

# THE CALAMITIES OF KALAMITY KATE

A HISTORY OF NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN'S TV SHOWS



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# Kidding Around

AS KALAMITY KATE'S CARTOON CORRAL RODE OFF INTO the sunset, 10/11 continued to buck the trend of canceling local children's programs. In 1980, a new, hour-long Saturday afternoon (1 p.m.) show debuted, targeting an early teen audience.

*Kidding Around*, with Leta Powell Drake as host and producer, showcased young local talent, children's news and special guests. Two bright young Lincoln teenagers were regulars: Kevin Koci introduced segments and created magic, while David Boles reviewed movies from a kid's perspective.

Leta also kidded around with major movie and sports stars in interviews she recorded in New York City, Chicago or Los Angeles. Some of the most memorable stars on *Kidding Around* were the cast of the 1977 sci-fi movie *Star Wars* and the 1980 sequel *The Empire Strikes Back*. Headliners were Darth Vader, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, C-3PO and R2-D2.

Mark Spitz, seven-time Olympic gold medalist in swimming, was in Lincoln and he appeared on *Kidding Around*, too, interviewed by Leta's swimming-son, Aaron Drake.

Times, they were a-changing, as 10/11's dynamic and creative program director Deborah McDermott was leaving to work her