

ILLINOIS
"LAND OF LINCOLN"
PAVILION
1964-1965

THE
FINAL REPORT
TO THE
GOVERNOR,
MEMBERS OF THE
74th
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
MEMBERS OF THE
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

*submitted by the
Illinois Commission
on the
New York World's Fair
1964-1965*

JUNE 1966

RAILROADS, MINES EXHIBIT. THERE WERE NO CHARGES OF ANY KIND. ILLINOIS, Illinois was the only state pavilion where there was no barbershop, restaurant concession.

man that I have ever witnessed." Abraham Lincoln's own great-grandson felt the same way. When Robert Lincoln Beckwith came from his home in Washington, D. C. to see the lifelike figure of his illustrious ancestor, he said he was "thrilled and gratified."

Illinois Hosts Distinguished Gatherings

be one of the most significant events at the entire Fair. With Gov. Otto Kerner as official host, some 200 special friends of the late Illinois Governor and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. gathered to hear Ambassador Arthur Goldberg in his first public address as the United States Representative at the United Nations, longing to pay memorial respects to the late Illinoisan were Representatives of the United Nations, scientists, historians, and many close and personal friends of Kerner.

"Bargain" Pavilion

The lowest budgeted exhibit to achieve a place in the official "Top Ten" of the entire Fair was the Illinois pavilion—a meager $\frac{1}{2}$ acre—basis of entertaining and handling guests. With nearly 2,000 individual pavilions competing for attention of the public, Illinois drew approximately 13% of the total Fair attendance. Major industrial exhibitors invested tens of millions of dollars each in their pavilions. Per visitor cost in other major exhibits, furthermore, reached \$7.50, and in several instances approached \$300 per visitor. Illinois, with a total of \$7,657,000 state funds, was able to build, operate and handle its booth for approximately \$25 (twenty-five cents) per visitor.

Prestige and Fame

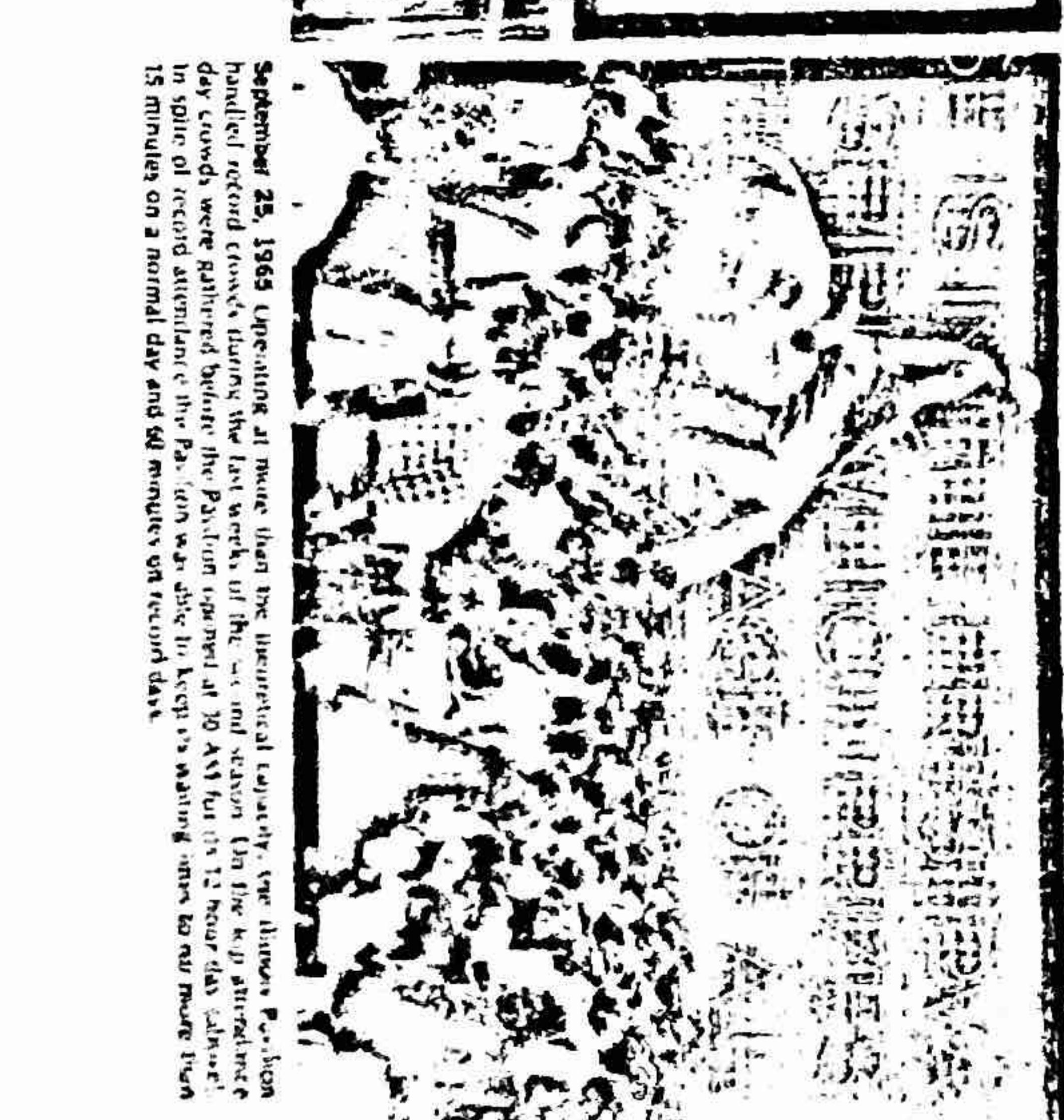
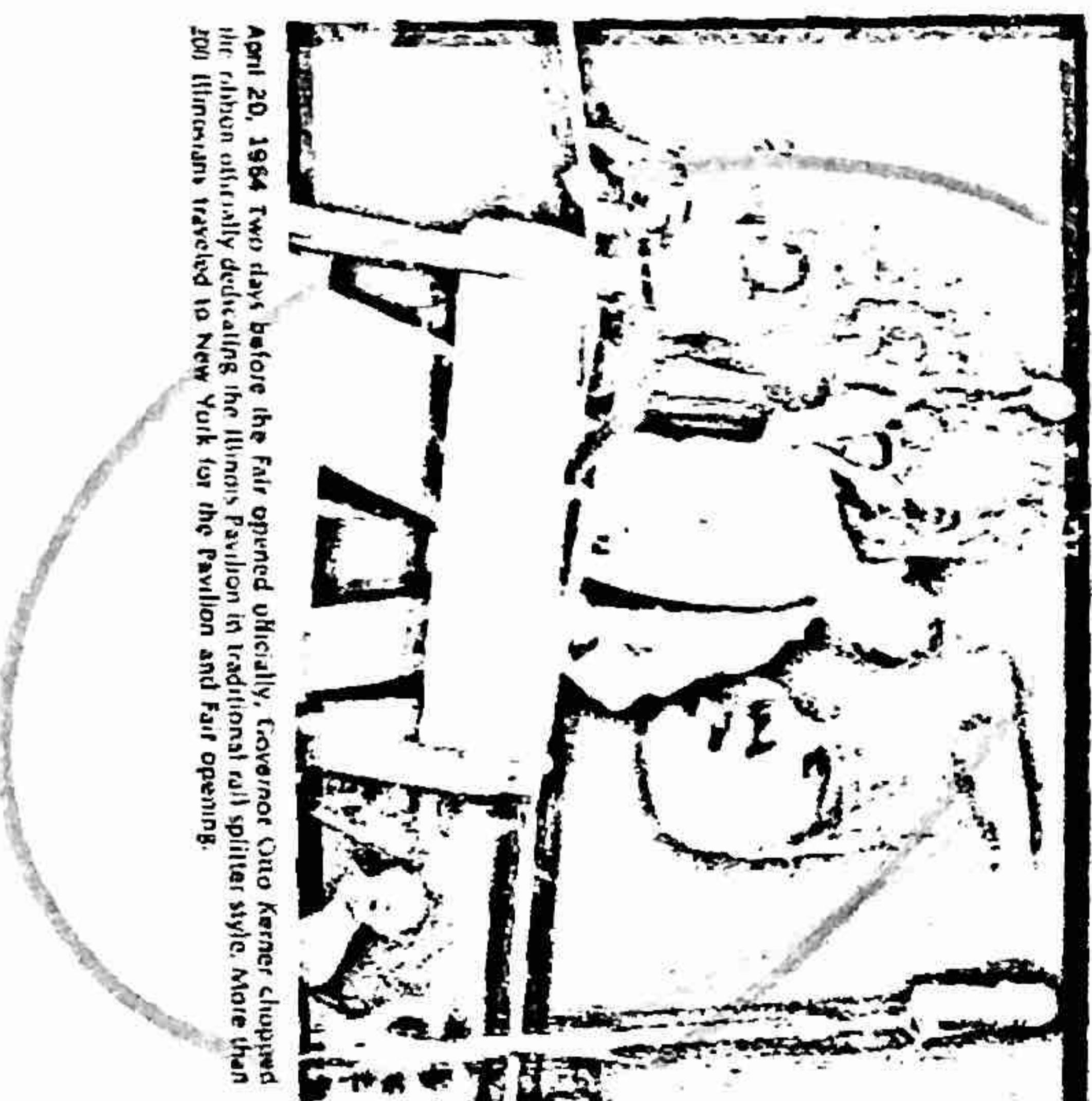
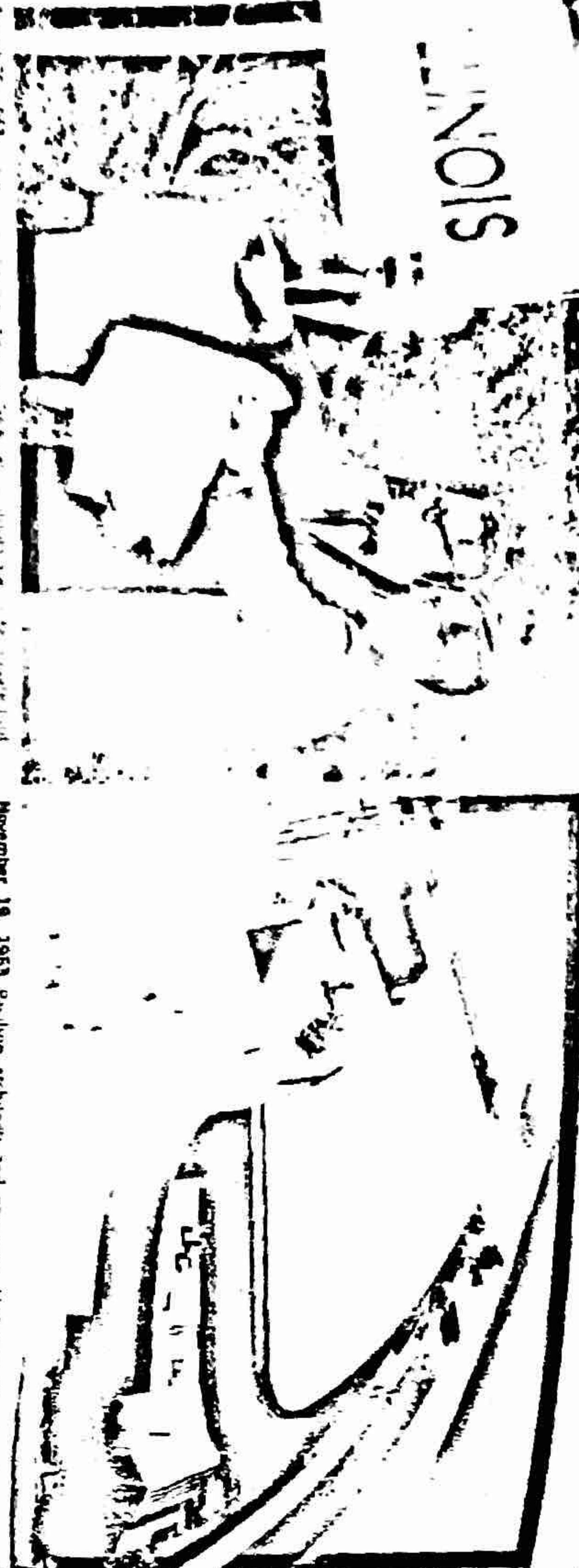
At the close of the two-year New York World's Fair, it was conceded that Illinois had achieved unusual and enviable prestige and prestige letters of thanks for inter-pavilion competition was received from all of the major pavilions.

In view of the widespread financial problems of other exhibitors—and of the fair Corporation itself—Illinois must be the bold must say that we expect the investment, if you will, something back. It will succeed.

November 19, 1953 Pavilion architects and engineers, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of New York completed the design plans after numerous conferences with Commission officials and were able to unveil the pavilion model (above) in less than 90 days after receiving their contract. In subsequent negotiations a lower price was agreed upon.

APRIL 20, 1964 Two days before the Fair opened officially, Governor Otto Kerner chopped the ribbon officially dedicating the Illinois Pavilion in traditional cult splitter style. More than 200 Illinoisans traveled to New York for the Pavilion and Fair opening.

September 25, 1965 Operating at more than the theoretical capacity, the Illinois Power handled record amounts during the last week of the month and season. On the basis of present weather conditions were anticipated before the Peabody experimental at 10 AM for the 12-hour day, alarm was given at 10:15 AM. In spite of record attendance, the Peabody was able to keep its handling time to no more than 15 minutes on a normal day and 60 minutes on record date.



More persons heard Lincoln's words at the Illinois Pavilion than heard him during his entire lifetime!

Through the acclaimed genius of Walt Disney and his "magical touch," more persons heard the words of the Abraham Lincoln Audio-Animatronic figure during the two years of the Illinois Emancipator during his entire life.



More than seven million men, women, and children came to the Great Pavilion's beautifully-appointed Lincoln Theater to sit in attentive silence for the "Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln" presentation, originated and presented by Disney's WED Enterprises. It was called by many, "the most inspiring ten minutes on the fairgrounds."

Before entering the Theater, visitors viewed a seven-minute prelude titled, "The Illinois Story." After a welcome on behalf of the Governor and people of Illinois, the story began, with the state's statistics and boundaries, shown as a geography lesson. Through color slides, Illinois was shown as a good place to live and work, a beautiful and historic state to tour and visit, and an exceptional area for business expansion.

The children's voices then led into the story of "Lincoln in Illinois," with color slides of original art, showing young Lincoln coming to Illinois at the age of 21, studying borrowed lawbooks by firelight, hanging out his shingle as a Springfield lawyer, and then bidding farewell to Illinois to become the 16th president of the United States.

With this mood-setting background, guests then filed into the Lincoln Theater to spend ten "Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln."

When the curtains opened, the Lincoln figure was shown seated, in thoughtful dignity. As the music faded, the figure rose and with complete coordination of movement and speech, delivered a nine-minute address, composed of actual excerpts from Abraham Lincoln's own speeches.

At the first movement, there were often audible gasps of incredulity from the audience. All the closer, there was always thunderous applause. A New York newspaper reporter wrote, "There is only one place on the fairgrounds where audiences are moved to applause. It is the Illinois Pavilion—and there they are applauding a methuselah of man."

All of the words and phrases in the following were chosen from speech or writing, written and spoken, in the preservation of Lincoln's memory, and in particular his collaboration with Walt Disney

The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty, but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. (1)



THE WORDS OF OUR SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT AS PRESENTED AT THE LAND OF LINCOLN PAVILION NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1965

ILLINOIS

PAVILION

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Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lipsing babe that prattles in her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be printed from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation, and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions, sacrifice incessantly upon its altars. (4)

Let us strive to deserve, as far as mortals may, the continued favor of Divine Providence, trusting that in future national危难, He will not fail to provide us the instruments of safety and security. (5)

No other let us be shamed from our duty to take measures designed to protect us from all dangers to ourselves, let us, however, trust that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the best of our ability, pursue the same end, and the best to do our duty as we understand it. (6)

1 Speech at Baltimore, Maryland April 10, 1861. Volume VII, page 111.

2 Speech at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 11, 1861. Volume III, page 97.

3 Speech before the Young Men's University of Springfield, Illinois, January 27, 1862. Volume I, page 106.

4 Same. Volume I, page 115.

5 Address on February 1st, 1862. Volume II, page 134.

6 Speech at Cooper Union, New York City, February 27, 1862. Volume II, page 55.

