

assembly of villages

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*assembly of villages  
wabash river basin*

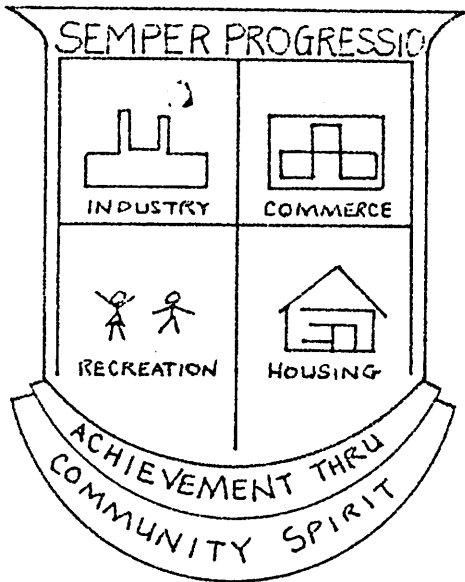


*april 15, 1978*

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE

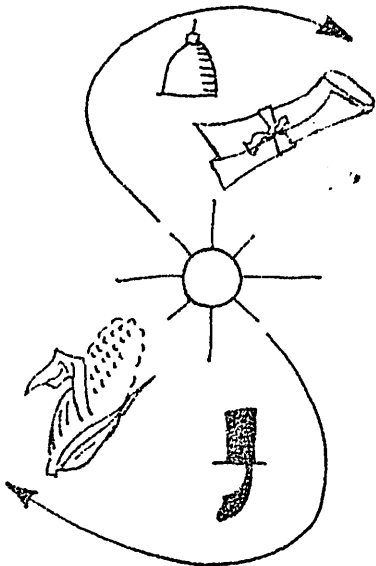
OLNEY, ILLINOIS

FROM 9:30 AM til 3:30 PM

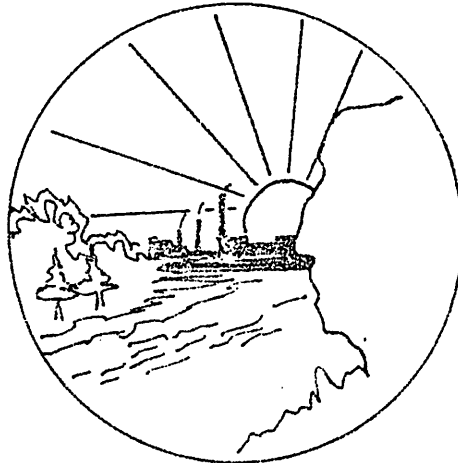


ROBBINS

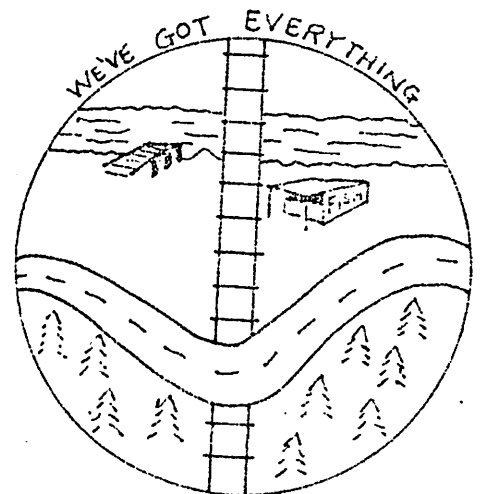
SPRINGFIELD



Pioneering a brighter future  
in the spirit of our illustrious past."



SAVANNA  
PLAYGROUND OF THE MIDDLEWEST



PEARL



Beckemeyer

8027

total  
attendance

3475

1560

1090

1032

870

metro  
suburbs

villages  
(to 1000)

towns  
(1000 - 20,000)

cities  
(20,000 upward)

metro  
neighborhoods

avg. attendance 64

158

22

73

115

145

total meetings 126

22

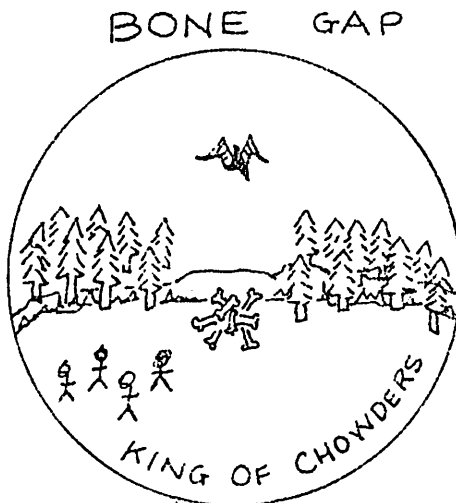
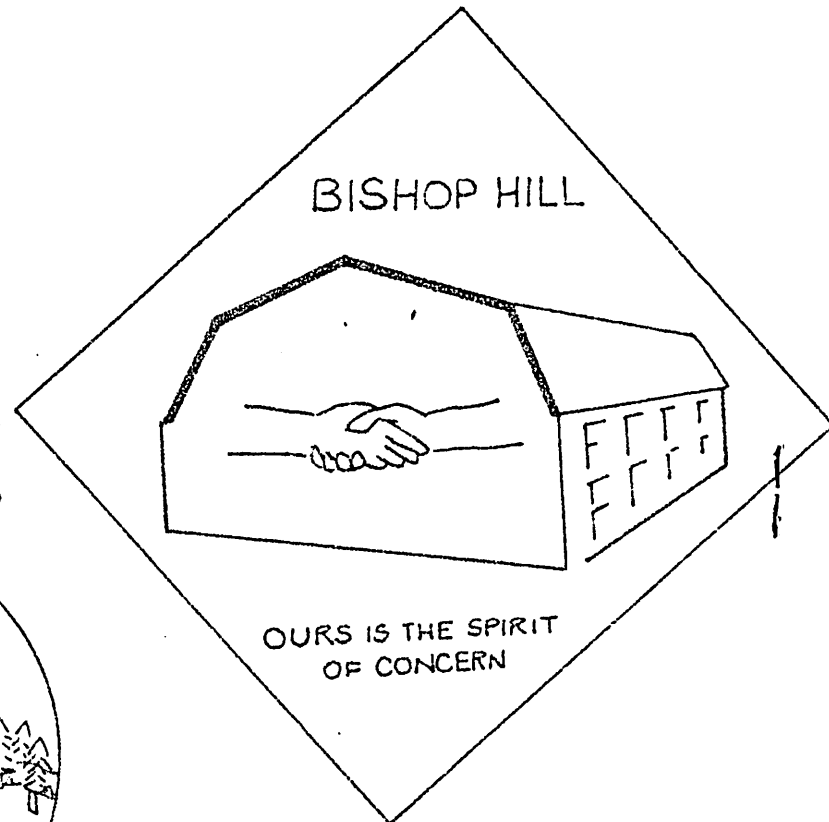
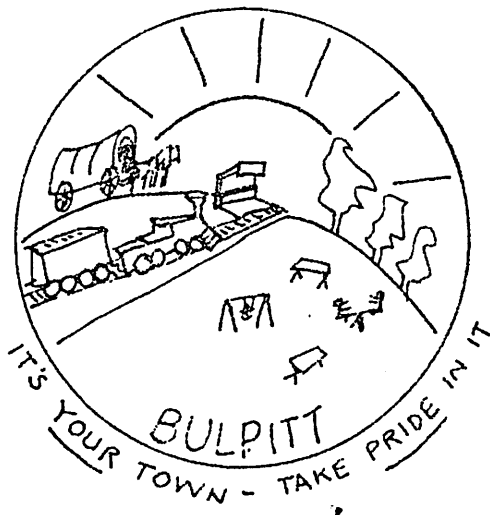
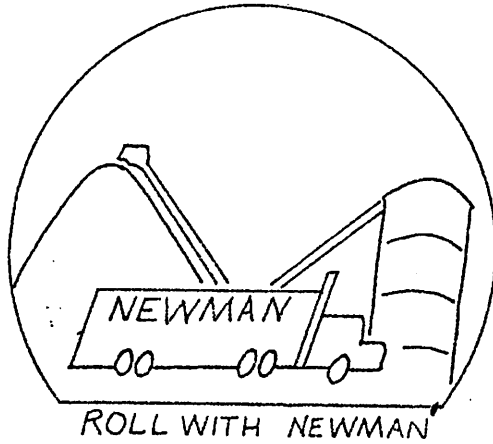
74

15

9

6

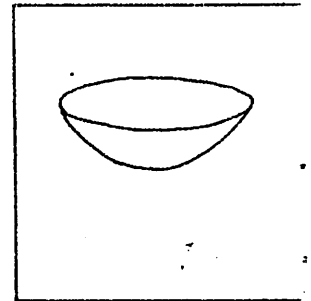
# local vision



# territorial scheme



*The Mississippi Basin Territory*



The wet Mississippi Basin territory, abundant with swamps, are surrounded by three of America's great rivers: the Ohio, the Wabash and the Mississippi. High plateaus in the basin are the location for early settlements in Illinois' history. Farmland economy is hindered by constant flooding, yet with roadway access in many parts of the basin, industrial growth continues. At the same time, many communities in the far southern counties of the basin have sustained the highest poverty conditions in the nation. This territory is challenged by changing economic trends to forge community life which withstands them.

The Shawnee National Forest is in the south of the Mississippi Basin. This land shares strong reminders of early Indian cultures with the mounds found along the Mississippi River. It also houses the sites of the first two state capitols: in Kaskaskia and in Vandalia.

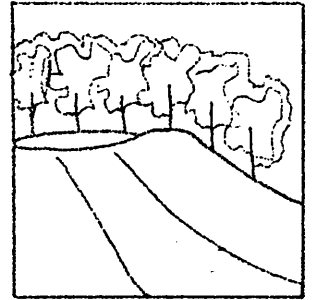
population: 647,994

median annual family income: \$5693.8

county	participating community(s)	population	date
86. Alexander	Tamms	645 :village	3-16-78
87. Bond	Pocahontas	764 :village	12-05-77
88. Clinton	Beckemeyer	1069 :town	11-29-77
89. Franklin	Ewing	324 :village	12-01-77
90. Jackson	Carbondale	26,857 :city	3-27-76
91. Jefferson	Waltonville	381 :village	11-15-77
92. Johnson	New Burnside	249 :village	11-18-77
93. Massac	Joppa	531 :village	3-28-78
94. Monroe	Hecker	480 :village	11-18-78
95. Perry	Tamaroa	799 :village	11-16-78
96. Pope	Eddyville	127 :village	11-16-77
97. Pulaski	Pulaski	471 :village	3-14-78
98. Randolph	Baldwin	467 :village	11-17-77
99. St. Clair	East St. Louis	70,000 :suburb	10-23-76
100. Union	Dongola	825 :village	4-25-78
101. Washington	Hoyleton	457 :village	11-17-77
102. Williamson	Crab Orchard	200 :village	11-17-77



### The Wabash Meadows Territory



The Wabash Meadows are scattered among broken hills bordered by wet basin land in the west and Wabash River bottomlands in the east. These hills give the impression of seclusion for many of the villages and towns that reside there. This is the most sparsely populated territory in Illinois. There is a history of powerful, but transitory economic resources here: coal -- gas -- oil -- lumber -- farming. Booms of productivity have been followed by depletion of resources and community strength. Numerous "ghost towns" stand as relics of this heritage.

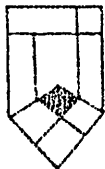
These meadows stand also in the heritage of the oldest European settlements in Illinois. It was the "doorway" into Illinois from the east. Museums, forts and old homes remind us of this greatness, while the annual chowders remind the villagers in the Wabash Meadows of their local reliability. The people of this land are challenged to recast this reliability in anticipation of future economic booms.

population: 287,551

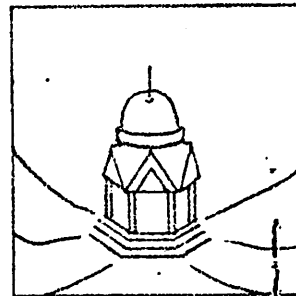
median annual family income: \$5844.6

county	participating community(s)	population		date
69. Clay	Sailor Springs	150	:village	4-17-78
70. Crawford	Flat Rock	504	:village	4-11-78
71. Edwards	Bone Gap	308	:village	4-20-78
72. Effingham	Mason	415	:village	4-18-78
73. Fayette	Ramsey	830	:village	3-29-78
74. Gallitin	Old Shawneetown	342	:village	3-31-78
75. Hamilton	Dahlgren	487	:village	3-29-78
76. Hardin	Cave - in - Rock	503	:village	3-17-78
77. Jasper	Wheeler	152	:village	3-16-78
78. Lawrence	St. Francisville	997	:village	4-28-78
79. Marion	Patoka	562	:village	4-14-78
80. Richland	Noble	719	:village	4-11-78
81. Saline	Harrisburg	9595	:town	2-14-76
82. Shelby	Stewardson	729	:village	3-30-78
83. Wabash	Bellmont	292	:village	3-14-78
84. Wayne	Cisne	615	:village	3-23-78
85. White	Mill Shoals	292	:village	4-04-78

# territorial scheme



*The Sangamon Valley Territory*



The golden Sangamon Valley farmlands are surrounded by lake lands, but remain distinct from the nearby river territories. Old Highway 66 has been a passage through the Sangamon Valley for several decades, creating the "Illinois Axis" from Chicago to St. Louis. Its productive farming, occasional mining and accessibility on the "Axis" have made it the prime choice for the state's capitol. Springfield, at its heart, remains a statewide industrial and financial center.

This territory is abundant with "Lincoln heritage". From his early boyhood days, to his young lawyer days, to his national leadership days -- all are documented throughout the Sangamon Valley. Lincoln heritage gives a richness to this land which intensifies with age. Future leaders are beckoned from this territory to follow in these footsteps, as communities across the state look for guidance.

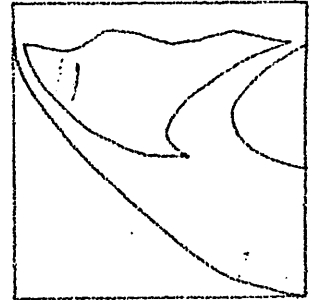
population: 428,931

median annual family income: \$7493.9

county	participating community(s)	population		date
61. Christian	Bulpitt	275	:village	4-10-78
62. De Witt	Kenney	367	:village	3-17-78
63. Logan	Mt. Pulaski	1677	:town	5-02-78
64. Macon	Warrensburg	1165	:town	4-29-78
65. Mason	Forest City	301	:village	3-23-78
66. Menard	Oakford	272	:village	3-20-78
67. Montgomery	Farmersville	495	:village	3-13-78
68. Sangamon	Springfield	92,000	:city	4-23-77



## The Two Rivers Territory



The Two Rivers Territory stretches from the central plains to the Metro St. Louis Valley to the craggy bluffs overlooking the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The most obvious landmark of this territory is Calhoun County which is a peninsula wedged between two rivers approximately 8 miles wide and 40 miles long. Most parts of this territory experience being cut-off from the broader regional economy, due to shortage of roads and bridges. Commerce is accumulated in a few towns with scattered farming and a great deal of commuting to jobs far away.

This territory is the location of the discovery of pre-historic cultures who made this there home over 7000 years ago. The Koster Site, where most of the digging is going on, and a museum for the findings give great strength to the heritage of this land. A new excitement is already present in many communities, and hope for a new visibility and a new involvement in the region are long-standing.

population: 412,395

median annual family income: \$6513.3

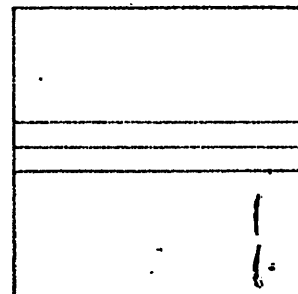
county	participating community(s)	population		date
52. Calhoun	Brussels	191	:village	5-02-78
53. Cass	Arenzville	403	:village,	3-28-78
54. Green	Eldred	292	:village	5-05-78
55. Jersey	Fidelity	130	:village	3-20-78
56. Macoupin	Chesterfield	262	:village	4-24-78
57. Madison	Marine	882	:village	11-16-77
58. Morgan	Chapin	552	:village	4-18-78
59. Pike	Pearl	323	:village	4-22-78
60. Scott	Glasgow	213	:village	4-13-78



# territorial scheme



The Eastern Plains Territory



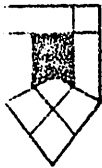
The endless, flat plains in the east of Illinois are interrupted only occasionally by broken hills. The vast openness of this territory is encircled by four cities, and covered by hundreds of farm villages. These villages were built for one purpose: to service the small family farmers. This function is diminishing as the small farmers grow fewer and fewer. Away from the river economy, this land is still occupied by many strong family farms which flourish annually. Decreasing small farming is giving way to increased industry in the few large towns.

The University of Illinois towers near the center of the Eastern Plains. Strong German Lutheran and Amish communities remain together here, and the Amish folk continue to maintain their highly regarded 19th Century customs in Moultrie County. With this community fabric holding strong, these villages are discovering a way to remain vital in the future economic trends.

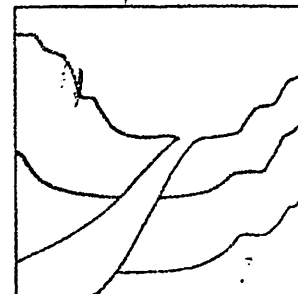
population: 591,345

median annual family income: \$7241.9

county	participating community(s)	population		date
39. Champaign	Sidney	915	:village	2-21-78
40. Clark	Westfield	678	:village	1-20-78
41. Coles	Lerna	238	:village	4-05-78
42. Cumberland	Toledo	1068	:town	1-23-78
43. Douglas	Newman	1018	:town	2-07-78
44. Edgar	Brocton	349	:village	2-11-78
45. Ford	Melvin	492	:village	3-06-78
46. Iroquois	Cissna Park	773	:village	2-21-78
47. Kankakee	Kankakeeland	30,944	:city	5-14-77
48. Livingston	Emington	95	:village	2-16-78
49. Moultrie	Arthur	2214	:town	2-28-76
50. Piatt	White Heath	400	:village	4-07-78
51. Vermillion	Danville	42,520	:city	6-05-76



## The Illinois Valley Territory



The Illinois Valley is the watershed for the powerful Illinois River, marked by rocky bluffs on both sides. Below the bluffs are soft, wet lowlands lined by dikes to hold out the bulging river. Above them are plush plateau contours embedded with coal lodes. River towns have long flourished on the Illinois River, which boomed significantly in the 1930s with coal production. The coal has run very thin, leaving many small communities to only provide laborers for distant, centralized industry. These communities are in search of a way to be small communities by inventing new means of dispersed economy.

The valley lives in the unity of the river, with Metro Peoria as its center. This territory lives in the heritage of the explorers Marquette and Joliet, and the Illini Indian Nation, whose name they gave this territory.

population: 648,672

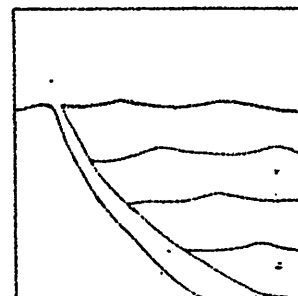
median annual family income: \$8315.2

county	participating community(s)	population		date
29. Bureau	La Moille	669	:village	1-10-78
30. Grundy	Braceville	668	:village	2-27-78
31. La Salle	Rutland	437	:village	4-02-78
32. Marshall	La Rose	165	:village	5-02-78
33. McLean	Bloomington - Normal	74,300	:city	3-27-76
34. Peoria	West Bluff (Peoria)	4500	:neighborhood	6-05-74
35. Putnam	Mark	379	:village	2-23-78
36. Stark	La Fayette	250	:village	3-02-78
37. Tazewell	Morton	12,217	:town	5-01-76
	Pekin	31,375	:city	6-12-76
38. Woodford	Eureka	3028	:town	3-29-78

# territorial scheme



*The Prairie Hills Territory*



The Prairie Hills erupt on the landscape forged by the valleys of two great rivers: the Mississippi and the Illinois. Its soil is some of the richest around. Scattered commerce has been long-standing in the Prairie Hills, it has been known to be the hog processing capitol of the world. Because of non-direct routes to Chicago and St. Louis by roadway, its means of economic support have remained agricultural and husbandry related.

This is the home of the celebrated Spoon River Valley, of which Edgar Lee Masters wrote the Spoon River Anthology. Rebirth of this heritage is flanked by the rebirth of two visionary settlements of the 19th Century: Nauvoo and Bishop Hill. These communities are beaming with new hopes and ingenuity.

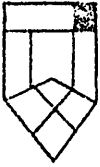
population: 515,029

median annual family income: \$6665.0

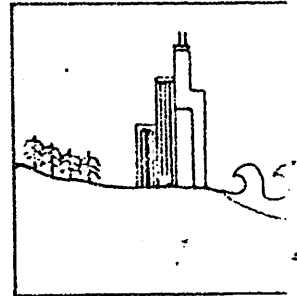
county	participating community(s)	population	date
17. Adams	Quincy	45,000 :city	9-15-76
18. Brown	Timewell (Mound Station)	213 :village	3-13-78
19. Fulton	Table Grove	469 :village	3-16-78
20. Hancock	Nauvoo	1047 :town	3-14-78
21. Henderson	Stronghurst	836 :village	4-25-78
22. Henry	Bishop Hill	195 :village	11-29-77
23. Knox	St. Augustine	204 :village	4-28-78
24. Mercer	Alexis	946 :village	3-14-78
25. McDonough	Industry	558 :village	3-16-78
26. Rock Island	Reynolds	610 :village	3-15-78
27. Schuyler	Littleton	208 :village	3-20-78
28. Warren	Kirkwood	817 :village	3-28-78

county	participating community(s)	population	date
	Oak Park	62,511 :suburb	3-27-76
	Park Ridge	43,311 :suburb	4-24-76
	Arlington Heights	69,204 :suburb	5-22-76
	Fifth City (Chicago)	17,000 :neighborhood	7-24-76
	Evanston	80,113 :suburb	11-20-76
	Streamwood	20,000 :suburb	3-12-77
	Robbins	9600 :suburb	9-10-77
11. Du Page	Elmhurst	48,887 :suburb	5-01-76
	Itaska	4638 :suburb	5-01-76
	Addison	25,645 :suburb	5-22-76
12. Kane	Maple Park	660 :village	11-17-77
13. Kendall	Yorkville	2049 :town	5-01-76
14. Lake	Mundelein	17,152 :suburb	11-15-75
15. McHenry	Crystal Lake	16,797 :suburb	2-12-77
16. Will	Joliet	78,887 :city	3-27-76
	Steger	9285 :town	4-03-76
	Bolingbrook	34,143 :suburb	4-24-76

# territorial scheme



*The Metro Chicago Territory*



Metro Chicago is a complex land stretching only 50 miles from east to west, yet spanning cornfields, forest preserves and the world's tallest buildings. Firey growth has characterized this territory during the last 100 years, leaving its communities dis-focused.

As America's Midwest Commercial Center for 100 years, Chicago has welcomed immigrants from the corners of the world to come and do the work of a growing nation. Metro Chicago is a crossroads. The diversity which typifies this territory works against a common vision for the territory, yet is its greatest gift when it comes to producing the ideas and leadership for strengthening its communities.

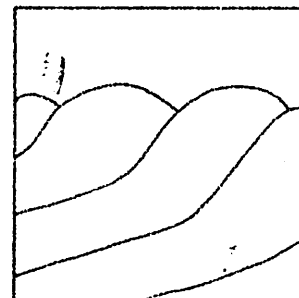
population: 7,003,985

median annual family income: \$10,811.6

county	participating community(s)	population	date
10. Cook	Morgan Park (Chicago)	21,250 :neighborhood	6-06-75
	Chicago Heights	40,900 :suburb	10-18-75
	Hazelcrest	11,657 :suburb	11-15-75
	Irving Park (Chicago)	15,400 :neighborhood	11-15-75
	Maywood	29,019 :suburb	1-17-76
	Palatine	31,447 :suburb	2-28-76
	Elk Grove Village	20,346 :suburb	3-06-76
	East Chicago Heights	6405 :suburb	3-13-76
	Harvey	34,636 :suburb	3-13-76
	Uptown (Chicago)	32,000 :neighborhood	3-13-76
	East Side (Chicago)	28,000 :neighborhood	3-20-76
	Schaumburg - Hoffman Estates	69,200 :suburb(s)	3-20-76
	South Holland	25,220 :suburb	3-20-76



## The Blackhawk Hills Territory



The Blackhawk Hills are rolling hills cut sharply into bluffs along the Rock River, which is fed by thousands of creeks and streams. This land projects an orderliness that is reflected by its towns and farms. Built on a base of quality farmland and good farm management, the Blackhawk Hills are now the site for great industrial growth. A significant part of this are the nuclear power facilities providing energy to all of Northern Illinois.

The richness of the legend of Chief Blackhawk, a Sauk Indian Chief, pervades the territory. Blackhawk fought fiercely to hold this rich land for his people, and did not lose until 1833. Standing, yet today, are the Standing Rock Bluffs in the east, and a 40 foot statue of Blackhawk in the west. With growth and prosperity as their gift, the people of the Blackhawk Hills are challenged to create the ways to grow in a controlled fashion -- to sustain the strength of their villages and neighborhoods.

population: 577,311\*

median annual family income: \$8007.5\*

county	participating community(s)	population		date
1. Boone	Poplar Grove	607	:village	10-27-77
2. Carroll	Savanna	4942	:town	11-12-77
3. De Kalb	Sandwich	5056	:town	11-16-77
4. Lee	Franklin Grove	968	:village	11-14-77
5. Jo Daviess	Galena	3930	:town	11-03-77
6. Ogle	Leaf River	633	:village	4-28-78
7. Stephenson	Freeport (county-wide)	27,736	:city	2-14-76
8. Whiteside	Morrison	4387	:town	11-28-77
9. Winnebago	Pecatonica	1781	:town	4-25-78

\*these figures were compiled from 1970 census data.

They are included for the sake of comparison.

# territorial scheme

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We were married and lived together for seventy years,  
Enjoying working, raising the twelve children,  
Eight of whom we lost  
Ere I had reached the age of sixty.  
I spun, I wove, I kept the house, I nursed the sick,  
I made the garden, and for holiday  
Rambled over the fields where sang the larks,  
And by Spoon River gathering many a shell,  
And many a flower and medicinal weed-  
Shouting at the wooded hills, Singing to the green valleys.

At ninety six I had lived enough, that's all,  
And passed to a sweet repose.  
What is this I hear of sorrow and weariness,  
Anger, discontent, and drooping hopes?  
Degenerate sons and daughters,  
Life is too strong for you-  
It takes life to love Life.

--from the poem "Lucinda Matlock", by Edgar Lee Masters, Petersburg, Illinois

Hog-butcher for the world,  
Tool-maker, Stacker of Wheat,  
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight-handler;  
Stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders:

They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I have seen your  
painted women under the gas lamps luring the farm boys.

And they tell me you are crooked, and I answer: Yes, it is true I have  
seen the gunman kill and go free to kill again.

And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the faces of the  
women and children I have seen the marks of wanton hunger.

And having answered so I turn once more to those who sneer at this my  
city, and I give them back the sneer and say to them:

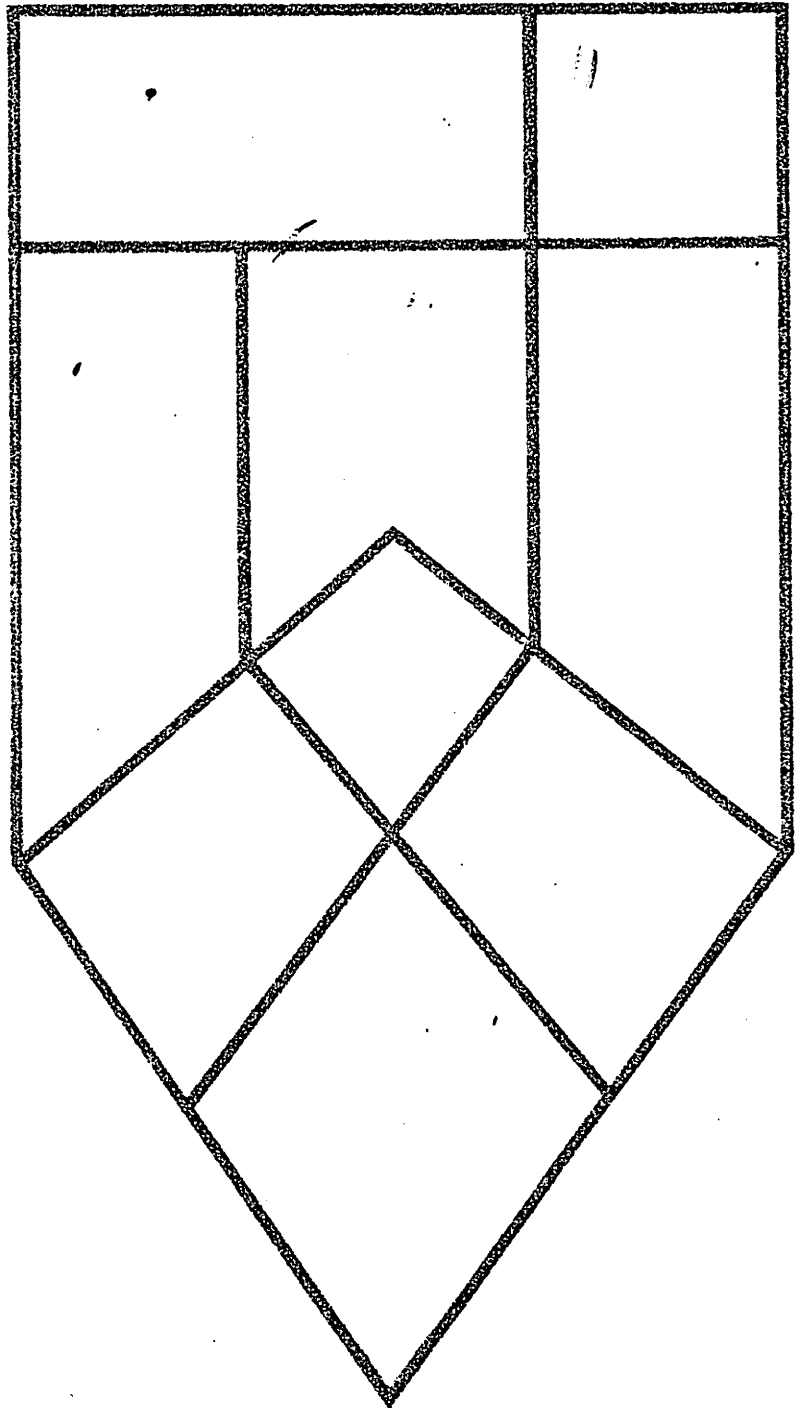
Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be  
alive and coarse and strong and cunning.

--from the poem "Chicago", by Carl Sandburg, Galesburg, Illinois.

. . . Oh Radio, Oh Saxophone, Oh Slide Trombone, Oh Horns that moan:-  
The lion, the lion, goes roaring from his cage,  
Ten thousand years before your jazz he roared a deeper rage.  
And Jumbo, great Jumbo, goes swaying left and right,  
Ten thousand years before your jazz his trumpet shook the night.

That silvery bridge of dawn across the cold,  
In the rigging of their ships the prophets old  
Sing with her their songs across the cold.  
So, come let us forget our ivory-towers, brothers,  
Come let us be bold with our songs.

--from the poem "Pontoon Bridge Miracle", by Vachel Lindsay, Springfield, Illinois



this "grid" was created  
as a way to distinguish the many small regions  
-- or territories -- that compose the State of Illinois. It is  
an abstract image which may be helpful in grasping the state's geo - social complexity.