

Lincoln theme. Some general topics to be discussed are: Lincoln and the National Imagination, Teaching Lincoln in the Schools, Lincoln's Legal and Political Careers, Lincoln Slept Here (an examination of local Lincoln legends). Those interested in participating may contact Dean Hammer, Department of Political Science, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201 (Tel. 309-794-7676). A brief summary of any topic should be sent to the above address by January 10, 1992.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ILLINOIS!

President James Monroe signed the resolution admitting Illinois as the 21st state of the Union on December 3, 1818. Some interesting sidelights on our state's history around that time were presented in Kathleen Friedman's program on November 19.

### NEWS OF NOTE

The Dispatch, newsletter of the Illinois State Historical Society, in its Nov./Dec. issue features an article on the Centennial Business Program which annually honors 100-year-old firms in Illinois. One of the co-chairmen of this year's event was our Society's first president, John T. Trutter, pictured with some of the participants.

A recent article in the State Journal-Register notes that at 160 it is the oldest newspaper in the state. Its predecessor, the "Sangamon Journal," first was published on November 10, 1831. It became the "Sangamo Journal" the next year - later the "Illinois Journal," then the "Illinois State Journal." It merged in 1974 with the "Illinois State Register" which had moved to Springfield from Vandalia at the time when Springfield became the state capital in 1836. Other early papers eventually ceased publication, leaving the State Journal-Register as the oldest paper in Illinois.

The Naples Boatel is gone! Fire completely destroyed the popular restaurant on the shore of the Illinois River at Naples on November 6. Many antiques, pictures and boating memorabilia were lost. Some of our long-time members may remember our "re-enactment of Grant's March to Naples", planned and conducted by Frank Sullivan in June, 1976, when our car caravan went through Riddle Hill, New Berlin, and Jacksonville, stopping for a house tour in Exeter, and ending in Naples. It was here that U. S. Grant, after marching his fractious troops all the way from Springfield, transferred them to boats for the trip down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers and into action in the Civil War. After our tour many SCHS members gathered at the Boatel for dinner, enjoying the views of the marina and the boat traffic on the Illinois River.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AND TO OUR BUSINESS STAFF AT ROBINSONS! WE'LL BE BACK IN 1992!

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