

Sept. 12, 1967
46th Street Theatre
New York City

Those of us, who, as students attended Lincoln High School at some time during the many years that Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus was principal, have a vivid memory of her leadership and her devotion to living and practical ideals, and her extreme interest in bringing out the best in each and every one of us.

Even before I enrolled in Lincoln High, I used to pass the gate at the entrance of the school on the hill and wondered about the word OPPORTUNITY in huge letters on the arch. By graduation time we all knew the full meaning of the word. What better word could Dr. Andrus have used to greet the entering students of all races and creeds? Then, too, how thrilling it must have been for the parents living in the Lincoln Heights district to know that their boys and girls were privileged to learn of the opportunity promised them as they climbed up the 102 steps to the auditorium and to learn from their principal the full meaning of the promise!

We remember Dr. Andrus standing before the student body so so calmly, so serenely, on the stage explaining the Lincoln ideals, and our opportunities, but also our responsibilities. It should be added, however, that occasionally we were reminded of our failings, ---but always in a reasoning and dignified manner. Upon those occasions we felt out changed and inspired, but not directly aware of how the change in thought came about, so skillful was our principal.

Just as our Lincoln Heights community was multi-racial, so was the Lincoln student body. Remember that this long before the turmoil of the present in trying for all races to live together in peace. But to Dr. Andrus this was no problem at all. In student government, she encouraged all students of all races to take part, to prepare themselves for leadership, not only for important general student government, but in the many clubs...always reminding school officers that only decisions affecting school policy remained with the principal. The method worked.

For those in dramatics, Dr. Andrus, showed complete devotion. She not only personally attended most of the final dress rehearsals or previews, but brought along her mother who ^{to show} obviously enjoyed the experience immensely. These are precious memories for me. Fortunately for us interested in acting, she continuously encouraged the production of Shakespearean plays. Producing Shakespeare, as we all know, is a monumental effort for any high school group, but with the support and encouragement of the kind and understanding that Dr. Andrus gave, the task for all of us seemed easy and delightful.

Opportunity gate of
Lincoln High
I remember
the many years
that Dr. Andrus
was principal
I used to pass
the gate at the
entrance of the
school on the hill
and wondered about
the word OPPORTUNITY
in huge letters
on the arch.
By graduation time
we all knew the full
meaning of the word.
What better word
could Dr. Andrus
have used to greet
the entering students
of all races and
creeds?
Then, too, how
thrilling it must
have been for the
parents living in
the Lincoln Heights
district to know
that their boys and
girls were
privileged to learn
of the opportunity
promised them as
they climbed up
the 102 steps to
the auditorium
and to learn from
their principal
the full meaning
of the promise!

We remember Dr.
Andrus standing
before the student
body so so calmly,
so serenely,
on the stage
explaining the
Lincoln ideals,
and our
opportunities,
but also
our responsibilities.
It should be
added, however,
that occasionally
we were
reminded of our
failings, ---but
always in a
reasoning and
dignified manner.
Upon those
occasions we
felt out changed
and inspired,
but not directly
aware of how
the change in
thought came
about, so
skillful was
our principal.

Just as our
Lincoln Heights
community was
multi-racial,
so was the
Lincoln student
body. Remember
that this long
before the
turmoil of the
present in
trying for all
races to live
together in
peace. But to
Dr. Andrus this
was no problem
at all. In
student
government,
she encouraged
all students
of all races
to take part,
to prepare
themselves for
leadership,
not only for
important
general
student
government,
but in the
many clubs...
always
reminding
school officers
that only
decisions
affecting
school policy
remained
with the
principal.
The method
worked.

For those in
dramatics,
Dr. Andrus,
showed complete
devotion. She
not only
personally
attended
most of the
final dress
rehearsals
or previews,
but brought
along her
mother who
obviously
enjoyed the
experience
immensely.
These are
precious
memories
for me.
Fortunately
for us
interested
in acting,
she
continuously
encouraged
the
production
of
Shakespearean
plays.
Producing
Shakespeare,
as we all
know, is a
monumental
effort for
any high
school
group,
but with
the support
and
encouragement
of the kind
and
understanding
that
Dr. Andrus
gave,
the task
for all of
us seemed
easy and
delightful.

Of course as always Dr. Andrus wrote a message to graduates in every yearbook. In my yearbook she wrote: "Four years ago Lincoln High School opened her gates and offered her hospitality to you. We hope that you found in her grounds and her halls not only a gracious happy home, and a group of congenial friends, kindly interested teachers, but also a challenge to know and to extend yourself.....it has been our purpose to give to young people a knowledge of what has been and of what is, so that they may on this foundation build a better life and a freer state."

Yes, Dr. Andrus, we hoped that we have not failed in the trust you and Lincoln High set for us!

Robert Preston Meservey Winter '35