

SURVEYOR



VOLUME 2, NO. 1
JANUARY, 1973

P. O. BOX 30174
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45230

MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER - A "full house" thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Howard Miller's program, "The History of Our National Colors". He demonstrated the establishment and evolution of Our Flag with more than fifty, full sized banners, depicting the transition and variations from pre-Revolutionary days to the present.

DECEMBER - The establishment, growth, achievements and aims of the Cincinnati Nature Center, on Tealtown Rd. in Clermont county, were outlined by Mrs. Page Burt, of the Center. Her commentary was accompanied by dandy pictures of the beautiful, unspoiled area.

JANUARY - Steve Smalley, in his usual inimitable style, provided a program of excellent slides of historic places and artifacts. His travel talk took some 80 of us to Whitehall State Shrine, (near Richmond, Ky.) the restored home of Cassius Marcellus Clay, publisher, politician and patriot of the 1800's. We also visually visited some Clermont county houses of antiquity, some doomed to be drowned in the waters of what will be Elk Lick Lake.

FEBRUARY - Mr. Joseph McDowell, Librarian of the History and Literature Dept. of the Public Library, will be our guest speaker, dealing with the subject of "American Heraldry". This should be of special interest to those who wonder if their ancestors were royalty or roustabout. (There's a difference?)

MARCH - "Members Night" (Show and Tell for Big Kids). Members are requested to bring items of historic interest to share with the group. We hope that many of you will take part in this. This meeting will also be the Annual Election of Officers, so be there if you want to help select those who will be responsible for operating YOUR society for the coming year. There will be a slate of nominees, presented by the Nominating Committee, (also to be announced at the February meeting). Of course members have the privilege of making nominations from the floor.

LOG HOUSE HAPPENINGS

LAND PURCHASE - Negotiations for purchase of the brick house and two acres of land adjoining our property have hit another snag (temporary, we hope). One of the heirs to the property has changed his mind about separating the two acres from the rest of the estate. However, the purchase fund, so generously subscribed to by many of our members, is being held in readiness for a short while longer, in hopes that agreement may still be reached. Donors will be notified of any developments or changes.

REFLECTION - The candle making exhibit in November, and the December "Open House" were both well received and attended. Thanks must go to the many members who were so generous with their time and talent.

1973 ACTIVITIES - One week end every month, from March to December, the Log House will be open. There will be only one event at which the emphasis will be on making money - the Country Store in September. Although there occasionally will be some items for sale (plants, candles, cards, etc), the purpose of all the other events will be to make our Log House and our exhibits available and open to the public more frequently. Please keep the enclosed program handy.

SUPERVISION AND CARETAKING - The House and grounds will be under the supervision of a different person each month, as noted in the enclosure. A grass-cutting schedule is being readied also. If you can help out with this necessary job once or twice, or thrice, please choose a time and notify M. Frame - 231-6453. We have a very good new power mower. Volunteers have already made themselves available for 14 weeks, there are 13 weeks open. Anybody? please!

GIFTS - Speaking of grass, we are deeply indebted to the Edmund and Albert Motz families who have generously supplied us with our lovely green carpet. Have you noticed how it enhances our setting? Those wonderful people not only gave us their beautiful product, but prepared the surface and laid most of it themselves. Truly a kind deed and a very generous contribution. Our deep and sincere thanks to you all.

Our grateful thanks, also, to the men of the Bishop Electric Co., who not only came when we needed help in a hurry, but wired our barns for us without charge. These good friends also brought to us from the Lipps farm in Clermont county, a wooden trough gutter, 20 feet long, hand hewn from a log! How kind our neighbors are!

SAY CHEESE - We understand that photos taken at the House in the fall will appear in "Cincinnati" magazine, and in the "house organ" of Cincinnati Bell.

SPECIAL FEATURE

THE FOREST AROUND THE LOG HOUSE..... by DON BOGOSIAN

The forest around our log house holds secrets to the past, present and possibly the future. Identifying the types of trees in the forest, and their general age, can begin to reveal those secrets.

Very large trees indicate what the woods may have been like years ago. Large sycamores line the creek, far up the ravine. There is even one rather large Black Willow which grows on the creek bank. A large Hackberry, A White Oak, a Beech, a White Ash and some dead American Elms can still be found along the creek, on steep hillsides or hilltops. A few large Tulip trees grow farther up the ravine. These big trees were probably left by the pioneers who farmed the area. Signs of more recent farming can be seen in the old fence posts and scrubby thickets which grow where old fields and pastures once were.

There are several distinct areas, with distinct trees, near the house: (1) areas of mature forest trees, (2) areas of medium sized trees, (3) scrubby thickets. Throughout all three areas, however, there are seedlings and saplings which indicate the kind of forest that will grow up near the house, barring any catastrophe.

The seedlings are the same kind of trees that grow in the mature forest areas, which are now, and probably will continue to be; mostly Sugar Maple and also, Tuliptree, White Oak, Bitternut Hickory, White Ash, Hackberry, Wild Black Cherry, Sweet Buckeye, American Elm, Basswood, Black Walnut, Sycamore and, some Beech, Blue Ash and Shagbark Hickory. There are not many Beech, perhaps because they do not tolerate well hillsides that face generally southward. The understory trees and shrubs of the mature forest are: Ohio Buckeye, Pawpaw, Elderberry, Wahoo, Spicebush, Dogwood, Hornbeam, Hop Hornbeam, Hawthorne and Sassafras.

Areas of medium sized trees have generally the same type of trees as the mature forest, but, of course, have not been growing as long. There are many understory trees and seedlings growing in these areas, too.

The scrubby thickets have mostly Black Locust, Elm, Box Elder, Honey Locust, Ailanthus, Bush Honetsuckle, Red Cedar, and Redbud, plus some small trees and seedlings from the mature forest. Most of the scrub trees will disappear as the forest trees grow taller.

So, the mature forest near the log house now, and the forest growing up in the old fields and pastures, generally resemble the Cove Hardwood forests of the Cumberlands and lower Smoky Mountains, though our forest is not so complex. Indeed, according to the late Dr. E. Lucy Braun (from Mt. Washington), that is where the forests here in Cincinnati came from, thousands of years ago.

LOOKING BACK

The 1923 City Directory listings for Beechmont Ave, between Crestview and Campus, enumerated 39 residences and 16 places of business; viz: 3 grocers, 3 auto repair, 1 each shoe repair, cannery, cigar store, ice delivery, bank, dress maker, barber, pharmacy, Post Office, Bus company.