Public Broadcasting films soldiers' life

A ninety-year-old judgment against Henry Flipper, the first black West Point graduate, may be cleared by a Channel 12 production to be shown nationally over the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
The Trial of Henry Flipper,

a dramatized documentary of his life, is being filmed this week at Lincoln Air Park. Flipper graduated from West Point in 1877, but spent only four years in the Army. Following a court martial finding him guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer, Flipper tried in vain to clear himself of the judgment until his death in 1940.

ALL THE DIALOGUE is based on transcripts of the court martial and the writings of Flipper, associate producer Arthur Cromwell said. No attempt is made to show Flipper's innocence, he said, because the evidence speaks for

The series of three half-hour shows is a spin-off of Black Frontier, an ETV documentary, partly filmed in Lincoln, about the role of the black in the 19th Century West. Cromwell said he uncovered Flipper's story while doing research for Black Frontier

"Lt. Flipper was either born too soon or too late, Cromwell said. He was born a slave, but became educated through a reconstruction program. He graduated from West Point and set out with the belief his education would overcome racial barriers and allow him to be accepted.

BUT 1877 WAS the year

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Expanding its format, Jazz and Java will appear on Fridays and Sundays for the remainder of the school year. Smoke

Stack Lightning will appear On Friday, March 5 at 3:30 p.m.

in the south crib, and Granny's Truck Stop will perform on

Sunday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union south

crib. Probably the most important thing to remember about

University professional music fraternity for men, will make its

13th annual appearance on Friday, March 5, at 8 p.m. in

Baker with Prof. Dennis Schneider and the University Lab Band.

the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

and it might be wise to start buying tickets.

production of Under the Yum Yum Tree.

This year's concert will feature jazz trombonist "Buddy"

Baker has toured with such jazz greats as Stan Kenton and Woody Herman. He is now a professor of brass and theory at

If you dig jazz at all, this should be a must on your agenda

Moving on to theater, Celebration, the next production of

Also opening the 12th is the Lincoln Community Playhouse

Anyone who is interested in acting and singing might pay

Baker needs five men and three women, plus "a female

Renaissance music will be featured at the University School of Music Thursday in a lecture by a noted musicologist from

Professor Albert Dunning will speak in the Sheldon Gallery

The concert, performed by the Musica Antiqua Players, will

The concert and the lecture are open to the public, and

La Boheme, Puccini's popular four-act opera, will be broadcast live from the Metropolitan Opera House, Saturday,

Auditorium on "Music as a Political Instrument During the

heed to this, tryouts for Song For Albert, written and directed

by Paul Baker will be March 17, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. and March 18 at 3:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Wesley

blues singer along the line of Joplin." You might also be

interested to know that the show will feature the Red. White

the Netherlands at 3:30 p.m. and a concert at 8 p.m

also be in the Sheldon Gallery Auditorium.

March 6, at 1 p.m. over KRNU radio (90.3 mc).

again there is no admission price.

this weekend, especially with tickets so reasonably priced,

Howell Theater, will be opening in about a week (March 12)

Portraits in Jazz," presented by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Northern reconstruction ardor faded, taking with it the opportunities for Flipper to put his education to use, Cromwell said. And of all the careers for an educated black man of the '70s to find acceptance, in, he said, the military was perhaps the worst, because of the competition, jealousy and hatred characterizing the relations among the promotion-hungry officers.

When Lt. Flipper came to Ft. Davis, Texas, he met his nemesis in the aptly named Col. Shafter, a true heavy, a 300-pound all-around bigot who hated everything Flipper represented: West Pointers, junior officers, and blacks.

While Flipper was the acting quartermaster, \$900 somehow disappeared, and the entire fort looked with accusation at Flipper. To buy a little time, Flipper wrote a \$900 note, in the belief money was coming to him for a book he had written about his life at West Point.

The money never came, and a 3-month court martial for embezzlement followed, but Flipper was found innocent. But for the actions he had taken when accused of the crime, the court judged him guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and discharged him from the Army

"FLIPPER REFUSED to fold up or become bitter," Cromwell said. As a civil engineer, he mapped parts of the Southwest territories. Later he became a special agent, somewhat ironically, for the Department of Justice.

He appealed to Congress at least seven times to clear his name, but a pardon never came. In 1922 he left the government service and worked as an engineer in Venezuela, He died in Atlanta in 1940, his

name still historically connected with the charge.

THE MAJOR PARTS are played by members of the Screen Actors Guild, flown here from Los Angeles. Will



Project director Larry Long. . . consults the script during the filming of The Trial of Henry Flipper Lincoln Air Park.

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DIAMOND BAR & GRILL Chillis, as Lt. Flipper, has been in The Virginian and It Takes a Thief. Virgil Frye, as Capt. Barber, was in Patton and on the make-up crew of Easy Rider. Bill Bush, as Lt. Wilhelmi, was in Five Easy Pieces. Some of the minor parts are played by local



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