



Historico

The newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society
 308 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
 www.sancohis.org 217.522.2500

May, 2007

May 9, Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Board Meeting

Iles House, 628 S. 7th Street

Parking is available in the lot on the Southeast corner of 7th & Cook, or in the lot behind the house entered from 8th Street

Officers

President

Taylor Pensoneau

Vice President

Carolyn Moore

Past President

Dr. Virgilio Pilapil

Secretary

Sally Cadagin

Treasurer

Nancy Chapin

Directors

Directors to 2007

R-Lou Barker

John Huther

Janice Petterchak

Mary Jo Potter

Gary Vitale

Directors to 2008

Carol Andrews

David Brady

Phyllis Brissenden

Robert Davis

Carolyn Oxtoby

Directors to 2009

Jack Billington

Dan Buck

Al Eck, Jr.

Susan Hammond

Steve Leonard

Honorary Director

William Hughes Diller, Jr.

Committee Chairmen

Book Sales

Sue Wall

Constitution & Bylaws

Curtis Mann

Finance

John Huther

Historico Editor

Nancy Chapin

Membership

Carolyn Moore

Nominations

Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil

Programs

Taylor Pensoneau

Project Awards

Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil

Publications

Curtis Mann

Publicity

Janice Petterchak

Webmaster

Karen Everingham

May 15, Tuesday, 7:00pm

Program

Iles House, 628 South 7th Street (7th and Cook)

The Statehouse Pressroom—A Place Like No Other

Taylor Pensoneau

A very lively period in the history of the pressroom in the Illinois Statehouse—the years from the mid 1960s through the late 1970s—will be relived by Taylor Pensoneau, a pressroom occupant in that time frame as the Illinois political correspondent for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Through the years, the pressroom in the Capitol has been the home of numerous newspaper and broadcast reporters (some of whom became stars in their profession), public relations operatives, political hangers-on and a sometimes zany assortment of characters. The conglomeration took on a life of its own, even though the mission in the pressroom—to get out news about state government—never was subverted. The years from the mid 1960s to the late 1970s constituted an especially robust pressroom period, one in which investigative reporting often took center stage.

Pensoneau spent sixteen years with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the last twelve of them in the Statehouse pressroom. After leaving the newspaper in 1978, he worked for the Illinois Coal Association for twenty-six years. When he retired several years ago, he was the organization's president. He is the author of five books, including the biographies of Governors Richard Ogilvie and Dan Walker and of legendary Illinois Senate leader W. Russell Arrington. A former president of the Illinois Center for the Book, Pensoneau currently is the president of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Statehouse Pressroom—A Place Like No Other</i>	1
Reservoir Park/LHS Marker Dedication; Iles House; Report on April program	2
Membership list	3
Membership list	4
<i>President's Report</i> ; Illinois Heritage Center	5
Spring schedule; <i>Cemetery Walk, Bus trip to Allerton Park</i>	6

Reservoir Park/Lanphier High School Marker to be Dedicated

William Furry, Executive Director of the Illinois State Historical Society, has announced plans for the dedication of a historical marker commemorating Springfield's old Reservoir Park and Lanphier High School. The marker will be located at the site of the park where Lanphier High School now stands, north of North Grand and east of 11th Street.

The reservoir was taken down in the late 1930's and Lanphier High School was erected on the grounds with its first graduating class in 1937. The school was named after Robert C. Lanphier, founder and president of Sangamon Electric Company, which produced electric meters as well as various timing devices and electronic components. The company occupied the site where the Illinois Watch Factory was previously located, a factory immediately west of the school.

The marker is being sponsored by the high school's Lan-Hi Yearbook staff and the effort is being spearheaded by the yearbook's faculty advisor, Debbie Sidener. In addition to the school's choral society, Principal Jane Chard, Springfield's Historian Curtis Mann, and other dignitaries will participate.



Iles House

Congratulations to the Iles House on the dedication of their new lift and patio. The ramp leading to

the patio makes it possible for wheelchairs to access the house, and the lift enables them to enjoy the charm of the main floor and the Barringer family antiques.

prospered as an agricultural center on the rail line until Illinois Route 54 was completed in 1935, being the principal route for those traveling from Indianapolis to Denver. From then until Interstate 72 was completed the community developed itself to serve the needs of the agricultural community the railroad and auto travelers. A grain elevator, stockyards, lumberyard, hardware stores, car dealers, churches and banks complimented the gas stations and restaurants of the small community, which also featured race tracks and a rodeo grounds in its heyday. A series of devastating fires over an 80 year period contributed to the changing face of the village.

Bill explained that the addition of the interstate, two miles north of the village, coupled with a shrinking agricultural need, changed the village from an agricultural and transportation hub to a 'bedroom community'. Now the goal of the village is to be a 'clean, quiet and safe' neighborhood – and to perhaps attract a hardware store.

Report on April program -

A good portion of New Berlin's nearly 1200 citizens turned out to learn about the village in which they lived and with the addition of the curious from other parts, the Carnegie Room was full for the presentation from former mayor Bill Pfeffer on the history of the community and viewing of the myriad of artifacts provided.

He told of the beginnings of the community and explained that its history has been primarily determined by two factors: transportation and fires. The village of Berlin was developed in 1833 by settlers from Kentucky and Tennessee, with many Germans and Irish coming later, but the community moved south two and a half miles when the railroad came through in 1838 and developed New Berlin. The community



The Iles House with mourning drapery in honor of the period between Lincoln's assassination and his burial at Oak Ridge on May 4, 1865.

The following is a list of members as of April, 2007. If you have friends interested in history who are not on the list, encourage them to join!

Life Memberships

Charles W. Adams
 Ann Allan
 R-Lou Barker
 Daniel Monroe Barringer
 Mrs. Floyd S. Barringer
 Tadd K. Baumann
 Joann Bayer
 Jay Elliott Bell
 Norma G. Bibb
 Mrs. Fred C. Blythe
 Mr. Edward A. Brooks
 Mr. Robert H. Bunn
 Ms. Sally Cadagin
 Charles & Nancy Chapin
 Mr. Bradley S. Churchill
 Job C. Conger IV
 William Hughes Diller Jr.
 Mr. John B. Dixon
 Frank B. Farley
 Barbara H. Farris
 Nadine Ferguson
 Carol Jean Fraase
 F. Sheplor Franke
 C. David Franke III
 Mrs. Carl D. Franke, Jr.
 Mr. Donald Hay Funk
 Karen Graff
 Dr. Donald R. Graham
 Perry and Marilyn Hall
 Ginger Harmon
 Mr. Richard E. Hart
 Earl W. Henderson Jr.
 Mrs. Patricia Henry
 Mr. Frederick B. Hoffmann
 Brenda June Holmes
 Walter Wesley Johnston
 Alex J. Jones IV
 William S. Klein
 Karla Krueger
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Lanphier III
 Dr. Victor H. Lary
 Miss Mary Frances Lavin
 Lincoln Library
 Mary Ellen McElligott
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. McNichols
 Dr. Kriegh P. Moulton

Mrs. Paula S. Myers
 Joe Nicoud Jr.
 Mrs. Georgia Northrup
 Mrs. Thomas D. O'Brien
 Victoria O'Brien
 Thomas D. Patton
 Elena E. Pilapil
 Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil
 Priscilla Reyhan
 Sarah Robinson
 Pauline Roesch
 Dorothy Ross
 F. North Ross
 Patricia K. Rudolph
 Edward J. Russo
 Paul Schanbacher
 Nanchen and Michael Scully
 Don Springer
 Dr. Charles A. Starling
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Stuart Jr.
 Mr. Don Tracy
 Enrique J. Unanue
 Mrs. A. D. Van Meter
 Mrs. Benjamin Victor
 Elizabeth A. Weir
 Mrs. Louise F. Wollan
 L. A. Wollan Jr.
 Mrs. Harold B. Wright
 Mary Jane Wright
 Dr. Elvin Zook
 Mrs. Sharon Zook

Sustaining Memberships

Jim & Madelyn Bogue
 Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden
 Chris Butler
 Julie Cellini
 Mrs. Barbara Weitekamp Diller
 Mr. & Mrs. Farrell Gay
 Alfred & Kay Hofmann
 John & Catherine Huther
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Patrick Joyce, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard McLane
 Polly Poskin
 Logan H. Schlipf
 Cathy Schwartz
 R. W. Troxell & Co.
 Carl W. and Roberta E. Volkmann
 Betty Tabor Woods

Family Memberships

Stan and Carolyn Adams
 Jack and Carol Andrews
 Ed & Mary Ann Armstrong

Russell and Mary Barker
 Richard Kerhlikar & Judith Barringer
 Mary and Jim Beaumont
 Jack & Sue Ellen Billington
 Alan & Elaine Birtch
 Justin & Holly Rae Blandford
 Charles & Patricia Boyce
 Mr. & Mrs. David M. Brady
 Donald and Joanna Bucci
 Mr. & Mrs. George N. Buck
 Ross W. and Dorothea Buie
 Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Burriss
 Jack and Janice Butler
 Bill & Karen Camille
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carlson
 Douglas & Val Carr
 Mr. & Mrs. Denis J. Conlon
 McClernand B. & Stephanie Crawford
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Crome
 John & George Anne Daly
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Davenport
 Mr. & Mrs. Kirby Davenport
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Davenport, Jr.
 G. Cullom & Anne Davis
 Robert & Patricia Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Derhake
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dickerman
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dorocke
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert O. Eck, Jr.
 Lela E. Espenshied
 Stuart and Judith Fliege
 C. Don Gamble
 Louis M. Gietl
 Ron and Fran Greenfield
 Dr. & Mrs. Donald Hallmark
 Charles & Susan Hammond
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip E. Hanna
 Dr. & Mrs. Mark E. Hansen
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hanson
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hiler
 Mr. & Mrs. John P. Hiler, Jr.
 Bruce and Sue Imig
 Mr. & Mrs. William Irvine
 Bryan & Mary Lou Johnsrud
 Orville A. & Miriam Keirs
 Oliver J. Keller
 Jan T. and Darlene J. Kessinger
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Knox
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Krause
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kyes
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Larson
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne F. Leinicke
 Stephen & Patricia Leonard
 Joan and Terry Bayliss Lewis

Mr. & Mrs. Loren L. Lowery
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lynn
 Mark and Grainne Mahoney
 Frank & Ruthann Mazrim
 Denise & Robbie McDonald
 Stephen D. McKenrick
 George C. Michael
 Ralph & Carolyn Moore
 James and Leah Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Narmont
 Harry & Betsy Newman
 Randall & Kathy Culver Nickell
 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Noll
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas O'Hern
 Phillip & Martine Paludan
 Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Patton III
 John and Joanne Paul
 Phil & Thelma Peabody
 Taylor & Elizabeth Pensoneau
 John & Janice Petterchak
 Bud & Mary Jo Potter
 James and Rosemary Ransom
 Royce & Linda Reed
 Lawrence & Elizabeth Reisch, Jr.
 James K. and LuAnn Russell
 Mr. & Mrs. William Sausaman Jr.
 David and Virginia Scott
 Thomas & Gloria Shanahan
 William H. & Bonnie Shannon
 James A. Skeeters
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Slater
 Allen & Tot Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold A. Stern
 Justin & Mardell K. Taft
 Robert & Virginia Taylor
 William B. and Julianne R. Thomas
 Michael and Debra Thompson
 Mary L. & Elaine Corum Townsend
 Terry and Judith Ullrich
 William and Jane Vetter
 Gary & Jean Vitale
 Richard E. & Mary Ellen Walton
 Mr. & Mrs. John Watt
 Katherine White Family
 John and Martha Wolters
 Keith R. & Marian L. Wright

Individual Memberships

Glen H. Alexander
 Mary R. Barringer
 David Barringer
 Byron A. (Bud) Bartlett
 Rick Beard
 Alyce Beggs

Mary Blumle
 Estella P. Booth
 Galyn Bowman
 Sallie I. Brittin
 Michael D. Brophy
 Phillip J. Broughton
 Dr. Vandella Brown
 Daniel Buck
 Norman Ray Buecker
 Larry Bussard
 Terri Cameron
 Diane Canavan
 Karen Carmody
 Cathy Caughlin
 Chatham Area Library
 Mary L. Cleverdon
 Alberta Conover
 Tom Coulson
 Cathy Cragoe
 Mrs. Mary Crane
 Theresa Faith Cummings
 Dana-Thomas House
 Thelma Davenport
 Mr. Timothy Davlin
 Mary Lou Delahunt
 Anna Marie Diefenback
 Donna M. Dormire
 James A. Edstrom
 Kim Efird
 Phyllis N. Eubanks
 Karen E. Everingham
 Carol L. Fleck
 Kathleen Friedman
 Kevin Fuhrmann
 Minnette Fuhrmann
 Melinda Garvert
 Mrs. Leila Mae Georg
 Mrs. Marie Ellen Halcli
 Doris Hamel
 Rev. Charles A. Hanson
 Kathryn Harris
 Mrs. Mary C. Hempstead
 Margaret E. Herman
 Stanley M. Herrin
 Daniel Hiler
 Elaine Hoff
 Judith Ann Hollenberg
 William J. Hosking
 Doris Hunter
 Jane E. Hurie
 Jacqueline D. Jackson
 Shirley B. Jacobs
 Jerome Jacobson
 Julia L. Jeffers

Roberta Johantgen
 Alice Kaige
 L. Eileen Kendle
 Mike Kienzler
 Rosemary King
 Elizabeth N. Kloppenburg
 Amanda Kozar
 Mrs. Margot L. Kramer
 Tim E. Krell
 Deborah S. Krohe
 Ronald D. Ladley
 Mary M. Larson
 Marion Leach
 Doris J. Leonard
 Lincoln Home
 Carol C. Lohman
 Curtis Mann
 Alice E. Martin
 Shirley McConaughay
 Mrs. John McKee
 David McLaren
 John S. Melin
 Rita Midden
 William S. Minder
 David Mourey
 Dr. Richard H. Moy
 Paul R. Mueller
 Telia "Teal" Murphy
 E. George Myers
 Edith M. Myers
 Byron Nesbitt Jr.
 Gerald L. Owens
 Carolyn Oxtoby
 Mrs. Nancy Patton
 Mary L. Paxton
 Barbara Jean Reid
 Mrs. Philip Langdon Robinson
 Orvetta Robinson
 Rochester Historical Preservation Soc.
 John R. Rodenburg
 Barbara Roseberry
 Mrs. Joyce Sandage
 Darlene Schermerhorn
 Thomas F. Schwartz
 St. Joseph's Home
 SCI History Club
 Dorothy Z. Sheedy
 Ruth E. Simmons
 Diane Simpson
 Sandee Sims
 Dore Skeels
 Lynda E. Skinner
 Susan Smarjesse
 Carol Schwend Smith

Katie Spindell
 Harriet T. Steahly
 Mrs. Barbara Steward
 Daniel Stowell
 Nicky Stratton
 Joyce M. Stuper
 Phyllis G. Summers
 Jennifer Symons
 Frances M. Telsey
 Donald P. Thannen
 Sarah H. Thomas
 Glenda Tjelta
 Matthew Vernau
 Joe Victor
 Charlene M. Vollmer
 Susanne Wall
 Richard R. Wallin
 Betty Washko
 Ellen M. Whitney
 Patricia Wilkes
 Wynn T. Wilkins
 Martha L. Wilkinson
 Randall F. Witter
 Victor Young

Illinois Heritage Center

A press conference held on April 11th announced the future opening of the National Museum of Surveying and the Illinois Heritage Center in the former Roberts Brothers store on the north side of the Old Capitol Plaza. The Illinois Heritage Center, which will initially consist of the Illinois State Historical Society, Under the Prairie Museum and Sangamo Archaeological Center, is hoped to be a center for Illinois history and will eventually include other organizations.

We Welcome new member
 Byron A. (Bud) Bartlett

The President's Corner

I guess it might be called my swan song. The Society's next monthly program, that is. One that will be presented by me.

My two-year stint as chair of the Society's program committee will wind up with the May 15 program—to be held not at Lincoln Library but at the Iles House—on the pressroom in the Illinois Statehouse. The title of the presentation declares that the pressroom is or has been "a place like no other." I honestly believe this to be the case, or at least to be on target in picturing the pressroom from the mid 1960s through the late 1970s, the period covered by my presentation. I was part of the pressroom then as the Illinois political writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

The course of my life has taken different turns since the end of my pressroom days nearly thirty years ago. But, the indelible impressions and experiences from my time in that once smoky den of mostly hard-bitten scribes still make my pressroom era seem like yesterday. Most likely, my years as a Statehouse correspondent were compatible with what some nostalgic writers dubbed their salad days.

Off and on, I have found myself in my reveries through the decades again sitting back in the pressroom. Recollecting the thrill of breaking important stories, resurrecting the satisfaction of catching a state official with a hand in the cookie jar, remembering the late night visits to the old Western Union office in downtown Springfield for the transmission to St. Louis of my articles conveying the day's General Assembly doings. And, also, the camaraderie with other reporters, a fellowship frequently extending into wee hours of the morning with burgers or breakfast at the Georgian or some other all-night restaurant. Covering state government in busy times often meant little sleep.

My days in the pressroom were during exciting years that saw far-reaching changes in Illinois government set to a backdrop of great upheaval in society. I was lucky to be in journalism then. Furthermore, I was even more lucky to have a beat producing stories about people, events and programs affecting the health and welfare of every citizen.

The pressroom was more than a purveyor of news. It's been a story in itself. I've had fun in recapturing for the May program the unique atmosphere of a small enclave that, for my money, is a place like no other.

Taylor Pensoneau

Sangamon County Historical Society
308 E. Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701



Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 777
Springfield, Illinois

2007 Spring Schedule

May 11, 8:30 AM

Bus trip to Monticello and Allerton Park

May 15 7:00 PM

The Statehouse Pressroom—A Place Like No Other

Taylor Pensoneau

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North

June 19 6:00 PM

Annual Meeting, Dinner and Program

Sangamon Club

Cemetery Walk, October 7, 2007

Planning for this year's Cemetery Walk is well underway. David Barringer will be the chairman. Subjects to be portrayed have been chosen and Elaine Birtch, Linda Garvert, Curtis Mann, David Brady, Nancy Chapin and Dick Hart are researching and preparing the scripts for the actors. The por-

trays will include the families of a lumberman, a farmer/grocer, a liquor dealer, a soap maker—an interesting mix.

Paul Mueller has agreed to be in charge of the Historama area and has some good, new ideas. Marian Leach has again agreed to be the master of the wonderful concession stand. Bob Davis has offered to do a special re-

enactment of a Civil War veteran buried near the Historama, which will be a special addition.

Please save the date of Sunday, October 7, and plan to attend, and do contact Sally Cadagin (cadamyst@sbcglobal.net or 546-5840) if you would like your name added to the volunteer list. We need lots of volunteers!



Bus trip to Allerton Park, May 11th

Don't forget to sign up for the trip to Monticello and Allerton Park on May 11th! We are hoping for a lovely day to tour Monticello's old, historic district and to see the gardens at Allerton Park in spring, and we have heard glowing reports about lunch in the dining room. The bus will depart from the Iles House parking lot at 8:30 AM. If you haven't already sent in your reservation, mail it to SCHS, 308 E. Adams, Springfield, IL 62701, with your phone number and a check for \$50.00 members; \$60.00 non-members.