

Fitchburg Historical Society

MAY
1990



JUNE GENERAL MEETING

In years gone by, summer fun was almost certain to include an ice cream social on the family event calendar. Some things never change...please mark Sunday, June 10 on your calendar for the Fitchburg Historical Society general meeting and ice cream social beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Greenfield Park (off Irish Lane).

Members are being asked to bring their favorite dessert as a dish to pass, as well as plates and utensils for their family. We will provide the ice cream and pink lemonade as well. Come prepared to play croquet or to challenge a fellow member to a game of horseshoes. We will have a brief business meeting at 2:00 and adjourn to the ice cream and games.

But that's not all! We also want to remind you to be sure and bring your sun-bonnet or your straw hat to this event. That's right, we are looking forward to seeing those old hats come out of storage. Maybe you have a hat that grandma wore to ice cream socials or grandpa wore on Sundays. Maybe it's a chapeau you used to wear a few years ago, and just could not throw away. Any fancy or utilitarian hat will do. Naturally, we will take some time to "show and tell" and share the stories or memories associated with the hat that you bring.

Please make sure you join us for some historical summer fun, Sunday, June 10.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY COMPLETED

Once again, thanks to the efforts of Arlene Ace, our new membership directories are completed and will be available at the June meeting.

Welcome to our new members and welcome back to all of you who have renewed your membership. We now have 92 members!!

We also want to recognize those businesses who have paid for membership at our business/professional level. They are: Tom Mohs - Placon Corporation, Robert Shea - Wingra Stone Co., and Joe Zuravle - Jones Intercable. We appreciate your continued support.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE UPDATE

On May 8, 1990, the City Council unanimously approved Chapter 29, the Historic Preservation Ordinance, which had been introduced in August 1989.

The ordinance provides for the creation of a Landmarks Preservation Commission which will review, hold public hearings and make designation recommendations regarding historical buildings and sites within the City of Fitchburg.

In response to concerns expressed during public hearings on the ordinance, the Council also voted to include an amendment to the ordinance which will create a Historic Preservation Fund. This fund would receive money earmarked for preservation from grants, donations and other funding sources, including monies designated during the yearly budget process. Such funds may be issued on a grant basis to persons who may request financial assistance in order to maintain their historically designated property in the manner prescribed by the ordinance.

Other provisions of the amendment would require that no grants may be submitted for consideration until July 1, 1995 or until monies in the account total at least \$5,000, whichever occurs first.

The establishment of this fund will allow the City to accept grant funds from preservation agencies when funding is available to local levels of government, as well as donations from any interested individuals or organizations.

As a gesture of support for this grant fund provision, the Historical Society Board voted at the May Board meeting to donate \$100.00 to the City to be placed in this grant fund account.





FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2421 West Hill Dr.
Fitchburg, WI 53711



RE-SALE RE-VISITED

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our fund raiser re-sale at the Fitchburg Ridge. Thank you to those of you who found some bargains and purchased items as well. Once all the sales are totaled, we will have made almost \$230.00.

At the recent Board meeting we discussed this event and decided that it was successful enough to warrant another attempt at it next year, possibly in conjunction with one of the Fitchburg neighborhood garage sales. So don't throw anything interesting away...just slide it into a corner and tag it for next year's Historical Society Re-Sale, okay?!

Our workers for the re-sale included Arlene Ace, Darrell Ace, Bill Kinney, Winnie Lacy, Al Colvin, Ellen Green, Stan Cross, Janet Keenan, Bob Keenan, Eric Amlie, Marge Amlie, Bill Stoneman, Connie Darling, Linda Rusch and Patricia Delker. We appreciate your efforts!!!

OBSERVATORY REPORT COMPLETED

In 1989, a member of the Madison Astronomical Society approached the City with the offer to turn over the Society's deed to the Oscar Mayer Observatory (located on the hill overlooking Fitchburg Center) to the City with the expectation that the City would preserve the historic structure.

The City Council requested that the Mayor appoint a Select Committee to study the possible assumption of responsibility for the observatory. The Committee consisted of Patricia Delker (chr.) as President of the Historical Society, Alderperson Roger Tesch, and Orrie Lokken, representing the Parks Commission. The report of the Committee has now been completed and has been submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

In addition to providing a brief history of the building, the report makes seven recommendations which include, that because of the unique historical character of the structure, the City should make arrangements to accept the deed to the observatory from the Astronomical Society with the intent of stabilizing and preserving the structure.

Other recommendations include that efforts be made to retain the building at its present site, make initial repairs prior to the onset of Winter 1990, and seek funding sources within the community for long term renovation projects.



This photograph shows the framework of the Capitol dome under construction, about 1911. Does anyone know of Fitchburg residents who worked on the Capitol?

---photo courtesy of Mrs. Donald Gill

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

State Historical Society Affiliate Member cards were distributed at our April general meeting. As one of the 240 historical organizations affiliated with the State Historical Society, every member of our society automatically becomes an Affiliate Member of the state's Historical Society.

The membership cards entitle you to a 10% discount for admission to any of the seven historical sites owned by the State Historical Society. To receive the discount, you will be asked to show your cards each time you visit a site.

Also, each Affiliate Member card includes an invitation to join the State Historical Society as a regular member. For each person from the Fitchburg Historical Society who becomes a new member of the State Historical Society, our organization will receive \$5.00.

If you did not receive your card in April, they will also be available at the June meeting.

