

In this number, a condition which Woody believes should be corrected. The court is overburdened with cases - over 2500 are now pending for the 11 judges to handle. Last year Congress created a Federal Courts Study Commission in an attempt to plan relief for the courts. Judge Wood decries the low degree of public interest in the federal courts, but noted that there had been more awareness lately, probably due to the tragic assassination of Judge Vance in Alabama. Judge Vance was a member of the same tier of courts as is Judge Wood; there are about 150 judges in this position in the entire United States.

Due to the limitations of space this necessarily has been a very abbreviated report of a fine program. We appreciate Judge Wood's interest in addressing our Society, of which he was an early member. In closing, he stressed that the public should take more interest in the federal court system because so much of its litigation affects our daily lives, and its impact is a vital part of our democracy.

SIGNS OF SPRING - A PICNIC, A TOUR

The Annual Potluck Picnic at Pioneer Park will be held on Sunday, April 29, from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to pass, your choice of a beverage, table service and lawn chairs. Portable sanitation units will be on the grounds. Entertainment is planned for mid-afternoon. Please bring friends! This will be a good chance to inspect our wild-flower planting project. Details of the entertainment and directions for getting to the park will appear in the April HISTORICO. We're planning on good weather, but - just in case - a rain date is set for Sunday, May 6.

THE SPRING TOUR - the tour committee has planned our spring trip to Bishop Hill for Saturday, May 19, as announced in previous HISTORICOS. Tour chairman Kim Efird has given us two changes in the original schedule: we will arrive at Bishop Hill at 10:30 A.M. (instead of 10:00) and will have dinner at Jumers in Galesburg at 5:00 P.M. (The change from Peoria to Galesburg for dinner is necessary because of anticipated crowded conditions in Peoria due to May 19 being graduation day at Bradley University.) Otherwise, the schedule is the same: leave the Stratton Bldg. parking lot at 8:00 A.M.; to Bishop Hill at 10:30; from 10:30 to 4:30 tour the village, part of the time with guides, but with free time for lunch and shopping "on your own."; leave at 4:30; dinner in Galesburg at 5:00 P.M.; arrive back in Springfield about 8:30 P.M. A more detailed schedule will be given in the April and May HISTORICOS. The fee is \$17.00 for members, \$22.00 for non-members, and will cover bus fare, gratuities, and admission to any site where there is a fee. Reservations may be made by checks made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society marked for the "Spring Tour", and taken or sent to our business office at 308 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL, 62701.

SANGAMON VALLEY COLLECTION REDEDICATED

The Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library, closed for expansion and remodeling since Nov. 20, reopened on Jan. 31, with a rededication ceremony on Feb. 21, which was exactly 13 years since the collection opened in 1977. Lincoln Library Director Carl Volkmann (a SCHS board member) introduced speakers Mayor Ossie Langfelder, Dr. Cullom Davis and SVC Director Ed Russo. Mayor Langfelder expressed appreciation for the function of the Sangamon Valley Collection in providing a system to collect information on the history of Springfield, Sangamon County and the surrounding area and making it available to all citizens. He also stressed the fact that history is ongoing; while we may study events of many years past, we also are making history today. Dr. Cullom Davis, professor of history at Sangamon State University (and a long-time SCHS member) paid tribute to this remarkable facility and its rich collection of material documenting the history of our area. He likened the condition of a city or

area without knowledge of its own history to that of a person with amnesia. The resources offered by the SVC and its staff insure that this area does not lack for records of its past. Cullom also had praise for the public and private cooperation which resulted in this facility. In the early 1970's the Sangamon County Historical Society, a private organization, was instrumental in establishing this collection when called upon by Robert Wagenknecht (then director of our public Lincoln Library) to participate in its planning as a part of the new library building. A number of our ideas as well as contributions of material holdings went into this project. The Sangamon Valley Genealogical Society also has provided fine support for the SVC with documents and information. Cullom also commended the SVC staff for their dedicated, professional and friendly service, and their special workshops, exhibits, lectures, books and articles available for various needs. SVC Director Ed Russo (a member of our Society), thanked those attending for their interest and help, and especially expressed appreciation for staff members Karen Graff, Linda Garvert and Millicent Harper. He also mentioned that Springfield would be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its incorporation this year and asked that citizens contribute photographs of Springfield life, some to be published, and all to be kept in the Sangamon Valley Collection. Following the rededication, refreshments were served through the courtesy of the Friends of Lincoln Library.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING CLASS

Volunteers are an important part of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's interpretive program at the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices. Many volunteers have expressed their enjoyment of this activity with its opportunities to learn more of our own unique history, to meet many people and to extend a special welcome to two of our most historic sites.

The training class is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st from 9-4. It will be held in the State Historical Library. Complimentary underground parking and lunch will be provided. The program will include: a statement of administrative policies, orientation and a tour of the buildings, basic interpreter training, and an overview of Mr. Lincoln's World, and a slide show.

Volunteers are expected to work an average of eight hours per month. Interested persons should call (217) 785-7691 before March 26th for further information and to register for the program.

VACHEL LINDSAY HOME TO BECOME A STATE HISTORIC SITE

By unanimous agreement among the Board of Directors of the Vachel Lindsay Association, the Lindsay House Fund, Governor Thompson, and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the State of Illinois will take over the operation of the Vachel Lindsay Home in September, 1990. The Association will continue to serve in an advisory capacity. This move will be of great advantage to the Home, insuring expanded visiting hours, improved standing in the roster of Illinois' historic shrines, and attention to necessary preservation of the 150-year-old house. The Vachel Lindsay Association will continue to have its headquarters in the Home and will be able to further its services in connection with collecting, documenting and programming the works of Vachel Lindsay, as well as acquiring additional pieces of the original furnishings of the house. Many of our Society's members also belong to the Vachel Lindsay Association, whose president is William Hughes Dittler, Jr., a past president of the SCHS, and whose executive director is Janel Lundgren, our Society's vice-president. Gala events are planned for the time of actual transfer in September. The HISTORICO will report on these events as well as on transitional activities.