

He dedicates his life teaching Lincoln

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remarked upon — the Detroit skyline on another occasion.

Lincoln gave what Petz called "an important speech on slavery" before 10,000 spectators in a Kalamazoo park in 1854. He was in the state for only 24 hours.

"There were five speakers that day," Petz said, "and Lincoln was the least known of any of them."

During his presidency, Lincoln set eyes on Detroit from the deck of the steamboat "Globe" which was carrying him and his wife Mary on a Great Lakes cruise from Buffalo to Chicago.

Although he never set foot on shore, Lincoln did show himself to be a man

of many talents during the trip. Spotting a boat stuck on a shoal of the Detroit River, he immediately set to work sketching a device which would provide buoyancy for such stranded craft.

"You could do a whole talk on Lincoln the inventor," Petz said. "His first invention happened right here in our back yard. It was never produced, but engineers tell us it would work."

Petz, who will retire in June after 40 years in education, the last 23 with the Farmington Public Schools, can list family ties with Lincoln. John Beal, Petz' great uncle, was Lincoln's close personal friend during the Springfield days. Petz inherited Beal's papers.

AFTER 40 YEARS of fascination with Lincoln and his lore, Petz has ac-

cumulated more than 40,000 Lincoln-related items, including a soldier's belt buckle he dug up (with permission) from the Gettysburg battlefield.

"It's a drop in the bucket, really," Petz said. "but my wife doesn't think so when she has to dust it."

Petz displayed some of his more prized items, especially an original photograph of a care-worn President Lincoln made from a glass plate by Alexander Gardner on April 10, 1865, just days before he was assassinated in Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth.

One of only six prints known to exist, the photograph was the last ever taken of Lincoln.

Another prized item was a reproduction of the famous Volk mask, a representation of Lincoln's face made by

sculptor Leonard Volk in 1860 just after Lincoln had been named the presidential nominee of the Republican Party.

"The casting is so true that it has been used by anthropologists to determine a lot about Lincoln's health," Petz said.

The bronze paint on Petz' reproduction of the mask is worn off the tip of the nose and the right eyebrow. Reason: Blind listeners to Petz' lectures (he has spoken before more than 1,200 groups over the past 30 years) always run their fingers over Lincoln's face.

Volk also sculpted Lincoln's hands (the right hand's holding a length of Mary's broom stick), and Petz has reproductions. Lincoln's right hand is noticeably more swollen than his left

because he had just finished shaking the hands of many well-wishers after being named the Republican hopeful.

PETZ, A LONGTIME resident of West Bloomfield Township, was a confidant of Carl Sandburg, the famous American poet who popularized Lincoln. The poet presented Petz with a valuable "printer's dummy" — a bound volume containing mostly blank pages — of his "Abraham Lincoln The War Years Vol. 1."

Petz, who holds a doctorate in history from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn., and who wrote his master's thesis on "Music and Abraham Lincoln," is the author of a book, "In the Presence of Abraham Lincoln," published in 1973.

Petz is working on another book

about Michigan memories of Lincoln and the Civil War. So far, he has visited 432 Michigan communities and taken more than 7,000 photographs. The book will be published this summer.

Like Lincoln, Petz is multi-talented. In addition to his scholarly endeavors, he also can claim musical expertise. He was a trombonist in the famous Jimmy Dorsey orchestra in the 1940s.

After his retirement, he will continue to write about and lecture on his favorite subject — Abraham Lincoln.

Petz ended last Thursday's presentation by playing a tape of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".

As the last strains of the music died away, the Men's Clubbers gave Petz a standing ovation.

on the agenda

City of Farmington Hills
City Council Meeting
March 19, 1984, 7:30 p.m.
Public Hearing

Public hearing on determination for road improvement to portions of Tarabusi Roseland Gardens in Section 33.

Consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment between Grand River and Farmington cut off. Proponent, John A. Turmala for Bill Cook.

Consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment north side of 13 Mile Road, east of Ardmore Drive. Proponent, Robert M. Katzman for the Abbey Group.

Public hearing for consideration

of preliminary plat approval of Ramblewood No. 12 in section 5 for Billmore Properties Company.

Public hearing for consideration of cluster housing site plan located on 17 acres at Middlebelt and 14 Mile Road.

Public hearing for vacation to vacate that portion of Westfield Avenue extending north from the portion previously vacated and Bond Boulevard.

Public hearing to vacate alley between lots 134 and 135 of Assessor's Grand River Homes Subdivision and Lot 311 of Grand River Homes Subdivision.

Public hearing for consideration of demolition of dangerous building at 22408 Haynes.

Unfinished Business
Consideration of Planning Consultant's proposed report on cost to

study the effect of increased height limitations in the IRO and OS-1A zoning districts.

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