

11-1989

## South Union Messenger (November 1989)

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Dup

Shakertown  South Union

# The South Union Messenger

November 1989

Greetings from Shakertown at South Union. We have had a wonderful summer season and the fall attendance has been exceptionally high. We have reached our goal of 12,000 visitors during the seven month season, almost doubling attendance records for 1985. Things are on the move at South Union, and we are looking forward to a successful 1990. We appreciate so much your continued support and interest in Shakertown and hope you enjoy reading about the progress made since the last newsletter.

## FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS A SUCCESS

Our fall calendar of events began with the annual walking tour and luncheon on September 16, Thirty-six participants braved the mile walk to the site of South Union's North Family, a site where no buildings have survived. After a brief talk about the North Family a luncheon featuring Shaker and regional recipes was served in the Centre House dining room.

Nearly 150 people enjoyed this year's Fall Candlelight Tour on October 28. The evening's events began with a candlelit performance of Shaker music by the South Union Shaker Quartet and was followed by a tour of the first and second floors of the Centre Family Dwelling. A reception in the meeting room followed.

At this writing the Shaker Breakfast on November 18 is already filled to capacity. We have 55 reservations for the ten o'clock meal which will be followed by a performance of newly transcribed South Union music. This year's menu will be taken from an 1863 breakfast menu served by the Shakers to Union soldiers.

## NEW WESTERN INTERN WORKING AT SOUTH UNION

This semester South Union has been very fortunate to have Sara McNulty working with the museum on an oral history project. A graduate student at Western Kentucky University, Sara has spent several months interviewing local people who remember the South Union Shakers. Her research has uncovered some fascinating information, and the project itself will be an invaluable resource for the museum. We appreciate the many long hours that Sara has put into the project and the enthusiasm she has for it.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Large Iron Kettle, used by the  
South Union Shakers for making  
apple butter..... Sherman Price  
Russellville, Kentucky

Shaker Wooden Bucket, Shaker  
Slat Basket, misc. 19th century  
textiles, ironstone and glass-  
ware for use in exhibits..... Jeanne Weaver  
Morgantown, Indiana

Reproduction Thumb Latch for  
Centre Family Dwelling door..... Jerry and Sandra Wallin  
Sparta, Kentucky

Walnut Cupboard, ca. 1841,  
South Union, Kentucky..... purchased by Shakertown, Inc.  
with profits from the Shaker  
Festival picnic luncheon.

Floorplan of the Centre Family  
Dwelling, Ministry Shop, and  
Wash House made by Ray Pearson  
in the 1970's..... Per and Lars Pearson  
Chicago, Illinois

Adding Machine for Gift Shop..... John and Linda Tanner  
Madison, Tennessee

Adding Machine for Antique Shop..... Mark Iverson  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Five Large Lavender Plants..... Dory Hudspeth  
Alvaton, Kentucky

Panoramic Photograph of Centre Family  
buildings taken ca. 1932..... Dr. and Mrs. Harry Fish  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

Walnut Slant-Top Desk, South  
Union, Kentucky..... Ernie Ezell, formerly of  
Auburn, Kentucky

We have also received monetary donations, other than memberships,  
from:

Jimmy Hughes, Auburn, Kentucky  
Dennis and Sharon Cardwell, Memphis, Tennessee  
Southern Kentucky Fibre Guild  
Logan County Fiscal Court

## THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING IN 1989

Treva Watkins  
Joni Emerson  
Ruth Allender  
Gailan Roberson  
Chris Shuffit  
Nancy Powell  
Jason Shuffit  
Virginia Hurst  
Margaret McQueen  
Hilda Hines  
Mary Camp  
Virginia Price  
Deedy Hall  
Bea Vick  
Amanda Gordon  
Shirley Haines  
Lillie Mae Hayes  
Addie Brooks  
Donnalyn Brooks  
Michael Breeding  
Dorothy Wallace  
Mary Lucy Franklin  
Laura Nealy Burks

Peg Rice  
Lisa Rice  
Tommy Stewart  
Wanda Rice  
Sheldon Baugh Family  
Helen Shores  
Dory Hudspeth  
Jo Jean Scott  
Debbie Britt  
Bill and Nancy Gaines  
Ray and Paula Clark  
Carol Dyche  
Jay Joines  
Dianne Watkins  
Allison Dennis  
Mark Iverson  
Maxine Marbury  
Wilma Holland  
Phyllis Towell  
Missy Towell  
Trent Spurlock  
Steve Burks  
Chandler Jefferson

...and a special thank-you to the cast and crew of  
"Shakertown Revisited."

## SOMETHING NEW AT SHAKERTOWN

A new business has opened in one of the buildings owned by Shakertown, Inc. A frame house used by the museum as rental property for many years has been renovated for use as an antique shop. Standing directly behind the 1917 Shaker Store building, which houses our antique shop and post office, is the new business called The Sister's Shop. Pat Minish, a local antique dealer, is leasing the building from Shakertown. The renovation was a project of Mrs. Curry Hall and Margaret McQueen of Auburn, as a gift to Shakertown.

Although the history of the building is still unclear, we know that it was built while the Shakers still occupied South Union. The building was used as a dwelling for one of several non-Shaker families who operated businesses near the South Union depot. The renovated "Sisters' Shop" makes a nice addition to the South Union site.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Shakertown at South Union would like to welcome three new board members to the organization. The new members are Adrienne Dieball, a Kentucky Museum volunteer and resident of Bowling Green; Trent Spurlock, an employee of Southern Deposit Bank in Russellville and Shaker Museum volunteer; Dr. Sally Ann Strickler, a staff member of Western Kentucky University's Dept. of Libraries and resident of Auburn.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

The board of directors and staff of Shakertown at South Union would like to express sympathy at the loss of long-time members, Mrs. Wis Clark of Russellville, Kentucky and Mr. Roger Kimball of Laguana Hills, California. Both were faithful supporters of the Shakertown project for many years.

We were also saddened by the death of Ed Nickels, museum curator at Shakertown at Pleasant Hill. His many contributions to Pleasant Hill will long be remembered. We express deepest sympathy to the Nickels family and to the staff at Pleasant Hill.

## **IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MUSEUM**

There have been several improvements in the museum made possible by generous member donations. Track lighting has been installed in several of the exhibit rooms to offer visitors a better look at the collection. We also have new signs marking the South Union historic site. A large sign has been placed in the museum yard and a new sign has been installed marking the antique mall and post office. Directional signs have been placed on Highway 68 pointing the way to the Shaker Tavern and to the South Union site itself.

## **A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR**

1990 looks very promising for Shakertown at South Union. One of the main reasons is that the Shaker Tavern is scheduled to open March 1 on a full-time basis with the possibility of having bed and breakfast available at that time. Mr. Barry Redmon has leased the Tavern from Shakertown and is anxious to open a Shaker-style restaurant in our historic building. We are very excited about the possibilities at the Tavern and hope that each of you will support this new venture.

If you remember, we raffled a quilt during the Shaker Festival for the purpose of raising money for a restoration project. Margaret McQueen, doner of the quilt, has decided that restoration of the large Shaker wellhouse is where she wants to spend the raffle receipts. As soon as weather allows, we will begin tearing away a modern concrete pump house, repairing the roof, painting the ceiling its original blue color, and installing original style benches and a hand crank.

Our 1990 calendar of events will soon be available with many exciting new activities to enjoy at South Union. Thanks for your continued support and have a Merry Christmas.

Tommy Hines

**Shakertown**



**South Union**

Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283

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