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Springfield, Ill., Aug. 29--The Illinois Commission on the New York World's Fair has decided upon an architect and key visitor attractions for the Illinois exhibit at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair.

Ralph G. Newman, commission chairman, said the decisions were made Wednesday at a commission meeting in Chicago.

The Chicago firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill has been chosen as the architect for the Illinois exhibit. The commission is completing arrangement with Walt Disney's WED Enterprises to present a 10-minute production, "Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln," which will dramatize the personality and philosophy of the martyred president.

Newman said the unique dramatization will use newly developed techniques of three dimensional animation, called "audio-animatronics," in a life-like figure of Abraham Lincoln to recreate the words and thoughts of Illinois' most famous son. The system combines and synchronizes sound effects, voices and music with animation.

The Disney production will be only one of the visitor attractions at the Illinois exhibit. The commission also is considering the presentation in replica of one of the main buildings of Illinois' foremost tourist attractions -- Lincoln's New Salem State Park.

The Illinois pavilion also will contain a library where visitors will be able to relax and, if they desire, read a book about Lincoln; see some of the most famous original Lincoln manuscripts and portraits of the 16th President by leading artists of the past century.

Since the spoken word was one of the main forms of education and entertainment in the Lincoln era, the Illinois exhibit will feature frequently in person some of the world's leading personalities, including statesmen, scholars and philosophers, speaking about Lincoln, his influence on their lives or their country or their special field of interest.



Newman said: "In the Illinois exhibit we will pay tribute not to a man who lived a century ago and whose life span was a mere 56 years, but to an individual who lives today in the 154th year of his birth. We rightfully and continually honor Abraham Lincoln as a man who has profoundly affected the likes, thoughts, attitudes and actions of all Americans, but particularly the people of Illinois.

"Citizens of Illinois are proud of the fact that the Land of Lincoln is considered one of the country's 10 top tourist attractions by foreign visitors. Today we consider Lincoln our greatest son and the sites of his early life one of the great cultural and economic assets of our state. Through the Illinois Lincoln exhibit we hope to invite the millions of fair visitors to come to the Land of Lincoln.

"In our presentation we shall attempt to explain fully why Lincoln continues to grow in our cultural inheritance, our social and moral consciousness, and the economic development of Illinois. We shall feature the present-day virtues of our state in industry, education and recreation."

Opening on April 22, 1964, the New York World's Fair will run for two seasons, from April to October in both 1964 and 1965. The international exhibition is rising on the site of the 1939 world's fair at Flushing Meadow, Long Island. The Illinois pavilion will be located near the special guest entrance and will be opposite the United States federal pavilion. It is considered one of the best sites for a state exhibit.

The Illinois Commission on the New York World's Fair was established by the 73rd General Assembly with an appropriation of \$1 million from the Agricultural Premium Fund. In addition to Newman, officers of the commission are: U. S. District Judge James B. Parsons, of Chicago, co-chairman; State Sen. Dwight P. Friedrich, R-Centralia, and State Rep. Clyde Lee, D-Mount Vernon, vice chairman; and Gene Graves, of Springfield, secretary.