

### BEST WISHES, GEORGE!

The society's best wishes go to George Painter, who is recuperating at home following surgery on November 13. George is the Historian of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, a past president of the SCHS and a member of the Board. He is the founder of the annual Lincoln Colloquium, which has just completed a very successful sixth year under his guidance.

### CONGRATULATIONS DUE!

Our congratulations go to Theresa Faith Cummings, who recently was awarded the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Woman of the Year Award by the Springfield Women's Political Caucus. The award is given annually to an area woman for her contributions to women's issues. Theresa, who is the Assistant Director of the state's Abandoned Mines Reclamation Council, is active in a number of local, as well as, state and national organizations which benefit not only women but citizens in general. We're proud to have her as a member of the SCHS Board!

### CHRISTMAS AT THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

Christmas festivities at the Old State Capitol begin with the decorating of fourteen trees throughout the building, done by 4th and 5th grade Springfield children who are making their own "historic" ornaments. All decorations will be in place through December 31. The winners of the decorating contest will be announced on December 7 at 11:30 A.M. following the downtown Christmas Parade. Children and their parents are invited to stay for the DePriest Puppets program to follow. Because of limited space, free tickets are required - they may be picked up at the Old State Capitol.

Beginning on December 10 special noontime concerts will be presented at the Old Capitol, featuring school musical groups from Springfield and neighboring towns. Several groups will entertain each day from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on December 10-13 and December 16-20. A number of schools, both public and parochial, from Springfield, Pleasant Plains, Pawnee, Buffalo (Tri-City), Petersburg (Porta), New Berlin, Williamsville and Illiopolis will entertain. Please check local newspapers for their schedule, or call (217) 782-4336, (Old State Capitol) for information. Seating will be provided for those who wish to bring "brown bag" lunches.

On Sunday, December 15, a special concert will be given by three choirs from St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church and Union Baptist Church, from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.

### CHRISTMAS AT CLAYVILLE

From 12:00 noon - 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 - 8, celebrate an early Christmas at Clayville Rural Life Center. (The Inn also will be open on Saturday evening, December 7, from 6 - 8 P.M. with luminarias lighting the path to the entrance.) Hot cider and homemade cookies will be served and entertainers will present folk music. Children may help string cranberries and popcorn. Free admission.

## LINCOLN HOME NEWS

Daily tours continue at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, except for Christmas and New Year's Day when the site is closed. The houses will be decorated for Christmas on December 14, with the decorations remaining in place through the first week in January. An Open House will be held at the Visitor Center, 426 South Seventh Street, on December 14, including refreshments and special music. The Historic Site will be open late on December 31 to participate in First Night, Springfield.

## NIGHT OF THE LUMINARIAS

On Sunday, December 22, from 4:30 - 8:00 P.M., the exterior and courtyard of the Dana-Thomas House will be lighted by hundreds of luminarias. Silent walk-through tours of the house may be taken on that evening. The house is decorated beautifully for the holidays and open for tours. Reservations are suggested - call 782-6776 for information. Musical entertainment will be a feature on each Saturday and Sunday in December from 9 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

## REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

A Christmas service will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 14, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Oak Ridge Cemetery. A brief POW - MIA ceremony of remembrance will be presented, with music by the Pleasant Grove Baptist Choir. The speaker will be Jim Borah, who recently returned from an investigative trip to Laos.

Amidst our holiday activities let us not forget the 50th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941.

## LINCOLN GARDENS FIRST GIVING PROGRAM

A unique memorial honoring Abraham Lincoln is the Lincoln Memorial Garden on the shores of Lake Springfield. Featuring native plants of Illinois, it was planned by the famed landscape gardener, Jens Jensen, and begun in 1936. It has been maintained for over 50 years by faithful volunteers. Membership fees, donations and gift shop sales provide its income for the most part, but it has become apparent that the services of a full-time groundskeeper are needed. A drive to raise \$20,000 for this purpose is planned. We will have more information on this project soon. A comment in the Garden's Nov./Dec. newsletter ("The Nature Center News") expresses so well the purpose that makes this memorial unique. A recent visitor, Marie Horan, wrote "The setting is impressive and a fitting tribute to the 'rail splitter'. The stone monuments are fine, but this natural spot represents the humble spirit of Mr. Lincoln."

## "RE - MEMBERING LINCOLN"

This is the title of a conference to be held on Saturday, April 11, 1992, at Augustana College in Rock Island, and will serve as the 11th Annual Meeting of the Western Illinois Regional Studies Association. Our members are invited to share their interest in Lincoln, either with a written paper or a talk on any