

House of Yoder News (Jan 1998)

Highlights from the Second Annual Meeting

Thirty-one persons from Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Indiana gathered on a damp, rainy Saturday in early November (Nov. 8) to conduct the business of House of Yoder, Inc. Attendance was affected by flooding in nearby Pennsylvania. It took one Pennsylvania attendee several hours longer than normal to travel to the meeting and others chose not to make the trip. But those who did attend were treated to an update on the Yoder House project (**pre-1750 style house**), a tour of the building under construction, and an informative slide presentation by Jan Gleysteen on Yoder origins in Europe. Following Gleysteen's presentation, there was discussion about a possible tour of European Yoder sites. Anyone interested in such a tour should contact Doris Ours, House of Yoder Executive Committee president (304-726-4321). On the tour of the house Kenneth Yoder, building superintendent, showed attendees the **unique root cellar** in the lower level of the house which will function as the archives for the Yoder House. The root cellar has drawn significant attention locally and from visitors to Penn Alps and Spruce Forest.

Highlights from the business meeting include: 1) approval of the use of a book to record various kinds of contributions to the Yoder House project. The book will be permanently on display in the Yoder House. It will have sections for memorial donations or donations in honor of a family member(s), contributions to purchase a door, window, or fireplace stone(s) for the house, volunteer contributions, anonymous contributions, etc. 2) a report that **another \$14,400 has been raised since the First Annual Meeting** in November 1996. Just over \$5,700 of that will be matched with funds from the \$20,000 matching grant. Those in attendance set a goal of raising enough money during the coming year to use the remaining funds in the matching grant. Overall, it was decided to set a **fund-raising goal of \$125,000** to complete the construction and contribute towards the ongoing operation of the Yoder House. 3) Special recognition was given to Kenneth Yoder and Henry Yoder for their many hours of volunteer labor to bring the construction project to its current state. 4) Lonnie Yoder reported that there are **73 active members** of Yoder House (17 one year members, 44 five year members, and 12 lifetime members). 5) Edgar Yoder and Harvey Yoder were re-elected to new 5 year terms on the House of Yoder Executive Committee. Other members of the 10-member committee are: Doris Ours, Phyllis Weaver, Gerald Yoder, Lowell Bender, Kenneth Yoder, Lonnie Yoder, and Carl Yoders. The next (3rd) annual meeting will be held **Saturday, November 14, 1998**. Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

News on the Fund-Raising Front

Since the November annual meeting, \$1790 has come in to bring the matching grant total to \$7490 leaving \$12,510 to be raised to complete the use of the \$20,000 matching grant. The designation of contributions for various parts of the house will work as follows: \$1000 for a door, \$500 for a window, \$100 for a large fireplace stone, \$50 for a medium fireplace stone, and \$25 for a small fireplace stone. Of the funds which have come in since the annual meeting, \$1100 has been designated for one door and two medium-sized fireplace stones. All contributions (with the exception of operating endowment contributions) will be matched dollar for dollar by the \$20,000 matching grant. All contributions are also tax-deductible as House of Yoder, Inc. has the 501c3 tax-exempt status. Send your membership dues, contributions for a door, window or fireplace stone, OR memorial/honor gifts (payable to "The Yoder House Project") to: (OVER)

Lonnie Yoder, Publicity/Membership Coordinator, Yoder House Project, 1066 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Membership options are as follows: one year individual-\$25, one year couple-\$35, five year individual-\$100, five year couple-\$150, lifetime individual-\$1000, and lifetime couple-\$1500. The current total in the House of Yoder Operating Endowment Fund is \$10,132. Contributions to the Operating Endowment Fund are also appreciated.

Building Progress

Since our last communication, the basement floor has gone in, **the root cellar has been completed**, the conduit for the electric is in, and most of the flooring for the first floor of the house is in place. Logs are being gathered to use in the construction of the first and upper levels of the house. With the completion of the root cellar which was labor-intensive, the building progress should proceed more rapidly. We are in need of **volunteer labor** at various stages of construction. If you have carpentry or masonry skills (or know of someone who does) and would be willing to donate some labor, please contact our Building Superintendent, Kenneth Yoder, at 301-895-5411.

An Invitation for Your Support

The ways to support the Yoder House project continue to grow. The door/window/fireplace stone effort is one. Consider at what level you might want to contribute. Another is gathering contributions in memory/honor of a loved parent/grandparent/great-grandparent(s). This would make a nice family project. Several executive committee members are working on this idea with their own family members. Recruiting a family member as a member of House of Yoder, Inc. would be yet another way to build the support base for this worthy project. Funds are also greatly appreciated for the Operating Endowment Fund. The accompanying sheet lays out the contribution options for your perusal. If you have any questions, please contact me (Lonnie Yoder) at 540-432-6467; e-mail: ltby@shentel.net; or 1066 Smith Avenue