

we viewed the touching life-sized statue of 8'11.6" of 22 year old Robert Pershing Wadlow, tallest human on record. Robert's 22 years was served as a renowned gentleman and as an ambassador for the Alton area. He was so revered and personally enjoyed by the families of Alton that the citizenry had Edward E. Giberson create this statue in Robert's memory, capturing this young man's kind-heartedness and genuine smile.

Back aboard the bus we were to see the legendary Piasa Bird painting enroute to Pere Marquette State Park and lodge for dinner. I don't know who was flying faster, the Piasa Bird in the painting or us rolling by. Those who blinked, missed it. Our tables were scattered at the lodge, our individual evening meal orders were delicious and, of course, my table was the last to be served and last for the monies to be collected from, as everyone back on the bus waiting can attest to.

Dark clouds loomed over head and streaks of lightning could be seen over the fields during our scenic route home. Again, the ventilation system was such that the overhead sky opening had to be removed. A sudden clap of thunder and the interior of this new modeled bus was open to a full rainstorm. All those in the back of the bus wearing glasses can now give testimony of what it is like for their spectacles to be shields hitting raindrops traveling between 50 and 55 miles per hour. A drenched, courageous inner crew struggled at putting the top hatch back. Naturally, it leaked all the way home. The chivalrous gentleman who didn't want to leave his wife's side for a drier seat held a coat draped over him which didn't have a dry spot on it when we reached home. We laughed at the thought of our pioneer forefathers and how they would have considered even this event on such a vehicle pure luxury. A "LONG-TALL" TRIP INDEED!!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lee Lynn

### BACK TO THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

On Saturday, May 18, the Society's regular meeting was held at the Farmer's Point School, near Route 97 not far from New Salem State Park. Our program chairman, Polly Myers, was dressed most appropriately as a country school teacher of the early 1900's and led us through our lessons on mathematics, history, geography, literature and nature study. The old wooden school desks were a snugger fit for many of our members than the ones we remembered of years ago, but they brought back many memories, which we shared.

The first schools in this area were held in the homes of the early 19th century settlers prior to the 1847 establishment of the Public School System. Some years after this, school districts were set up and school buildings erected. The first one at Farmer's Point, built of logs, was put up before 1855. At that time the school term was about three months long, during the winter when children did not have to help with farming chores at home. The log building was lost in a fire and school was held for a time in a nearby home. In April, 1873, area residents voted to build a new school and the present brick building, 22 by 28 feet, was built in the summer of 1873 at a cost of \$808.46. Students of all grades, one to eight, met in the one room. Here school was held until the end of the 1943 term, with at least 45 teachers serving over those years since 1873 (some records are incomplete) with salaries running from an average of \$25 or \$30 a month to about \$100 a month from 1923 on. The teacher in 1923-1925 was Musette C. Brunen, wife of Elmer Brunen, who still lives in this area. Mr. Brunen bought the school and grounds and restored them in 1971 in memory of his wife. Various groups have visited the building and it is especially

popular as a field trip destination for school children who can learn in this way what school days were like for their ancestors.

Our members and friends spent part of the afternoon reminiscing about their own early school days. Several had attended one-room country schools and recalled the chores involved as well as the lessons. One of our guests, Mrs. Velma Havey, is the daughter of Lizzie Wiseman, who was the Farmer's Point school ma'am in 1904. Another guest was Mr. Robert Cory, who attended the North Round Prairie one-room school near Springfield. Our appreciation goes to Mr. Brunen for a chance to visit this well-preserved site from the days of our earlier school system.

Following our "education" at Farmer's Point we drove the short distance to the new River Ridge Restaurant at New Salem State Park where we each ordered a dessert of his or her choice and continued to share memories of our early school days. Thanks to Polly Myers for a "fun" day!

### STILL LOOKING BACK - AT OUR OWN EARLY DAYS

As we approach our 30th birthday it seems appropriate to remember how we got our start. The official beginning of the Sangamon County Historical Society took place at its organizational meeting in June, 1961. Plans had been laid before that by Frank R. Sullivan, who thought that there should be such a society in this county, and reserved the name, Sangamon County Historical Society, at the office of the Secretary of State on June 3, 1960. Incorporation papers were signed on October 5, 1960, by Frank R. Sullivan, Glen L. Farrington, George L. Cashman, J. Glenn McFarland and Dorothy F. Drach (Mrs. George Drach), and these five acted as the temporary Board of Directors. The organizational meeting was held on June 12, 1961, in the Council Chambers of the New City Hall. On the program was an address by Springfield architect Ralph N. Morrisett, "Construction of the Old State Capitol". Officers and Board members were elected, with John T. Trutter as president, Edward G. Pree, Jr., as vice-president, Robert E. Hatcher III as secretary-treasurer, and honorary co-chairmen Governor Otto Kerner and Springfield Mayor Lester E. Collins. (Before this meeting Judge Benjamin S. DeBoice had served as temporary chairman and George L. Cashman as temporary secretary.) Twenty board members were elected. Of those, many are now deceased, but those still on our active membership roll are John R. Chapin, Carrol C. Hall, Emmet F. Pearson, M.D., and Mrs. A. D. Van Meter. The first Board of Directors meeting was held on July 19, 1961, at the home of John Trutter. A proposed Constitution was discussed. As of that meeting there were 135 members, a good increase since the 70 members reported by President Trutter as having been on the roll at the organizational meeting. It was decided to hold the charter membership list open until the next meeting, to be held on September 18, 1961. A membership committee, with Dorothy Cashman as chairman, went to work and according to the list which we have in our files, there were 269 charter members as of September 18, 1961. In 1963 the Life Member category was established, and our first Life Member was Winifred Barringer, as of February 24, 1963. Our second and third Life Members, as of June 16, 1963, were Floyd Barringer, M.D., and Edward G. Pree, Jr. There were no other Life Members registered until 1964. The list now has grown to about 80.

Thanks go to our Historian, Floyd Barringer, M.D., who carefully preserved the record of our early meetings to Spring, 1967, thus establishing the pattern for keeping a descriptive list of all of our Society's meetings and tours.

### BOARD MEETING REPORT

The SCHS Officers and Board of Directors met at Lincoln Library at 4:30 on May 29,