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The crocuses and daffodils are now blooming in South Central Kentucky - a sure sign that the 1973 South Union Shaker Museum and Festival programs will soon be a reality.

MORE RESTORATION UNDERWAY

This year's restoration of the Centre House is twofold. First, last year's paint removal program is continuing. This year the woodwork on part of the second floor is being stripped back to its original mustard stain.

Second, two more rooms are being readied for additional exhibits. A number of years ago rooms 4 (1st. floor) and 14 (2nd. floor) were divided into two bathrooms each. The temporary walls and hall fixtures have been removed. The restoration has opened closets which belonged to rooms on either side of the rooms being restored.

The original drawings of the South Union Centre House are to be placed in the Library of Congress Survey of Historic Houses.

THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Shakertown at South Union program continues to draw support of volunteers. Thirteen members of Alpha Phi Omega, service fraternity of Western Kentucky University, spent a February Saturday helping in
the restoration work. Some boys stripped paint while others oiled the woodwork stripped last year. Another spent the day clearing the building of restoration grime and debris.

And who furnished the lunch for the work crew? Three volunteers, of course.

New costumes are now being made for this year's production of "Shakertown Revisited". Again it is volunteer seamstresses who are helping Mrs. Vernon Hadden, Sr., member of the costume committee since the first festival in 1962.

THE 1973 SEASON

The Museum will open May 15 and be open daily (9-5) and Sunday (1-5) through October 1. Extension of the Museum season through the October weekends is being considered.

This year's festival dates are July 12 - 22, opening on Thursday and running through two full weekends. Detailed plans will be announced soon.

MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING

Welcome is extended to the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rankin, Louisville
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Wilson, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Robertson, Evanston
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wenzel, St. Louis
The Rev. and Mrs. J.J. Bowman, Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Coke, Nashville
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Helm, New York City

Mr. John Miles, Memphis
Mr. O. E. Freeman, New York
Mr. J. H. Buckalew, Columbus
Mrs. T. J. Turley, Louisville
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Cravens, Bowling Green
Mr. and Mrs. John Strange, Adams, Tenn.
IN MEMORIAM

Sympathy is expressed to the families of -

Mr. Roy Scott, Auburn
Mr. John Miles, Memphis

AFTER-SEASON ACTIVITIES

In late September Mrs. Susan Keig, Chicago, visited South Union. Mrs. Keig's "Life Style by Design", a photographic exhibit, was a feature of the 1972 season.

In January Flo and Joe Morse, members from Bedford Village, New York, paid their first visit to South Union. Mrs. Morse is the author of Yankee Communes (1971), written for high school readers. The book is good reading for anyone who wants to know more about the Shakers as well as about other 19th century social groups such as the Rappites and the Oneida people.

Mr. Robert Meader, Curator of the Shaker Museum, Old Chatham, N. Y., spent several days in the Centre House photographing South Union crafts. Mr. Meader is now preparing a book on Shaker small items as a companion to his 1972 book on furniture, which contains a number of South Union pieces.

The Museum gift shop carries copies of Mr. Meader's Illustrated Guide to Shaker Furniture ($4.00 paperback) and autographed copies of Flo Morse's Yankee Communes ($4.95). To order add 50¢ mailing charges.

In October, thirty AAA travel editors who were touring Kentucky visited South Union.

Visitors from the state office of Public Information have been Mrs. Betty Ellison, travel feature editor, and Henry Craig, state photographer.

Several groups from the area scheduled after-season visits. The Bowling Green District Teachers of Home Economics held their fall meeting in the Centre House, with dinner being served by the Auburn Homemakers.

In November a Homemakers Club from Christian County visited the Museum to study the furniture.

Two boy scout troops - one from Calhoun - Sacramento and one from Bowling Green - hiked the Shaker Trail and toured the Museum. Also, students from Hart County Memorial High School came to learn more about the Shakers.
Museum Acquisitions

A tall clothes wardrobe, once used by Elder Hervey L. Eades and containing the initials H L E, is now back in the South Union Centre House.

Mr. Monroe Porter, DeLand, Florida, and Mrs. Bennett T. Gordon, Auburn, have donated the wardrobe in memory of his father and her uncle Mr. Bunie Porter.

The family of Mrs. Jennie Coke Sullivan have given the Museum a South Union sewing table which had belonged to the late Mrs. Sullivan.

Added to the collection also is a mustard-colored Shaker bucket, the gift of Trustee O. E. Freeman, New York City.

Everyday Needs are Being Met

Two electric fans have been given to the Museum by Miss Rena Milliken, Barbourville, and Mr. John Miles, Memphis. Also, two floor fans have been contributed by Mrs. Bennett T. Gordon, Auburn.

Two four-drawer filing cabinets are now in the office through the generosity of Mr. Russell Procter, trustee, Louisville.

Mr. J. C. Moore, Columbus, Ohio, has sent fourteen long-handed tools - rakes, hoes, and forks so we can "Shaker up" the grounds.

Two electric coffee urns are the gift of Mrs. T. B. Wilson and Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Reeves, Bowling Green, donated a number of stainless steel spoons and two display cases.

Generous Gestures

The Current Topic Club of Bowling Green recently sent an unsolicited check to be used in the restoration program. A "California friend" also sent a check to be used as needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Helm, new life members, have agreed that their membership dues be used in putting a picket fence back around the Centre House yard. Photographs in the Museum collection show the original fence, so a replica can be made. Mr. and Mrs. Helm, who are now residents of Montclair, N.J. and New York City, often visited South Union when they lived in the Auburn and Bowling Green area.
Those of us who can remember the picket fence can also remember the well house which stood on the east side of the Church family dwelling. This structure has been moved to another area to be used for an enclosed shed. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to restore the well house to its original site.

WELL-DESERVED HONORS

It is a matter of real pride when deserved recognition comes to supporters of the South Union project. Congratulations are due:

Kenneth Hall Robbins, treasurer and sponsoring member, who has been appointed director of the Warren County Rural Electric Co-op Association.

Grover Corum, one of the incorporators of the Museum and Festival programs, who has been selected Logan County's Man of the Year by the News-Democrat.

Professor Lynn Montell, trustee, who has been appointed by Governor Ford to the Kentucky Board of the 1973 Festival of American Folklife, Inc.

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH UNION POST OFFICE

You will want to read Brother Thomas Whittaker's article on the South Union post office in the April issue of the Filsom Club Quarterly. Did you know that the post office, established at South Union in 1826, is the only Shaker society post office still in existence?
The 1917 Shaker store building, which houses the South Union post office, has been purchased by Mr. Sam Hollins, owner of the Shaker Feed and Seed Company located at South Union.

MORE SOUTH UNION RESIDENTS

Pat and Debbie Skinner have moved into the Preservatory, the small house behind the Centre House. Pat, an employee of South Central Bell, and Debbie, a folklore and art student at Western University, will help in the security program and in the care of the lawn. Their skills in photography and art will be put to work in the overall program.

Mr. and Mrs. John Turner and two daughters now live in the former Oscar Bond home. Mr. Turner, formerly with the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Louisville, is manager of the Lee Thomas Shaker farm.