

House of Yoder News (Sept 99)



Stone, Stone, and More Stone!

Since the June newsletter, significant progress has been made on the building of the Yoder House (see picture-above left). The three interior stairways have been built, the electric service has gone in, and a pent roof has been built on the north exterior. But of even more significance, much stonework both inside and out has been done. Pete Yoder has devoted numerous hours to laying stone on the interior walk-in fireplace which is now nearly complete on the first floor level. On the exterior a stone mason has been hired to lay stone and that work should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. An estimated 53 tons of stone is needed to complete the exterior stonework. Almost that much is needed for the interior stone fireplace, so the Yoder House will have **nearly 100 tons of stone** in its construction! The stone work is of exceptional quality and adds immensely to the beauty of the house. Continuing construction will focus on completing the interior stone fireplace and putting in windows and doors before inclement weather sets in. Volunteer workers are always welcome. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate some labor, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Paul H. Yoder, at 301-895-5411.

Over 400 Visitors at the First Open House

The House of Yoder was open to the public for the first time on Saturday, July 10 during the 22nd Annual Summer Festival and Quilt Show of Grantsville. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. over 400 persons toured the house. The weather changed from a gentle rain in the morning to beautiful sunshine in the early afternoon, and finally, a brief, but heavy, downpour at about 3 o'clock. During the downpour the Yoder House was perhaps the most popular spot on the Spruce Forest grounds because of the shelter it offered from the rain. Many of the 400 guests also partook of the delicious corn chowder and corn bread which were prepared just outside the Yoder House over an open fire. Straw hats were also sold. The root cellar and walk-in fireplace were clear centers of attraction. Our ancestors would have been proud of the **hearty and genuine conversation** which occurred during the open house. Special guests included (see picture-above right) Eva Mae Barton (age 96-left) and Dr. Alta Schrock (right), the visionary founder of the Penn Alps endeavor in Grantsville. May this open house be the first of many gatherings over the coming years in the Yoder House!