South Union Messenger (June 1986)

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Celebrate 25th annual Shaker Festival

Over 2000 people are expected to attend Shakertown’s silver anniversary festival, July 10-19.

New museum exhibits and the opening of the preservatory will make this year’s festival more interesting than ever. The preservatory, now undergoing restoration, was once the “smoke and milk house” for the Shakers.

Another new feature will be a quilt show sponsored by the Auburn Women's Club. The show will be held July 12 in the museum meeting room.

A familiar sight to many, Shaker craftsmen will be demonstrating broom-making the first weekend of the festival. Chair-caning and box-making can be seen both weekends. Weavers and basket-makers will be present at various times throughout the festival.

Visitors may also enjoy traditional Shaker dishes at the tavern prepared by Rev. Cordell Smith and the women of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. The tavern is located one mile west of the museum on highway 73.

Shakerism comes alive each evening of the festival as the musical drama “Shakertown Revisited” is performed on the museum grounds by local talent. The drama will depict the annals of Shaker life at South Union from the community’s early settlement until its closing in 1922.

This year’s production will be directed by Laura Nealy, presently with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra Association. Nealy has been involved with the production for the past four years as an actress and an assistant stage manager.

Music director for the production is Chandler Fowler, a member of the Western Shaker singers. She is presently employed by the Warren County Board of Education as a music teacher.

Laura Nealy is the director of “Shakertown Revisited.”

During the Shaker Festival—

Museum tours

9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mon. — Sat.
1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sun.

Admission: $2 adults
$1 children

Dinner
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily, reservations suggested

Cost: $6.75 adults
$4 children

“Shakertown Revisited”
8:15 each evening

Admission: $4 adults
$2 children
1986 Shakertown staff

Tommy Hines is the first full-time, year-round director of South Union. Before working as museum director, he acted in the musical drama “Shakertown Revisited” and worked as a tour guide for the museum.

Teresa Hollingsworth, curatorial assistant, is working her second summer for the museum through the Co-operative Education program at Western Kentucky University. She manages the gift shop, gives tours and helps with exhibits.

Sheila Sullivan, director of public information, was also hired through WKU’s Co-op program. She is the first employee hired to handle publicity as well as give tours and work in the gift shop.

Lillie Mae Hayes, with the museum four years, works as a tour guide and in the gift shop.

Addie Brooks, with the museum four years, also works in the museum gift shop.

Mary Reynolds, Sue Elliott and Helen Rich work in the gift shop and the antique mall.

Shakertown welcomes new members

Dianne Watkins of Bowling Green
Joni Emerson of Bowling Green
John and Vivian Foe of Bowling Green
Mrs. Lena Booker of Smiths Grove
Libby Brown of Hendersonville, Tenn.
Teresa Hollingsworth of Bowling Green
Richard and Susan Spence of Cincinnati, Ohio
Pat and Jack Minish of Auburn

For information about becoming a member of Shakertown call: (502) 542-4167.

Donations

We would like to thank the following people for their donations. We really appreciate their support.

Mrs. Francis Harris — a six foot wooden ladder
Mrs. William D. Price — wooden Shaker dolls
Bea Vick, Mrs. Ray Scott, Amanda Gordon and Deedy Hall — food warmer for tavern
Mr. and Mrs. David Hall — Shaker stones for tavern walk
Sue Elliott — tapes of Granville Clark, Teresa Hollingsworth and Tommy Hines on WRUS “Feedback”
Auburn Women’s Club — $300 donation
member — green wooden shades for tavern sunporch

Thelma and Bill Childress, Carrie McKenzie and Sue Elliott donated several items for the L&N Railroad exhibit to be set up next year.

Shaker Festival
July 10-19
25th Anniversary

Volunteers

We would like to say thank you to Laura Nealy, Dorothy Wallace, Mrs. Andrew Holland, Mrs. Maxine Marbury, Marcia Foe and Geneva Garrison for their help in various areas at South Union.

We’d like to say a special thanks to Andrew Holland for laying the stone walk at the Shaker tavern.

New 400 Club members

The 400 Club is made up of people who have donated at least $100 to the restoration of the 1869 Shaker Tavern. A free membership to the museum is given to all 400 Club members.

Ray S. Clark
Kathryn Vick
Mary A. DeWeese
Maxine Marbury

Items needed

cotton sheets
dehumidifier
vacuum cleaner

For more information about Shakertown at South Union call (502) 542-4167 or write Shakertown at South Union, Hwy 68 and 80, South Union, Ky. 42283.

Museum Director .................................................. Tommy Hines
Editor ................................................................. Sheila Sullivan
The gift shop’s expanding

By Teresa Hollingsworth

The Museum Shop is providing its guests with a wide selection of new Shaker items this season. Among them are tinware such as sconces, lanterns and candle holders. Handmade rag rugs and Shaker dolls are proving to be quite popular, as are hand-dipped candles and items crafted by an area blacksmith.

Reproduction chairs will soon be available from Shaker Workshops. This company has been noted for its fine reproductions in the New England area.

This season herb teas and spices hanging in racks along the wall add a special flavor to the shop.

And a variety of books ranging from cookbooks, histories of the South Union Shakers to building one’s own reproduction furniture won’t fail to peak the interest of visitors.

Familiar items such as bonnets, aprons, brooms, baskets and oval boxes are still available. And Dale Spencer is continuing to provide wooden reproduction tables, sconces and peg strips.

Whether browsing or buying stop by and see us at the Museum Shop.

Often during the day Shaker children’s beds were folded to save space.
A word from our director

South Union is currently experiencing its busiest time of year as the 25th Shaker Festival draws nearer. Preparations for what looks to be our “biggest and best ever” festival are underway so that our silver anniversary will be a very special event.

Restoration activity is keeping us as busy as the festival planning. During May extensive work was done on the roof of the Centre House to stop the leakage problems we’ve experienced for several years. Now as funds become available we will begin replastering and painting the damaged walls of the building. Work is continuing in the Centre House cellar and the conservatory to be open July 10.

The long-neglected columns on the 1869 tavern are being restored to their original state by Mr. Bob Przewlochi, a restoration specialist from Bowling Green. The entire project is being funded by Mrs. Ruth Pottinger of Auburn, who last year funded the restoration of the tavern kitchen and back porch. Shakertown is extremely indebted to Mrs. Pottinger for her continued support of our restoration activity.

Shakertown is happy to have Sheila Sullivan working as director of public information this season. We are also glad to see Teresa Hollingsworth with us for the second year as museum shop manager and curatorial assistant. Both employees add so much to our daily activity at the museum.

Finally I would like to say how happy I am to be working as the first full-time museum director for South Union. I hope to see Shakertown grow in the coming years to be one of the best and most popular examples of a restored historic complex in Kentucky. I look forward to the prospect of working with our fine, dedicated board of directors and the faithful membership of the organization. Thank you for the opportunity to work at Shakertown at South Union.

Hope to see you at the Silver Anniversary Shaker Festival.

Sincerely,

Tommy Hines

Shakertown at South Union
Hwy 68 and 80
South Union, Ky. 42283