

6:00 - 6:45 P.M. Cash bar
Mary Toberman, harpist
"Vanishing America" - slide photo collection by the late
Dr. A. Ray Grummon, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church.

6:45 P.M. National Anthem - Ms. Polly Roesch
Business Meeting - Election of Officers.

7:00 P.M. Buffet Dinner

8:00 P.M. Sally Robinson-Horney, Past President, program speaker.

After Program - Social Period. Music by Polly Roesch and John Jordan. "Sing-a-long." Display of books by SCHS authors.

Reservations required - June 15 is the deadline. To make reservations, send \$12.00 per person, with checks made payable to the SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and marked "Annual Dinner" - send to Mrs. Carl D. Franke, Jr., 1013 East Ash, Springfield, IL 62703. (Call 522-3313 after 5:00 P.M. for further information.) Remember - the reservation deadline is June 15 - first come, first served!

An exhibit at the Annual Meeting will feature the literary works of our own members. We are asking any members who have had books or booklets published to bring copies to the Annual Dinner Meeting on June 19 to be displayed as part of an exhibit promoting our Society's own authors. Books may be brought to the meeting that evening. A table will be provided for their display, where members may see them during the social period following the dinner.

A LOOK BACK - A VISIT TO THE CAMP LINCOLN MUSEUM

On the evening of April 24 Society members met at the Camp Lincoln Museum where Charles W. Muni, the Illinois National Guard Historian, spoke on the extensive collection of military flags, documents, pictures and artifacts. The museum building at present is used more as a work area than a display center as most of the historical collection is being catalogued, restored and photographed.

Perhaps the most unique article in the collection is the cork artificial leg which was among various articles taken from the supplies of the Mexican general, Antonio Santa Anna, when Illinois troops were participating in the Battle of Cerro Gordo in 1847 during the Mexican War. It is thought that the artificial limb might have been made in the United States, and probably was one of several belonging to the general. It is skillfully fashioned from cork, with leather fastening straps and silver trimmings, and the bottom part is made to look like a boot or shoe of relatively small size. Mr. Muni related the story of how Santa Anna lost his own leg some years before, in what was called the "French Pastry War." In an incident some Mexican troops broke into a French pastry shop and left it in shambles after eating a big supply of pastries, which the owner valued at \$800. When he got no reimbursement from the Mexican government he apparently complained to the French embassy - and eventually a French battleship sailed into the harbor and shelled the town! General Santa Anna was called and rode to the scene of battle where he was hit by a cannon ball and lost his left leg! (Ed. note: probably this was in 1838 when he was defending Vera Cruz against the French.) The artificial leg captured in 1847 at first was shown for a fee in many places (it even went to England!) in order to raise money for some of the U.S. troops, but was eventually returned to Illinois. It is kept at Camp Lincoln in a high security vault.

Probably the most historically significant articles in the collection are the flags, for each has its own history. The flags here and in the Hall of Flags at the Centennial Building constitute one of the largest and most complete collections in the country. Much of the work of Mr. Muni and his assistants is involved in the restoration and conservation of the flags, many of which are being cleaned, repaired, and wrapped in acid-free white tissue paper or old sheets. A number of professional conservators throughout the country can be called upon by Mr. Muni when he wants advice or help with specific jobs. Military uniforms, paintings, and various artifacts are also cleaned and restored, but the flags form the largest part of the museum collection. The small budget for the historical work is devoted entirely to conservation - no personal expenses are paid.

Mr. Muni also is experienced at using military archives in answering many requests for old service records. He is a dedicated historian, and our evening's hostess, Polly Myers, told us that often Mr. and Mrs. Muni devote vacation time to research at other military museums.

Following the museum tour our members were invited to the commissary building where Polly and her helpers served delicious angel food cake and strawberries.

THE SPRING PICNIC

SCHS members and guests who attended the Annual Potluck Picnic at Pioneer Park on Sunday, April 29, enjoyed a very fine afternoon - even the weather was most cooperative! There was a good variety of food -- all of it delicious! - and committee members Hughes Diller, Herman and Wilma Hofferkamp and Kim Efird had serving tables set up early. The SCHS Historian, Floyd Barringer, presented a reading on the beauties of the Illinois prairie, chosen from the book Illinois: a History of the Prairie State, by the late Robert Howard. This was a most appropriate selection, as Bob Howard, a past president of our Society, was an early promoter of Pioneer Park. At mid-afternoon a group of about 10 headed up the wooded hill to the north to look for the site of the 1817 Pulliam cabin, the first in Sangamon County. The site was marked by a Boy Scout member of Troop 2, Todd Brewer, last summer. Several of us were sure we knew where to locate Todd's marker, but after quite a hike into the woods we found the historical site to be most illusive! (Who moved it?) If it had not been for a young resident from a home in the area, who came out to see what this group of lost souls was doing, a number of our members might still be out there in the woods! Mike Embree, a student at Glenwood Junior High School, soon guided us to the cabin site - across a plowed field, through two backyards and up a lane! Our thanks go to Mike for rescuing our expedition! Pictures were taken of Todd's fine historical marker to prove that we really did see it.

The afternoon was not over! Upon arrival back at Pioneer Park our intrepid explorers found that several members of El Grupo Latino had arrived to provide us with some lively, toe-tapping Latin American music. When several of our members were offered the opportunity to play with the group's rhythm section, heretofore undiscovered talent surfaced and there is every possibility that several Society members are now considering new careers in music! El Grupo Latino members Jesús Martinez, Monica Munoz, Ray Wood and Anabella Mellado provided a fine musical program and most graciously accepted the participation of the enthusiastic amateurs.

Mr. and Mrs. Cullom Davis brought as a guest Joanne Walroth, who recently became an Assistant Editor of Cullom's staff for the Lincoln Legal Papers project.

The picnic attendance was small (only about 20 there plus the musicians) -- probably