

President's Report By Jim Peterson

1997 was a building year for the Antiquarian and Historical Society. The Culver "Heritage Park" fund raising and the actual construction required an extraordinary amount of work from a dedicated group of volunteers. The fund-raising committee was comprised of Richard Ford, Anne Greenleaf, Virginia Fisher, Ellen Gignilliat and Perry O'Neal. The drive was organized and audited by John Cleveland, Jim Moss, Pete Trone and Bob Kreuzberger. The results of this drive can be seen in the beauty and elegance of Heritage Park. The real surprise was the sale of engraved bricks. Rita Mason and Lynn Overmyer managed to involve the entire community in this effort, as you can see when you walk through the park and "read" the bricks. The construction of the park has been the responsibility of one man, Richard Fisher, who has been on the job for the past year. I often tell Dick that we would still be trying to figure out how to get started except for his expertise and dedication.

Our other prominent project was the development of the CD-ROM, "The Stories and Traditions of Lake Maxinkuckee and Culver". Again, a dedicated group of volunteers were responsible for this project, the first of its kind in Indiana. Robert Hartman, Pete Trone, Virginia Fisher and John Cleveland gathered all the historical documents and photos included in the CD-ROM. John Cleveland, along with Laura Thayer, historical consultant, and Robb Springfield, computer graphic designer, are publishing the CD-ROM, which should be ready for sale in February. This same group of volunteers is involved in the designation of the East Shore on the National Register of Historic Places. Agnes Bramfeld, Dorothy Peterson, Becky Kreuzberger and Virginia Fisher have kept members informed and organized monthly meeting.

As you can see, the strength of our organization is the dedicated efforts of a group of extraordinary volunteers. These people, and many more, are willing to give their time and resources to something in which they believe. Many of the tasks are arduous and time-consuming; mailing notices, keeping books, overseeing projects, organizing monthly meeting, writing the

newsletter, proof reading, raising funds and having things published, No organization, short of the major foundations, could afford this kind of talent. Yet, here we have well over a hundred and fifty families giving their time and resources to insure that 100% of donated money goes directly to advancing our organizational goals.

These goals have remained the same since our first meeting on Bramfeld's front porch, the preservation of the history of the people who made Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee this unique and wonderful place, and the preservation of the historical landmarks they built. Why have those goals inspired so many people to contribute to our Society? I believe that our history is what binds us together. From the townspeople to the people at the Academy; from the summer residents on the lake to the farm families; all have had a hand in building this very special community. We can all take pride in their efforts.

In a time when we seem to pulling apart as a society, we need to concentrate on what holds us together. When my wife and I came to this area in 1954, it was the town and the lake that kept us coming back. It was a great place to raise our kids. We have fond memories of the drug stores, the movie house, the shops, the public beach, the State Exchange Bank, The Lions Club events and much more. We always knew our kids were safe, whether hunting for turtles, reading comics at the drug store or going to a triple feature at the movie house. It was much later that we even became aware of the treasures of the Academy and the East Shore. Honoring those people that made this community great is not looking back. As Fred Karst of the Culver Citizen said, "Isn't it ironic that the Antiquarian and Historical Society is the most forward thinking organization in town".

My heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and contributors for making the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver an important part of our community and an enthusiastic advocate for the values that bring us together.

Jim Peterson

NEWSLETTER

Library News from Jim Moore

February 10 is an important date concerning the future of the Culver-Union Township Library. On that date a community-wide forum will be held to discuss all the ramifications of the location of the library. Citizen opinion is being sought and it is most important

that members of our organization express their views and make their recommendations at this meeting. An announcement regarding specific details of the time and date will be forthcoming.

Heritage Park

Dick Fisher reports that six benches and a trash receptacle have been installed in the park. They are bolted to the concrete foundation under the brick work. The four lampposts are in place and are turned on at dusk and off at daybreak by an electric eye. The pergola and the lattice work are about 90% completed and

will be installed in the spring by the builder, Easterday Construction Company.

Editor's Note: The park is charming. You must see it. At Christmas time it was all lit up, as was much of the downtown area, and it was a sight to behold. We did a good thing!

Were You There?

Our meetings last summer were so unique and exciting that we decided to recap some of the highlights for those who could not be there. We met at the wonderful old Mueller house on the East Shore, lovingly furnished and kept up by its present owners, Tom and Susie Sams. They recalled for us the history of the house from the time of its original owners. Diana Davis welcomed us all to her home, also on the East Shore. It is a stunning, seemingly endless house, originally the home of Walker Winslow, who is a legend on the lake. The story of his exploits and the adventure of renovating the house, incorporating many of the old pieces of discarded "junk" that came with the house, kept us all interested from beginning to end.

Members really crowded into the home of Bob and Joan Volkert, although all the meetings were very well attended. The old Kreuzberher Saloon on State Street in town has been renovated by the Volkerts, who were kind enough to let us troop through their beautiful home. Greg Anderson was also there to show us the fossils he has been collecting since he was a child. He had recently been in the newspaper, having discovered a dinosaur jaw in a pond on his land. Exciting stuff! In August John Houghton, local historian, told us about the early settlers of this area in a meeting at the Maxinkuckee Country Club.

We'll see you at the next meeting in May and surely all of you will want to be at the dedication of our great Culver "Heritage Park" in June.