cities. Because his mind was capable of growth, humanity is better off. His devotion to freedom was contagious, and infected every part of humanity with which it came into contact.

One problem encountered in this contest was the inadvertent inclusion of a column by Walter Trohan titled "Why Should The Spirit Of Mortal Be Proud?" which was thought to be an editorial. As a columnist speaks for himself and an editorial writer reflects the policy of the newspaper, the article had to be eliminated from the contest, or at least could not be published and called an editorial.

In addition to the winners, the following editorials were submitted in the competition:

1. Enigma of Lincoln's Death Casts No Cloud on Stature
The Columbus Dispatch (Columbus, Ohio)
2. Legacy of Lincoln
The Bridgeport Telegram (Bridgeport, Connecticut)
3. Abraham Lincoln the Second
The News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne, Indiana)
4. 'Something More Than Common'
The Indianapolis Star (Indiana)
5. Stark Divisions Of The Age Evoke Reminder Of Lincoln's Timeless Aim
The Sacramento Bee (McClatchy Newspapers) (California)
6. Lincoln's Courage Saved Nation
The San Diego Union (California)
7. Lincoln's Wisdom
Hamilton Journal-News (Hamilton, Ohio)

The Richard W. Thompson Manuscript Collection

Richard W. Thompson (1809-1900), who served as Secretary of the Navy for three years and nine months of the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, preserved many of his papers connected with his long and varied career. The bulk of the collection, long in the possession of his daughter, Virginia Thompson Henry, was acquired by the Lincoln National Life Foundation prior to 1930. Since that date, some of the documents have been transferred to the Indiana State Library, and a few have been placed in the Hayes Memorial at Fremont, Ohio. Other papers are still retained by members of the Thompson family.

Only in a few instances did Thompson keep copies of his letters; however, the Abraham Lincoln collection in the Library of Congress contains a number of his letters to Lincoln during the period of 1849 to 1865. The *Index To The Abraham Lincoln Papers* lists eighteen different Thompson letters, twelve of which are addressed to Lincoln. *The Collected Works Of Abraham Lincoln* lists twelve items in the index relative to Richard W. Thompson which includes letters, memorandums, introductions, telegrams and etc.

Two original Lincoln letters and a telegram (not in Lincoln's handwriting) are a part of the Foundation's Thompson collection. They follow.

"Private

Springfield, Ill., June 18, 1860

Hon. R. W. Thompson

My dear Sir:

Your long letter of the 12th is just received, and read—I write this to thank you for it; and to say I would like for you to converse freely with Hon. Henry Winter Davis—And lest he be compromised, by inference for this, let me say that he and I never met, or corresponded—

Very truly your friend

A. Lincoln

"Private

Springfield, Ill., July 10, 1860

Hon. R. W. Thompson:

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 6th is received, and for which I thank you. I write this to acknowledge the receipt of it, and to say I take time (only a little) before answering the main matter.

If my RECORD would HURT any, there is no hope that it will be over-looked; so that if friends can HELP any with it they may as well do so. Of course, due caution and circumspection, will be used.

With reference to the same matter of WHICH YOU write, I wish you would watch Chicago a little. They are getting up a movement for the 17th Inst. I believe a line from you to John Wilson, late of the Genl. Land Office (I guess you

know him well) would fix the matter.

When I shall have reflected a little, you will hear from me again.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

Burn this."

How many letters Lincoln wrote to Thompson during the Presidential Campaign of 1860 will likely never be known. Undoubtedly there were several in Thompson's possession and these were apparently tied in a small bundle which Thompson labeled (on the back of Lincoln's letter dated July 10, 1860), "A few letters from A. Lincoln during the Presidential campaign of 1860. Some were destroyed because especially confidential."

On May 27, 1864, Lincoln sent a telegram (not in his handwriting) to Thompson, residing in Terre Haute, Indiana, in answer to his letter regarding a military appointment for his son: "Your letter in relation to Gen. Hunter & your son just received. If Gen. Hunter should ask to have your son in his staff the request would be granted but the Gen'l is now actively moving in the field & is beyond telegraph. I doubt whether the promotion you think of is legally possible.

A. Lincoln"

Thompson married Harriet Eliza Gardiner on May 5, 1836, and she bore him eight children. The son mentioned in the telegram was Richard W. Thompson, Jr., who before he was eighteen, joined Lew Wallace's regiment, the Eleventh Indiana Volunteers. At the expiration of his term, he re-enlisted for three years. Having served more than a year on the staff of Major-General David Hunter, he wished to be returned to him again when placed upon active duty. However, no record has been found of the transfer of Captain Richard W. Thompson, Jr. from commissary duties with the Army of the Potomac to the staff of General Hunter.

The elder Thompson was born in Virginia and resided a short while in Louisville, Kentucky, before moving to Bedford, the County seat of Lawrence County Indiana. In 1843, he became a permanent resident of Terre Haute. He was admitted to the bar in 1834 and shortly thereafter elected to the Indiana legislature. In 1841, he was elected as a Whig representative to Congress for the term ending in 1843 and was again elected to Congress from Indiana for the term beginning in 1847 to 1849. This was the Thirtieth Congress of which Abraham Lincoln was a Whig member from Illinois.

While Lincoln and Thompson had practiced law in adjoining circuits and had frequently corresponded about legal matters, they did not become personally acquainted until they met in Washington, D. C. In the Thirtieth Congress they became good friends, and an interesting story was related



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Colonel Richard W. Thompson from a Daguerreotype taken in 1850. In 1834 Thompson was made a member of Indiana Governor Noah Noble's staff and assumed the complimentary title of colonel.

concerning their friendship by Mrs. Henry, the daughter of Col. Thompson, to Philip S. Rush, at one time a reporter for the *Terre Haute Tribune*:

"During the last year of Col. Thompson's term in Congress, he received an invitation to a large reception to be held at the home of one of Washington's social queens. Being well acquainted with the hostess, Col. Thompson asked permission to bring with him a young friend from Illinois, Abe Lincoln, and the hostess consented, although she had never heard of the Illinois congressman before. Lincoln did not care to enter the society of the capital, however, and at first declined to go to the reception, but finally agreed to accompany Thompson. The home was an elegant one, and the affair a brilliant gathering of Senators, diplomats, cabinet members and representatives, and the awkward Lincoln felt and appeared very ill at ease in the assemblage. In after years Col. Thompson described him, telling of the difficulty he had with his long, ungainly legs, and how he appeared at a loss to know what to do with his hands.

"During the evening, however, it was noticed that the hostess and Lincoln were engaged in a spirited conversation, in which the woman appeared deeply interested in her new acquaintance, while the Illinois congressman apparently forgot his embarrassment and was much more at ease. Some time later Col. Thompson met the lady and asked her what she thought of Lincoln. 'I think', she replied, 'that he is the only one who attended the reception who will ever be president of the United States'. Whether or not there were other future presidents at her home that night is not now known, but the prediction of

this hostess was made many years before Abraham Lincoln had more than a local fame."

There were periods in their careers when the political views of Lincoln and Thompson differed widely, but they continued to remain friends. On the eve of the election of 1860, Thompson expressed confidence in Lincoln as a conservative leader. He said: "If Mr. Lincoln is elected to the presidency he will be entitled to the respect of every man in the United States. His strength consists of his conservatism." Referring to the issues which concerned the South, Thompson said: "They want the fugitive slave law executed. Mr. Lincoln says that it shall be executed. They want the right of territories recognized to come into the Union as slave states. Mr. Lincoln says it shall be recognized. They want the rights of all states preserved. Mr. Lincoln says they shall be preserved. He differs with them on . . . the Wilmot Proviso. Lincoln says it should be passed to prohibit slavery in the territories. But there cannot be any Wilmot Proviso during Lincoln's term, if he is elected, because the Democrats will have a majority in the Senate until 1865 and they can prevent the passage of such a measure."

However, Thompson thought the Constitutional Union party was more national in scope than any of the others, and he made the surprising statement, prior to the election, that, ". . . I helped to nominate Mr. Bell and shall vote for him and nobody else."

A cordial relationship existed between the two men during the war years, and it has been stated that Lincoln considered Thompson for a Cabinet appointment. In fact, it has been fairly well affirmed that Presidents Taylor, Fillmore and Lincoln made him proffers of national offices, all of which he declined.

Complete accord between the two men was impossible, and these differences have been elaborated upon by Charles Roll in his book *Colonel Dick Thompson — The Persistent Whig*, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1948. Thompson thought that Lincoln was much too lenient with those who impeded the progress of the war, and one major difference of opinion had to do with Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Thompson's views and those of his conservative friends were outlined in a letter to the President, dated January 26, 1863. The letter was never sent and it is now in the Thompson collection in the Foundation's archives (See *Lincoln Lore*, Number 1451, January, 1959).

Thompson approved of Lincoln's plan of reconstruction, and he favored the re-nomination of Lincoln for a second term. In fact, he served as an Indiana elector, and, when that State cast its votes for Lincoln, Thompson was able to cast an electoral vote for his former Whig comrade in Congress.

The greatest contribution to the Civil War effort on the part of "The

Persistent Whig" from Indiana was the recruitment of soldiers and their organization after their enlistment. President Lincoln appointed Thompson provost marshal of the Seventh Congressional District on May 1, 1863, and his war activity proved to be the busiest period of his long life.

Lincoln's old friend, after the second inauguration, expressed fears for the President's life. He wrote a letter to John D. Defrees, in which he expressed serious concern about the possibility of Lincoln's assassination, and Defrees read the letter to Lincoln "who said that he did not have the same apprehension that his friend had. He did not think there was any danger." However, before Defrees reported the incident to Thompson, the assassin had struck. The entire Thompson family viewed the President as a personal friend and there was a great deal of gloom at Terre Haute.

Thompson was never an admirer of Andrew Johnson, and he viewed with alarm his selection on the Union party ticket for the vice-presidency in 1864. True to form Johnson relieved Thompson of his office as Collector of Internal Revenue for his district (Lincoln's appointment) in 1866.

The Thompson collection of manuscripts in the Foundation's archives, in addition to the letters written by Lincoln, are of great historical value to the Lincoln and Civil War students as well as the Indiana and United States historians. Some of the documents deal with Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; there are anti-Lincoln letters, letters dealing with the Civil War and the assassination, Ku Klux Klan material, letters that mention Lincoln, letters of Presidents of the United States and quite a number of manuscripts that are unidentified. A large file of manuscripts contain notes for Thompson's speeches and addresses and some 574 letters addressed to Thompson, from Abbott to Yeatman, have been alphabetically catalogued and filed.

Thompson saw all the Presidents of the United States from Jefferson to McKinley and "was personally acquainted with most of them." In 1894 The Bowen-Merrill Company of Indianapolis published Thompson's two volume works titled *Recollections of Sixteen Presidents From Washington To Lincoln*.

One unique accomplishment of Col. Dick Thompson, which is of little historical significance is that "for fifty years prior to his death he smoked an average of twenty cigars a day." However, a more conservative account states that, "his doctor finally had to limit him to four cigars a day." In 1898, Robert G. Ingersoll wrote Thompson that, "I think that if I can only smoke enough I may live to be eighty-nine." Thompson died February 9, 1900, eight months after the celebration of his ninetieth birthday, the last survivor of the "Indiana General Assembly of 1834 and of the Twenty-Seventh and Thirtieth Congresses."