

Abe Lincoln appears on Grandview stage

Mrs. Kern's 3d grade class at Grandview presented a play about Abraham Lincoln last week.

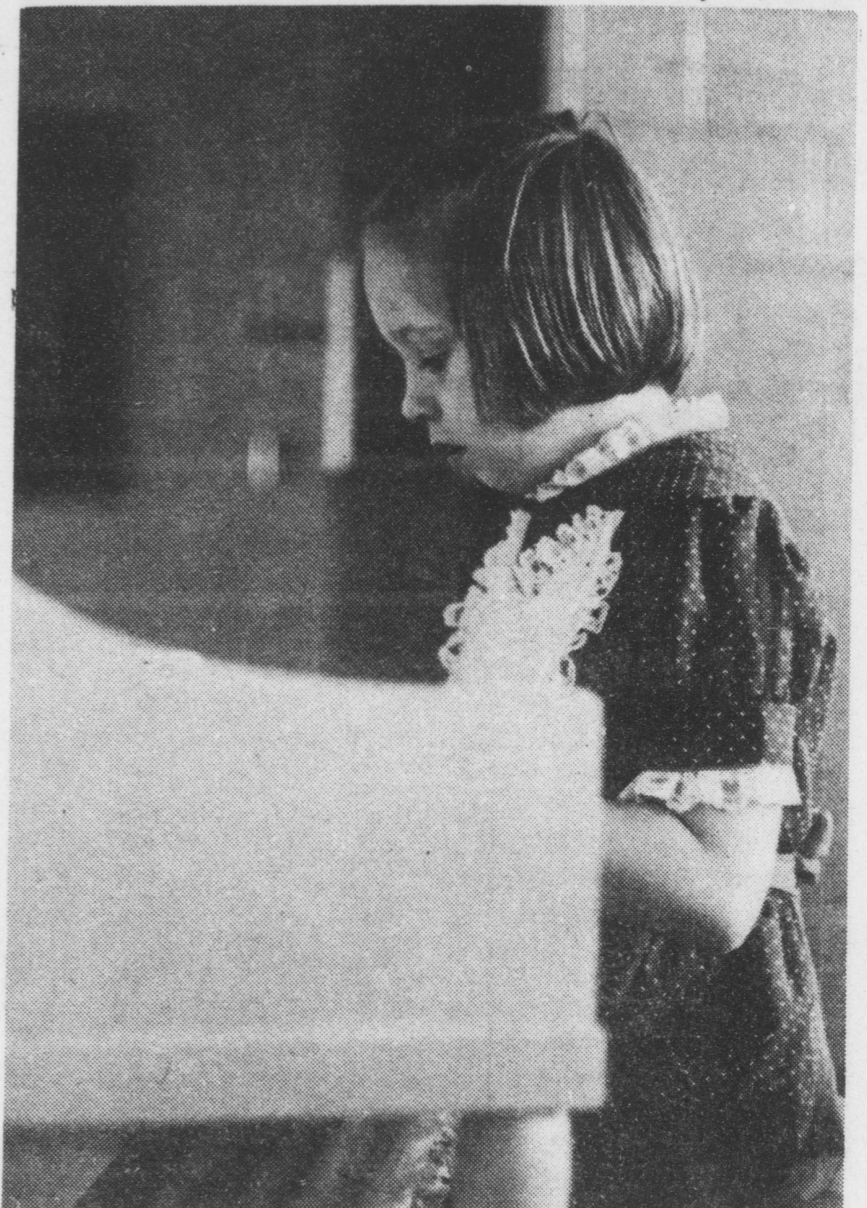
Photo below shows Abe (Brett Floyd) chatting with a citizen (Kim Funk).



Brett Floyd and Kim Funk



Brett Floyd, without his Abe Lincoln beard, recites the Gettysburg address.



Trixie Greiner at the piano

How to get close to foxes on winter nights



Drawing by J. L. Biesecker

by J. L. Biesecker

Plans for a winter fox hunt have recently been discussed around the crackling fire of Red Fox Lodge. As we sat in the glow of the fire, from red cedar logs, reflected in our amber mugs our plans were laid. Old Red Fox, who gave his name to the lodge, grinned down at us from his spot on the wall.

Discussion of the use of an electronic predator call reminded me of my first predator call. As a lad of 15, I sent off several hard-earned dollars in answer to an ad in *Sports Afield*. Weeks later a small package containing a four-inch plastic tube arrived. According to attached instructions the noise emitted by the tube, when blown, would sound like an injured rabbit.

After memorizing the instructions, my brother and I set out on a bitter cold black February night, armed with a flashlight, a 12 guage

double-barrel, and great skepticism about the possibility of success. As we settled on a stump in the old fence-row behind the house, we faced into the night breeze and took turns blasting the squels of our wounded plastic rabbit into the blackness. Suddenly a pair of glowing night eyes appeared, their bobbing indicating that an animal was running towards us. We both had the same thought: Snookie, our dog, had gotten out of the house and was following us.

The animal behind the eyes materialized in our flashlight's beam only 20 feet from us. A very large grey fox stopped, apparently as astonished as we were, then bounded off into the night with only a short yelp. Neither of us remembered the shotgun, so no bounty was collected on the fox, but faith in the ability of our fox call was established.

Several Red and one Grey

fox pelts were collected with the aid of that call over the years, but non was ever called as quickly or as easily as that first Grey. Foxes are intelligent animals with good skills at avoiding man. They normally do not stumble into two boys sitting on a stump in the middle of a winter night.

The Red is more intelligent than the Grey and much more common in this area. There are other differences between the two. Reds generally have a better pelt with longer fur and less odor. However, this does not mean that the Reds smell good-try sniffing one on a wet day. Both are roughly 40 inches in length, including the 12-inch tail on the Grey and the 16-inch very bushy tail on the Reds. Both are omniverous with vegetation making up as much as 15% of their diet. Although they eat insects, birds, and almost anything else, rodents are their main

dish. Greys prefer rabbits while Reds dine mainly on mice; in fact, wildlife biologist say that the Red Fox is probably the world's greatest destroyer of mice.

As you move about through the woods during the day chances of seeing old Red Reynard are pretty good, since he is less nocturnal than his Grey brother. If you should be lucky enough to see one, notice the sharp hazel eyes that intently study all the possible mouse hiding places. Perhaps you will be fortunate enough to see the quick crouch and spring which carries the flash of rusty orange and black down on an unsuspecting mouse.

As my brother and I found on that night twenty years ago, use of a predator call at night greatly increases chances of seeing Reynard first-hand. Whether you want to collect a pelt, a photograph or just a memory, I would recommend going out on a winter evening to call one of our local Red or Grey mouse catchers.



Michelle Lambert (left) and Heide Bednarzick playing their flutophones



Waiting for Abraham Lincoln to appear on stage are, from left to right; seated- Yvonna Melton, Michelle Lambert, Traci Smith, Heidi Bednarzick, Mike Brubaker, and Don Zielke; standing- Dianna Arndt, Tina Keiser, Audra Markley, Tom Warren, Dena Darrenkamp, George Keyton, Bryan Balmer, Noel Ho, Kay Risser, Doris Glessner, and Keith Wilson.