

November 2004

DECEMBER 4 DANCE BENEFIT!

Give yourself a boost. Start the Holidays with an evening of dancing and holiday spirit and at the same time benefit the Octagon House! On Saturday, December 4 the Simply Dancing studio at the 107 N. Court Street is opening its doors for a gala evening to help raise funds for the renovation of the Octagon House which is now standing on its nearly completed foundation. Come as a group and enjoy the company of your friends while feasting on holiday treats and dancing the evening away. Or, if you don't dance, come and enjoy the swing music of Dave Rainey's group, "Sweet 16." And you can pose for a 5x7 'Holiday Photo' taken by Wayne Malott's Enchanted Photo Works. Wayne will donate a portion of every sale to the Octagon House. There will also be a sale table of souvenir items. Tickets (\$15 each) may be purchased at the Book Nook or by calling 420-7300 or 477-8516. Happy Holidays!

SCHOOL CHILDREN CONTRIBUTE -- AND LEARN

Children in the 8th grade at Circleville are appreciating how the work of Roundtown Conservancy links with their study of local history. They have been listening to the history of the Octagon House, and this month they will take a tour of the county, led by RTC guides. Most of this is due to Rick Ross and his fellow teachers who have informed their students of the wonderful history to be uncovered in their own county. We admire these young people for their interest and response, and for their support. They deserve applause from all of us for their high community spirit.

LIBRARY DISPLAY

You may have seen Dallas Hinkle's fine miniature reproduction of the Octagon House in the crafts display at the Pumpkin Show. If not, you may see it now in the front case at the Public Library where Roundtown Conservancy has a full display through November.

CAT'S MEOWS GOING FAST!

The popular Octagon House Cat's Meow If you want to give them for Christmas, get them now!

You can also give a friend or relative the attractive card in its red envelope and gold seal that announces you have given a donation to the Octagon House in their name.

A handsome black and gold marker now stands in front of the Historical Society's Moore House on South Court Street. Last month a large group of people gathered to dedicate this marker, one of twelve stretching from the Ohio River to Lake Erie along one of the routes taken by slaves fleeing north to freedom. Speakers were Cathy Nelson and Wally Higgins. Debbie Wright was chosen to unveil the marker. Refreshments were prepared by Josie Hall, Director of the Visitors' Bureau and Terry Frazier, President of the Historical Society.

Meetings are 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesdays at the Clarke-May Museum. Donations (tax exempt) should be made to "Roundtown Conservancy," P. O. Box 501, Circleville, OH 43113

October 2004

CAT'S MEOW --JUST IN!

Visit Our Pumpkin Show Location

For collectors of Cat's Meow articles or for history buffs, you will be pleased to know there is now an Octagon House Cat's Meow. This and other items are for sale at the Book Nook, 107 N. Court Street. There are Octagon mugs, buttons, sweatshirts, T-shirts and note cards. We also sell the "Bygones" note card collection: 12 cards showing 4 different historic buildings which are no longer standing in Circleville. Come in and get the latest information about the Octagon House. Pumpkin Show Hours are 10:00 - 4:00.

COMMUNITY INTEREST IN PRESERVATION CONTINUES TO RISE

Evidence of local interest in preserving our past is abundant, especially among school children. We have given tours and information to approximately 200 students this month. Adults also show interest in keeping the best of the past. We are constantly asked about the current location or condition of the Octagon House. And on Sunday, June 3 many came to our Cemetery Walk, presented with the help of Roundtown Players. Eight actors portrayed local historic figures, standing at their headstones and speaking about their lives. We've been asked to please do this again, and we probably will in the spring.

MEANWHILE . . .

We thank you for sending your e-mail addresses, though we have lost a few of you through inaccessible addresses. We hate that! Look for future activities. One of these will be a Roundtown Conservancy display in the front case at the library. This will go through November and may start as early as mid-October. Also, Dallas Hinkle is entering his model of the Octagon House in the craft fair at the Pumpkin Show. Go see it.

NOW IS THE TIME!

We continue to need your help. To bring the Octagon House project to completion will take a great deal of time and money. We've been given both and are deeply grateful. This house will eventually be a Pickaway County showplace and will probably include a community center but it will need the help of all who are interested. We have very nearly completed the first part of our task, and we've had the help and services of a countless number of local people. Now we need YOU. We need members who will attend monthly meetings (third Wednesdays at the Clarke-May House, corner of W. Union and S. Scioto Streets) and give of your expertise and ideas. Consider joining us.

September 2004

STEP INTO THE PAST!

History Comes Alive!

Save an hour on October 3rd to hear from some of Circleville's early citizens. On that day there will be three "Cemetery Walks." A tour host will take you to nine locations in Forest Cemetery where 'persons from the past' will tell you about themselves. The hour walk is

pleasant and leisurely. Meet Ted Lewis, Genevieve Jones, Caleb Atwater and others. There will be a refreshment stand and items for sale. Tours will be conducted 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Book Nook 107 North Court Street or may be ordered by calling 420-7300. Be sure to leave your name and phone number clearly. All proceeds are to benefit Forest Cemetery's Gatehouse.

A NEW MARKER IN TOWN

The Friends of Freedom Society and ODOT have created "The River-to-Lake Freedom Trail," commemorating Ohio's role in the Underground Railroad. A set of 12 markers will stretch from the Ohio River at Portsmouth along route 23 to Lake Erie at Sandusky. Each handsome marker gives the story of that location's involvement in the movement. Circleville has been chosen to receive one of these markers. It will be placed at the Moore House (South Court Street at Mound Street). Col. Moore was deeply involved with the movement as were other local residents. The ceremony will be held 10:30 on Saturday, October 9. Come, see and hear this great part of our history.

EARTH MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Dealing with the Basics

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who are dealing with the dirt around the house. Until you begin building or moving buildings, you have no idea how important dirt is! William Green excavated the area for the Octagon House's final location and he did it gratis.

Mark Anderson is doing a great job of building the foundation and giving us much help at cost, and Marty Anderson, of Darby Creek Excavation, who is moving dirt, is donating and bringing us top soil in exchange for temporary right-of-way through our property. We greatly appreciate this wonderful 'service in kind.'

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

Three Ways You Can Help

We need your input! Meetings are the third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at the corner of W. Union and S. Scioto Streets (Clarke-May Museum).

We need your support! Tax deductible checks to Roundtown Conservancy may be sent to P. O. Box 501, Circleville, OH 43113.

We need your e-mail address! Over 100 of our subscribers have helped us save money by sending their e-mail addresses to redhouse@bright.net and are now receiving the Newsletter via e-mail. We don't want to lose you, so if you change your e-mail address, please let us know!

August 2004

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The generous support from the National Trust is beyond all we had hoped for. The short-term financial aid they are giving us is unprecedented and very heartening. Local interest is also mounting and "service in kind" is being given in great measure. There are many more thanks due and much exciting news to come.

FINALLY -- CALEB ATWATER IS BACK! (The Case of the Disappearing Marker)

Now it can be told . . . you may remember the fine ceremony last August (2003) at the Verizon Plaza, North Court and Pinckney Streets. The school band played; a school

children's choir sang; there were speakers and state officials as we dedicated the Bicentennial marker honoring Caleb Atwater, historian, teacher, legislator. The marker then disappeared! Well, today it's back and this is the story: Verizon, who had given us verbal permission to place the marker and spruce up the area, became cautious. We lost track of our initial contact person and instead received a packet with complications and stipulations we were not prepared to meet. We persevered and eventually re-located our initial contact, Doug Neer, who smoothed everything out. Thank you, Doug! You have renewed our faith in Verizon as one of the supporters of the Bicentennial! Verizon's small plaza, which had become an eyesore for the downtown, is now looks beautiful. Verizon removed the overgrown tree and accompanying filth and gave us permission to landscape. We are fortunate to have found TOMMY'S GARDEN CENTER, located beyond 84 Lumber, phone 983-6556. Tommy has donated his talents and materials to our cause. Be sure to drop by Verizon's Atwater Plaza, read the marker and enjoy the atmosphere.

HELP!

Our new black and white format saves us money. So does "news by net." Join the 100 plus who have sent their e-mail addresses to: redhouse@bright.net and are now receiving the Newsletter via e-mail. A WORD OF CAUTION: We are daily purging files and adding e-mail addresses. We don't want to lose you, so if you change your e-mail address, please let us know!

Now, more than ever, on-going donations are needed. Tax deductible checks to Roundtown Conservancy may be sent to P. O. Box 501, Circleville, OH 43113.

Become an active member: come and learn first-hand what we are accomplishing. Meetings are the third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at the corner of W. Union and S. Scioto Streets (Clarke-May Museum).

Roundtown Conservancy (Octagon Fund)

P. O. Box 501
Circleville, OH 43113

July 2004

Those who attended our Benefit Tea and Style Show on June 13 were treated to a festival of fashions, old and new. Set among this attractive parade were the finely-blended music of "The Sinners Four" and the fluid moves of Krystin Easterday and Tom Rea of "Simply Dancing." An added pleasure was the display of local artists' works, most of which were taken home by enthusiastic bidders.

Our first thanks goes to Bobbie and Dot of Shawnee Antiques & Gallery who allowed us the space for this benefit, and whose vintage gowns added a charming note among today's fashions. Especially noted were Terry Pyles and Christy Grunewald who modeled Civil War era day dresses, period correct even to ankle boots and jewelry.

We were impressed by the generous response of couturiers As We Grow, Christopher's, Coming Up Roses, Maggie & Me, Sharff's and their wonderful models. Escorts -- also in vintage costume -- for the models of vintage gowns were all from Roundtown Conservancy: Tom Cooper, W. W. Higgins, Stuart Sharpnack and Steve Spicer.

"The Sinners Four" are Nelson Embrey, John Johnson, Doyle Painter and Andy Solovey who, with their saintly (!) accompanist, Pat Beathard, offered a fine collection of patriotic songs and gospel hymns.

Instructor Krystin and her partner Tom were poetry in motion. The bolero was dazzling, but their waltz, to a haunting Irish melody, was breathtaking.

Our thanks to the nine local artists who donated their fine talents. They are Jinny Good, Wally Higgins, Bruce Horn, Doris Luna, Wayne Malott, Susan Samuel, Dean Smallwood, Steve Spicer and Lissa Yaple.

We appreciate the generosity of our local Kroger Store who supplied the flowers for the tables. And for those of you who asked: the caterers of the buffet were "Elegant Eats Catering."

Roundtown Conservancy gives a very special "Thank You" to the many who came to enjoy the afternoon and to support the beautiful work of art known as the Octagon House.

And Now:

Roundtown Conservancy proudly announces that the Octagon House was moved onto its new location at 8:45 a.m. on June 16, 2004.

Another milestone has been reached! The house has an interesting history; it is destined for a fascinating future. Keep tuned!

As you know, this is an expensive project. We are saving money by going to a black and white format in the Newsletter and by sending it e-mail when possible; you can save us postage by sending your e-mail address, if you have one, to redhouse@bright.net. 75 of you have already done so and we thank you. Also, ongoing donations (tax deductible) are needed.

June, 2004

VINTAGE FASHION SHOW AND AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday, June 13, 2:00 - 4:00

Shawnee Antiques Gallery, 8531 State Route 56 East

Christopher's

Maggie & Me

Sharff's

Vintage Costumes

Entertainment by the Barbershop Quartet

"Three Saints & a Sinner"

Silent Auction

Auction of Local Artists' Works

Tickets are available at the following merchants:

The Book Nook

Maggie & Me,

Sharff's

Christopher's

Rhoads Farm Market

Need more information? 477-1091

Funds will benefit the Gregg-Crites Octagon House

March, 2004

DID YOU EVER SEE A HOUSE MOVING? WELL, I DID!

(History from Two Observers)

Valentine's Day, 2004 -- a cold, sunny day, we watched Dingey Movers, Inc. expertly doing the final preparations. At 1:40, all lines secured, the house stood free of its supports, resting on the steel beams and approximately 24 sets of wheels. At 2:05 it began to move. After three years of hoping and working, the house was moving away from the threat of the wrecking ball. The number of watchers had continued to grow. Someone had brought tiny bottles of champagne. By 3:00 the house loomed eerily over the barn and the place it had stood for nearly 150 years was empty.

The Octagon House is definitely on the move! It was an exciting day in Circleville as an enthusiastic group of Roundtown Conservancy supporters watched intently the moving contractors readying the house for its travel over the Crites farm. We stood in amazement as the hydraulic mechanism designed to actually move the house began its journey across the field. This day -- a day we never thought to see -- we celebrate three years of hard work and determination. This day a magnificent house was saved.

ZIEGER MARKER

The money to correct the Zieger marker has been raised. The marker will go for repair in April or early May. We'll notify you upon its return.

Tom & Dorothy Cooper

FEBRUARY 2004

Octagon House is on the Move

There are wheels under the house and it will start moving to its new location any day now, perhaps already is.

INTRODUCING SOME EXPERTS

ROUNDTOWN CONSERVANCY takes its role seriously. From the first inkling that Octagon House might be in danger, they have not only used hands, feet and minds to do the exhaustive base work over three years' time, they have been aware of experts in fields connected to their endeavors. It is time to introduce some of these to you. . .

FRANKLIN CONAWAY

Approaching genius, Franklin pulls rabbits out of hats. His work is largely unseen until, suddenly, all is accomplished. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

LOU McFARLAND

A steady supporter who has given "above and beyond" aid in a willing and generous manner. He has unlimited know-how in the techniques of getting things done.

CHARLIE JACKSON

A long-standing love of Circleville, especially the downtown, and a knowledge of visual and performing arts makes Charlie a real asset to our fund-raising activities.

TERRY FRAZIER

Terry combines his interest in history, his expertise with maps, his knowledge of the area in and around Circleville with an innate willingness to help. His support is invaluable.

ERIC CLARK

A person with vision, Eric believes in the steady rise in the quality of Circleville and the surrounding area. His own contributions have been done quietly and without fanfare. We give him some here and now.

JOSIE HALL

Newest person on our team of experts is Josie, Director of the Pickaway County Visitors' Bureau. Her forward-looking and up-beat attitude plus her know-how in many areas makes her a great asset. Thank you, Josie. Welcome aboard.

These people work closely with us and are aware of all the issues. We have others on the fringe, eager to jump in. We urge these people to contact us first! We appreciate enthusiasm but need to temper it with knowledge.

Our circulation is expanding. For those of you new to this newsletter, ...

If you wish to join us for meetings, we meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarke-May House, corner of W. Union and S. Scioto Streets.

There are items for sale which help the continuing need to support the Octagon House: mugs, T-shirts and sweatshirts, buttons and note cards. Call 477-5816

We welcome donations! Checks should be made to "PCHS-Octagon Fund" and mailed to P. O. Box 501, Circleville, OH 43113

January, 2004

THE MOVERS ARE PREPARING THE OCTAGON HOUSE FOR MOVING

This week, in spite of cold and wind, movers have removed the cement porch from around the house, revealing the remarkable brickwork of the foundation, with small air openings on the eight sides. Members are overseeing and taking photographs of each phase of the operation.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS!

The beginning of a new year is a very good time to express the deep gratitude felt by Roundtown Conservancy to the large number of people who've helped and supported the saving of Octagon House with time, expertise and money. We are grateful to The Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Society for their help and their understanding that a building also can be a historical artifact.

There are many others:

John Seyfang for erecting the area light by the house.

The Stagecoach in South Bloomfield, owners Dave Miesse and T. D. Van Camp, their families and staff for the great work they did at the Bash.

ArtsaRound and Charlie Jackson for their work on the fundraising.

All the music groups, who gave their time and talents to make the day a success:

Mike Boyle

"One Riot One Ranger"

Justin Lute

Dave Rainey

Berry Chern

Cliff Starbuck

Tullamore Duo with Pat Mogan

Ukulele Man -Tom Harker

and a special thanks to Tony Ellis—who not only gave us great music, but also donated a violin to be auctioned off. Our thanks to these folks and many others.

We don't usually thank ourselves, but we are very aware of the time and money given in many and varied ways by the members of RTC, a small but mighty group who has striven against odds for over three years to "Save the Octagon!" We include the friends and family members of RTC; those who boarded up the entrances three times to preserve as much of the interior as possible; those who cleaned the messes found inside the house and cleared brush and weeds around the outside; those who've kept and are keeping regular watch over the premises, including our sheriff's department.

And now: our enormous vote of thanks to FRANKLIN CONAWAY – without whom none of the rest of this would be happening. His expertise is brilliant and we are fortunate to have found him early in the game.

And we've only just begun. . .

December, 2003

Two GIFTS IN ONE!

You can help the Octagon and solve your gift problems -- for a school child or a shut-in, or for that person who "has everything.

Here's How...

For \$20 or more we will send you an Octagon House card in a bright red envelope with a festive gold seal. Inside, under your person's name, is the message:

A donation to

"Save the Octagon!"

has been given in your name.

Merry Christmas!

All you do is sign it and send it. Easy!

TO ORDER: Print this PDF order form and mail to the address shown on the form.

Big Band & BBQ Bash

An Event to:

"Save the Octagon!"

The Stagecoach

Corner of U. S. Route 23 & Main Street, South Bloomfield, Ohio

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14,

1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Come and join the fun -- music, souvenirs, good food, things to buy. Your favorite musical groups are donating their time, all to benefit the unique and beautiful Octagon House, Pickaway County's national treasure!

See you there!

November, 2003

OCTAGON HOUSE KICKOFF A HUGE SUCCESS!

Close to 300 people met to hear facts about the Octagon House and then toured the house itself. Stuart Sharpnack, president, welcomed all and introduced speakers Wally Higgins, who explained the architecture and history of octagon houses; Amy Curtiss Davidoff, who returned to Circleville to tell of the impact of growing up in a town with a building of this importance; and Franklin Conaway, spokesperson for Roundtown Conservancy, who told those present what could happen without their support, asked everyone to sign petitions and write letters to help "Save the Octagon!"

We ask all who read this to also write, asking that Wal-Mart take an active part in saving this unique and important national treasure. Send your letters to:

Mr. H. Lee Scott

President and CEO

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

702 S. W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AK 72712

RTG at the Pumpkin Show

Pumpkin Show sales of t-shirts, sweatshirts, note cards and buttons went very well. Many people visited our "Save the Octagon!" site, signed petitions and received information which, we are sure, resulted in the huge crowd at the kickoff. Our special thanks to MARK COHEN for allowing us the use of his dance studio, and to WAYNE MALOTI for donating Octagon House buttons, and to DALE HERREN of Red Barn who designed our great looking shirts.

CLEAN-UP DAYS

The Kickoff could not have happened without the back -breaking work of the teams who cleared away brush and removed the enormous amount of debris from the interior of the house. As members, we expected to push ourselves to the edge, but we want to acknowledge helpers outside the membership: TONY ELLIS, who brought in his bush hog and cleared a large area, LORIBETH KOWALSKI who worked along with us, as did CHRIS HARRELL, CHARLES DAVIS, ANDREA BENNEDETI, NOAH KROUSE, ZACHARY KROUSE, ANDREW KARST, SKIPPY GREENO, KAY EGBERT, SHANE PARSON and JAMES BURCHFIELD. THANK YOU ALL!

October, 2003

HISTORY LOOKS AHEAD WORK HAS BEGUN!

A small but valiant crew is clearing and cleaning around and inside the Octagon House in preparation for the Kickoff on October 25.

SILENT AUCTION

Local artists have been generous and we will hold a silent auction of their works to raise money for the Octagon House. Look for the pictures at our Pumpkin Show site. Bids begin at \$100.

KICKOFF TO BE OCTOBER 25

A kickoff for preserving the Octagon House will be Saturday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the Clarke-May Museum, corner of W. Union and S. Scioto Streets. There will be information on the house's history and its future, opportunities to bid on art and buy items to aid in preserving the house, and a tour of the Octagon house itself. Join the celebration!

VISIT OUR PUMPKIN SHOW LOCATION

Volunteers will be present at 149 W. Main St. (Simply Dancing) during Pumpkin Show to sell Octagon House items, take bids on art works and answer questions. We'll be open 10:00 - 4:00 on Wed., Thurs. and Fri. and until 1:00 Sat.