

must rule them. If that were to happen, it would ruin Lincoln's whole idea of democracy.

The ideas that Lincoln left us are very important because if he hadn't left them behind, we might now be ruled by a king or a dictator. With the ideas he gave us, we are governed fairly.

Abraham Lincoln would have been surprised that some of his speeches came to be honored as great literature. He sought only to be understood and to convince. He proved to the world that democracy can be a lasting form of government. His many great speeches are classic statements of democratic beliefs and goals.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Anyone paying the regular membership fee for the 1990-91 year which starts July 1 will receive a "bonus" by being added to the roster immediately. Fees remain the same: Individual - \$10; Husband and Wife - \$15; Juniors under 21 - \$1; Sustaining - \$30; and Life Membership - \$150. Checks, payable to the Society, may be sent to our business office, 308 E. Adams, Springfield, IL 62701.

Our membership has increased this year and includes a number of new Life Members. Thanks go to Sally Robinson and Jack Miller who sent out a large number of membership invitations at the beginning of the year at their own expense. Thanks, also, to other Board members who sent or distributed invitations to friends and organizations. A full report on membership and a list of new Life Members will appear in an upcoming HISTORICO.

"LINCOLN THE SOLDIER"

In February Judge Richard Mills of the U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois, was the guest speaker at the Lincoln Birthday dinner and annual meeting of the New Salem Lincoln League. His program featured a part of Abraham Lincoln's career of which we generally hear few details - his service as a soldier in the Black Hawk War. At your editor's request Judge Mills has kindly sent us a copy of his address, and it will appear in two parts in our May and June HISTORICOS. It was in April, May and June of 1832 that Lincoln served in the Illinois Militia as a Captain. The story of his days as a soldier are told in this most interesting account 158 years later by another member of the military brotherhood - Judge Mills also serves in the Illinois Militia, with the rank of Brigadier General.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR CENSUS FORM?

The U.S. Census is 200 years old, dating from our early days as a nation. The first census was taken in 1790, mandated by the new Constitution, and handled mostly by Revolutionary War veterans. It took 650 men to tally that first count of 3.9 million; this year, 450,000 census takers will count our approximately 249 million citizens. The February "Elks Magazine" carried an interesting account of this decennial enterprise and how it has revealed the changing nature of life in America.

DAYLIGHT TIME

By now we're getting used to our "new" hours. According to the Associated Press it might have been Benjamin Franklin who "dreamed up" daylight saving time, but it was

an Englishman, William Willett, who successfully introduced the idea in 1907. The advantages were to be a saving in artificial light costs, more time for evening recreation and a possible reduction of evening crime. The first use of daylight time was in Germany in 1916 (to save energy) and other countries followed during World War I, going back to standard time after the war, then returning during World War II. At first local communities decided whether or not to use daylight time but a more uniform system was adopted in the U.S. in 1966, though not mandatory every place. All areas of the continental U.S. now use the system except for Arizona and that part of Indiana in the Eastern Time Zone. It is not in use in Hawaii, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN PROGRAM

At 2:00 P.M. on Sun., April 29 and again on Sunday, May 6, actress Karen Lee Lynn will present an outdoor program at Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 East Lake Drive, on "The Lincolns As a Family." Admission fees are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children, and \$10 for a family. In case of bad weather, there is a rain date on Sunday, May 13. For further information call the Memorial Garden, 529-1111.

LINCOLN DEPOT OPENS

The Great Western Depot at 10th and Monroe, known as the Lincoln Depot, is open for the season with daily hours 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. through Aug. 31. (No admission charge.) The depot is the only one of the six major Lincoln sites here that is privately owned - it belongs to the Illinois State Journal-Register. A number of exhibits and an audio-visual program on Lincoln's journey to Washington are featured. It was here that Lincoln gave his "Farewell to Springfield" address when he left to be inaugurated as our 16th President in 1861.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

On May 6 at 1:00 P.M. a dedication ceremony will take place at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Oak Ridge Cemetery, honoring newly engraved names which have been discovered and added since the original dedication in May of 1988.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

The centennial of President Dwight Eisenhower's birth will be celebrated throughout the summer and fall with a number of observances in the U.S. and many foreign countries. He was born on October 14, 1890.

The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Madison on April 8. Among the speakers were Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Chief Deputy Director of the Ill. State Archives, artist Lloyd Ostendorf, Mark E. Neely, Jr., Director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum and Dr. John Lattimer of Columbia University (who will speak on April 14 at our Lincoln Visitor Center).

Earth Day, established as a conservation and anti-pollution movement in 1970, celebrates its 20th anniversary on April 22. By this date members of the Illinois Soil Classification Assoc. hope to have state legislative approval for the designation of an official state soil. The Assoc. believes that "Drummer silty clay loam" deserves this title. Drummer is one of the most productive soils in Illinois and the most extensive - 1.6