

# LINCARNATIONS

The Newsletter of the ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

Number 14

***Now He Belongs to the Stages***

Winter 1998

## TO WEAR THE LONG BLACK COAT

by DENNIS BOGGS

Growing up in a home on Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and even going to the movies at the Lincoln theater, little did I know that 40 years later I would be portraying the 16th President of the United States on stage and screen for school assemblies and political rallies, and even with the world renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers.

My connection with Lincoln goes far beyond a physical resemblance. At an early age, Abe lost his mother, and I lost my father. Abe had little formal education, and I dropped out of high school at 16. But like Abe, I also have a thirst for knowledge, and finally received my high school diploma in my mid thirties.

Lincoln's wife was Mary, but he addressed her as mother or Molly. It so happens that my wife's name is Molly. Abe and Mary had four children, and we have the same

The more research I do, the more I discover how much Abe Lincoln and I have in common. We share many of the same feelings, thoughts, likes and dislikes, and even fears.

As I started to prepare for my very first performance as Lincoln, something strange and magical happened to me. The first time I put on "the long black coat" and looked in the mirror, it was as if a part of Abraham Lincoln had come alive within me. My life has never been the same since. There is a calm and peace within me that was never there before, even in the midst of this chaotic world. I have begun to look at the world and all people with a new pair of eyes, with more understanding and love. What better place this world would be if we could all show the same love, kindness, understanding, forgiveness and sympathy toward our country and fellow man as Abraham Lincoln did.



As for me, I thank God that He has given me this opportunity. I pray that I may always be able to portray Abraham Lincoln with honor, dignity, and the respect due this great and wonderful man, and that I can continue to do justice to the man in "the long black coat."

Editor's postscript: Dennis Boggs won third place in the Lincoln look-a-like contest in Hodgenville, Kentucky in 1998, and has been actively protesting "The Secret Life of Desmond Pfeiffer" in front of WUXP channel 30 studios in Nashville. Dennis faxed his Governor, senators, congressmen, and mayor, and has made this issue his "Kansas-Nebraska Act". Dennis demonstrates how we are "standing tall together in Lincoln's image".

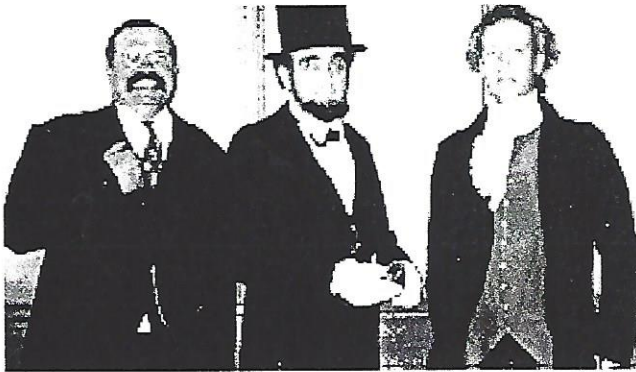
## Recent Letters Received

Fellow members and friends:

Oct. 2, 1998

Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and me, Abraham Lincoln, were invited to help inspire "Project America" to reaffirm our nation's ideals, culture, history to a cross-section of all Americans. This took place in uptown Manhattan in NYC. It proved to be an extremely rewarding experience for personal growth. I arrived "not knowing when or whether I may return" but to my disbelief I soon realized that there is an insatiable hunger for our heritage and ideals which we can all help to convey. As I walked these city streets, I pondered "how many millions have lain eyes on these foreign shores with hopes and aspirations for a brighter and more just and everlasting future?" I recalled several passages from Lincoln's favorite poem, "O Why Should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud," and it answered me, 209 years later.

Just another Linc  
David Kreutz



### New Lincolns in ALP

1. Matt Jordan – NJ
2. Daniel Storck – VA
3. Bryce Stenzel – MN
4. Lee Williams - IA

Dear Dr. Vincent:

Sept. 13, 1998



On behalf of the cub scouts from Pack 150, and myself, I would like to thank you for your wonderful fireside address last night at our Cub Scout campout. Once in a lifetime events touch your heart in a special way. Last night was one of those events. I can still see one of our young scouts coming up to you as you walked to the podium, shaking your hand and saying how he had studied you at school and admired you. I can see all their faces with a look of awe and reverence while you spoke. I can hear the silence of the night, with the only interruption being the crickets and your calming voice. I can hear the collective sound of the 80 people of the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time from the heart. I can hear their questions, and see the look in their eyes when you answered like the President of the United States should. Dr. Vincent, the evening was truly magical.

Sincerely,  
Greg Michalowski  
Cubmaster



Dear Dan,

Sept. 27, 1998

You informed me of the opportunity three weeks ago. I called Patrick Peters in Wildwood Crest, NJ to accept the offer to act like President Lincoln, to arrive on a paddle-wheeler, the Delta Lady, which was being fired upon by a cannon on a Confederate schooner. I left my guards of four Union sailors, jumped down into a launch, was brought to a pier by an encampment whose cannon had driven off the schooner and sustained a rebel attack on the banks of the bay called "Sunset Lake."

A major introduced me to a crowd of about 70 people. I delivered the two-minute "Wildwood Crest Address" in which I praised the hundreds of thousands of people who risked their lives to preserve the Union in this year, 1862. I pointed out that the Navy's efforts were crucial to many of the Army's successes. I thanked the people for their support, their interest, and their dedication to helping our nation's government be effective. The crowd and soldiers and sailors cheered huzzahs and hurrahs, and applauded. People had pictures taken of themselves or their children with me. I shook some hands extended and was escorted to the major's tent where I sat awhile and had many more photographs taken. I asked children to shake hands with me and to tell their school mates that they attended a Civil War re-enactment where "President Lincoln" shook their hand. I spoke and shook hands with many adults also. I walked around the encampment grounds, and the sutler's tables, greeting many people. They seemed highly delighted to be greeted by "Lincoln." I was deeply impressed by their response. Thank you, Dan, for getting me to go.



Herb Johnson New Jersey

#### IT PAYS TO BE A LINCOLN

Two Lincolns, Gordon Vincent and Dan Bassuk, had lunch together after attending the New Jersey Postcard Show. Time was forgotten as we talked about Lincolns and Lincarnations, and the waitress kept our teacups full. Gordon gave her his card with the Gettysburg Address on the back. She was thrilled and shared it with her friends, one of whom told of his memorizing it. When we finally departed a waiter met us at the door and offered us money, substantially more than had been our generous tip, to further our cause. It pays to be Lincoln.

The ALP maintains membership in these organizations and receives their publications  
Please contact Dan Bassuk for information on any of the following:

1. Lincoln Group of District of Columbia - "The Lincolnian" (1984-present)
2. Lincoln Group of New York - "The Wide Awake"
3. Surratt Society - "The Surratt Courier"
4. The Lincoln Museum (Ft. Wayne, IN) - McMurtry Lectures and Lincoln Lore
5. Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin - "The Lincoln Ledger" (1992-1996)
6. "The Railsplitter" - A Journal for the Lincoln Collector (1995-present)
7. Abraham Lincoln Association - "Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association"
8. Lincoln Group of Illinois - "The Lincoln Legacy" (1988-present)
9. Lincoln Memorial University - "Lincoln Herald" (1938-present)
10. The Lincoln Forum
11. Lincoln College Museum (IL) - "The Lincoln Newsletter"
12. "Mail Call Journal" (1997-present)
13. "Louisiana Lincolnator" (1995-present)
14. The President's Journal" (1995-present)
15. Abraham Lincoln Bookshop
16. Lincoln Club of Delaware
17. "Lincoln Legal Briefs"
18. Lincoln Group of Florida



## Announcements

1. Donna McCreary-Bowen has co-authored an article called "His Own Place in the Sun," about Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926) stating the reasons why he is buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The article appeared in LINCOLN LORE, summer, 1998.

If you wish for a copy signed by both authors, send \$4.00 to Donna at Box 493, Charlestown, IN 471112.

2. LINCOLN DAYS, Hodgenville, Kentucky, October 10, 1998

21 "Lincolns" competed in the Lincoln look-a-like contest.

Winners were: #1 Bill Wiseman

#2 Chester Damron #3 Dennis Boggs

8 Mary Todds competed in the contest.

Winners were #1 Stacy Wiseman #2 Linda Ames #3 Donna Bowen

Congratulations to JIM SAYRE for hosting this event for 16 years.

Donna Bowen writes that "for the members of the ALP who have never attended this festival, I assure them that the Hodgenville Lincoln Days Celebration is a must. I know I will return."



3. We wish to thank all our members who wrote to Paramount Studios protesting the television program "The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer", especially to Robert and Janet Taylor, B.F. and Dorothy McClerren, Bruce Hanks, Jim Rubin, and Dennis Boggs. The program was cancelled in October.

4. Lincoln artist, author, and collector, Lloyd Ostendorf, a patron of the ALP, has just updated and reprinted his book, LINCOLN PHOTOGRAPHS, A COMPLETE ALBUM, 437 pages, 1998. The 1985 edition had 127 photos of Lincoln; now this new edition has 130. To order your SIGNED book from the author, send \$59.00 (included postage and handling) to Lloyd Ostendorf, 225 Lookout Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45419.

5. CRICKET, a magazine for children, April 1998 issue, has photographs on the front and back covers of the first convention of the ALP in Lexington, KY, and an essay called "The Alien Abe Invasion" by Karen Leet.

THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS is a non-profit, educational association incorporated in the State of Delaware.

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