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South Union Messenger

Serials

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4-1979

## South Union Messenger (April 1979)

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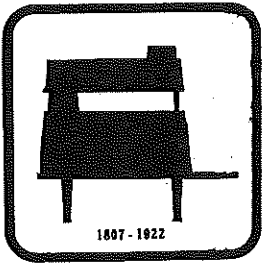
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# The South Union Messenger

Vol. 4, No. 1

April, 1979

Now that the dogwood is blooming in Kentucky, it is only a few short weeks to the beginning of another active season at South Union.

Do you realize that the Shaker Museum is beginning its 20th season and this is the 8th year since the museum moved from the little Auburn Church out to the 1824 Centre House?

Still operating largely through volunteer help and being supported by loyal members, the non-profit South Union Museum has made a steady growth. Last summer visitors came from all 50 states and 16 foreign countries.

## Museum Attendance\*

## Gift Shop Sales

1972	6,311	\$2,776.24
1973	5,942	4,650.70
1974	6,183	5,673.70
1975	7,752	8,780.43
1976	8,387	9,300.30
1977	6,996	9,146.78
1978	8,369	9,401.73

\*Mother's Day--Labor Day--September and October weekends

## The On-going Restoration Program

This summer's visitors will see the 1924 Centre House more as it appeared during its earlier history. Once again a tin roof covers the building, and a reconstructed bell tower is in place on the roof. Other completed phases of the exterior restoration are the rebuilding of the chimneys, reflashing of the beautiful limestone gutters, and the return of an original well house to its historic location.

The most recent restoration step has been changing the windows back to those with small panes of early glass. Shutters are again being hung on the building.

Many Shaker authorities consider the South Union Centre House the finest Shaker family dwelling in existence. The present softened appearance greatly enhances the historic structure.

The exterior restoration has been made possible through matching federal grants administered by the Kentucky Heritage Commission.



## South Union Reaches Out

The South Union festival singers participated in the 1978 Pleasant Hill fall festival. Good reports are still coming in.

In March, 1977, the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis borrowed several pieces of furniture as well as some small items to add to a Smithsonian photographic exhibit of Shaker Architecture.

In June South Union's festival will again be represented with a booth during Frankfort's Expo week.

## First Internship

The South Union Museum has participated this year in the Intern Program administered by Western University's Center of Folklore Studies. Our first intern, Colin Stephen, a graduate student, has done considerable research relating to the Centre House kitchen. He has interviewed several people who lived in the Centre House prior to the many changes made in the kitchen.

Colin has also aided in accessioning the museum collection.

## The South Union Antique Mall

Although the museum is seasonal, the mall is open daily all year except for national holidays. Sales' commissions and rentals are helping to retire the indebtedness on the 1917 store building purchased three years ago by the South Union organization.

Museum gift shop items are available at the mall all year along with the antiques offered by several dealers.

Of course the historic 1826 South Union Shaker post office still operates in the building.

## The Shaker Festival

The 1979 festival committee is now planning the annual July event. Governor Carroll's Program for the Elderly will again bring many senior adults from a wide area to see the museum and play.

Another special group at this year's festival will be those enrolled in the Shaker seminar conducted by Professor N. A. Wisby of Elmira, New York. Thirty or more Shaker enthusiasts from across the country will be at South Union July 12-13. Our good neighbor, St. Mark's Priory, will house part of the group and provide rooms. *Breakfast*

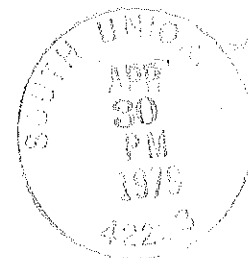
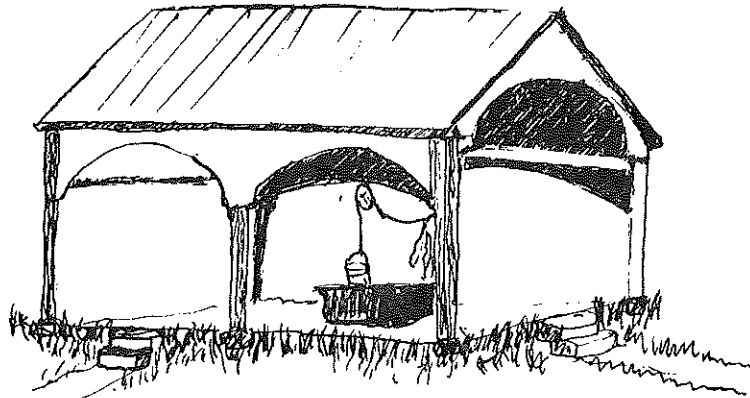
## Membership Renewal

For easier record keeping, all memberships are now due at the beginning of each annual season.

Whatever the amount of your deductible membership--\$10--\$25--\$100--your contribution will help in many ways. Two immediate needs are new guttering on the store building and better lighting in the museum.

Memberships and outright donations also help when applying for grants. Foundations and businesses are not interested in donating to organizations that make little or no effort to support themselves. This may be the year you would like to become a sustaining or a life member. Perhaps you can enroll a friend as a South Union member.

We hope to see you at South Union in 1979.



Miss Margie Helm

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