

LINCARNATIONS

VOL. 1, NO. 2

NOW HE BELONGS TO THE STAGES

SPRING, 1992



THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS
INAUGURATES THE ANNUAL

GLENN SCHNIZLEIN MEMORIAL LINCOLN AWARD

to the person who best promotes ABRAHAM or MARY LINCOLN.

1992 award to be conferred February 4, 1993

(anniversary of Glenn Schnizlein's birthday)

AWARD COMMITTEE

Lois Schnizlein (life member)
Max and Donna Daniels (1992-1993)

Homer S. Sewell III (1992-1993)
Phillip Chetwynd (1992)

Would You Like a Portrait of my Husband, the President?

by Lois Schnizlein

(Written on February 4, 1992, which would have been Glenn Schnizlein's 70th Birthday)

My role in portraying Mary Todd Lincoln was one of accompanying my husband, Glenn, as he portrayed Abraham Lincoln. Grown-ups with children who approached and gathered around us were interested in my clothing and what women wore in Mary Todd's era. I was delighted to show them my modesty slip, and even so risqué as to exhibit my pantaloons and French-heeled boots which, of course, covered my ankles.

But the admiration, awe and respect were always directed to Mr. Lincoln. Everyone wanted to shake his hand and have a picture taken with him. At times the children stood so transfixed, looking all the way up the tall frame in the black frock coat to the top of his black stovepipe hat, that it made moving on difficult. At this point I would ask the children if they would like to have a portrait of my husband, Mr. Lincoln. I would then reach into my reticule, pull out pennies and hand them out. The children would glance at the image of Lincoln on the penny—then at “Mr. Lincoln”—



and turn and run to their parents to show them the resemblance. It afforded us a chance to stroll on to the next “close encounter.”

The Lincoln Voice

by Dr. William Jayne (1826-1916)

Springfield, Illinois physician and friend of Abraham Lincoln as recorded by Earle B. Searcy in 1914.

Lincoln was in no sense bound by artificial patterns of bodily motion or gesture, though it could be said he followed a measure of characteristic routine. When he first rose to speak, he seemed uneasy. At times he was awkward. His head, sometimes his shoulders, tilted forward. As he warmed to his subject, the uneasiness lifted and he would use one hand or the other for emphasis, the idle hand usually resting behind his back. He often stressed points by inclining his head one direction or another. Sometimes a leveled finger accentuated them.

As emotions grew, his towering figure straightened. He was given to raising both arms high, as if to embrace a spiritual presence. A climax reached, he would stand, one hand grasping his coat, the other behind him, as corroborative logic flowed.

In the earlier stages of an address, Lincoln's voice was pitched rather high. As convictions waxed it modulated, though remaining in an upper middle register. Tonal ranges trailed the rise and fall of spirit, but the tones, by then, had a musical pleasantness. Through it all, he radiated an overpowering magnetism.

Announcements and Achievements of Lincoln Presenters

1. AMERICANA - The February 1992 issue of AMERICANA magazine ran a 5 page article on the ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS. Written by Harold Holzer, President of the Lincoln Group of New York, the article highlighted Fredrick Klein, Max and Donna Daniels, James Getty, Dan Bassuk, Robert Taylor, Homer S. Sewell, and 2 classic Lincoln Presenters, Ben Chapin and Judge Charles Bull.
2. LINCOLN'S RETURN VISIT - Thanks to devoted Lincoln friend Roy Licari, the ALP was blessed with ample information about J. Seward Johnson's recent sculpture of Abraham Lincoln titled "Return Visit" placed in Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. James Getty presented the statements that President Lincoln made from the window of the Wills House the night before his Gettysburg Address 128 years ago.
3. A CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT - The Presidential Entourage led by Abraham Lincoln in the person of Phillip Chetwynd of Maine, entertained Ken Burns of Civil War fame in September of 1991. With Civil War troops and period music, the re-creator of the Civil War must have felt right at home upon seeing the 16th President and Mrs. Lincoln pull up in a horse-drawn carriage.
4. LOVE THINE ENEMIES - James Hitchcock, who resides in "The Florida White House", portrays President Abraham Lincoln with a friend who becomes Ward Lamon. In 1991 this Lincoln ran into another Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. David Ogletree at the notorious Andersonville prison. To top it off, Hitchcock's wife, Mary, is related to — John Wilkes Booth!
5. ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS ON DISPLAY - During the month of January, 1992, the Hunterdon County Library in Flemington, New Jersey exhibited a display of Lincoln Presenters. It included pictures of Frank McGlynn, Raymond Massey, Henry Fonda, Julie Harris, Jason Robards, Homer Sewell, Max and Donna Daniels, Bruce Hanks, Charles Brame, James Getty, Lois and Glenn Schnizlein, Robert and Janet Taylor, Phillip Chetwynd, and Dr. B. F. McClerren.
6. LINCOLN VIDEOS - Two new videos are available of Dr. B. F. McClerren as Abraham Lincoln. "A Visit With Lincoln" is 60 minutes of Lincoln the speech-maker, humorist, humanitarian, lawyer, and liberator. (Cost: \$20 plus \$2 s/h) "Lincoln" is largely a 30 minute tour of the Thomas Lincoln Goosenest Prairie Farm near Charleston, IL (Cost: \$18 plus \$2 s/h). Order from MAC Productions, Rt. 5, Box 49, Charleston, IL 61920.
7. TAALC - The February, 1992 newsletter of The Association of Abraham Lincoln Collectors (TAALC), includes an article about "a new Lincoln group," namely the Association of Lincoln Presenters. If interested in TAALC, write Steven Rogstad, 1923 Grange Ave., Racine, WI 53403.

Abraham Lincoln Walks at 8:30

by Phyllis McGinley

*Though they laid him down on a quiet hill,
Abraham's ghost will not be still.*

*Abraham's ghost, as man alive,
Has trodden the boards since '65.*

*For, martyr, statesman or gangling boy,
At Washington, Gettysburg, Illinois,*

*In the rural jeans that they snickered at
Or the rusty coat and the stovepipe hat,*

*That homespun figure will always seem
America's legend, America's Dream.*

The State of Lincoln Presenters

The Association of Lincoln Presenters lists 80 Abrahams and 15 Marys in 25 states as follows: Illinois (the land of Lincoln), 23; Kentucky, 14; Florida, 6; New Jersey, 5; New York, 4; California, 4; Pennsylvania, 3; Virginia, 3; Maryland,, 3; Georgia, 3; Indiana, 3; Oklahoma, 3; Michigan, 2; Minnesota, 2; and 1 in these states: Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Ohio, Montana, Delaware, Missouri, Massachusetts, Iowa, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The ASSN. OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS is pleased to recommend its members for various patriotic, historic, and speaking engagements. For a complete membership list with names, addresses, and phone numbers, please write to Dan Bassuk in New Jersey.

Lincoln Presenters of Yesteryear

This issue of **LINCARNATIONS** includes an insert entitled Lincoln Presenters of Yesteryear. It lists 108 men who have presented Abraham Lincoln and 23 women who have presented Mary Lincoln in the lively arts. Additional information and pictures regarding anyone listed therein would be greatly appreciated.

Should you be wondering who the **Mystery Lincoln Impersonator of Yesteryear** was from the previous issue of **LINCARNATIONS**, it was **Benjamin Chapin (1874 - 1918)**.

THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS is a non-profit association dedicated to the proposition of supporting and encouraging the presenting of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to the American people.

Membership in the ALP is \$20 per year for individuals and organizations, and \$30 for family members. Our year begins on April 15th, the day of Lincoln's glorification, and ends on April 14th, the day of his assassination.

Officers in the ALP are Dr. Daniel Bassuk, President; Max and Donna Daniels, Vice-Presidents; Patricia Thomas, Treasurer. Please address inquiries and correspondence to Daniel Bassuk, 1143 River Road, Neshanic, New Jersey 08853.(new address)