



WELDON PETZ

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New Abraham Lincoln talk concerns women in his life

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Weldon Petz, a West Bloomfield resident and one of a half-dozen nationally recognized authorities on Abraham Lincoln, has added another lecture to his repertoire called "Women Who Influenced Lincoln."

The lecture is an expanded and in-depth talk, with slides and memorabilia, he put together from his 40

years of research and 40,000-piece collection "because people asked for it."

Most of the lectures he gives now came about in the same way: a group would ask for a lecture on a specific subject having to do with Lincoln's life. He responded by zeroing in on Lincoln's religion, or his life as a circuit lawyer, or his speeches, or whatever was asked.

The "Women Who Influenced Lincoln" talk will be included in his round of lectures in February, the heaviest month of the year for Petz, who is scheduled to appear in 30 places within the 28 days around the metropolitan area.

HE WILL DO THIS sandwiching in talks between his full-time job as principal of Flanders Elementary School in Farmington, and cataloging and documenting relics that are constantly being added to his collection of Lincoln artifacts.

Some he carries with him for his talks; others his audience will see on slides.

He showed us an original Inauguration Day pass, an event Lincoln's wife was very instrumental in arranging; an original song book published for a women's singing group Lincoln was taken with; a framed copy of a Detroit newspaper telling the story of one of his campaigns; all to be included in the talk.

He begins his lecture with anecdotes of both Lincoln's grandmothers and concludes with the story of a teenage girl who was in the process of sketching the president in preparation for creating a sculpture of him when he was killed.

Petz gives the lecture with a narrative format as though he were an eyewitness to the event, and, more often than not, has an artifact to show concerning the event.

When he relates the story of Lin-

coln's father's marriage to his step-mother, he shows a part of a roof board, complete with square wooden pegs, which came from the building where the marriage took place.

PETZ COMPLETELY debunks the 'great love affair' Lincoln was accused of having with Ann Rutledge and has documents to show how the scandal was created in an effort to hurt his wife, Mary.

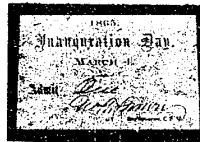
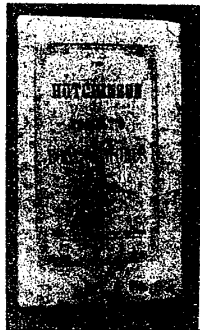
He tells the story of a little girl who asked the president to grow a beard; a little about his sister Sarah, and his step-sister Elizabeth Johnson; classmates, and the woman who refused to accept his proposal of marriage.

Others included in the lecture are actress Laura Keen, who retired from the theater after his assassination, Julia Ward Howe, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

There is a great deal in the lecture about Mary Lincoln, and a particularly poignant letter she wrote to her son, Robert, after she had been committed to an asylum.

PETZ IS NOW in his 32nd year as an educator, and has addressed literally thousands of school children across the nation on the subject of Lincoln.

This week, he is spending some time in school classes at the request of the Livonia School District, and for a week in April, he will be talking to students in several school districts in California.



Above and at right at two of the original Lincoln artifacts that Petz will show audiences during his lecture on "Women Who Influenced Lincoln."



BARBARA WINDHAM
Mezzo-Soprano



CAROLYN GRIMES
Soprano



PATTI DELL
Soprano



EDWARD KINGINS
Tenor



KENNETH YOUNG
Bass-Baritone



RICHARD CONRAD
Artistic director

Oakway and TOO bring Viennese Spectacular

It's a new group—less than a year old—but The Opera Organization has a group of singers long popular in the metropolitan area. Known by the initials TOO, the group headed by Richard Conrad will join the Oakway Symphony Orchestra for a program called "Viennese Spectacular" at 8 p.m. Saturday, in Madonna College, Livonia.

TOO is a repertory company of Michigan artists who made their debut in June 1975 in a concert of Mozart operatic works. They stage full operas, concert versions of opera and programs of non-operatic works.

TOO IS AN expanded version of The Singers of Richard Conrad, a group of his former students. Their first performance in March 1974 was a concert of Italian operatic works.

Conrad, a tenor from Pontiac, is artistic director. Dr. David Daniels, associate professor of music at Oakland University, is musical director. TOO's membership is open to singers of professional caliber.

In Saturday night's Oakway program, they will dress in costume to sing selections from Strauss's "Die Fledermaus," Lehar's "The Merry Widow" and Oscar Strauss's "The Chocolate Soldier," among other works.

SOLOISTS, announced by Oakway Conductor Francesco DiBlasi, will be: Patti Dell, soprano, of Ferndale, who has studied at the University of Southern California and has a degree from Oakland University. Among her credits are Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," Bernstein's "Mass," the children's opera "Summer Snow" and recently Bernstein's "Candide."

Carolyn Grimes, soprano, of Huntington Woods. A graduate of Cornell College, she was a charter member of the Kenneth Jewell Choral, for which she was often a soloist. She has performed with major orchestras throughout the state, including the Detroit Symphony.

Barbara Windham, mezzo-soprano, of Pontiac. Twice a soloist in the last year with Oakway, Ms. Windham also has performed with the Detroit, Toledo, Plymouth and Ann Arbor symphonies, at the Cranbrook Festival and in the "Brunch with Bach" series at the Detroit Institute of Arts. She has sung with the Michigan Opera Association and Toledo Opera Company.

Edward Kingins, tenor, of St. Clair Shores. A popular performer for years in the metropolitan area, Kingins has sung in "La Boheme" in Des Moines, "Tosca," in Mt. Clemens and all across the eastern and midwestern states. He has a degree from Wayne State University.

Kenneth Young, bass-baritone, of Birmingham. He has degrees from Western Michigan and Indiana universities. Young made his operatic debut in Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" in Detroit in 1971, and has sung with the Michigan Opera Theater and the Santa Fe Opera. His work has extended to such lighter productions as "Damn Yankees" and "Man of La Mancha."

Richard Conrad, tenor and artistic director. He has a degree from Boston University and has studied in Rome. He has sung with Joan Sutherland, Marilyn Horne and Richard Borys on London Records. "The Age of Bel Canto" and "Arias from Julius Caesar." He has made concert tours in the U.S., Switzerland, Italy, Germany and South Africa.

Bloomfield Hills woman vies for Mrs. America title

Cheryl Christine Petrulis, 31-year-old Bloomfield Hills mother of two, will leave for Las Vegas this weekend to represent Michigan in the revived Mrs. America Pageant.

Mrs. Petrulis said her husband, Troy attorney Donald L. Petrulis, "happened to see application blanks for the contest in a restaurant where he was eating lunch one day and thought it might be a good idea for me to enter."

She was notified "just last Friday that I had been selected as Mrs. Michigan."

"I have my plane tickets, and I'm getting ready to go," she said.

The Mrs. American Pageant is sponsored by the Hilton Hotels. A committee representing the hotels selected the state winners through photographs and written information supplied by each contestant.

This year's pageant is a revival. The last Mrs. America was selected in 1968. Ironically, Joyce Ward, also of Bloomfield Hills, represented Michigan.

"Joyce is a friend of mine," said Mrs. Petrulis. "I didn't know she was former Mrs. Michigan until I was talking about having entered."

MRS. PETRULIS—blonde, 115 pounds, and five-foot-seven—will compete with 49 other representatives in cooking, entertaining and general homemaking.

Along with these skills, they will be judged on beauty, poise and personality.

"I was told originally there wouldn't be a bathing suit competition, and now they're saying there will be," she said. "So I am a little upset, mainly because I don't have any tan."

"I'M A PRETTY GOOD COOK. I like to eat a lot. I like gourmet foods and turn out some pretty good things when we entertain," she said.

"We do a great deal of business entertaining."

The Petrulis children are Lori Christine, 4, and Marc Lee, 10 months old.

"I gave up working about five years ago," said Mrs. Petrulis. She was a legal secretary and before that a commercial artist.

"I did some modeling years ago and now I do it occasionally for charity things."

Arts Commission disburses grant

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

An \$8,000 grant awarded to Farmington Area Arts Commission from the Michigan Council of the Arts has been earmarked for five cultural events in the two cities to take place within the calendar year.

The Michigan Ballet Theatre's fairy tale ballet will be part of the commission's Exposure of the Arts series. All children who attend fourth grade in all elementary schools will be brought to Harrison High School to see the production of "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Snow Queen" on Mar. 2 and 3.

The grant has made possible the expansion of the series. It previously had been available only to secondary

school students, and now will be brought in at the elementary school level for the first time.

THE FARMINGTON Community Concert Band, under the direction of Paul Barber, scheduled for a program of music called "Be My Valentine" on Feb. 15.

This will be the third year a concert will be given as a tribute to the city's senior citizens and handicapped. Special vans for the handicapped and free transportation for invited guests will be furnished.

On the guest list this year, in addition to those seniors and handicapped who reside in nursing homes, are residents from Maric Hall, residents



Cheryl Petrulis will represent Michigan during the Mrs. America pageant in Las Vegas.

from Sarah Fisher Home and residents from Boy's Republic.

THE SUM OF \$800 has been allotted to carry on the Artist in Residence program. The event is scheduled for March when an artist from the area will be chosen to have his works displayed in the community throughout the month. A something-new in this program will be that the chosen artists' works will be packaged into a traveling show so it will be on display in several parts of the community.

THE COMMUNITY Involvement Center will move to Farmington in October, 1977, and aims to involve individuals from all facets of the community.

Representatives from businesses, churches, schools, government, seniors, all clubs or organizations, are in-

cluded to be involved.

The conference aims at providing places for artists to perform and be recognized, and give assistance to the artists in the community.

The remainder of the grant will stay with the Farmington Area Arts Commission in an effort to make the commission an more effective tool in the community, helping with communications between cultural groups within the two cities.

In this behalf, the commissioners are discussing the creation of a Youth Arts Council.

The commission meets the second Tuesday of every month, at 7 p. in Farmington Hills City Hall, 23000 Liberty, at Grand River. All of the meetings are open to all interested persons.