



Kelleys Island Historical Association, Inc.

Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Vol. VIII, No. 2

July, 1993

ANNUAL MEETING, Aug. 14, 1993; 1:30 P.M.; Old Stone Church: The years roll by so quickly, but it's Annual Meeting time again.

To be elected this year are three new Board members and Association officers.

With the Old Stone Church restoration completed, the Association now turns its attention to the building of a museum to house Island treasures. Preliminary plans for the structure have been drawn and a long-term lease arrangement with the State of Ohio for land adjoining the Association's property to the east has been requested. (The parcel to be used as a parking lot and picnic area.)

A presentation of museum plans and means of accomplishing this goal will be a major part of the general section of the Annual Meeting. Members and friends, thus, are encouraged to attend, not only to listen, but to contribute their own expertise and ideas.

DUES DUE: It's that time again! Enclosed in this mailing is an information sheet listing the categories of memberships (Life, Patron, Annual). Please be so kind as to fill out the dues form, with *your check*, send it to the Association in the return envelope.

You will note that, even after a decade, the dues have not been increased. Careful planning and expenditures, plus the acquisition of new members, has made this possible. Your dues cover all of the operating expenses of the Association: newsletter, insurance, utilities, correspondence, etc.

MUSEUM BUILDING FUND: Recently members and friends of the Association received in the mail pledge cards which provide an opportunity to support the Museum Building Fund. If you haven't done so, you are urged to consider seriously how much you can contribute to this worthwhile project.

At this writing, the Building Fund Committee has established a schedule which, hopefully, will terminate the individual fund-raising effort with a ground-breaking in either September or October. A good start has been made, but the goal has yet to be achieved.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Aside from the Annual Meeting, Aug. 14, the following events should be marked on your calendars. You are encouraged to participate. If you can lend a hand, call or write to: Lois Brown, President Kelleys Island Historical Association.

Aug. 21: - Cake sale in the Park. Marge Clapper, chm. - Sept. 18 - Butterfly Festival, chm. Bart Shadle, Marge Clapper, Bea Matso.

TOUR GUIDE: If you haven't purchased a copy of the Association's "Kelleys Island -- A Tour Guide," you are encouraged to do so. Profits from the sale of this important item go to the Building Fund.

We also believe that this would be an invaluable gift for friends and family members. Copies may be purchased from the Association or at gift shops and bed & breakfasts on the Island; price \$5.00. (If you want your copy mailed, add \$1.25 for postage and handling.)

ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES: This year five significant Island homes, plus the Town Hall and local churches were graciously opened to the inspection of the public. They were:

1. The Jean Dwell House of Ron & Terri Schnitker hostess Jerry Dean.
2. The Datus Kelley house; hostess Janice Bertsch
3. The Doctor's House; host and hostess Russell Bea Matso.
4. The Edward Bauman House; host and hostess Don Ann Haas.
5. The Kelley Mansion; host and hostess, Mr. & Mrs Lemley.

At the Town Hall, Betty Pape acquainted visitors with Island history and significance. In addition, the Association wishes to thank The Rev Mr. Warren Walton and The Rev. Fr. Nick Cunningham for opening the Zion United Methodist Church and the St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

To all who contributed to the success of this year's Tour of Homes, Sue Clepper, the Tour chairperson, conveys her warmest thanks.

AWARDS: At its July 10th meeting in the Town Hall awards were presented to long-time members and workers of the Association:

Lydia Bechtel, former president and current treasurer; Florence "Sis" McKillips, former president and current secretary; Dr. Richard C. Knopf, former Board member and newsletter compiler.

QUILT RAFFLE: Vi Feyedelem has sewn a most beautiful quilt for the Association to be raffled off as a fund-raising project. Tickets: \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Though some tickets will be included in this mailing, additional ones can be procured from the Association officers or Bea Matso.

BUILDING FUND MEMORIALS:*

In memory of Thomas Claubaugh, by Lydia Bechtel.
In memory of Pixie Schwartz by Lucille Mathews.

In memory of Henry Beatty, by:

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. James Seaman
Richard C. Knopf
Frances Minshall
Marilyn Dauch

In memory of Josephine Kuchar, by Lydia R. Bechtel.

In memory of Jo Anne Crøpper, by Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Pohorance.

In memory of William Minshall, Jr., by Betty B. Shepherd.

In memory of Maybelle Kekelik, by Lucille Mathews.
In memory of Ronald Bechtel, by Norbert and Sue Stamm.

*Unless specifically designated to other purposes, all memorial gifts are applied to the Museum Building Fund.

I REMEMBER, CAN YOU? The following notes are put together at the urging of Lois Brown, current president of the Association, primarily, I am convinced, to fill space in this edition of the newsletter.

One cannot be a full-time resident here without a host of cherished memories, of peoples, and places, of local joys and sorrows.

Coming as I did first over six decades ago, I recall those earlier, hour-plus long rides from Sandusky on the pre-fitted Challenger, Commuter, and Messenger. I can recall how my father hated that trip in rough weather, particularly when he

had a new car. Careful as the deckhands were who parked the autos on the lower deck, the swaying and pitching of the boats in heavy seas caused scratches and small dents here and there.

The first person I got to know was Esther Ward; we stayed at her boarding house. She was a most gracious lady and a really fine cook as well. Periodically I would trail along with her when she cleaned what was then known as the Community Church.

Days at Sand Beach were a delight! Extending along most of the shoreline of North Bay, its wide expanse of white sand, bordering the crystal clear water of the lake, was a virtual playground for young and old alike. However, after the two piers at the north entrance to the bay were demolished by ice, wind, and wave, the beach lost its protection and has simply disappeared. Perhaps had the new pier there been built to parallel the old ones, the beach might have returned.

Downtown in those less hurried days, establishments served the needs of the locals and few tourists and summer folk. Matso's Bar and Restaurant was separated from Martin's Bar by a kind of ice cream store and delicatessen. On Division St., Frank and Florence Pohorance started the Island Market; Brown's Grocery (with the post office appended) was across the street. (I must concede, I didn't often go to Brown's; Mrs. Brown was a formidable lady whose gaze always carried the message "I dare you" and thus discouraged my youthful patronage.

I've already written too much to include in the space available here, but a few quick notes: Joe Matso, magician and story-teller.

The Marchky boys, who came to Matso's every day after their labors on the farm.

Henry Beatty, whom I first met when he was mayor and came inspecting us who had kept his daughter out carousing all night. (We passed his critical eye!) Liz Martin, who kept the "ritzy" bar in town.

Floyd Erne who gave me the nickname of "pipe man," by which I was known on the Island for many years. Kurt Boker with whom I looked for Indian artifacts. And his brother, Heinz, whose story about the delivery date of a pregnant woman, I still remember. And on and on and on.

Even though I can return now to the Island only as a tourist, I am daily reminded of its impact on my life by the "I Am a Rock" description of the Emerald Isle which hangs in its frame in my stairwell. Shed no tears for times change and, as the Bard Shakespeare wrote: "The Past is prologue."

I'm just glad that I was a part of that prologue.