



Nathaniel W. Dean House
4718 Monona Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

The Blooming Grove COURIER

Newsletter of the

Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society

Serving Blooming Grove, Monona, and SE Madison, Wisconsin



JUNE 2000

BACK PORCH CONCERTS

Summer 2000 Schedule:

- July 6 Checkered Past Jazz Band
- July 13 Wisconsin Sesquicentennial
Accordion Band
- July 20 Sound of Madison Barbershop Chorus
- July 27 Noblesman Big Band
- Aug. 3 Jazz 7 Band
- Aug. 10 Capitol Chordsman and Quartets
and Ice Cream Social

Clip and save this schedule and mark the dates to join us on Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m.

For well over 20 years, free public summer concerts on the lawn back of the Dean House have been a pleasant part of life in the southeast Madison area.

And as it will be again in summer 2000!

Known as the "Back Porch Concerts", the six summer events will bring a variety of musical talent to all who come to listen and lounge in any comfortable way they desire. HBGHS Treasurer, Dick Peterson has again lined up six musical groups who will donate their talents for the pleasure of the listeners and the benefits to the Dean House gathered when the straw sailor hats are passed through the crowd.

Sales of soft drinks and popcorn will also benefit the Dean House. While most of the concerts goers bring lawn chairs for their seating, others roll on blankets on the ground, where they can attend to the little ones. There is plenty of room to spread out on the lawn, if you wish. And attire can be to your taste -- as informal as the law will allow. The concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. and close just as the sun sets and mosquitoes begin to become offensive.

Newcomers may wonder why is it called "back porch" concert, when it is held on the lawn. Years ago, the annual event actually began on the back porch with the entertainers performing before the audience seated on some 50 chairs on the porch. The audience outgrew the constraints of the porch so that now the performers set up their amplifying equipment, drums, piano or choral groups outside of the porch, facing the green expanse abutting the golf course where the concertgoers gather.

Another tradition to be continued in summer 2000 is the Ice Cream Social to be held on the Dean House porch preceding the final concert on August 10. Members contribute home made pies and serve them up with ice cream and choice of beverage for a sociable occasion, preceding the concert.

Letter from Our President - See Page 3

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11:

Madison as Some of Us Remember It
To Be Recalled in Slide Show

FLASHBACK about three score years: You are strolling around Madison's Capitol Square, looking at State Street, King Street, and on out easterly to Schenks' Corners, noting the architecture and the buildings as you pass.

That is the treat to be offered by Ann Weidelich at the program to follow the annual meeting of the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society (HBGHS) on Sunday, June 11. Members will gather at the Dean House for social hour at 5:00 p.m., share a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., elect board members and tend to Society business, including a by-laws change, at 7:00 p.m., (see below) and conclude with this historical program.

As this date is the second Sunday in June, the Dean House docents will be on hand the for the regular Second Sunday Open House, offering tours of the house, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until the social hour at 5:00 p.m. In order to assure a well-rounded repast for the 6 o'clock potluck supper, families/persons with last names beginning with A-F are asked to choose a hot dish, G-O opt for a salad, and P-Z bring dessert.

For her slide show Ms. Weidelich will bring selected Madison photos from the collection of three prominent Madison commercial photographers who were active between 1925 and 1980. Ms. Weidelich is past president of Historic Madison, Inc., which promulgated the purchase of the McVicar-Stein and Wollin collection. She and a group of volunteers have been active in cataloguing and archiving the photos for the past year.

When the collection came up for sale in 1998 and faced the probability of being moved out of the state, Historic Madison, Inc., decided to raise the money necessary to buy the collection and donate it to the Visual Materials Archive at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Since May of 1999, a group of volunteers has been working with the collection at the SHSW getting them ready for use by the public.

Ms. Weidelich has identified each building with the business conducted within and has traced down identification of every place on the photo tour. For our program she has extended the tour as far east as the photos provide. Most of the photos date from the 1930s and 1940s.

The collection begins with the work of Angus McVicar, who started McVicar Photo Service in 1926 in the basement of his family's floral shop at

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Meeting June 11 (cont'd. from page 1)

723 University Ave. A large part of his early work was taking pictures for the *Capital Times*. After World War II he and George Stein worked together until 1958, when McVicar went to work for the University of Wisconsin Photography Laboratory. George Stein began in the photo business in 1927, and went into business for himself in 1938. He retired from photography about 1980 and is living in Verona. Bill Wolfm was in the advertising photography business beginning in 1945. Tim Romano purchased the old negatives and prints to start his own business called Historic Photo Service, for which he created a data base of the photos' contents and sold copies of the photographs. He sold the collection to Historic Madison in 1998.

Invite your friends for this interesting evening.

ALSO ON JUNE 11TH HBGHS BUSINESS

Election

Three of the nine elected members of the Society's Board of Directors are elected each year. They serve three-year terms.

The candidates for election this year are Catherine Gedko, Helen Wentland, and Gloria Simley.

By-Laws Change

A change in the by-laws, providing for a membership dues change, has been proposed, and should be voted on by the membership. The membership will be asked to approve a change in the By-Laws, Article 11, Section 2, Classification and Dues, as follows:

- a. Membership classification shall be established by the board of directors
- b. The annual dues shall be established by the board of directors

Membership Dues

Treasurer Dick Peterson will be on hand to receive membership dues payments. Those unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to send their dues and donations to him c/o HBGHS at PO Box 6704, Monona, WI 53716-0704, as indicated on the renewal form printed in this newsletter.

Address Change

Members are reminded to use our post office box address for Society mail.

VICTORIAN TEA HONORS OLD TIME DOLL HOUSE

The Dean House Back Porch was transformed into an elegant tea room and guests were served Afternoon Tea at the special tea event on May 6 in honor of the Grand Opening of the Victorian Doll House which had been donated and installed in the living room. (The Doll House and its donor were introduced in the May issue of *The Courier*.)

Ten tea tables were topped with treasured old linens brought in by members for the occasion, and decorated pansy centerpieces created and donated by Wanda Nelson. Fine china, also from personal collections, was ready for the guests to be served delicate sandwiches and sweets. From a variety of teapots costumed waitresses poured steaming, carefully brewed Earl Grey tea, which had been donated for the occasion by Steep and Brew.



Tea Hostess Alice Schuller, left, enjoys a cup of delicious tea while chatting with Mary Lou Burczyk



Elegant linens, English china, and floral centerpieces helped to create the tea room atmosphere on the Dean House back porch for our Victorian tea held in honor of the debut of our newly acquired Victorian Doll House on May 13.

Historic Blooming Grove
Historical Society
P.O. Box 6704
Monona, WI 53716-0704



Monona History Is Honored and Continues to Sell

The HBGHS publication of Monona's history, "Monona in the Making", was honored this spring at the City of Monona's volunteer recognition banquet. Mayor Tom Metcalfe presented the author, Dorothy Haines, with the Volunteer of the Year plaque bearing a key to the City. The Monona Landmarks Commission also honored the book with a Sunday afternoon Open House.

The book is continuing to sell well. It will continue to be available for purchase (@\$20) at Dean House events, and at the Artisan Gift Shop, the Monona Bait and Ice Cream Shop, The Monona City Hall, the Monona Public Library, the Olbrich Gardens Gift Shop, and the State Historical Society Gift Shop on the square. Copies may be ordered by mail (@\$25.00) from HBGHS, PO Box 6704, Monona, WI 53716-0704.

Antique Evaluation Event is Planned for September 30

As it has for the past three years, the HBGHS is planning to hold an Antique Evaluation Event again this fall. Evaluators are being contacted and arrangements are being made for experts to give advice on about a dozen categories of treasured old items. A fee is charged for each item evaluated, with all proceeds going to the Society's Dean House fund. The date has been set at September 30, but the exact hours have not been decided. Stay tuned.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society will preserve and advance the culture and history of the Blooming Grove, Monona and Southeast Madison area. To fulfill this purpose the Dean House will be used as a center for cultural events and local history study. It is the hope that the Dean House will become a living testimony to the pioneer spirit fostering our American heritage and contributing to our own growth as a community.

HBGHS Calendar

- June 11, 2:00-5:00 p.m. — Second Sunday Open House
- June 11, 5:00 p.m. — Annual Meeting Social Hour
- 6:00 p.m. — Potluck Supper
- 7:00 p.m. — Business Meeting and program
- July 6, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- July 9, 2-4:00 p.m. — Second Sunday Open House
- July 13, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- July 20, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- July 27, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- Aug. 3, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- Aug. 10, 5:00 p.m. — Ice Cream Social
- Aug. 10, 7:15 p.m. — Back Porch Concert
- Aug. 13, 2-4:00 p.m. — Second Sunday Open House
- Sept. 10, 2-4:00 p.m. — Second Sunday Open House
- Sept. 30 — Antique Evaluation Event (time to be announced)

Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society

Officers

President: Jim Stickle	221-1324
Vice-president: Allen Burling	221-1381
Secretary: Alice Schuller	222-6651
Treasurer: Dick Peterson	222-7814

Board Members

Jean Dent
Catherine Gedko
Dorothy Haines
Mike Jackson
Kathleen Montgomery
Bill Rider and Marie Rider
Don Taylor and Judy Taylor
Helen Wentland
Helen Cattell

C. Anne Welman, *past president*
Dean House Manager
Robert Bean

222-5783

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To Our Faithful AND Prospective Members from President Stickels

The Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society is looking for volunteers to serve on committees for the advancement of the Society. There are vacancies for people who are interested in the history of our community and would be willing to help and to guide the cultural museum that is our Dean House. The primary work of the Board is to maintain the Dean House as a working museum. Committee chairs may be part of the Board of Directors in addition to the elected members. The Board meets on the second Monday of each month from 7 to 9 pm. If you are interested, or if you would like further information, call Jim Stickels, at 221-1324.

Volunteering may sound like work, but it brings many benefits, to the volunteer as well as to the work. Sociability and connection to your community, the satisfaction of being part of an accomplishment, making a difference.

We are grateful to the members who have served on our board over the past years and to those who have agreed to be elected to the board at the annual meeting. Their participation is essential to the progress of the Society.

During the past year the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society has seen many accomplishments. It has set up a museum room, opened the Dean House the second Sunday of the month for historical presentations, conducted tours for school children, acquired a beautiful Victorian Doll House, and published the book "Monona in the Making."

Membership

The Society is a valuable resource for Monona and the southeast side of Madison. You can support this effort with your membership. Not only does the donation you give for your membership help the Society, but your participation as a member is important as well. Members are encouraged to attend the open houses and the Back Porch Concerts, volunteer at the Ice Cream Social, do projects at the Dean House or in general enjoy whatever activities come along during the year. Members also contribute by bringing their friends, relatives and neighbors to the events and inspiring their interest in the Society and its preservation activities.

In return for your membership, you will be put on the mailing list for this newsletter and through it receive special invitations to Dean House events and activities. The annual membership year starts in June at the time of the Annual Meeting. We hope you will show your support for maintaining the history of our community with your membership. Please use the membership blank included in the newsletter to join.

Thanks to all of you for your continued help.

- Jim Stickels, president

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society
c/o Richard Petersen, Treasurer
PO Box 6704
Monona, WI 53716-0704

Check is enclosed for:

- contribution for Dean House restoration/maintenance;
- membership at _____ \$10/yr individual
- \$15/yr family; _____ sustaining (\$25-\$100)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

HBGHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization