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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Circuit Rider” Lincoln Bicentennial Motorcycle heads to Lewis and Clark State Historic Site

SPRINGFIELD – The “Circuit Rider,” the custom Harley-Davidson motorcycle designed and built in honor of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday, will arrive at the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site Visitor Center in Hartford, Illinois where it may be viewed free of charge June 23 – July 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will make two other brief stops in the vicinity – Ted’s Motorcycle World in Alton on Saturday, June 27 and the “Celebration of Broadway” in Alton on Sunday, June 28.

The “Circuit Rider” features one-of-a-kind, custom copper plated wheels with Lincoln penny designs and matching copper plating on numerous small metal parts. The gas tank, rear fender, and battery covers feature airbrushed Lincoln portraits and depictions of Lincoln sites. The air cleaner is shaped like Lincoln’s stove pipe hat; the exhaust pipes look like wooden rails of the type Lincoln used to split, with an axe forming the shifter; and the foot pegs are copies of mid-1800s shackles, representing the issue of slavery. Black chrome adorns the engine cases and bolts, and the Illinois license plate reads “ABE200.”

Richard Levi, President and CEO of Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. of Springfield, owns the motorcycle, and Kim Shirley, the man who owns Kim’s Auto Body Inc. of Springfield, designed and built it.

During his days as a circuit rider, Abraham Lincoln would spend two to three months every fall and winter attending court throughout central Illinois. Lincoln was one of the few attorneys who rode the entire circuit along with the presiding judge and the state’s attorney. Lincoln enjoyed the camaraderie with the legal fraternity, and honed his innate skills as an orator while encouraging dispute resolution in and out of the courtroom.

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