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South Union Messenger (March 1986)

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The South Union Messenger

MARCH 1986

Preparation for opening day of the museum, May 1, is underway as new exhibits are being planned and restoration work continues. This year's exhibition plan will focus primarily on the folklife and material culture of the Shakers at South Union. An exhibit on Shaker clothing, one on South Union industry, a study of South Union furniture characteristics, and a Victorian Shaker exhibit are four of the new exhibits opening in May.

The orientation process will be improved this season with the availability of a slide-tape presentation entitled "South Union--The Simple Life." This program will be housed on the museum's main floor in the room directly opposite the gift shop. Using Shaker music and a taped narrative, slides depicting the history of the South Union colony will aid in the interpretation of what Shaker life was like here. The slide-tape program will also be available to travel to various clubs and organizations.



This program was funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEW BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. John P. Hines of Bowling Green has been elected president of Shakertown's board of directors. Mr. Hines is the retired president of Citizen's National Bank in Bowling Green and has served as a trustee for Shakertown.

Mr. Harry C. Peart, also of Bowling Green, has been elected vice-president of the board. Mr. Peart is with the accounting firm of James R. Meany and Associates and was recently bestowed the honor of Bowling Green's "Businessman of the Year."

Both men have been long-time supporters of Shakertown at South Union. We are excited about the possibilities of growth under their leadership and, to them, extend a warm welcome to the organization.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MUSEUM

Heavy Duty Vacuum Cleaner
Six Foot Wooden Ladder
Metal Extension Ladder
White Cotton Sheets for Winter Storage

RESTORATION

Recent research has uncovered information about the preservatory building which is currently being restored. Built in 1835 as a "smoke and milk house" the structure served the dual purpose of a meat smoking house and a dairy. The building is divided into two sections by a solid brick wall which kept the smoke from entering the dairy rooms. The blackened attic timbers on the building's left section are dotted with large nails and hooks once used to hang meat.

Modern electric lights are being removed and punched tin lanterns are being installed in the cellar hallway and the dining room of the Centre House. Special thanks goes to the Shakertown member who donated four of the lanterns.

VOLUNTEERS



Several volunteers have given many hours of their time to Shakertown during the winter months. Work in the preservatory and the Centre House cellar has included paint scraping, taking up the 1950's tile flooring, hauling plaster, stripping woodwork, scraping carpeting from wooden stairs, and painting. Our thanks go to the following volunteers: Marcia Foe, Teresa Hollingsworth, Libby Brown, Jamie Potter, Lori Foe and Tina Bruner.

SHAKER FESTIVAL

The 1986 Shaker Festival will run July 10-19 this year. There will be special tours of the buildings, craftpeople on site, meals served at the Shaker Tavern, and the twenty-fifth production of "Shakertown Revisited." More information will be listed in the June issue of the "South Union Messenger" or can be obtained by writing to us after May 1.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring is an exciting time of year as opening day becomes nearer. New exhibits in the museum, repair work and restoration of the buildings, and the reworking of the gift shop have kept everyone at Shakertown busy during the winter. I hope that each one of you plan to visit South Union this year and become a part of the activity.

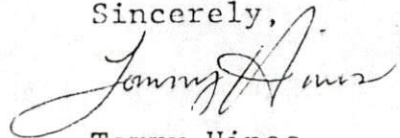
The gift shop has expanded into a room that was previously used for storage. The new space will house the furniture made by Dale Spencer. Teresa Hollingsworth is our new gift shop manager and has selected many Shaker-related items never before available in the museum store.

South Union's dear member, Mrs. Myrtle Calvert, is now recuperating from a recent illness at the Hartford Professional Nursing Center in Ohio County, Kentucky. We hope that she will soon be returning to her home in Centertown. Mrs. Calvert, 98, is our oldest member and the daughter and granddaughter of South Union Shakers. Shakertown sends its wishes for a speedy recovery.

Three of South Union's supporters have passed away during the winter months. Mrs. Ollie Mae Roberts, a long-time member; Mr. Harold Helm, a member of and benefactor to the organization for many years; and Mr. Granville Clark, board member and member of the cast of "Shakertown Revisited" for twenty-two years all will be missed by those of us at Shakertown. Each in his/her own way contributed to South Union and for that we are grateful to them.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Tommy Hines
Museum Director