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South Union Messenger (October 1986)

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The South Union Messenger

October 1986

SHAKERTOWN RECEIVES \$65,000 IN GRANT MONEY

Shakertown at South Union has recently received grant money from the state of Kentucky totaling \$65,000. The money has been earmarked for three special projects to begin this Fall.

The first project entails the construction of a permanent structure in which to house the annual production of the outdoor drama "Shakertown Revisited." Thirty thousand dollars has been granted to Shakertown by the Department of Local Government for this purpose. Along with private donations this money should allow for the completion of the structure by July 1987.

The acquisition of 73 acres was made possible through BRADD with a \$20,000 grant from that office. The acreage includes what the Shakers called their "Holy Ground"-- a site of worship services held in the wilderness during the 19th Century.

The 1824 Centre House, which houses the museum, and the 1834 Smoke and Milk House will be the objects of \$15,00 worth of interior restoration given to Shakertown by the Kentucky Heritage Council. Restoration work will include repairing the plaster, refinishing the floors and woodwork, and the removal of all modern additions.

South Union wishes to thank the three state agencies responsible for the distribution of the grants and Representative June Lyne and Judge Executive James Baily for their help in securing the funds for Shakertown.

SHAKER TAVERN TO OPEN SOON

The Shaker Tavern will open as a full-time restaurant in mid-November serving dinner each evening Wednesday-Saturday and Sunday at noon. Meals will be served by reservation with walk-ins accepted. Because the building was constructed for use by the world's people and operated during the Victorian period, the Shaker Tavern will reflect that period in service, dining, and food. Shaker recipes of the day and Shaker desserts will be offered to customers tying in the Shaker theme with the Victorian atmosphere of the Tavern.

The Shaker Tavern is a unique feature at South Union as no other Shaker village operated such an establishment.

THANK-YOU...

Mrs. Christine Cox of Morgantown for the supply of lye soap sold in the gift shop this season.
Mrs. Ruth Pottinger of Auburn for the donation of a Shaker straight chair to the museum.
Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller of Bowling Green for the donation of several vacuum cleaners to the museum.
Wood Energy Enterprises of Russellville for the loan of several ceiling fans used under the tent during the festival.
News-Democrat of Russellville for the wonderful edition spotlighting the history of Shakertown and the Shaker museum.
Miss Sara Tyler, Miss Julia Neal, and Mrs. Sue Elliott for the donation of cotton sheets used for Winter storage at the museum.
The Heirs of Edward Ludlow Hines for the donation of \$100 in honor of Shakertown president, John P. Hines.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cress of Mansfield, Ohio for the donation of a Shaker miniature dwelling house, completely furnished.
Friend of Shakertown for the donation of L&N Door Knob to be used in Shakertown's planned railroad exhibit.
Mrs. Carrie McKenzie for the donation of a brass lock inscribed by L&N for the railroad exhibit.

...and a very special thank-you to all who have volunteered at Shakertown this season. To you, we are indebted:

Dorothy Wallace
Wilma Holland
Kerrie Elliott
Holly Britt
Amy Watt
Elizabeth McCarley
Debbie Britt
Addie Brooks
Sue Elliott
Mary Reynolds

Jason Shuffitt
Marcia Foe
Tim Minor
Carolyn Garrett
Maxine Marbury
Mary Anna Deweese
Ann O'Hara
Linda Reynolds
Allison Dennis
Dianne Watkins

...and the cast of the 1986 production of "Shakertown"
"Revisited.

SHAKERTOWN RECEIVES MINIATURE CENTRE HOUSE

Shakertown recently added to its collection a most unique and beautiful item--a "doll house" or miniature of the Centre House at Pleasant Hill. The house was donated by Bob and Kit Cress of Mansfield, Ohio fully furnished with tiny reproduction Shaker furniture. The miniature house will be on display after the opening reception, October 5, and will eventually be placed on permanent display on the museum's second floor. Shakertown offers sincere thanks for such a generous and important gift.

SHAKERTOWN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jean Dones, Columbus, Ohio
E. M. Frey, Madisonville, Kentucky
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Hall, Franklin, Kentucky
Mark P. Leone & Nan S. Wells, Washington, D.C.
Larry & Ruth Owrey, Franklin, Ohio

SHAKERTOWN WELCOMES NEW 400 CLUB MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Towell, Auburn
Mary Craig Miller, Auburn
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Guion, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Norwood Kemp, Russellville
Mrs. Nancy W. Newberry, Russellville
Judge-Executive James E. Bailey, Russellville
Mrs. Ray Kemp, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Noble Craig, Russellville
Mrs. Vonnys Whipple, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gran Clark, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Estes, Russellville
Mrs. Clay Franklin, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Lyne, Olmstead
Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Sash, Russellville
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kemp, Russellville
Mrs. Jim Drake, Russellville
Mrs. James Lyne, Russellville
Miss Mary Frances Russell, Russellville
Miss Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville

RESTORATION OF THE SHAKER TAVERN

Restoration of the Shaker Tavern is nearing completion as finishing touches are being made. Through a gracious donation from Mrs. Ruth Pottinger of Auburn, the six brick and plaster columns of the Tavern have been restored to their original beauty. The woodwork, porches and balcony on the facade of the building have been painted and the date "1869" once again graces the pediment.

On the building's interior the walls on the first floor and the first and second floor hallways have been re-papered using Victorian designs, adding authenticity to its atmosphere. Air-conditioning is yet another new feature--a project that was funded by, once again, Ruth Pottinger. Mrs. Pottinger's funding and Bess Martin's fundraising and tireless efforts to have the building restored have made the project a reality. Shakertown thanks them both.

A SHAKER ADVENTURE...SEEING THE OLD SHAKER BELL

Tommy Hines

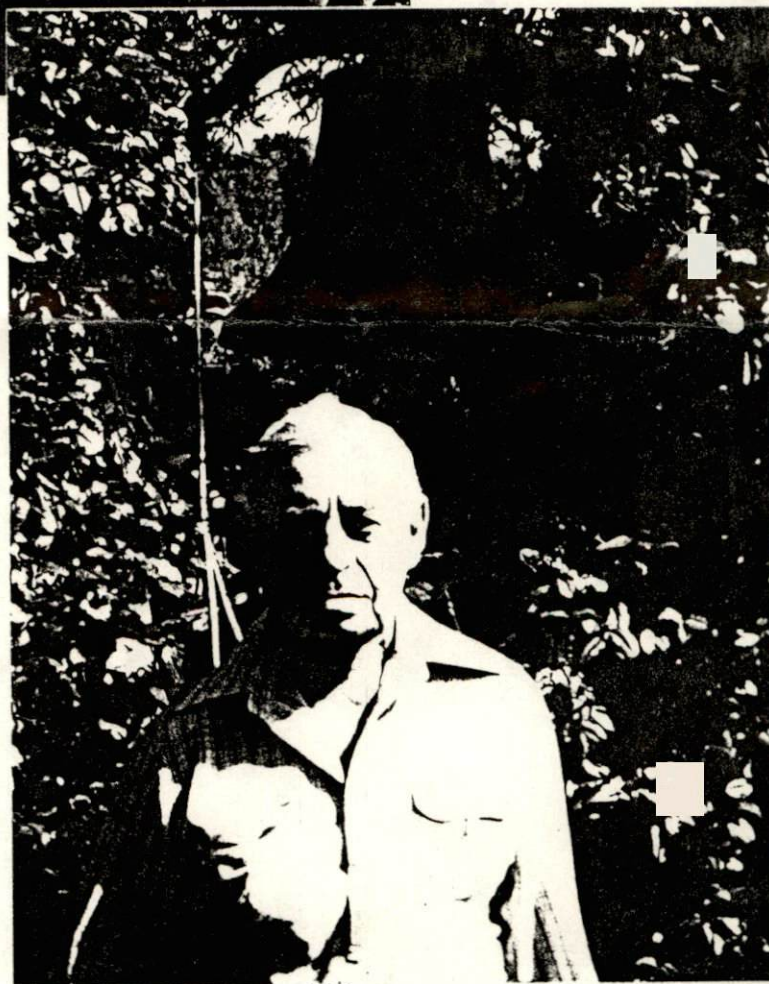
In August Shakertown president John P. Hines and museum director Tommy Hines traveled to Hopkinsville to visit Mr. and Mrs. Joe Altsheler, owners of the bell that once hung in the bell tower on the Centre House.



The bell changed hands several times after the Shakers left South Union in 1922, but the Altshelers have had it since the 1950s. It now hangs in the back yard of the Altsheler's lovely home on a brick stand that was made especially for it. Although the Altshelers are quite attached to the bell, they did say it would come back to South Union someday.

Our visit was an enjoyable one. The Altshelers were gracious hosts and the tour of their home was well worth the trip.

The Shaker bell was made in 1836 as a gift to Eli McClean from Benjamin S. Youngs, South Union.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- *October 5.....Miniature House Opening and Reception. 2:00, Centre House.
- October 6.....Dinner Bridge Party. 6:30, Shaker Tavern
- *October 19....."South Union--The Simple Life" a slide-tape presentation and reception. 2:00, Centre House.
- *October 25.....Candlelight Tour of the Centre House, 7:00. Reception to follow.
- *November 2.....Volunteer and Employee Tea. 3:00, Shaker Tavern

Events for late November and December will be announced at a later date. Members of Shakertown at South Union are invited to attend all events free of charge if marked as follows: (*).

ON LOAN AT THE MUSEUM

Mr. Carroll Browning of South Union has recently loaned the museum two very unusual Shaker items. A fruit preserve bottle with a portion of the original label still intact looks to be the only one in existence. Twenty-five or thirty fragments of Shaker iron grave markers found by Mr. Browning have proven to be the only visible reminder of the old Shaker cemetery. The preserve bottle has been on display since June and the grave markers will be put on exhibit in mid-October.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Shakertown as an organization has had an extremely successful year in many ways. We have received a good number of artifacts for the museum, four state grants, a large amount in private donations for special projects, and the services of a fine staff and volunteers. Extensive restoration has been accomplished on three of Shakertown's four buildings, new signs have been placed on site, and a large-scale membership drive has recently begun. For all that our organization has done this year there is still an unbelievable amount of work to be finished. We truly value the support of our members and depend on that support in everything we do.

Johnny Jones

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