

An evening with Lincoln highlights bicentennial events at Flanders



By LORAIN McCLISH

About 50 Farmington women will be reading and putting together Early American recipes this week for a dessert table to be used for Flanders Elementary School's upcoming "A Bicentennial Evening With Lincoln."

"We're not going to ask them to find green corn," said Dorra Jones, speaking about a mush said to be a favorite of Abraham Lincoln. "We've selected recipes that can be made fairly easily in our modern kitchens."

The recipes come from Dr. Weldon Petz, school principal and historian,



Dr. WELDON PETZ

who will be the school's PTA speaker for the bicentennial event set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Guests (the PTA is expecting between 500-600) will go home with a mini cookbook put together by hospitality chairman Peggy Schwaller, called "Some Favorite Desserts of Abraham Lincoln" as a memento.

THE IDEA TO bring in the dessert table to complement the evening talk stemmed "from Dr. Petz's enthusiasm about history. It's catching," said PTA president Judy Veiluct. "We are all lucky to have him here and we're all learning a lot of history."

She added that she didn't expect any difficulty in getting area women to try their hand at concocting things such as queen's pudding or a honey and almond cake or even a cake that was originated for the occasion of Lafayette's visit to the White House.

Mrs. Schwaller quoted Dr. Petz as saying "Abraham Lincoln was indifferent to many foods, but he was fond of all kinds of fruit. He enjoyed it in its uncooked, natural state as well as in fruit pies.

"This was especially true during his early days at home in Indiana and while he lived in New Salem, Ill. Upon moving to Springfield and subsequently marrying Mary Todd, he acquired an additional taste for some desserts that had been favorites of his wife."

This is borne out in the listing of Lincoln favorites the women will at-

tempt which include jam cake, lemon custard pie, fruit cookies, lemon pie, apple pudding, jam pudding and spiced crab apples.

DURING THE TALK Dr. Petz will have on display some of his massive collection of personal Lincoln artifacts the historian has been collecting in his better than 30 years of research. His expertise on the subject and the times have brought him lecturing engagements throughout the country and he estimates he has given about 60 talks since the beginning of the 1975-76 school year.

The PTA members who are spearheading the evening event all want it emphasized that it is open to all members of the community, and that parents are asked to bring their children.

Dovetailing with the parent's enthusiasm "for getting to know history," the PTA chose to bypass the office of "program chairman" this year and replace it with "Bicentennial chairman" which has been taken on by Carolyn Miller.

"A Bicentennial Evening With Lincoln" is leading off the calendar year, but the bicentennial events leading up to what Mrs. Miller termed "our grand finale" began in September with a special historical event planned for each month which involves parents, teachers and students.

Currently, the children at the school are engaged in a contest which will ultimately bring them an official logo for Flanders School. And they are writing their own book, a thought-

from each of the students, to be called "Happy Birthday America," printed by Farmington High School. The cover of the book will bear the official logo and the book will be distributed as a memento of the year.

MRS. MILLER has designated five days in March to be called "Colonial Week" when students will don colonial costumes and will get involved in such as shoeing horses, making soap and writing with quill pens.

A bicentennial festival is scheduled for April and a bicentennial concert is scheduled for May.

Meanwhile, students will be involved in creating a school museum with each class contributing a diorama of a historical person or event. Mrs. Miller named two she could think of off-hand she knew were in the planning stage, one on Charles Landburg, and another on the Boston Tea Party.

Some of the projects are fund raisers and others not, but "the money

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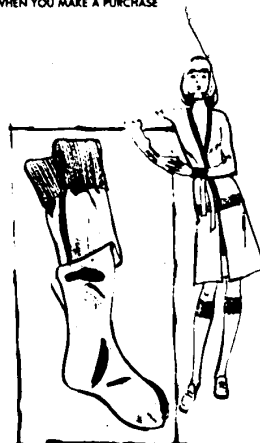
to get us started on all this came from upperware parties in just two subs. We sold \$1,500 in a week. When we told our neighbors what we were doing even women without children came to help us," said Mrs. Veiluct.

re-vamp the whole thing because what we've got now is one of the least imaginative -- a couple of swings," Mrs. Veiluct said.

WHAT THE WOMEN are doing, in addition to instilling a love of history, is all leading up to the "grand finale" which is the designing of a new "creative play ground where the kids' imaginations can go wild. We're going to

In the course of talking about her work as bicentennial chairman, word of Mrs. Miller's plans reached Gov. William Miller. Within her notebook she has a letter from the governor which reads in part, "You have captured the spirit of the Bicentennial." Flanders Elementary School is located at 3200 Flanders

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China painting

Delores Moorhead adds a final flourish to Christmas tree ornaments which have won her acclaim in china painting circles. She comes to the Farmington Community Center teaching staff this winter with an introduction to the ancient art. Eight sessions are set to begin

Wednesday, Jan. 28, when students will be supplied a kit with starter materials from the teacher who has been studying china painting for 20 years. Registrations are being taken now in the center.