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LEISURE

Thursday, September 14, 1995

- ERIC CLAPTON
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Ragtime Soc. welcomes Eu

JM Staff Report

Terry Waldo, ragtime pianist, composer, arranger, author and band leader, and protege of the late Eubie Blake — who described him as an "extension of my own musical self" — will be the featured artist at the next performance of The Northern Virginia Ragtime Society (NVR) which is based in Manassas.

Waldo's performance will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 at

Nationally celebrated compo leader will appear at next p

Jordan Kitts Studio, 2748 Gallows Road, Vienna.

Waldo, who currently resides in New York, is a native of Ironton, Ohio and received a bachelor and master's degree in communications from Ohio State University.

He has recorded more than 20

albums under his own name and as band leader. His most recent recording was an album of orchestra ragtime for BMG Records.

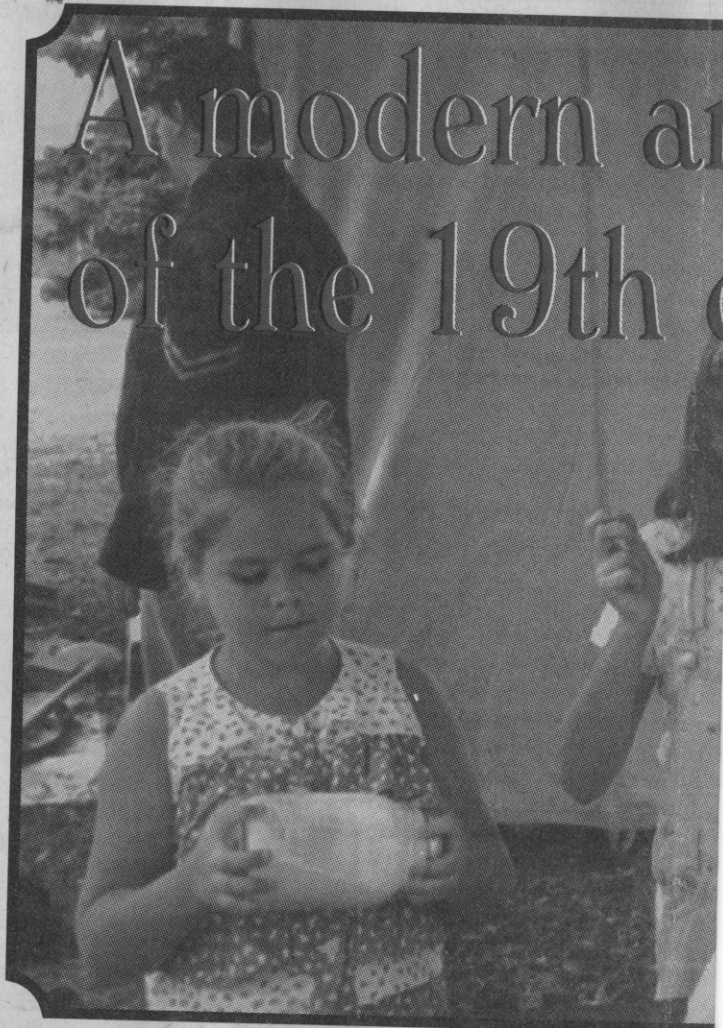
In 1974, Waldo created a popular series for National Public Radio entitled "This Is Ragtime" and in 1976 authored an award-

BULL RUN REG LIB

Ben Lomond
Manor House:



Above, Carolyn Cuccherini prepares to model a hoop skirt worn by women in the civil war period during Saturday's Civil War Tea and Fashion Show held at the Ben Lomond Manor House. At right, Amanda Juraschek, 8, and Jessica Bass, 9, are taught how to churn butter by Virginia Mescher at the Civil War Tea and Fashion Show held last weekend at the Ben Lomond Manor



Die Blake protege

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winning book by the same title. In recent years he has been featured in New York jazz venues, including three performances at Carnegie Hall. More recently he has produced and starred in nine different musical revues that included appearances with Woody Allen. He is currently in

the process of composing a sequel to the Broadway extravaganza "Sugar Babies."

Blake was presented with the Medal of Freedom Award shortly before his 100th birthday by President Ronald Reagan.

Advance reservations are required and may be obtained by calling the Society at (703) 791-3063 or by mail at NVRS, Box 494, Manassas 22110. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students.



LESLIE BOX



'Comedy' of drag queens defeats cause

Drag Queens. They're everywhere these days.

I don't want to offend any of you drag queens out there but I'm upset by your schtick.

I consider myself a pretty open-minded person, too, but I have a hard time dealing with men whose interpretation of women is completely off-base: portraying women as attitude-havin' (you go, girl), high heels stompin'.

It's like when a man attempts to speak in a feminine voice and it just doesn't sound right.

I'm not saying it's not right to be a drag queen, I am saying men (and some women) treat it as a joke, thereby insulting any woman with some degree of consciousness.

Mega high heels. Glitter lip gloss. Broad shoulders jutting out from whale bone bustiers, and little muscular booties rounding out satin hot pants. Rhinestones. Hyper hair sprayed beehive wigs approaching the powdered wigs a la America's Founding Fathers. Fake beauty marks. Make up bags stuffed with stage makeup, tweezers and eyebrow pencils. Heavy duty wax jobs — we're talking all over body wax. Taffeta prom dresses. Attitude. Valium. And mixed drinks.

Show me one woman (besides Cyndi Lauper) who dresses like that.

There's Cpl. Clinger of the 4077th M*A*S*H*.

Commercials would have us believe men will act and dress as women so they can have their favorite beer on Ladies Night.

RuPaul and his feather boas is one thing, the restyled, redefined Boy George is back in the public eye, but

(Sheryl Bass, Journal Messenger)

By **SHERYL BASS**
JM Community Correspondent

"Who was Ben?" is the question most often asked by visitors to the Ben Lomond Manor House. That question and many more were answered by the many volunteers participating in the Civil War Tea and Fashion Show sponsored by the Ben Lomond Manor House Commission this past Saturday.

Martha Hendley, commission chairman, explained, "Our purpose is to raise the money necessary to create working plans and restore this house for public and private use. We have a goal of \$350,000 and are well on our way in fund-raising when we work with exciting events such as today's festivities."

With the assistance of the Ben Lomond Manor House Commission, the restoration of the Ben Lomond Manor House is the first historic preservation project undertaken by the Prince William County Park Authority. The Manor House property includes the

main residence, the caretaker's house which is currently rented out to the Flory Small Business Center, and three outbuildings on approximately six acres.

Ben who?

Built in 1837 by Benjamin Tasker Chinn on 1,179 acres of land he inherited from his mother, the Ben Lomond Manor House was originally part of Robert "King" Carter's Lower Bull Run Tract.

The Chinns were successful farmers until the two Civil War Battles of Manassas. The Manor House is located just two miles south of the battlefield in view of Bull Run Mountain and was reportedly used as a hospital during First Manassas, but stood vacant during the Second Manassas.

Ben Lomond wasn't named after a famous American or even after its builder, Ben Chinn. The Carter family named its farms after signs of the zodiac, and Ben Lomond was part of the "Leo" Plantation. The name Ben Lomond was never used in the family or courthouse records.

See **BEN WHO?** on B2



Civil War
Matthew
attending
Show h

Boys dance company auditions members for a second season

The Boys' Scholarship Dance Company (BOYZCO) provides opportunities for Manassas-area males age 19 and under who are interested in learning dance technique and developing high-quality performance skills.

Interested boys must attend the audition from 19 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 16. The audition will consist of a dance class in basic, modern, jazz, and tap fundamentals in order to assess each dancer's potential. No previous dance experience is necessary. Tap shoes are not required for the audition. Dancers should wear clothing that will not restrict movement (i.e. no blue jeans.).

Those selected will receive free dance training in modern, jazz/hip-hop, and tap technique from experienced professional instructors. Company members will have opportunities in appear in community performances Door's annual recital in June. Selectees will be expected

to attend all Company classes/rehearsals.

BOYZCO director Gina Ohmann says "we've had a very successful first season." The seven-member company consisting of boys ranging in age from 8 to 17 "delivered a stunning performance" (*Journal Messenger*) in their recital premiere. Plans for the upcoming season include several community performances, national competitions, and appearance in Stage Door Studio's June '96 recital.

Some reasons for establishing the company include a shortage of skilled male modern and jazz dancers in the area, and the need to educate boys about dance at an early enough age so that if they choose to dance professionally later in life, they can be realistic about the self-discipline and hard work required of professional performers.

Ohmann states that "another goal is to eradicate the idea that dance is a girl's-only activity."

Magic Window

By **STELLA OLINGER**
JM Contributing Writer

A Magic Window is about to reopen in Prince William County and area youngsters are invited to pass through it. The Prince William County park Authority and Arts Council announce the third season of Magic Window, a series of live performances for children.

The young and young-at-heart will experience the wonder and excitement of theater, magic, mime and folk tales brought to life by gifted professional artists. Children and their families can share the thrill of live performances and explore the fun-filled world of the performing arts.

Designed for children ages four to 10, Magic Window is a series of six performances held on Saturday mornings from October through March. This year the series will include; Oct. 14, the Magic of Joe Romano; Nov. 18, Percussion Discussion, featuring Hal Trapkin and more than 35 instruments and sound effects; Dec. 9, "Arthur and Merlin," by Theatre IV; Jan. 27, "Little Red, A Boy and the Wolf," by D.B. Puppet Productions; Feb. 24, "Tall Tales, Monsters and Myths," by storyteller Jon Spelman; and March 23, "Tilford and the Party

Civil War Manassas



Reenactors, right, discuss the Civil War with, from left, [Name], 9, and Joshua Semovoski, 14. The boys were [Name] the Ben Lomond Manor House Civil War Tea and Fashion [Name] held last weekend.

now there's:

- Patrick Swayze
- John Leguizamo
- Wesley Snipes

For Swayze, it's from "Dirty Dancing" to this gender-bending "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"-ripoff where his heartthrob image was called into question.

For Snipes, it's terminally bad hair in a long line of inferior action movies.

And Leguizamo, whoever he is, is said to be rivaling Rosie Perez for that Latina sassiness.

Allow three of the most testosterone-ridden, heterosexual all-American men to act out their interpretation of "WOMAN," and what do you get?

Comedy.

We are intrigued by drag queens. We watch in curiosity as RuPaul pretends he's a supermodel. We gladly shell out \$7.50 to see the latest buddy movie which happens to have drag queens as the main characters. We chuckle at the old donut commercials where the fat dude tries to conceal his mustache with his finger as he asks how fresh the donuts are.

The drag queens in "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" and "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" challenge middle-American/middle-Australian mores with the help of ABBA and a few save-the-day knuckle sandwiches.

Unfortunately, actual women do not behave like that. It's a total double standard. If women were to prance around the country in gold lame body suits touting extravagance, hedonism and outrageousness, they would be ridiculed.

I think drag queens are the most insulting, sexist creatures. Their impression of what it is to be WOMAN is farcical — especially the guys in "To Wong Foo." What is worse, the American audience and the actors *know* this isn't to be taken seriously.

It should be insulting to honest-to-goodness drag queens that the only way they can be in the American dialogue is in a comedic tone. Obviously, America is not ready to take them seriously.

Good thing, too. Legitimate drag queen men think they're acting like women; I have yet to see a woman who acts like that.

They exaggerate what they think are female characteristics, they define themselves in terms of stereotypes, and thereby insult actual women.

You go, girl!

But I'm not sure there's any way of getting around these attitudes. If men want to dress up as a female persona, that's their prerogative. It just bothers me that all around drag queens will never really be taken seriously because their values will always undermine them.

Woodbridge reopens in county

"Puppets" presented by Tyrone Travis, ventriloquist. Most of these programs involve a great deal of audience participation.

All programs are held on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at Woodbridge High School, 3001 Old Bridge Road, Woodbridge. Season tickets for the entire series, available by mail, are \$20 per person (children under two are admitted free of charge), a generous savings of 33 percent off single

ticket prices. Single tickets are \$5 each, and available at the door prior to each performance. Special rates for youth groups of 10 or more are available by reservation only. For further information, to order season tickets or to make group reservations, contact the Prince William County Arts Council, c/o the Prince William County Park Authority, 14420 Bristow Road, Manassas 22111 or call 792-7060.

Top 40 Best-Paid Entertainers

(AP) Forbes magazines ranking of the 40 highest-paid entertainers and their estimated gross income for 1994-1995:

1. Steven Spielberg, \$285 million
2. Oprah Winfrey, \$146 million
3. The Beatles, \$130 million
4. Rolling Stones, \$121 million
5. Eagles, \$95 million
6. David Copperfield, \$81 million
7. Pink Floyd, \$70 million
8. Michael Jackson, \$67 million
9. Barbara Streisand, \$63 million
10. Sylvester Stallone, \$58 million
11. Tom Hanks, \$52 million
12. Bill Cosby, \$49 million
13. Andrew Lloyd Webber, \$48 million
14. Harrison Ford, \$46 million

15. Stephen King, \$43 million
16. Grateful Dead, \$42 million
17. Barney (Richard Leach, publisher; Sheryl Leach, creator), \$40 million
18. Siegfried & Roy, \$40 million
19. Garth Brooks, \$40 million
20. Michael Crichton, \$39 million
21. Jim Carrey, \$39 million
22. Robert Zemeckis, \$37 million
23. Charles Schulz, \$36 million
24. Elton John, \$35 million
25. Bruce Willis, \$35 million
26. Billy Joel, \$33 million
27. Arnold Schwarzenegger, \$33 million
28. Clint Eastwood, \$32 million
29. Roseanne, \$32 million
30. Michael Douglas, \$31 million