

THE NEW LINCOLN MUSEUM

In October 1995, The Lincoln Museum will open at a new location in downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Museum, which began as a single room with a few cases on the 4th floor of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company Building, will be moving for the third time in its history.

The heart of the new Lincoln Museum will be an 8,000 square foot permanent exhibit, entitled "Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment." The Museum will also feature a temporary exhibit gallery, a small conference area, and a store offering a wide selection of books, educational items and gifts related to the history of Lincoln and his era. In addition, the new Museum will include a modern archival collection storage facility, with a reference room for researchers wishing to use the Museum's 16,000 volume library of *Lincolniana*. For the benefit of all visitors the Museum will be fully accessible and have its own rest rooms. The next issue of *Lincoln Lore* will describe the new Museum in more detail, including membership opportunities, programming, and tours.

The Lincoln Museum will be closed from February 13, 1995 to October 1, 1995, to allow the staff to oversee construction of the building and the permanent exhibit and to move the collections. The construction of the new Museum is currently underway, funded by a gift from Lincoln National Corporation to the Lincoln National Life Foundation, which owns the Museum and its collections.

AT THE MUSEUM ...

This issue of *Lincoln Lore* comes to you many months after the previous one. In the interim, there have been changes at The Lincoln Museum, of which the construction of the new facility is certainly the most dramatic. In addition, there have been many changes in personnel.

In July 1992 Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr. left the post of director of The Lincoln Museum and became John Francis Bannon Professor of History and American Studies at St. Louis University. No brief mention can do justice to his many contributions to this museum and to Lincoln scholarship; they are in any case well known to the readers of *Lincoln Lore*.

Ruth Cook served as acting director from July 1992 to July 1993, and retired from the Museum in March 1994. At its annual meeting the Abraham Lincoln Association unanimously resolved "that without her looming presence and active work in its behalf, the Lincoln field cannot ever again be quite the same."

The new director of The Lincoln Museum is Joan Flinspach, formerly the director of the Boys Town Hall of History in Omaha. Joining her on the staff are Dr. Gerald Prokopowicz as Lincoln Scholar/ Director of Public Programs and editor of *Lincoln Lore*, and Carolyn Texley as Collections Manager.



The new Lincoln Museum, opening October 1, 1995.

PLANS AND EVENTS ...

The next issue of *Lincoln Lore* will be published in the summer of 1995, and will contain information regarding subscriptions and the format of the new *Lincoln Lore*, which will appear quarterly starting in the autumn of 1995.

The 1995 McMurtry Lecture will take place September 22, 1995, at the new Lincoln Museum. The speaker will be David Herbert Donald, Professor Emeritus at Harvard University and author of a much-anticipated upcoming biography of Lincoln.

The public opening of the new Lincoln Museum is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, 1995. The library and its information service will also reopen; information requests should be directed to Carolyn Texley, Collections Manager.