

In closing, Bob expressed the hope that contemporary nature artists can influence the concern of the public about environmental preservation to the point that political solutions finally will be found to solve the mounting problem of saving the world, our home.

### BISHOP HILL TOUR

Regrettably, your editor was out of town and could not travel with the SCHS to Bishop Hill on May 19th. We understand that Kim conducted a most successful tour, and with the help of some participants we'll have a report in the September HISTORICO.

### BOARD MEETING REPORT

The SCHS officers and Board of Directors met at Lincoln Library on May 24. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, as was the treasurer's report. The balance in all accounts as of May 24 is \$21,237.62. A full report on the year's activities was made by program committee chairman Bette Franke, including a summary of the membership questionnaires turned in at the May 15th general meeting. Of those returned (around 25) most had very constructive suggestions for future programs, and many commented on the good job done by tour chairman Kim Efird. Bette and her co-chairman Sally Robinson-Horney were thanked for the fine program work over the past year. The board also extended thanks to President Joyce Sandage for her fine leadership during a very active year. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00 P. M.

(Note: Editor not present - this brief report written from a few notes received later.)

### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Remember - "Annual dues shall be payable in the month of June ..." (SCHS Bylaws, Art I, Sec. 6). Dues remain the same as in this past year: Individual - \$10.00; Husband and Wife - \$15.00; Juniors under 21 - \$1.00; Sustaining - \$30.00; Life fees paid once - \$50.00. Checks should be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and sent to the Society's business address, 308 East Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701.



### GREETINGS FROM SITKA, ALASKA!

During a recent trip to Alaska your editor had an interesting visit with a member of the Sitka Historical Society. At the Centennial Center, fronting on the harbor at Sitka, we attended a program of colorful Russian dances presented by a group of local women dedicated to preserving some of the town's Russian heritage. The Centennial Center also houses the headquarters of the Sitka Historical Society and their Isabel Miller Museum (named for a retired social services worker and historian). There we met Curator/Coordinator of the museum, John Bruce Gazaway, who also has served as a Director of the Historical Society. He gave us a copy of their "Sitka Historical Society Newsletter" which is issued quarterly. It contained some very interesting articles, including accounts of several recent meetings. One concerned the history of the many Filipino people in Alaska, whose ancestors came on whaling missions in the 1850's. Another was a "show and tell" session relating to World War II days in the Sitka area. A spring tour was planned - with the members traveling by boat. No roads reach Sitka from the mainland, although cars may be brought in via ferry for travel around Sitka and other communities on Baranof Island. Incidentally, Sitka lays claim to being the biggest city in North America! There are only about 8400 residents, but the municipal boundaries enclose 4,710 square miles - several thousand square miles larger than New York City or Los Angeles!

Mr. Gazaway asked that the warmest greetings be sent from the Sitka Historical Society to the Sangamon County Historical Society. He also recalled that Vachel Lindsay was a Springfield poet, and discussed some of his works.

### LINCOLN THE SOLDIER

In February Judge Richard Mills - who is also a Brigadier General in the Illinois Militia - spoke at the meeting of the New Salem Lincoln League at Petersburg. The first part of his program on Lincoln's military career appeared in the May HISTORICO; the second and concluding part follows. Our thanks go to Judge Mills for sharing with us this account of a part of Abraham Lincoln's life which is not too well known.

### LINCOLN THE SOLDIER

(The early part of Lincoln's service, following his election as leader or Captain by the men in his company, took place in skirmishes with the Indians under Black Hawk in the Rock River area near Dixon, Ill.)

The 30-day term of enlistment of the volunteers had now come to an end, and most men refused to continue in service. Captain Lincoln was not one of these homesick soldiers. He considered it his simple duty, as soon as he was mustered out of his captaincy, to reenlist on the same day, May 27, as a private soldier. Several other officers did the same, among them General Whitesides and Major John T. Stuart. The company of the Fourth Regiment Illinois Mounted Volunteers, commanded by Captain Lincoln, had been mustered out at the mouth of Fox River, May 27, 1832, by Nathaniel Buckmaster, Brigade-Master to General Samuel Whitesides' Illinois Volunteers. On the muster-roll of Captain Elijah Iles' company, Illinois Mounted Volunteers, A. Lincoln of Sangamon County appears as a private from May 27, 1832, to June 16, 1832, when the company was mustered out of service. (It is interesting to note that Lieutenant Jefferson Davis' company B, First United State Infantry, was stationed not far away at Fort Crawford, Wisconsin.)

After his first enlistment and his captaincy, the war became a sort of holiday, and the tall private from New Salem enjoyed it as much as anyone. He entered with enthusiasm into the athletic sports that the soldiers relieved the boredom of camp with. He was admitted to be the strongest man in the army and, with one exception, the best wrestler. Lincoln's popularity increased from the beginning to the end of the campaign.

On his second enlistment, Lincoln had become a member of Captain Iles' mounted volunteers, sometimes called the "Independent Spy Battalion," a unique unit, not under the control of any regiment or brigade, but which received orders directly from the Commander-in-Chief. With this elite corps Lincoln served through his second enlistment, though it was not his fortune to take part in either of the two engagements at the Wisconsin Bluffs and the Bad Axe, in which General James D. Henry, broke and destroyed forever the power of Black Hawk and the British band of Sacs and Foxes.

The Spy Battalion formed no part of General Henry's forces when he defeated the enemy on the bluffs of the Wisconsin River on the 21st of July. Black Hawk and his broken braves then fled for the Mississippi River, the whole army following in close pursuit-- General Atkinson in front and General Henry bringing up the rear. While Black Hawk was engaging and drawing away the force under Atkinson, General Henry struck the main trail, and brought on the battle of the Bad Axe which was an easy slaughter. Black Hawk escaped, only to be captured a few days later.