

LINCARNATIONS

The Newsletter of the ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

Number 18

Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all

April 2000

THE FORCE OF LINCOLN'S FACE

(from The Force of Character by James Hillman, 1999, p. 151)

"We have few ready images of the compelling intensity of soul. There are so few faces to point to, no visible ancestors to anchor the community. Who on TV can we look at and be struck to the soul? IF WE'RE TO SEE CHARACTER, SOME ONE HAS TO IMPERSONATE LINCOLN! What public figure can put a nation back on track just by force of character as shown in an older face?"



Dear Richard Sloan (former President of the Lincoln Group of New York),

While attending the Dulcimer Festival today, I found more than just music. Abraham Lincoln came. President Lincoln took out a giant penny (about 3 inches in diameter) and pointed out his picture on it to my 9 year-old daughter. He very sincerely spoke about the words "In God We Trust." As a closing he gave her a shiny penny to save in remembrance of what he represented. Of course he looked and dressed like Lincoln, but there was much more to it than that. He was so sincere that Lincoln's character came across perfectly. To the children he was Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately, I was not able to talk to him more than a few seconds since he was almost instantly surrounded by children. You must meet this man. His name is Gerald Bestrom.

Sincerely,

John Kokkonen

21 July 1990

The A, E, I, O, U's of Presenting Lincoln

By Dr. Gordon Vincent

- A. Amusing: audience is most attentive if presentation is entertaining.
- E. Educational: a presentation should be informative, not just show-business.
- I. Inspirational: Lincoln's life can and should inspire positive feelings.
- O. Outward Directed: not what I want to say, but what I want the audience to know and appreciate.
- U. Useful: Lincoln's call to action challenges us today (of, by, and for the people)

THE TEN CANNOTS

Lincoln Presenters CANNOT say these are Lincoln's. The TEN CANNOTS were written by Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, who copyrighted and printed them in 1916. They have been reprinted many times with the erroneous impression that Abraham Lincoln spoke or wrote them. He did not. Even President Ronald Reagan quoted them.

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
4. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
5. You cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer.
6. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
7. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
8. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
9. You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative.
10. You cannot really help men by having the government tax them to do for them what they can and should do for themselves.

Lincoln Presenters, familiar with Lincoln's writings, syntax, and rhetoric, know that he could not have written these ten CANNOTS. We cannot use them.

LINCOLN IN AUSTRALIA

For the People



*With Herb Wolke as
Abraham Lincoln*

Perhaps for the first time in history, Abraham Lincoln went "down under." ALP member, Herb Wolke, performed as Lincoln in his "For the People," in February and March of 2000 in Adelaide, Australia. For 3 weeks, 5000 performers from all over the world performed in more than 530 venues in this city-wide event. The reviewer noted that while the Gettysburg Address ran less than 3 minutes, the legacy of that address molded a nation. "Wolke gives us an evenhanded glimpse of the man behind the legend." Questioning the relevance of such a performance for Australian audiences, the reviewer settled for the reasoning that Lincoln gave voice to some of the defining tenets of Western liberal democracy and thereby everlasting populist immortality. Herb Wolke said, "though it was a long, long trip, I loved every mile of it."

The Union Image by Mark E. Neely Jr. and Harold Holzer

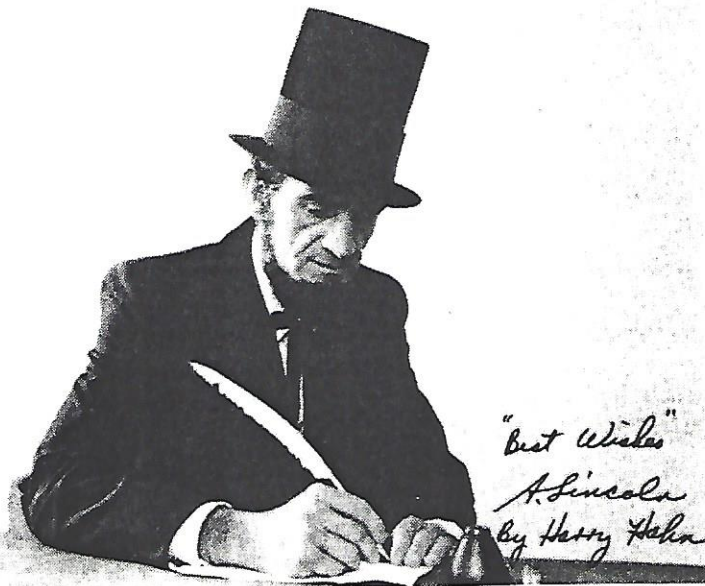
University of North Carolina Press, 2000

A review by Dr. Richard E. Swanson (The Abraham Lincoln of Cape Cod)

The Union Image helps us to better understand how common people viewed the Civil War and enables the reader to interpret prints of yesterday. This book makes a valuable contribution by creating a feeling for the impact the war made on the bulk of the Union population. It gives a sense of what it was like to be alive during that remarkable time in the history of our country. After reading The Union Image the reader will examine Civil War prints with a deeper, richer appreciation. He will look at the print-makers art as the radiologist looks at an xray. He will be on alert for clues, such as McClellan holding a pair of binoculars as indicating his preference for viewing the war from afar. And he will not be startled to find the heads of heroes attached to torsos of fallen heroes from the past. Election prints of 1864 reflected all the ingredients of present day "negative" campaigning, and were even more vicious, personal, mean-spirited, cruel, race-baiting, and divisive. A full year before Lincoln was assassinated at the hand of John Wilkes Booth, he suffered character assassination at the hand of America's engravers and lithographers. Highly recommended for any Civil War enthusiast.

OBITUARY - HARRY HAHN (April 14, 1934 – Feb. 10, 2000)

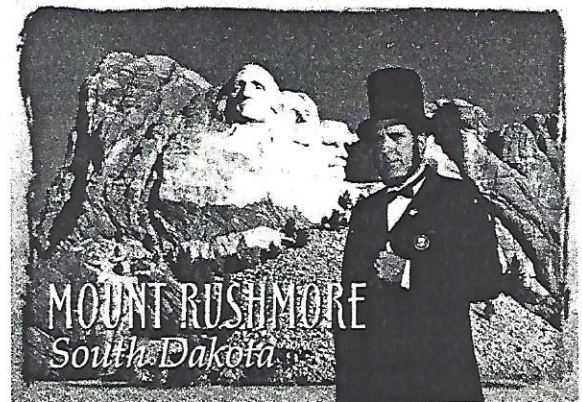
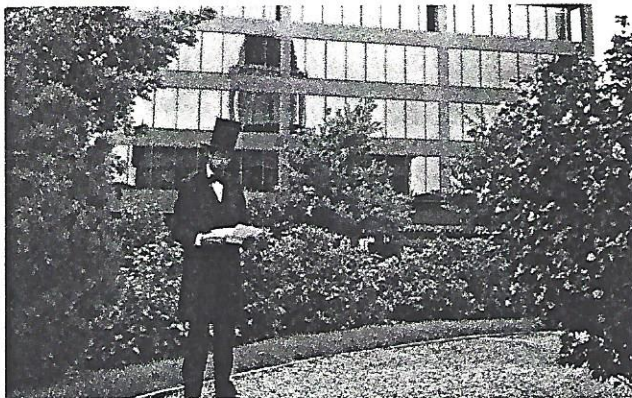
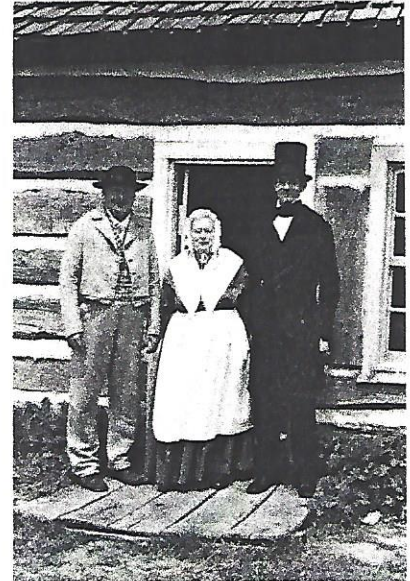
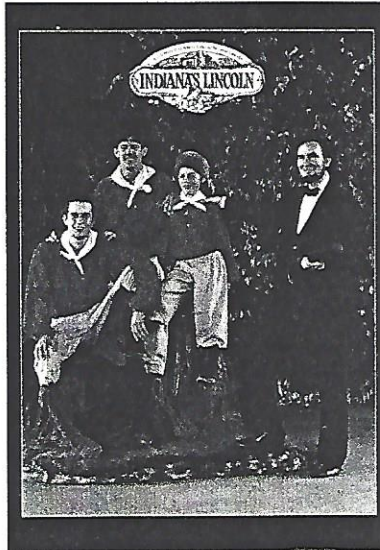
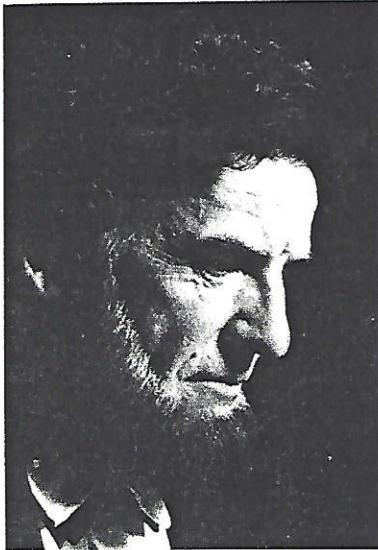
The ALP is saddened by the news that Lincoln look-alike, Harry Hahn, has died. Hahn had just completed a Lincoln presentation when he collapsed. He was a "dead-ringer" for Lincoln, and began impersonating the 16th President in 1961. He won the Lincoln look-alike contest in Hodgenville in 1982. While not a member of the ALP, Hahn did visit our Springfield convention in 1996. We are fortunate to have 5 different post cards featuring Harry Hahn, some even signed by him, to remember him by.



PRESENTERS OF LINCOLN ON POST CARDS by Dan Bassuk

I have recently begun collecting post cards of Abraham Lincoln look-alikes. I have 20 cards including 5 members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. The post card of James Getty of Gettysburg highlights his face against a dark background and looks very much like Lincoln. Macon Ray is shown on a card advertising "Young Abe Lincoln," the musical drama presenting Lincoln's early years in Indiana. Joe Woodard is a young Lincoln, standing with his "parents", Thomas and Sarah Lincoln, in the doorway of their log cabin.

Bill Hey reflects Lincoln in front of Springfield's new bank building with another reflection of the Old Courthouse where Lincoln practiced law. Homer Sewell is the Abe Lincoln on Mount Rushmore. Have any other members of ALP appeared on postcards?



THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS is a non-profit educational association.

President: Dan Bassuk (email at honestlyabe@worldnet.att.net) 1143 River Rd. Neshanic NJ.08853

Phone (908) 369-7648

Vice Presidents: Jim Sayre; Patrick McCreary

Secretary: Gordon Vincent (gvincent@nac.net)