

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 28, 1963

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LINCOLN FIGURE for the Illinois Pavilion at the New York World's Fair is now underway at Walt Disney's WED Enterprises, Inc. in Glendale, California. Prototype shown in these photographs is now nearly four years old, and is used only for reference in creating the totally new Audio-Animatronic figure for the Disney-Lincoln show. Series above shows Lincoln as audience will first see him (upper left), flexible plastic head modeled from 19th Century life-mask (upper right), technicians studying hand and finger movements (lower left) and part of the equipment that synchronizes Lincoln's 29 coordinated body actions and 15 facial expressions (lower right).

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WED ENTERPRISES, INC.
Revised: August 13, 1963

LINCOLN - ILLINOIS

SHOW OUTLINE

The last guests have reached their seats in the theatre ... the houselights dim ... a musical fanfare heralds the start of the show. There appears on the front curtains the wording of the PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION. At each side of this document are projected the shadowy figures of the citizens of Colonial times, the merchants, housewives, artisans, farmers--- a cross-section of the people.

Speaking as the voice of these people, a MIXED CHORUS chants the Constitution opening lines:

"We, the people of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect union,"
etc.

The voices are heard first from the sound speakers on the stage ... but gradually, they seem to move through the audience, from the stage to the back of the theatre. Soon the chanting voices fill the entire auditorium.

As the chanting of "WE THE PEOPLE..." ends, the page from the original draft of the Constitution, on which these words appear, remains on the curtains.

The NARRATOR speaks of the "new idea among men" proclaimed to the world through these words.

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But, the Narrator continues, this golden goal was not gained in a day ... it was born of adversity ... tested by time ... and proven only after long experience, ordeal and trial.

With these words about trials, conflicts and crisis faced by this "new idea," FLAMES begin to lick at the edges of the Constitution projected on the curtains. The flames leap toward and around the "We the People" wording.

Thirty-four men, the narrator continues, have occupied this nation's highest office. One stands tallest amongst them, not in height alone, but measured by his deeds, what he was, and what he is today, to his countrymen ... and to the world. For it was he, a century ago, who saved our code of law, our Constitution, in its greatest hour of crisis ... The War between the States. That President was ... Abraham Lincoln.

As fire seems about to engulf the Constitution, projected on the curtains, those curtains part ... and the figure of ABRAHAM LINCOLN is revealed seated in center stage, bathed in dramatic lighting.

The Narrator introduces Lincoln the man, Lincoln the citizen of Illinois, Lincoln the President. Abraham Lincoln --- born and raised in the "coonskin democracy" of the middle American frontier ... a man among men --- yet a man who stood with the most common for government of, by and for the people.

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The Narrator's words, describing him in glowing language, obviously make Lincoln uncomfortable. The seated, still figure gradually begins to "come to life": he shifts his feet impatiently ... drums his fingers on the chair arms ... clears his throat.

Now, as Lincoln's impatience visibly increases, the Narrator introduces the particular speech that Lincoln will present that day. (There can be a number of different speeches, so that special occasions may be marked by presentation of a famous Lincoln talk. For example: the Gettysburg Address might be used in May, preceding Memorial Day; another speech might mark the anniversary of one made a century before this World's Fair. Excerpts from a number of speeches might be woven together to reveal Lincoln the man: his humor, touches of his political and economic ideas, etc.

The Narrator's introduction ends ... Lincoln, spotlighted, RISES TO HIS FULL HEIGHT, and begins to speak. As re-created by the skilled hands of the sculptor, the artist and the animator, the Audio-Animatronic figure of Lincoln is completely articulated to simulate the actions of a human being ... and specifically the mannerisms of Abraham Lincoln. As he speaks, he turns his body and head to face various sections of the audience, shifts his weight, nods, gestures, sways slightly, hunches his shoulders, moves a hand or hands to his coat lapels.

There are sound speakers located throughout the theatre. If, for example, a section of the Lincoln-

Douglas Debates is used in the show, these audience speakers will be used to carry the voices of HECKLERS, the sound of CHEERING, the SHOUTS of friend and foe that lend a participating, "you are there" flavor to the speech. Lincoln, of course, would answer a heckler or acknowledge shouts of encouragement, with appropriate comment from his actual speeches.

As Lincoln concludes, he SITS DOWN ... and the voices of the CHORUS swell in a resounding crescendo. They are heard first from the speakers in the back of the audience, and progressively, from the sound speakers located throughout the Theatre. The singing approaches the stage, as if a processional were moving down the aisles from the back of the Theatre, through the audience itself. The voices passing through the audience become a "chorus within a chorus" as the various parts -- alto, tenor, bass, etc. -- are joined together in harmony, until the audience is encompassed in stereophonic sound. The chorus is singing "GLORY! GLORY! HALLELUJAH!

"Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;

"He is tramping out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;" etc.

As the voices approach the stage, the CURTAINS OPEN WIDE. Behind the seated figure of Abraham Lincoln, the imposing DOME of the CAPITOL is suddenly revealed against a DAWN SKY, where stars still twinkle in the heavens above.

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The dawn's early light tints the clouds crimson and white. As the singing continues, a symbolized AMERICAN FLAG appears, the clouds providing the stripes, the stars twinkling in their field of blue.

The voices mount in volume and force, as though marching off into the sky, and symbolically, into the future. The chorus sings:

"Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on!"

The curtains close, the houselights come on, and the show is ended.
