

bomb was dropped in Japan, the number of employees was down by several thousand. Closing the plant was a complicated job. Lumber that had been in contact with TNT had to be removed and destroyed - often in very "explosive" operations. Buildings had to be sold, and the land returned to other uses. Much of it eventually was returned to farming, with the first choice of buying it back going to the farmers who had been forced to sell it to the government at the beginning of the war. A new law was passed which set prices at no more per acre than it had been worth when the farmers had sold it several years before. Most of it went back to the farmers. Returned veterans were given second choice, with land being made available on a sort of a lottery system. The value of the property was somewhat impaired by its condition after the war as some of the existing structures, such as the storage bunkers - called the "igloos" were difficult to remove and were not of much use left as they were. It was hard to farm the land between the bunkers, and their use for large storage items was rather limited - for example, they could not accomodate tractors or combines. There are still a number of bunkers left on the land, some of which are used for storage for various smaller items. A number of concrete pads left in the fields have served as bases for grain silos.

Several "alumni" of the Sangamon Ordnance Plant attended our meeting and added their reminiscenses to Mr. McCarthy's programs, recalling some of the reasons for the plant's location in Illiopolis. Other ordnance plants were in operation on the east coast but it was decided that an inland location would be much safer in case of attacks or bombing on the coast, so many plants were constructed in the Midwest. Also, it was thought that the type of work required was best understood by coal miners in particular, of whom there were many in this area.

After his program Mr. McCarthy answered many questions about the plant. Our members appreciated learning something of the history of this landmark in eastern Sangamon County.

### BOARD MEETING REPORT

The SCHS Officers and Board of Directors met at 4:30 P. M. at Lincoln Library on Apr. 11, with 20 members present. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Our total funds in all accounts are \$20,551.28. Committee reports followed. The nominating committee reported on progress to date. Finance chairman Tom Patton presented proposed information and forms to be used for persons applying for SCHS project funds. The forms for application for funds were accepted. A report was made on plans for the Annual Meeting to be held on June 18 at the Island Bay Yacht Club (see following article for details). To date, 25 people have made reservations for the May 4 Spring Tour. We were reminded that it is time to send out membership notices and a suggestion was made to improve membership accounting. The next Board meeting will be held in the Library at 4:30 P.M. on Wed., May 29. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

### ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 18, 1991

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held following a dinner at the Island Bay Yacht Club on Tuesday, June 18, observing the 30th anniversary of our Society. The social hour will begin at 6:00 P.M. (cash bar) followed by dinner at 7:00 P.M. Reservations at \$18.00 per person and include the dinner, tax and gratuity. Checks may be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society, marked "Annual Dinner", and sent to the Sangamon Co. Historical Society, 308 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL, 62701. As is our custom, the Society's president of 10 years earlier will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting. John Macpherson, who was our president in 1981 - 1982, has chosen "1871" as the title of his program. John also has served as our treasurer since 1984, so he has worked with our Board of Directors for eight years. He is a descendant of the Williams family who were among the earliest settlers of Springfield and Sangamon Co.

LINCOLN HOME NEWS

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site is not affected by state cut-backs in funding or in operating hours because it is maintained by federal funds. In fact, operating hours have been extended. Hours for the remainder of the year are:

To May 26 - Mon. and Tues., 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. for both the  
Visitor Center and the Lincoln Home

Wed. through Sun., 8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. for Center and Home

May 26 - Sept. 2 - Visitor Center Hours, 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Lincoln Home Hours, 8:15 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Sept. 3 - Oct. 31 - Mon. and Tues., 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. for both the  
Visitor Center and the Home

Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 - Wed. through Sun., 8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. for both.  
8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. daily, for Center and Home.

1991 marks the 75th Anniversary of the National Park Service.

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The Sixth Annual Lincoln Colloquium will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, and promises to be bigger and better than ever! The event will take place again at Sangamon State University. Be sure to mark this important date on your calendar!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Historic Preservation Association of Springfield will be held at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 15, at the Lincoln Home Conference Center (8th and Capitol). The speaker will be Ann C. Swallow, National Register Coordinator for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. National Historic Preservation week is being observed, honoring the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act. The evening's program will feature a slide-illustrated talk entitled "It's Old, But Is It Historic?"

MEDICAL HISTORY - PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL

Our Society's sixth president, Emmet F. Pearson, M.D., has added to his long list of published medical and historical writings a most interesting 67-page monograph which both entertains and educates its readers. My Sixty Years in Medicine relates the story of Emmet's life from his boyhood in the "backwoods of Tennessee", through his years in training active medical practice, military service in WW II, travels on six continents, family life with Mary and their four children, and involvement in community affairs. Along the way he has noted the development of great advances in the field of medicine. His continuing interest is evinced by his statement that "I am still involved in the pursuit of medical history and strongly agree with William Faulkner when he said 'History is, not was'." Our Society members also know of the Pearsons' interest in local history, particularly through their involvement as owners of the 1820's Broadwell Inn at Clayville, which they later donated to Sangamon State University. The Pearsons hosted a number of meetings of the SCHS at Clayville. Emmet also was an early promoter of locating the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, and also established at the school the Pearson Museum, which offers an unique opportunity to study medical history. (Dr. Pearson's book, My Sixty Years in Medicine, is available at Shadid's Book Mart and at the Pearson Museum at the SIU School of Medicine, at \$10 per copy.)

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