



SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICO

308 East Adams Street • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 522-2500

JUNE, 1991

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LOOKING AHEAD - THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Sangamon County Historical Society will celebrate its 30th birthday at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, at the Island Bay Yacht Club. The social hour will begin at 6:00 P.M. (cash bar), followed by dinner at 7:00 P.M. The annual Election of Officers will precede the program which, following our custom, will feature our president of ten years earlier. John F. Macpherson will give the evening's address, entitled "1871". John was our president in 1981-1982, and also has been our treasurer for eight years. His ancestors in this area were members of the Williams family who were some of the earliest settlers of Springfield and Sangamon County.

Reservations at \$18.00 per person include the dinner, tax and gratuity. The menu will feature sirloin of beef, baked potato, stir-fried vegetables, Caesar salad and dessert. Checks may be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society, marked for the "Annual Dinner," and sent or taken to our business office at 308 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701. The deadline for reservations is June 14.

STILL LOOKING AHEAD - TO SEPTEMBER

Tour chairman Kim Efird has announced the tentative schedule for the Fall Tour on Saturday, September 29. We will leave Springfield at 8:00 A.M., arriving about 10:00 A.M. in Galesburg, where we will visit the Carl Sandburg Home, then go to the Railroad Museum about 11:00 A.M. We will have lunch at Jumer's in Galesburg, from 12:00 - 1:30 P.M., ordering from the menu, and at 1:30 a tour of the Knox County Courthouse and Museum is scheduled, followed by a visit to Knox College between 2:30 and 3:30 P.M. From 3:30 to 4:00 we will be enroute to the Peoria area, stopping at historic Jubilee College from 4-5:00 P.M., then going to Bishops in Peoria for dinner from 5:15 to 6:45 P.M. Tentative arrival time back in Springfield will be about 8:15 P.M.

The price for members will be \$20.00 (for non-members, \$25.00) and includes the bus transportation, gratuities and any admission charges. A reminder bulletin will be sent during the summer.

Don't forget to set aside Saturday, October 26, for the Sixth Annual Lincoln Colloquium. It will be held again at Sangamon State University. Details will appear in the September HISTORICO.

A LOOK BACK - THE SPRING TOUR

News received from participants in the May 4th Spring Tour indicate that it was a most interesting adventure, including some very worthwhile visits to a number of historic sites - as well as a battle with some of the elements of nature! Luckily, the latter event didn't take place until our members were on the way home after enjoying the historic visits so carefully planned by Kim Efird and his committee.

One of our members who went on the tour, Karen Lynn, has prepared for us a good report, featuring a humorous account of the events of the day.

THE "LONG-TALL" TOUR IN MAY

How surprised we were to be boarding what appeared to be a new lavish velvet upholstered tour bus with the new picture windows all around it, and a step-off bathroom. We all settled in for the ride of our life.

By the time we got to Jacksonville it was more than apparent that this wonderful new age of an overhead ventilating system was inadequate. Not only were we gasping for air--we were HOT. We gladly gathered on the front sidewalk at Governor Duncan's home to have two shocked, immobilized tour guides at the sight of our number and more still getting off the bus, who finally came to as the clouds broke above us, and finally let us in for the beginning of their tour, which they usually do from the top of the front porch. We enjoyed their personalities so that naturally, we stayed and lingered awhile as we beheld each room, thus having to play "catch-up" on our time schedule further on.

The Board members of the Meredosia's area Historical and Genealogical Society talk and tour including monument, marker, for the Northern Cross Railroad and the depot and river museum were interesting, and the breath of fresh air was grand.

Now the buffet at the Brass Rail in Carrollton was the best for the money I know I have ever had. The quality of ham and cheese and their chef's own secret dressing of marinated vegetables was the hit of the afternoon. We were going back two and three times, not for their wonderful fresh fruit, but for more marinated vegetables. We were all in a good mood to see the Lee-Baker-Hodges house managed by the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society. A few of us even skirted around the square to partake of Carrollton's craft booths. By this time we were well aware that these new buses and beautiful smoked-glass windows don't open, except for an emergency back exit. However, being well-fed and settled in, we opened the skylight hatch for air. We were starting to get into hilly territory approaching Alton. A steep hill loomed ahead and our beautiful bus was going slower and slower. Were we going to make the hill? Naturally, the gears stuck, and if it were not for our skillful driver it would have been quite a hike home. On the down side of one steep street in Alton we heard a voice from the back of the bus trailing in jest, "I hope the brakes work" -- they did. We had a choice in Alton to get off the bus and explore 26 antique stores in a five block area, or to stay with the tour of Alton and vicinity. Not one person opted to get off this magnificent bus.

We enjoyed Mr. Robert Graul assisting our visit to the Alton Museum of History and Art, the Elijah Lovejoy sites and extra points of interest. It was in Alton that