

It has been said that this world's great artists in every field were never wholly satisfied with their best works. Each deeply felt that he should have achieved more of absolute perfection in his art—even though the people of his day were loud and long in their acclaim of his offering. Thus, it may seem, that somehow perfection is not attainable. Happier, are those who accept this fact.

## Moved To Tears At His Feet

### Lincoln Lives For 151 Years

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A recent visit to a national shrine—the Lincoln Memorial—in Washington D.C. moved Mrs. Patricia Anderson, of 25380 Eversgreen, Southfield, to write this essay on the emotional impact she felt, as well as the influence Abraham Lincoln, whose 151st birthday is tomorrow, and his ideals should have on American life today.

By PATRICIA ANDERSON  
Special Writer

My eyes filled with tears as I stood before the Lincoln memorial for the first time. There were other people standing there. It was a holiday weekend, and perhaps many of them, like myself had taken a special trip to Washington to see the sights.

This memorial, I knew before I came, would be the highlight of our trip but I wasn't prepared for the surge of emotion that swept through me at the sight of that great statue of the beloved emancipator sitting there.

**HIS HANDS,** so less beautiful the mobile face, in which strength and eternal sadness mingled, the quiet dignity, the all-enveloping love of mankind in the whole man filled me with a profound reverence.

As I blinked away the tears my thoughts turned to the sculptor who was inspired to create this great work, which in turn has inspired all who see it, and I marveled at all divinely inspired creations of man.

These were my feelings as I stood there at Lincoln's feet in the first few minutes of seeing him for the first time with my own eyes.

**IT WAS HERE** too, I think, that I first recognized America. I had been searching for America, the real America, for many years. I found some of it in books. I had listened to the voice of America in the music of Stephen Foster and Gershwin.

I had found part of America in my next door neighbor, and I saw America in the character of her expansive countryside, but here in this man I saw America plain.

**HIS LOVE** of humanity was universal, yet his way of life was American. His philosophy was the outgrowth of the study and deep respect of our constitution. With typical "Lincoln" humor he once said, "The people are always much nearer the truth than politicians suppose."

"The people" were his great concern, and there was a constitution, born of a hard-won freedom that he was bound and dedicated to preserve at all costs.

We walked over to the wall where the Gettysburg address was etched in the stone, in large print for all to see.

**"IT IS RATHER** for us to be here, dedicated to the great task remaining before us. That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." I read the words twice. These were not words written by a man who compromised with values, human or otherwise.

This man looked far ahead, yet made the everyday decisions according to his knowledge of right and wrong. The big decisions he left to God's will, hesitating to interfere in any way with the divine plan that encompassed the supreme sacrifice of many of our people and shaped a nation's future. He suffered with them.

Then I crossed to the other side of the memorial, where, on another wall was written the second inaugural address, given by Lincoln. He used the expression "fitting and proper". The same words he used in the Gettysburg address.

**"IT IS ALTOGETHER** fitting and proper that we do this." I can see him standing before that multitude of people, speaking these words that were so much a part of his philosophy of life.

Perhaps there is a clue here for us to follow. How many things do we do now that are "fitting and proper"? Times have changed. We are more likely to hear now that "This is psychology that is being used." We don't use the words "fitting and proper" any more, yet I think inside of each one of us, whether buying a return ticket or there is the desire to do the fitting and proper thing.

**"WITH MALICE** toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right." Simple words from the heart of a great man, and as I stood there the tears started afresh. I was filled again with admiration, and something else that I could not explain.

It was almost excitement. Yes, excitement at discovering suddenly what we must have always known, that this man is not dead.

This statue, this symbol of greatness and simplicity, of courage and humor, of love and charity is not meant only as an inspiration to all who come and worship. What he has spread the length and breadth of the land. We do not have to think of Lincoln as a saint, a man who could do no wrong, for he was human. Or as a legend, and we can't have to wait for another Lincoln to be born.

**SOME OF THE** things he said are shafts of light that have shown us the way. We've accepted this man as a symbol of honesty and integrity. His life was a blueprint for us to follow.

First, he was servant of God, sincerely trying to do God's will.

Second, he was an American like us, and our pride in the fact that he was an American is not just a storybook character, a portrait but who rose to a high office, a man who still lives amongst us, quietly, waiting for us to realize some of the ideals he put forth.

**HE WAS AWARE** of the "wider life," the nonpartisan of nations, and of conflict, yet he was always conscious of the individual as a person.

We can say "Yes, it's true, we can, and are living a bigger, wider life, but we can't live a simple life any more. Everything is so complex. The simple things are not possible in these changing times," but they are possible.

The very fact that the world is crowding in on us, that we are being forced into an awareness of events and conflicts in the far-flung reaches of the universe makes it more important than ever that we appreciate the significance of the individual as a person.

**WE DON'T** have to throw out what we have learned about psychology and automation. Intellect and the simple rules of honesty can work side by side, can help us live on a higher level of understanding so that we can look into the faces of our fellow Americans and recognize humanity.

We must preserve the family ties, must teach our children the difference between fear and caution, between loose thinking and tolerance, duplicity and honesty. We must give them a real sense of values based on the fundamental knowledge of right and wrong.

Some things, yes, but not easily learned. It was said of Lincoln that "by mere self-discipline and the chastening of his own spirit, he found his way to the grandeur and strength of absolute simplicity."

**WE, THE PEOPLE** next door, the homemaker, the sales clerk, the accountant, the teacher in our schools, our everyday decisions are the drops that make up the stream.

As I passed at the top of the steps before leaving the Lincoln memorial, this final thought came to me. That this man yearns to be forgotten, years to be accepted by his fellow Americans so thoroughly and completely, to be so a part of their lives that they will not need to worship him.

Until he sees his doctrine being lived by his people and not just preached by them. Until he sees them voting for the public servants who cherish his ideals. Until he sees tolerance for human rights instead of tolerance for corruption, he cannot rest in peace.

**I PUT A CHECK** in the mail instead, but to and behold, about 10:00 p.m. the justice of the sleepy little village was on the phone.

Unfortunately, a disconnection occurred in transferring the call. We were retired and line, 5 p.m., Tuesday.



## Hot Meeting Set For Young GOP's

Political debate—the essence of any presidential election year—will get off to a forceful start at the Oakland County Young Republican club meeting at 8 p.m. Feb. 15, at Republican headquarters, 351 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

Assistant Prosecutor, Donald A. Brown of Royal Oak will be pitted against attorney William Mazy.

They will debate the issue "The Constitutional Convention."

Brown, 33-year-old attorney and candidate for the Republican lieutenant governor nomination, is widely regarded as a dynamic, young political leader who presents issues clearly and forcefully.

His opponent, Mazy, an attorney, represents several unions, among them Michigan AFL-CIO, Graduate of the DePaul College of Law, William brother of Emil Mazy. He is married and lives in Royal Oak.

"All YR members are urged to be in attendance for what promises to be a very stimulating and informative evening," said Arthur Elliott, chairman of the Oakland County Republican Committee.



## Put Thumbs to Greens

Alice Wessels Burlingame, The Eccentric's garden writer (left) and Mrs. Ruth Zimmerman inspect some of the plants in The Eccentric's front office. Mrs. Zimmerman is slated to give two five-week evening classes in gardening at the Birmingham Community house. The first series begins Feb. 17. "Mrs. Zimmerman knows a great deal about plants and their needs," Mrs. Burlingame said.



## Inside the 'Y'

### Saturday Swimmers Keep Moving Around

The Saturday swim class meets at Barman during February and the first two Saturdays in March. There is room for twenty more boys 7 to 12 years and older. The minimum height is 51 inches.

Boys can go directly from home to Barman, or walk from the "Y" building at 10:40 p.m. The class meets from 11 a.m. to noon.

A new instructor has come on the scene. Bill Pratt, Jr., freestyle swimmer at Barman now is teaching swimming. Bill came up through the aquatic program during 1955-56.

Other instructors are: George Ewing and Tom Geoghe, beginners; Bill Pratt, Jr., fish; Dick Staunton, flying fish; Jim O'Rourke, shark; George Ewing is in charge of the class. The winter swim class continues through March 13.

Shoshone, Glenn Northrup is the chief of the Omahas.

Frank Holiday replaced Ely Ebersole of the Kickapoo tribe. Bud Kiching replaced Clyde Morgan of the Navajos.

The Indians tribe has a display of Indian crafts at the "Y" building, 400 E. Lincoln. War bonnets, a drum, charter, bells, beads, and tomahawks are part of the exhibit.

Ed Sewell is chairman of the Indian Guide division in the membership campaign. Captains are: Mel Banfield, Ely Ebersole, Walt Fry, Wilson Hartung and Howard Rielman.

All braves have been urged to renew their membership during February. Dads have been asked to consider an adult membership or family membership to help balance the budget.

## Smoke Signals

Two nation chiefs, Walt Fry and Ely Ebersole, along with selected braves, have held meetings for all boys and dads interested in "Y" Indian Guides. Three new tribes have already been formed. They are the Chickasaw, Omaha and

## Pep-Teens

Pep-Teens will dance Saturday evening to a live band for the first time. Dancing will begin at 8 and last till 10 p.m. Those of junior high school age invited. YMCA members are admitted free. Others will be charged 25 cents.



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## People's Column

### Driver Balks At Way Police Enforced Law

To the Editor: It probably didn't occur to you that dwelling on the bad habits of motorists, especially young drivers, might cause a little too much aggressiveness on the other side of the picture.

For instance, what about the sleepy little village in our midst, with many part-time police being used for traffic violations, that is a veritable trap for the unsuspecting motorist?

According to the ticket and I, didn't bother to answer when the her mother, was in danger of being held as hostage while she was to drive home for the balance.

However, even here this must have been considered a bit too much, because both of us were finally allowed to leave, but were commanded to return immediately with the \$5 balance.

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Call Midwest 4-1100 to place order in transfer to Classified Ad. Dept.