

A 1995 World Series championship hat signed by Peoria native Jim Thome, inducted this year into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, will be on display alongside Eureka native Ben Zobrist's batting helmet and gloves worn during the World Series MVP's famous Game 7 10th inning hit that led to a Cubs victory. Celebrated Illinois athletes Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, Ernie Banks, Curley "Boo" Johnson and Peoria native and NBA point guard Shaun Livingston are featured.



The original steel plow invented by John Deere in 1837 to cut through the sticky prairie soil, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

John Deere's original plow, invented in 1837 for breaking the sticky prairie soil and Caterpillar's first diesel engine, "Old Betsy," made in 1930 are displayed – both on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Celebrate Illinois' is being curated around the concept that objects tell stories and behind each object is a person, and that person has a unique story to tell – a personal insight into the history of Illinois," said museum President and CEO John Morris.

"We are honored to have Peoria



Sports memorabilia including a signed Walter Payton card, a Michael Jordan rookie card, and a bat signed by Peoria native and Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Thome.

Riverfront Museum and their exhibition as one of our official partners in the celebration of the Illinois bicentennial. We join with the museum in celebrating great achievements of Illinois," said Executive Director of the Governor's Office of the Illinois Bicentennial Stuart Layne.

Riverfront Museum curators have been working for more than a year to secure the objects on loan from more than 40 organizations and individuals around the state and country, as well as sourcing items from the museum's own collections.

"I hope visitors take away an interest and pride in the state's history. You really start to see how many amazing

individuals have lived and worked here who've made a positive lasting impact," said exhibition curator Lottie Phillips. "There is truly something in this exhibition for everyone."



Frank Lloyd Wright reclining chair designed in 1903 for the Francis W. Little House, Peoria, Ill., from the Peoria Riverfront Museum collections.

Visitors will also see artifacts from architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies Van Der Rohe, comedian and Peoria native Richard Pryor, Peorians Betty Freidan and Susan G. Komen, nuclear scientist Enrico Fermi, poets Vachel Lindsay from Springfield and Galesburg native Carl Sandburg, U.S. astronaut and Pekin native Scott



Ephemera from the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of the original 266-ft. Ferris Wheel invented for the fair by Galesburg native and engineer George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr., on loan from Knox College archives, Seymour Library.

Altman, sculptor and Elmwood native Lorado Taft, the pioneering Funk family, Galesburg abolitionists behind the first Illinois Underground Railroad, Ferris Wheel inventor and Galesburg native George Washington Gale Ferris Jr., Bishop Hill painter Olaf Krans, and U.S. Senator and Civil Rights leader Everett Dirksen from Pekin.

Artifacts in the exhibition include those on loan from: National Park Service and Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Chicago Historical Society, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Illinois State Museum, Caterpillar Inc. archives, Knox College archives and Seymour Library, Knox College Galesburg Colony Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Carl Sandburg Historic Home, Eureka College, Elmhurst College, Dirksen Congressional Center, Bradley University Archives, Jane Addams-Hull House Museum, McHenry County Historical Society, Galena History Museum, General John A. Logan Museum, St. Clair County Historical Museum, Western Illinois Museum, Ray LaHood, Nancy Brinker, Carl Soderstrom and the Zobrist Family.

The museum installed artist Seward Johnson's 31-ft. bronze Lincoln sculpture, "Return Visit," facing the Illinois River, with the assistance of local businesses and individuals, to usher in the Illinois Bicentennial.

Peoria Riverfront Museum is an official partner of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission and the exhibition is an officially sanctioned program.

"Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln," will be on



Plaster maquette made in 1913 for the 48-ft. concrete Black Hawk statue (The Eternal Indian) overlooking the Rock River at Oregon, Ill. by Elmwood native Lorado Taft, from Peoria Riverfront Museum collections.

display at the museum through June 3 and is included with standard museum admission.

"Celebrate Illinois: 200 Years in the Land of Lincoln" is presented by Prairie Home Alliance and sponsored by the Peoria Journal Star, WMBD 1470 radio, the Visionary Society and Tom and Lois Mayer.

The exhibition is included with standard museum admission - \$11 adults, \$10 seniors (60+), \$9 youth (3-17). For more information or tickets call 309.686.7000 or visit RiverfrontMuseum.org.

Illinois Bicentennial Commission Statement

On Dec. 3, 1818 Illinois became the 21st state in the union. The Illinois Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration of what has been BORN, BUILT & GROWN in the state whose mission is to inspire all Illinoisans to be #IllinoisProud. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the celebration by visiting www.illinois200.com and using the hashtag #IllinoisProud. Partners and event and project managers planning activities between December 3, 2017 and December 3, 2018 can apply for endorsement to become an official part of Illinois Bicentennial by visiting the PARTICIPATE page at www.illinois200.com.

Peoria Riverfront Museum

Peoria Riverfront Museum is a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit museum of art, science, history and achievement housed in a public building overlooking the Illinois River. The AAM-accredited, Smithsonian-affiliated museum features international exhibitions, interactive galleries, a dome planetarium, giant screen theater and robust programming designed to provide inspirational, hands-on educational experiences to visitors of all ages. The museum's "Every Student Initiative," created in partnership with Peoria Public Schools curricula, aims to provide an annual museum experience for all Central Illinois students. The mission of the museum's Board of Directors and staff is to inspire lifelong learning for all – connecting art, history, science and achievement through collections, exhibitions and programs. For more information visit RiverfrontMuseum.org.



Original edition of President Ulysses S. Grant's biography, *The Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*, 1885, edited and published by Samuel Clemens and Grant's 1851 officer's sword belt buckle, on loan from Galena Historical Society.



19th and 20th century coal mining equipment, on loan from the Illinois State Museum.