

Stretching historical perspective

Film transports 20th century president to Revolution

By MARY GNIEWEK

tionary War era.

Dull it wasn't.

History doesn't have to be dull. That's what David McLaughlin told American history and government classes at Our Lady of Mercy High School Tuesday morning.

To prove it, he showed them a sneak preview of his new movie for educational television. "Kennedy at Concord," a fantasy which takes a 20th century president back to the Revolu-

tionary War era. Dull it wasn't. McLaughlin's 37-minute film opens with John F. Kennedy in a business man's suit surveying a Lexington battlefield with his adviser, Benjamin Franklin.

"What if some of our greatest presidents had lived today," McLaughlin speculates.

"Or what if some of our 20th century presidents had been transposed to the

18th century?"

History is there in living color, first Lexington, then Concord, with a little help from Greenfield Village and Ford Field in Dearborn where the film was shot last spring.

McLaughlin wrote, produced, directed and starred in the production — his first — and hopes to distribute an entire presidential series to television stations like Channel 56.

A former radio deejay who does a plausible Kennedy impersonation,

McLaughlin uses wit and satire to liven an otherwise slow moving plot.

VIEWERS SEE KENNEDY engaging in lively conversations at press conferences with an 18th century press corp, a predominantly agitating collection of Tories.

When Kennedy compares a hasty retreat of British troops to a group of kids zipping full speed on skate boards, viewers can't help but snicker at the puzzled looks the reporters give our contemporary president.

McLaughlin also includes a biting commentary on political apathy in the form of a slovenly town character who sits in the background chomping on bananas and watermelon while townfolk

rally around JFK.

McLaughlin, who also portrays that character, compares him to "The people who don't vote, who sit at home with a can of beer in their hand watching TV during times of national crisis."

The presentation got mixed reviews from John Gernacy's American government senior class.

"It's hard to judge," Gernacy said. "Most of the kids in the class are above average and it was a little simple to them. They thought it would be better geared to ninth- and tenth-graders."

"The tenth-grade history class who saw the film loved it."

The senior class also had problems reading material presented on the screen over a white background.



DAVID McLAUGHLIN

obituaries

CARL G. PAPPAS

Mr. Pappas, 44, of Southfield, died Feb. 2 in Sinai Hospital, Detroit.

Born in Michigan, Mr. Pappas was a machinist for the Val-U-Tool Co.

Survivors include: wife, Marjorie; daughters, Lisa A., Karin Nina; sisters, Mrs. Sophia Koustas, Mrs. Shirley Hartlieb.

Services were Feb. 5 in Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Memorial tributes may be sent to the Michigan Heart Association or the Michigan Diabetes Foundation.

CLARA C. MARX

Mrs. Marx, 78, of Farmington Hills, died Feb. 4 in Bonifant Hospital, Farmington Hills.

A Farmington Hills resident for most of her life, she was a housewife and

mother. Mrs. Marx was a member of St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church, Farmington Hills.

Survivors include: husband, Hubert J. Sr.; sons, George M., Joseph H., Hubert J. Jr.; brothers, Frank and Philip Winterhater; grandchildren, Hubert J. III, Martin G., Sandra K.

Services were Feb. 7 at Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home and St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Fr. James Wright officiated. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

EUGENE W. OSBORNE

Mr. Osborne, 59, of Livonia, died Feb. 6.

A carpenter with Darin Armstrong Co., he was a member of the carpenters' union. He was a Livonia resident for 24 years.

Survivors include: wife, Freda M.; daughters, Mrs. Connie Stencel of Lowell, Mich., Kim of Livonia; son, William of Livonia; mother, Lillie Osborne of Southgate; sisters, Mrs. Ina Middleton of Washington, Mich., Mrs. Louise Smith of Pa., Mrs. Mary Martin of Roseville, Mrs. Virginia Edmond of Romulus; brothers, Daniel of Dearborn, James of Dearborn Heights, Frank of Marion, Mich.; four grandchildren.

Services were Feb. 9 in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Rev. David D. Fredic of Gallean Baptist Church of Livonia officiated. Cremation was in Evergreen Crematory, Detroit.

FREDERICK J. FINNEGAN

Mr. Finnegan, 79, of Farmington, died Feb. 8 in Novi.

He was born Oct. 24, 1900 in Ontario, Canada. He has been a Farmington resident for four years. Mr. Finnegan was a retired accountant for Standard Oil

Co. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Cardinal Mooney Council.

Survivors include: wife, Mary A.; daughter, Mrs. Joan Nolan of Farmington Hills; sister, Anna of Sarnia, Ontario; brother, Bart of Indiana; grandchildren, Patrick, Christopher, Craig, Jennifer Nolan.

Services were Feb. 11 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home and Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Farmington. Fr. Kean Cronin officiated. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorial tributes may be sent to Rosary Shrine of St. Jude Dominican Fathers, 1421 West Warren, Detroit, 48208.

AMC employee wins promotion

William Jones, of Farmington, has been promoted to the position of director of vehicle safety programs for American Motors Corp.

He will direct corporate planning and programs to assure compliance of AMC automobiles and jeep vehicles with applicable U.S., Canadian and state standards for vehicle safety.

Jones joined American Motors in 1973 and most recently has been manager of vehicle emissions and fuel economy standards. He entered the automobile business in 1962 with the General Motors Corp.

Born in Detroit, he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Detroit and has done post-graduate work at Wayne State University.

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