

held at Lincoln Library at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, Apr. 17. (Note temporary change to Tuesday.)

### HELP! WE NEED IDEAS!

(1) At the Board meeting it was suggested that the general membership might like to indicate what news they want to see in the HISTORICO. Please send any comments to the editor: Mrs. Donald A. Henry, 29 Sunnyside Dr., Springfield, IL 62702.

(2) What would our members most like to see on a local bus tour? Are there buildings or monuments that you pass every day that you'd like to know more about? Please send any suggestions to Mr. Carrol C. Hall, 2041 Lindsay Rd., Springfield, IL 62704.

### SESQUICENTENNIAL SPRINGFIELD

On April 6, 1990, Springfield celebrated the 150th anniversary of its incorporation with a community party at the State Armory. Also on that day local photographers - both professional and amateur - took pictures depicting aspects of "A Day in the Life of Springfield." These will be kept in the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library, with 96 of them also included in a memorial book to be available in the fall of 1990. The "Sesquicentennial Book of Photographs" may be ordered with forms available in the receptionist's area at the Municipal Building or at Lincoln Library, at a cost of \$19.95. A number of celebrations throughout the year are planned in observance of the sesquicentennial.

In 1840 Springfield's population was between 2500 and 3000. With the State capital newly moved to Springfield, expansion and growth was in evidence. Three sides of the downtown square where the new capitol was being built were occupied by business buildings, but the north side was still open, and called "chicken row" because of the chicken market held there. Streets were mostly mud, and the principal downtown water supply consisted of a town pump and trough. A private school, Springfield Academy, was opened that year, and Jacob Bunn established his grocery store at the corner of Fifth and Adams. Mary Todd had recently come from Kentucky to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Ninian and Elizabeth Todd Edwards. Abraham Lincoln, a young lawyer, was active in Whig politics. The 1839 - 40 session of the Illinois legislature passed a bill to incorporate the city of Springfield, and it was signed by Governor Thomas Carlin.

### ISHS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society will be held in Peoria, April 27-29, with headquarters at the Hotel Pere Marquette. In addition to a series of important committee meetings, annual election and award presentations, there are a number of tours and programs on the history of greater Peoria, nearby Jubilee College, and baseball history, with sports commentator Jack Brickhouse as one of the speakers. For further information contact the Ill. State Historical Society, Annual Meeting, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701 (tel. 782-4836.)

### LINCOLN HOME NEWS

In observance of the 125th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination the public is invited to a program at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site Visitor Center, 426 S. Seventh St., at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday, April 14. Speakers will be Prof. Mark Plummer speaking on "The Haynie Diary: Lincoln's Last Day" - a document not yet analyzed by scholars, and Dr. John K. Lattimer, Professor Emeritus of Columbia University's

College of Physicians and Surgeons, speaking on "Medical and Ballistic Aspects of Lincoln's Assassination." Dr. Lattimer's unique collection of assassination memorabilia will be on display from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Center. (No charge for these programs.)

A new addition to the Lincoln Home display of bronzes (at the Visitor Center) which relate to Abraham Lincoln will be a low relief sculpture of Lincoln cast from the original plaster by the artist, Victor D. Brenner (1871-1924). It was adopted for the design of the Lincoln penny in 1909 in observance of the centennial of Lincoln's birth. This was suggested by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt and the penny was the first American coin to display a portrait of a real person. The bronze was presented at the Center on April 9 by its owner, Edgar Hemmer of Lafayette, Ind., to the acting Superintendent of the Lincoln Home Site, Lawrence Blake, for a long-term display in the Center.

Norman Hellmers, an 18-year veteran of the National Park Service, will become the new Superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site on April 23. He comes to Springfield from the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial near Lincoln City, Indiana, where he has been the Superintendent for 8 years. Mr. Hellmers is a native of New Orleans.

### LINCOLN ESSAY

The third place winner in the annual Lincoln Essay Contest sponsored by the LHNHS is Rhonda Hoeft of Casey Junior High School in Mt. Vernon. The first two of the five winning papers were published in the Feb. and Mar. HISTORICOS.

### LINCOLN'S LEGACY

by

Rhonda Hoeft

Abraham Lincoln has been called a hero of democracy and his career represented his ideas of American democracy. I think Lincoln's legacies were his contributions to democracy.

Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address was an example of his ideas of democracy. Thousands of men had died at Gettysburg so that the nation and its idea of democracy might survive. Lincoln thought that now it was up to the living to complete their unfinished work, to make sure that "those dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom--and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Mr. Lincoln never spoke words more truly characteristic, nor more beautiful, than in his second inaugural address. Instead of demanding vengeance on the South, he asked for "malice toward none" and "charity for all." He wanted very much for the people "to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan--to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace..."

The United States was the only important democracy in the world. Lincoln knew that self-government would be proved a failure if the nation could be destroyed by a minority of its own people. He felt that a breakup of the American nation would be a tragedy. He was determined not to let the nation and the democracy of the nation be destroyed. If this form of government failed, kings, dictators, and their supporters could say that people were not capable of ruling themselves, and that someone