

Clinton Independent

VOL. NO. 5

ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN

SEPT. 1978

HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS NEW HOME FOR MUSEUM**TRULY A DREAM COME TRUE

For almost a year the Clinton County Historical Society has been seeking from the County Board of Commissioners the use of the former Health Department Building for a Museum. At times it seemed as though no chance at all would be given to this idea.

The county had sought at various times to make a parking lot at the site or to possibly use the structure as offices for one agency or another. Our getting the building seemed very far from reality. But we got it.

Our thanks to the Commissioners who saw our needs and also saw that the County had need for a Museum and was willing to entrust our Society with

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 5 7:30p.m. MUSEUM committee meets at old Museum 1009 S. Oakland to clean and prepare displays for the Museum which will be on tour during Home Tour Festival.
- Sept. 11 7:30 GENEALOGY COMMITTEE meets at the home of Arylan Gantz 314 E. Washington, DeWitt. Much work
- Sept. 16 All Day and evening. HOME TOUR FESTIVAL**COME, BRING A FRIEND **HAVE FUN.
- Sept. 18 Board of Directors meets at old Museum at 7:30p.m.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR TOM HOLLEN RESIGNS, NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED.

At the Board of Directors meeting on August 20, the Board accepted Tom Hollen's resignation as Museum Dir-

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

SOCIETY WILL SPONSOR "BIG EVENT" HOMETOUR SEPTEMBER 16

The Home Tour Festival sponsored by the Clinton County Historical Society will be September 16. This "Big Event" will involve hundreds of volunteers working as hostesses, sellers, planners and ticket takers. Eleven homes and churches will be offered for touring as well as the new Museum building offered for all to come and see.

All are not only invited but are encouraged to come and tour the homes, see the various free exhibits and most of all have a wonderful time.

The Society profits from the sale of Home Tour tickets. All other events are free and are sponsored by various organizations in the county.

The Emmons House restoration has been an inspiration to many people in St. Johns to restore rather than remodel. This Victorian masterpiece will be highlighted in the Daytime tour along with the homes in town and those in Greenbush township. The tour in the township is in response to the realization that many untouched architectural gems are to be found in the various parts of the county. Since the city of St. Johns was founded after some of these areas were developed, much of the past is to be found there.

During the evening tour the antique buff will find many outstanding collections which he can view. There will be the Hicks-Giesecke home as well as the Rand and Wyble homes where there are many fine antiques to be viewed.

Do plan to come and bring as many as possible with you. Sample all the lovely homes on tour and realize that this is one of the finest home tours in the state of Michigan.

Tour tickets are \$3.00 for the Daytime Tour and \$2.00 for the Candlelight tour. Those were the prices a few years ago--so inflation has been beaten for a time in Clinton County!

**MINI*MUSEUM OPENS
IN OWOSSO**

The Grand opening of the new Mini Museum at Curwood castle was announced by the Shiawassee County Historical Society. This is a unique kind of Museum because it is the collection and work of one woman, Mrs. Sadie Greebman Woodward, which is on display. Mrs. Woodward was an author on history of Shiawassee county and was also an active collector of Indian Arrowheads and Artifacts. She donated these artifacts as well as many lovely pieces of China which she painted herself. Her books include THE GRAND RIVER ROAD, HENRY BOLIEU AND HIS CANOE, OLD OAK OPENINGS. These books and extensive reproductions of maps are available for purchase at the castle.

The Mini-Museum, located in the basement of the castle, as well as the castle itself, is open from 1-5p.m. on Sundays. The castle is well worth the trip to Owosso to see.

INFORMATION WANTED

Several inquiries have come our way FROM VARIOUS SOURCES and perhaps you will know the information being sought.

Is anyone related to or knows the whereabouts of people by the name of Roat who possibly lived near the corner of Kinley Road and the present site of US27? Contact Betty Moore and she will get you in touch with the person.

Anyone working on the Clinton, Eaton or Ingham Bohnet family who came from Freiderstadt, Wurtemberg, Germ c. 1854. They were related to the Kebler (Kübler) Schee, and Rohrer families of Germany and Clinton Co. Contact Geneva Wissemann, Box 3178, RR #4, Lansing, 48906

WORKERS STILL NEEDED

There is need of a few more workers for the home tour--if you're able to work any shift call Catherine Rumbaugh and she will see that you are placed. Catherine's phone is 224-7402.

If you would like to be a hostess call Esther Rademacher 224-4459.

**LIKE FALL COLOR?
LIKE THE OUTDOORS?
HAVE WE GOT A PROJECT FOR YOU**

With the coolness and crispness of Fall days comes a time when many of us like to be outdoors. The Historical Society needs this kind of person. There still are a few cemeteries which need to be surveyed so that the cemetery records may be brought up to date. Two people might plan to spend several days walking the plots and enjoying the beautiful fall colors.

The Genealogy Committee has been working so hard on this project and there is still some work left to be done. Contact Goldie Moore at 669-9061. She will be glad to give you further information.

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE SEARCHES THE RECORDS TO COME UP WITH THE PAST MEETS EVERY MONTH TO HELP YOU

The Genealogy Branch of the Clinton County Historical Society is hard working at getting cemetery records up to date, indexing the various plat maps so that this information can be published and made available to genealogists who are searching for their ancestors from Clinton County. This important work is being done by this group. If you are interested in helping them work on these projects, they welcome you membership.

However, there is something else that this group does and that is to help you if you are interested in getting started on discovering your own roots. This is the prime function of the group and one which they do very well. They have been going to meetings around the state, they know and belong to Societies in the area which promote this type of work and they do much in helping people get started on this fascinating hobby.

COME join them. They will be meeting on September 11 at 7:30p at the home of Atlyn Gantz, 314 Washington St., DeWitt.

HOLLEN RESIGNS (continued)

Tom has been director of the Museum since it was first established. The Museum has received many collections because of his hard work and private solicitation. All those who come to visit our Museum feel that Tom's hard work is very evident in the types of displays and also in the kinds and quality of the donations.

The Society appreciates the work done by Tom and hopes that his success as Museum Director will continue in his new work. Good luck is certainly offered to Tom. However, he will be missed. His efforts have been appreciated. THANK YOU TOM.

At the Board meeting new directors for the Museum were appointed. John and Catherine Rumbaugh will be the co-directors. Assisting them will be Bob and Letha Walling. These four will supervise the collections, supervise the building restoration and also explore new acquisitions. We know that their work will be excellent and that much can be done.

The Board of Directors was also given the chance to visit the building and examine the potential there. Treasures were to be found everywhere and especially as the ooh's and ahh's were made. The Genealogy Committee eyeing the book shelves as their corner and each other group seeing the great potential which is there.

Feel free to contact either of these couples and volunteer your services. A work bee is scheduled over Labor Day week end in the new



SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY

COME TO THE 1978

HOME TOUR FESTIVAL

NEW MUSEUM BUILDING TO BE OPEN FOR TOURING AT HOME TOUR FESTIVAL

The Clinton Museum is one of the tour stops in the Candlelight tour. At the time of the tour planning no thought was given to the Health Dept. Building because it was not ours at that point.

We will however open the building for anyone who wants to tour it. All the potential can be seen. No displays or furniture will be in so this can be really a "let's dream a little" tour.

There will be a "rain barrel outside so that persons can make a donation at that point. Museum memberships and Society memberships will also be sold.

An empty building is always a challenge. Come tour this one and see what can be.

HEALTH DEPT. BUILDING OURS (continued)

the development and the caretaker-ship of the Museum. It is also a credit to our Society that in establishing the Museum on South Oakland that we gave credibility to our petition for a new site.

This is only the beginning. We will have much work to do in cleaning up the yard, the building and also in making this a Museum for all the county. Now is the time for all of you who said that they would paper, paint strip and restore to come to the aid of the Society. There is much to do.

A meeting will soon be called of all those who volunteered to help and for those who didn't make that commitment before. There is more than enough for everyone to do. What a wonderful opportunity to help our community and still have a good time doing it.

Under the terms of our lease we must vacate the present Museum by the first of March and so that means that much work will be needed before that time in both places. Your talent and hard work is needed!