



# SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# HISTORICO

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JANUARY, 1991

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## LOOKING AHEAD - WARM QUILTS FOR COLD NIGHTS

Our first meeting of the new year - of the new decade! - will be held in the Carnegie Room at Lincoln Library on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 P.M. Doris Krake will present a program on quilts - a most timely topic for these cold January nights. She will have a display of quilts and quilt blocks, and will tell the stories of their unique origins, as well as giving us information on the making and care of quilts. Mrs. Krake has taught many classes on quilt-making and has designed a number of original patterns.

Members and friends are invited to bring their own quilts or quilt blocks for display. Extra tables will be set up for this exhibit. Mrs. Krake also will identify patterns for those who do not have the names for their quilt blocks.

We're looking forward to a good start for 1991! See you on January 15th!

Our February meeting will be held at the Illinois Supreme Court Building on Tuesday, February 19, when Carolyn Taitt, Marshal of the Supreme Court, will conduct a tour of the building. Of special interest will be the building's historic murals. (Further details in the February HISTORICO.)

The next SCHS Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, at 4:30 P.M. at Lincoln Library.

## A LOOK BACK - HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AT EDWARDS PLACE

Our December 18th meeting, held in the gallery at Edwards Place, featured history that looked good enough to eat! Seven of Springfield's most notable landmarks were shown reproduced to scale in gingerbread structures that displayed an amazing level of creativity. The most imaginative uses of candies, cookies and icing decorated the basic gingerbread buildings that depicted both the Old and present State Capitols, the Lincoln Home, Union Station, Dana-Thomas House, the Main Gate at the state fairgrounds, and Edwards Place itself. They represented hundreds of hours of work, supervised by Nancy Long, of Nancy's Patisserie, and employing the skills of seven teams of volunteers. Our SCHS

program chairman, Polly Myers, was one of the "builders" of the replica of the Union Station and reported on some of the challenges her team encountered. Working from plans drawn by Dan Earleywine, Polly's team also included Leona Bradbury, Donna Logsdon and Shirley Tick, with artists Dian Blalock and Jim Edwards as consultants. The firm of Fisher-Wisnosky Architects, Inc., drew the plans for the Lincoln Home (built by Melanie Anderson and Jim Allen), the present State Capitol (also with Sara Workman, architect, and Carol Fraase as the builder), and the Main Gate at the State fairgrounds (done by Gloria and Jerry Josserand). The site drawings for the Old State Capitol were done by Walton and Associates Architects, who also constructed the gingerbread model. The Dana-Thomas House plans were drawn by the staff at that site and the construction was done by Nancy Long. The Edwards Place drawing was by the Huff Architectural Group, Inc., with the building done by Rod and Rosemary Buffington. The buildings were shown in holiday decor complete with Christmas greens at the doors and windows and outdoor decorations on trees and shrubs. The model of the State Capitol was adorned with the customary strings of lights surrounding the dome at Christmas time.

Edwards Place is the home of the Springfield Art Association whose director is Rod Buffington. Mr. Buffington greeted our Society and spoke on the development of the gingerbread display as part of the Art Association's "Holiday Festival - A Gift to the City." This is the fifth year for the Association's annual December open house and exhibit. Also featured were the beautiful Victorian Christmas trees and decorations done for each room in the mansion by ten leading florists and designers from this area. Fanciful gingerbread cookie ornaments made by a number of local artisans were available for sale. Also exhibited were a variety of ornaments and decorations created by artists from eleven states.

Our December meeting drew to a close with our singing of "Silent Night", led by Polly Myers, who had arranged for us this delightful private tour of Edwards Place and the Art Association's "Holiday Festival."

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A call to the Springfield Art Association on January 4th revealed that the gingerbread models shown at the Christmas exhibit would be given to the various sites which they depict and displayed in these buildings. With a call to Joe Khayyat, Director of the Press Office at the Illinois State Fair, we learned that the model of the Fair's Main Gate would be on display in the Administration Building of the Department of Agriculture, which is just inside Gate 11, one of the entrances to the fairground from Sangamon Avenue.

#### COMING SOON - THE LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM

The 18th Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 1991, the 182nd anniversary of Lincoln's birth. This annual event is sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois State Historical Society, Illinois State Historical Library and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The Symposium will convene at 1:30 P.M. in the Hall of Representatives at the Old State Capitol, with a welcome by Frank J. Williams, president of the Abraham Lincoln Association. Thomas F. Schwartz of the Illinois State Historical Library will preside, and will introduce Charles B. Strozier, professor of history at the City University of New York, and Douglas L. Wilson of Knox College, Galesburg, both of whom will present addresses on Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon. There is no charge for admission to the Symposium.