

## ***Illinois Governors....***

*They could be scoundrels:*

- ◆ *One just went to prison*
- ◆ *Two served time*
- ◆ *Three beat the rap*

*They could be visionary leaders:*

- ◆ *One freed his slaves and gave them land*
- ◆ *One helped the new state get free of debt*
- ◆ *One changed the face of modern state government*

Or, were they simply a cross section of the political ideas and the social mores of their times as The Illinois Governors: Mostly Good and Competent by Taylor Pensoneau and Peggy Boyer Long concludes? On the whole, authors agree that Illinois' governors were mostly good and competent. But do you know them?

This third edition of the popular 1988 book, initially titled Mostly Good and Competent Men and originally written by Robert Howard, the late newspaperman and historian, introduces you to all of the state's chief executives, from Shadrach Bond to Rod Blagojevich. This book offers lessons from a rich and colorful history punctuated by the life stories of the mostly good and competent governors of Illinois.

### **Latest administrations added**

New chapters by well-known political writer Taylor Pensoneau chronicle Ryan as “the ultimate insider” with “the political savvy to accomplish much during his one term as governor”, and Blagojevich as having an “earthy, even glib” style that “resonated with voters, but aroused resentment among legislators and other officials.” Pensoneau recounts how these power brokers maneuvered their way through their tenures and details what they have accomplished.

### **More photos**

This edition includes more than 100 photos and illustrations to provide a context for the stories of the governors and their place in Illinois history. Among the photographic narratives are those of John Hossack II, an Ottawa businessman and abolitionist who was arrested in 1859 under the Fugitive Slave Act for rescuing a slave and helping him to freedom in Canada. Others included are from the Chicago Fire of 1871, the dedication of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, and the 1931 rededication of Lincoln's Tomb with President Herbert Hoover in attendance.

**Book Structure**

The new edition is structured in the same manner as the preceding editions. The Preface and Introduction have been updated, followed by 40 biographies and photographs of all governors up to the present. Appendices present a list of the governors and their terms, an explanation of how Illinois' four constitutions affected the power of the governor, and the vote totals for all gubernatorial elections.

**Interview Opportunities**

Author Taylor Pensoneau and Editor Peggy Boyer Long are available for telephone and/or studio interviews. Please contact me at 217-206-6094 or lande3@uis.edu to schedule.

**Excerpts**

I have attached excerpts from The Illinois Governors: Mostly Good and Competent for your consideration. The book is available for \$34.95 (plus shipping & handling) by calling 217-206-6502, or ordering from our Web site at <http://cspl.uis.edu/centerpublications>. Also, photos of the book cover and the authors are available in JPEG format at the Web site listed above.

I will call you soon to determine your interest in The Illinois Governors: Mostly Good and Competent. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Anderson  
Associate Director for Marketing & Circulation