SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEMBERS

Several circumstances have combined to delay the 1975 Spring number of the South Union Messenger, so in order that you will be up-to-date on South Union affairs, this brief letter is being sent as an interim communication.

Preparations for the annual July festival scheduled for July 10-19, are under way. The drama rehearsals are going well under the direction of Richard Valentine, Lexington, while the chorus is again being trained by Ruth Morriss, Western Kentucky University.

The Tim Bookout collection of Western Shaker Furniture will open at South Union on July 10 and will remain at South Union for some time. This special exhibit has been seen recently at both the High Museum in Atlanta and at the Mississippi State Museum in Jackson.

Mr. Bookout will lecture on the characteristics of Western Shaker furniture at 10:00 A.M. on July 11 and 12. The lecture, to be given in the drama tent, will be open to the public without charge.

Another interesting feature of this year's festival will be a spinning and weaving demonstration on Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13. The artists will be Lou Tate of the Little Loom House, Louisville, and Wynema Waggoner, New Albany, Indiana. At the same time Maybelle Collins will demonstrate the art of bottoming chairs with corn husks. Other craftsmen will be in attendance at various times.

A benefit auction will be held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday afternoon, July 12. Surplus non-Shaker items, such as metal cots, early school desks, an antique barber chair, etc. will be auctioned. The proceeds will be used in the future development of Shakertown at South Union. If you have items to donate, send or bring them to the auction. John Belcher, auctioneer, will donate his services.

In 1974 the Centre House and Preservatory were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Being on the register made Shakertown at South Union eligible for matching federal funds to be used in restoration. A 1975 grant of $30,000 was made through the recommendation of the Kentucky Heritage Commission. A full account of the restoration program will be given in the next Messenger.
In the meantime, we are happy to tell you that a contract has been signed with Gray, Coblin, and Porter of Frankfort. This firm directed the recent restoration of Kentucky’s Old Capitol.

If you live in the listening area of Nashville’s WSM-TV station, you will want to mark July 11, 11:30-12:30, when the South Union singers will be on the Noon Show.

We hope to see you at South Union very soon. You might like to tell your club or church group that festival rates are available for both the Museum and the play for groups of ten or more, if scheduled ahead. Group rates for the Museum may be had throughout the year.

The response for General Food coupons has been good. Keep the coupons coming. Green stamps can also be used in acquiring stainless steel place settings needed during the festival and on special occasions. One group is collecting green stamps to buy a refrigerator for the Museum kitchen.

The a la carte lunch and buffet dinner will be served again during the festival.