

speaking from his experiences in gathering Lincolniana for nearly 2 decades. The Visitor Center programs are free of charge.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM, Monday, February 12, 1:30 P.M., at the Old State Capitol. The Abraham Lincoln Association will sponsor the 17th Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium. Speaking on the theme of "Lincoln and Leadership" will be James M. McPherson of Princeton University ("The Hedgehog and the Foxes: Lincoln and Some Contemporaries) and William E. Gienapp of Harvard University ("Abraham Lincoln and the Border States.") Commentary will be by Mark E. Neely, Jr., Director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Admission to the Symposium is free and open to the public without reservations.

The Abraham Lincoln Association banquet at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel at 7:00 P.M. will feature Mortimer Adler as the dinner speaker, giving a philosopher's perspective on the Lincoln theme. The "Lincoln the Lawyer" Award will be presented to the Hon. Harlington Wood, Jr., Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals.

(Information on the banquet charge and deadline reservation on February 5 were given in the January HISTORICO.)

OBSERVANCES AT LINCOLN'S TOMB. The Veterans of Foreign Wars 43rd Annual Pilgrimage will begin with the parade of flags at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, February 11, at the main gate of Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The Springfield American Legion Post 32 will conduct its 56th Annual Pilgrimage on Monday, February 12, starting at 10:00 A.M. at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The program will feature a speech by the American Legion's National Commander and music by the Sweet Adelines.

LINCOLN ESSAY CONTEST

In observance of Abraham Lincoln's 181st birthday, all eighth grade history students in Illinois were invited to submit papers for the National Park Service at the Lincoln Home fourth annual essay contest. The theme was "Lincoln's Legacy," and over 70 essays were received. Five winners were chosen - Holly Tracy of Ivesdale, Jennifer Yeoward of Springfield, Rhonda Hoeft of Mt. Vernon, Ralph Coleman of Chicago, and Kristin Haslow of Mt. Vernon. The first place winner's paper is published in this issue of the HISTORICO and the other four will appear in subsequent issues. The prize winning essays were selected by a review committee of two, George L. Painter, Historian of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives. Our congratulations go to Holly Tracy, of Ivesdale, who attends Bement Community Unit School, District #5.

LINCOLN'S LEGACY
by
Holly Tracy

Abraham Lincoln preserved the American Union during the Civil War and proved that democracy can be a lasting type of government. His Gettysburg Address and many of his other speeches, as well as his writings, are wonderful statements of democratic beliefs and goals. Lincoln was and is thought of by many people as a folk hero. His character continues to gain world-wide appeal. He had the awesome ability to express his thoughts so clearly that he inspired millions of Americans then, and millions of people across our world today.

Lincoln knew that the United States could very easily become two nations, the Union and the Confederacy. He forever influenced world history by his leadership of the North during the Civil War. He emphasized that slavery was wrong and should not exist, especially in the United States, a country founded on freedom and independence.

He encouraged the people of the United States at every possible opportunity to promote the basic human right that "every man is created equal."

Abraham Lincoln is best known as the "Great Emancipator," the man who freed slaves, but his mission was actually two-fold. First, to save his country from breaking apart, and secondly, to save his country from one of the greatest crimes of all, slavery.

Abraham Lincoln proved to people, then and now, that you don't need to be rich or beautiful to be successful, but you need to believe very strongly in your goals. Abraham Lincoln will forever be known throughout the ages as "The man who freed slaves."

COMING IN MAY - SPRING TOUR

The tour committee is planning for our trip to Bishop Hill on Saturday, May 19. Plans call for leaving the Stratton Building parking lot at 8:00 A.M., arriving in Bishop Hill at 10:00 A.M. From 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., with guides for part of the tour, we will have a chance to visit the historic buildings and museums. There will be time for lunch and individual shopping or sightseeing. Leaving Bishop Hill at 4:30 P.M., we will arrive in Peoria for dinner at a restaurant between 5:30 and 7:00 P.M., arriving back in Springfield about 8:30 P.M. The fee is \$17.00 for members and \$22.00 for non-members. It includes bus fare and gratuity for the driver, and admission to any site where there is a fee. For lunch and dinner we're "on our own."

Bishop Hill, in the northwestern part of the state near Kewanee, was established in 1846 as their "Utopia on the prairie" by a group of over 1000 Swedish immigrants following their religious leader, Eric Jansson, in search of a perfect way of life. Their communal experiment endured to about 1861. A number of their descendants still live in the village, and many of the historic buildings and artifacts remain.

"AT HOME IN THE HEARTLAND"

Jan Wass, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Illinois State Museum (and a SCHS board member) is directing a new project at the Museum - a long-term exhibit focusing on the domestic choices typical of those that people in Illinois have made for their own homes. "At Home in the Heartland" will explore not only what, but why people chose certain furnishings and other household needs for their day-to-day surroundings. The period covered runs from the days of the earliest white settlements in Illinois, around 1700, to the present day. Jan is drawing upon the knowledge and expertise of a number of consultants in various fields which influence domestic choices. A great deal of research is going into this exhibit which is slated to open in late 1991.

Luckily, we will not have to wait that long for a first look at this fascinating exhibit! The public is invited to "Voices and Choices," a preview of one element of the exhibit, during two weekends, Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, and Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18. The exhibit will be on display from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. each of those days, in the Decorative Arts Gallery on the second floor