

to have its headquarters in the house where it acts as a center for its members and provides private funds, publishing and programming, and volunteer services. The Association will retain its ownership of the Lindsay Collection of books, art and related materials, and will continue to increase the Collection.

To celebrate 31 years of stewardship of the Lindsay Home and to benefit the future of the Vachel Lindsay Association, a special day is planned for Thursday, October 11. Ceremonies will begin at 3:15 P.M. at the steps of the Home when the deed is presented by the Association to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the ribbon cutting signifies its formal acceptance. Among those present will be Nicholas Lindsay, only son of the poet, and officials from the Vachel Lindsay Association and the House Fund, as well as officials of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Harlington Wood, Jr., will act as master of ceremonies. The president of the Association is William Hughes Diller (a past president of the SCHS, and a Board member), and the Association Executive Director is our Society's president, Janel E. Lundgren. A number of our members are on the Association's Board.

At 4:15 P.M. the Sight and Sound presentation, "Catharine Lindsay's House," a history by Ed Russo, will be presented in the auditorium of the Franklin Life Insurance Company, Franklin Square (7th and Lawrence). From 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. a gala reception and buffet will be hosted by the Franklin at Becker Park (7th and Lawrence). Jack Watson, Franklin's president, will be the master of ceremonies, with music by the Jane Hartman Trio and catering provided by Maldaners and the Franklin's food service.

At the reception and buffet a presentation will be made of a portrait of Vachel Lindsay by artist Lillian Scalzo. The painting is a gift of Catharine Blair, who is a niece of the poet.

Honorary chairpersons are Governor and Mrs. James Thompson, Secretary of State and Mrs. James Edgar, Senator and Mrs. John Davidson, Mayor and Mrs. Ossie Langfelder, Mr. and Mrs. William Cellini and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Humphrey.

Parking will be available at the First Christian Church (700 S. Sixth) from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M., with further parking space at the Franklin's lots from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Reservations are required by October 5, at \$20.00 each, and may be obtained by writing the Vachel Lindsay Association at 603 S. Fifth St., Springfield, IL, 62703.

HISTORICAL SITES HOUSE TOUR

The Springfield Historical Sites Commission's Third Annual House Tour will be held Sunday, October 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The purpose of the house tour is to showcase older structures in Springfield that have been renovated and adapted for reuse.

This year the houses are located in what was once called "Aristocracy Hill." The tour features a number of old homes that have been converted to business space and includes law offices, a bed and breakfast and several specialty shops. In all of these structures, the inside of the buildings have been used for commercial purposes without sacrificing their historic integrity. Christ Episcopal Church is included this year because of its collection of significant historical stained glass windows.

Ticket holders will receive a booklet describing the history of each structure, as well as a list of local preservation specialists compiled by the Historical Preservation Association of Springfield. The list can be used as a restoration resource tool. Light refreshments will be served at two of the houses.

House tour tickets are \$6.00 before October 14 and \$8.00 on the day of the house tour.

Advance tickets are being sold at Art Concepts at Town and Country Mall, Judy's Hallmark at Fairhills Mall and Prairie Archives Book Store in downtown Springfield at 100 N. Sixth St. On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at any one of the houses.

Buildings featured on the tour are:

The Bunn/Sankey Home
1001 South 6th Street
Currently, Corrine's Bed and
Breakfast Inn.

The Bressmer/Baker House
913 South 6th Street
Currently, Law Offices

The Graham House
413 South 7th Street
Currently, Rosario's Personalized
Furniture and Gift Boutique

The Weber/Scully House & Carriage House
925 South 7th Street
Currently, Weddings on Seventh

The Maisenbacher House
1028 South 7th Street
Currently, Maisenbacher's Antiques

Thomas J. Immel House
1118 South 6th Street
Currently, Law Offices

Christ Episcopal Church
611 East Jackson

BISHOP HILL REVISITED

Very good reports have been received on the spring tour to Bishop Hill in May. Fred and Evelyn Adams were among those taking the trip and described the outing as most interesting. Many restoration projects have been carried out since our Society's earlier tours there in 1970 and 1976, and more shops and eating places have been opened.

Bishop Hill was founded in 1846 as a commune by Swedish immigrants who left their homeland due to religious persecution. They landed in New York, came across the Great Lakes to Chicago, and from there walked the 160 miles to the northwestern Illinois site which had been recommended by a few church members who had scouted the area. Known as Janssonites, followers of Erik Jansson, they spent a rough first winter in caves and dugouts, losing many members to sickness and deprivation. By 1850 they had built a thriving village, including a community church. Erik Jansson was murdered in 1850 by a man who disputed his own wife's allegiance to the religious commune. By 1860 internal quarrels had seriously disrupted the communal life and the colony soon was dissolved.

Among a number of other surviving buildings, the church remains as one of the principal visitors' attractions. One of its features is the divided seating remaining from the days when men used one half and the women the other during religious services. Originally there had been apartments in the basement, assigned to families. Some years later, beginning in the 1870's, a folk artist, Olaf Krans, painted from memory portraits and scenes of the Bishop Hill community where he had lived as a boy. For a number of years these paintings were shown crowded on a basement wall in one of the church rooms. Fred Adams reports that these paintings - many of them the portraits of the stern-faced pioneer settlers - are now attractively displayed in the village's Henry County Historical Museum. (Ed. note: Several years ago these paintings were taken to Sweden and shown there on tour before being returned to Bishop Hill.) At the Museum our Society's members were met and welcomed by the president of the Henry County Historical Society.

Following the tour of Bishop Hill our group visited the nearby town of Galva and its