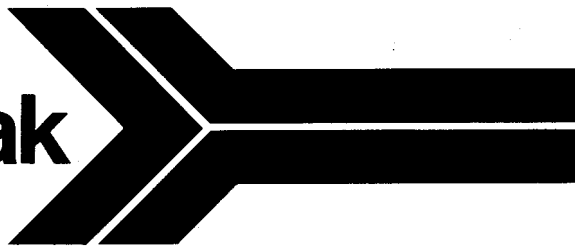


Amtrak



FACTS

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ROUTE OF THE WHISTLE-STOP TRAIN

Today's whistle-stop campaign train goes 220 miles through the heartland of Illinois, rich for the crops grown here and also rich in the political heritage of Abraham Lincoln.

This is Lincoln country, and has been for more than a century. We will see many monuments to the memory of one of America's greatest Presidents.

JOLIET, Illinois, is the originating station on our journey. Located 37 rail miles southwest of Chicago, Joliet (population 80,378) was first known as "Stone City" because a large number of its buildings were made of limestone. Later it was named for Louis Joliet, famous French-Canadian explorer who visited the area in 1673. Today Joliet, located in the Des Plaines River valley, has hundreds of manufacturing industries producing more than 1,000 different items. St. Francis College and Lewis College are located here.

PONTIAC, Illinois, is the seat of Livingston County and a center for light industry and vocational training. The city has a population of 9,031. The most popular theory for the city's name is that it was named for the strong chief of the Ottawa Indians by Jesse W. Fall, a political associate of Abraham Lincoln.

BLOOMINGTON, Illinois, is named for the abundant flowers that

-more-

once grew here. It is also fertile soil for American politics. It was the home of Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice President under Grover Cleveland. It is also the burial place for his grandson, former U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Bloomington, population 38,992, is the birthplace of the state Republican Party. Bloomington owes its economic growth to the railroad and two major universities: Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan.

LINCOLN, Illinois, is the only one of 24 similarly-named cities to which Abraham Lincoln knowingly consented to give his name. In fact, he helped with the planning and legal work that incorporated Lincoln as the seat of Logan County. He even christened the town with watermelon juice! Today Lincoln has a population of 17,582.

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois, is where Lincoln lived, practiced law, married and was buried here. "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything", Lincoln said as he left for the nation's capital for the last time. Springfield is the capital of Illinois, becoming so in 1837 as the result of a campaign led by Lincoln. Now it has also become an important industrial center surrounded by rich farmlands and coal mines. Springfield, now population 91,753, was named for a nearby spring and the first fields cultivated by one of its settlers. As we leave the Amtrak station, the state capitol dome is visible on our right.

CARLINVILLE, Illinois, is a small (population 5,678) industrial

city known state-wide for its 43-year long bond struggle to pay for its impressive Macoupin County Courthouse. Close by is the beautiful Beaver State Park.

ALTON, Illinois, was the site of the seventh and final Lincoln-Douglas debate in October 1858. Two decades earlier, the abolitionist editor Elijah Lovejoy died here trying to protect his press from a pro-slavery mob. Rising on the bluffs above the meeting of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, some Alton houses still have the lookout platforms where wealthy merchants of the steamboat era watched their river traffic. Today, the city (population 39,700) boasts one of the world's largest bottlemaking plants and prospers on industry, including oil refining and steel product manufacturing. Alton is the last stop on today's whistle-stop campaign train.

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October 16, 1976