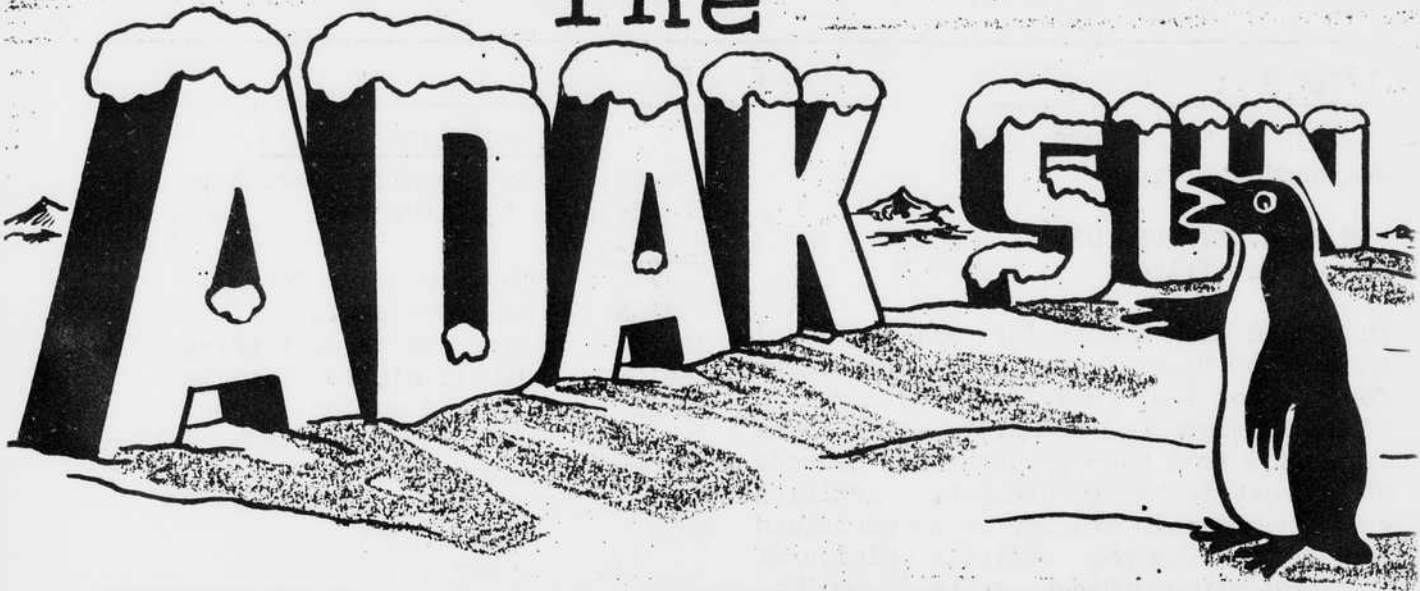


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The Spirit of Lincoln:
Our Gift to the World

They have examined him, acclaimed him, explored the deepest recesses of his personality - generations of historians, biographers, playwrights, novelists and poets. Their books about him would fill a library. And yet he remains essentially a puzzling figure. Abe Lincoln - America's gift to the world.

Few men stand taller than Lincoln on the stage of history; yet it's impossible to imagine him - gangling, stooped, with frock coat and stovepipe hat - in the togaed and crowned company of the great. The very notion would have made him grin.

But in simple grandeur he looms second to none - it is the grandeur captured by Daniel Chester French in his massive statue of Lincoln's brooding, seated figure. It is the compassion for all humanity that glowed in the Emancipation Proclamation just 100 years ago and in the deathless words of the Gettysburg Address.

As we mark the 154th anniversary of Lincoln's birth it has never been clearer, in a world torn by hates and tyrannies, that his spirit represents the best hopes and aspirations of men of good will everywhere. It lights their path today as they work for peace, mutual understanding and an end to want.

This is the Lincoln of heroic stature. But there is another - the homely rustic, plain of speech, ruminant, almost indolent by nature; the man who at 22 could describe himself as "a piece of floating driftwood." Throughout his entire life, in fact, he disparaged his own abilities with that rueful humor so intrinsic to him. But Lincoln was one of those rare Homo sapiens - a truly humble man.

St. Valentine's Day - 14 February 1963: Hearts and flowers are going out at this time of year all over the world. This is not a child's day but one of all mankind. A man is never too old to send a Valentine to his mother or wife or sweetheart. It may cost more for the postage than it did for the box of candy, but it is the thought that goes along that counts and is felt on the receiving end of the postal trip.