

House of Yoder News (Sept 98)

You are Invited to the 3rd Annual Meeting in November!

The third annual meeting of the House of Yoder will be held at Penn Alps in Grantsville, Maryland on **Saturday, November 14**, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. through mid-afternoon. Agenda items include: a business meeting, a tour of the Yoder House under construction, sharing a breakfast/lunch buffet at the Penn Alps Restaurant and input from our guest speaker, Virgil Yoder. Virgil will present a documentary through slides and lecture of the early beginnings of the Yoder family, from St. Joder in Switzerland to their arrival in America. He includes the struggles the Yoders faced through the Reformation and traces his Amish family line in America. According to the Yoder Family Archives web site, Yoder is noted for his "well-researched, wonderfully photographed, and exceptionally scripted slide show of Yoder Heritage in the old world." Executive committee members who have seen this slide presentation highly recommend it. For those traveling from a distance, consider spending a night or two in the Grantsville area. Lodging options at Grantsville include two motels, an inn, and a bed and breakfast: Holiday Inn (301-895-5993), the Casselman Hotel (301-895-5055), the Elliott House Victorian Inn (800-272-4090), and the Walnut Ridge Bed and Breakfast (301-895-4248).

The Building Continues to Take Shape!

Construction on the Yoder House was proceeding at a good pace earlier this spring with the first floor exterior walls in place and plans to use the services of a crane to lift the beams for the second floor into place when a series of tornadoes struck the Grantsville area in late May and early June. The Yoder House was not directly affected by the tornadoes, but the property of Kenneth Yoder's daughter and son-in-law was severely damaged along with that of a number of others in the area. The clean-up and rebuilding efforts for those affected by the tornadoes brought the Yoder House work to a standstill for a number of weeks. Construction has begun again with the first floor ceiling beams now in place and the second floor flooring currently being installed. A person has been hired to work on a regular basis at the building project. He will be happy to incorporate any volunteer labor, either skilled or unskilled, you or others may want to contribute. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate some labor anytime this fall, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Paul H. Yoder, at 301-895-5411.

Fund-Raising Goal of \$10,000 by the End of the Year!

At the July 25 House of Yoder Executive Committee meeting it was decided to set a fund-raising goal of an additional \$10,000 by the end of the year. This is the amount needed to finish off the **\$20,000 matching grant** from an anonymous donor towards the building of the Yoder House. To date, gifts of \$10,471 have been credited towards the \$20,000 matching grant. All contributions (including membership dues) will be matched dollar for dollar by this matching grant until we reach the \$20,000 amount. Use the enclosed membership/contribution form to send your gift to support the Yoder House (payable to "The Yoder House Project") to Lonnie Yoder, Publicity/Membership Coordinator, Yoder House Project, 1066 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. In addition to obtaining or extending memberships, you can support the cause by purchasing doors, windows, and fireplace stones of various sizes in the Yoder House. There is also an opportunity to contribute in memory or honor of a family member such as a parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent. This is a great idea for a family to go together to honor a loved one and

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support the Yoder House project. All such family contributions will be recorded on a loose-leaf page containing the name and a photograph of your loved one to be placed in a Memorial Book. If you are interested in a sample copy of this loose-leaf page, please contact Lonnie Yoder or an executive committee member. Remember that all contributions to the Yoder House Project are tax-deductible. A Yoder House brochure is also enclosed with this mailing for your personal use or to give to a family member whom you think might be interested in our Yoder House project. If you have need for additional brochures, please contact Lonnie Yoder or a member of the executive committee.

House of Yoder Membership Statistics

Currently there are 87 active memberships in House of Yoder, Inc. Those active memberships divide out as follows: 12 lifetime memberships, 45 five year memberships, and 30 one year memberships. There is **an insert in this mailing for those whose membership expires at the end of 1998**. If your membership expires at the end of the year, you are invited to renew your membership for the time period you choose. Even if your membership is not due, an extension of your membership period will contribute greatly to the matching fund. The mailing list for this newsletter currently stands at 157. For those whose membership has been expired for some time, we plan to do a significant pruning of the mailing list. There are 53 names on the mailing list who fall in this category. If you want to continue to receive the mailing, but are not current on your membership, please inform Lonnie Yoder as soon as possible.

Your Yoder House Executive Committee

Several references have been made to the Yoder House Executive Committee in this newsletter, so it is appropriate to let you know who constitutes the 10 member executive committee. **Their names and home towns** are as follows: Doris Ours, President, Keyser, WV; Harvey L. Yoder, Vice-President, Belleville, PA; Edgar Yoder, Treasurer, Grantsville, MD; Paul H. Yoder, Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator, Grantsville, MD; Kenneth L. Yoder, Building Superintendent, Grantsville, MD; Lonnie Yoder, Publicity/Membership Coordinator, Harrisonburg, VA; Lowell Bender, Bittinger, MD; Gerald Yoder, Woodbury, PA; Phyllis Weaver, Harrisonburg, VA; and Carl M. Yoders, Flemington, NJ. These persons have given considerable time and energy to the Yoder House project and are committed to its completion and opening so that you and your descendents can benefit from this unique contribution to the Yoder family story.

Did You Know?

Lowell Bender has been commissioned by the Executive Committee to flesh out the details of the early history of the Yoder House project. The idea for the House of Yoder had its origins in 1992. Jack Dueck and others cultivated that original seed of an idea into the project we now have nearing completion. At both the first and second annual meetings Jack reminded us of the story from the book of Joshua in which the question "**What do these stones mean?**" is central. These words stand as a theme for the Yoder House project as well. The stones of the Yoder House will serve as a reminder to future generations that our heritage as a family is indeed a long, rich, and storied one.