

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 18, No. 1

Batavia, IL, P.O. Box 15

(It's time to renew your membership!)

Regular Open Meeting

Time: February 13, 1977

3:00

Business Meeting

3:30

Social Hour

4:00

Program

Place: The Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: Demonstrations of Handicrafts:

1. Basket Weaving: Mr. Arnold Baumez, who learned his craft in Germany, first as an apprentice worker in reeds and then as a master, gives an informational demonstration and description of his techniques. His products are handsome.
2. Weaving and Spinning: Mrs. Don Wolf and Mrs. Clayton keep up a running chatter about their activities as they explain the whole clothmaking process. The end products are soft and beautiful ... and desirable.
3. If time permits, Lorraine Baxter will demonstrate macrame; she's very skillful. It is through her courtesies that these artisans were engaged.

(Let's hope for good weather, for their things must be transported from Aurora in a truck).

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Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of two of the finest men that the Society ever enrolled, namely, Evan D. James and Philip Carlson, both of whom recently died. Batavia has no citizens more upright, honorable, or amiable. They will be missed greatly.

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Historical Notes

The Pond Bridge: Pete Swanson's search for a picture of the Pond Bridge, as it was called in an 1885 fire map, has an interesting background. The present shopping center was a slough in 1834-5 and owned by young Mr. Joel McKee. (This was in the days when he still lived in a log cabin, a long time before he was wealthy enough to build his fine Italianate home, the present Wm. Hall home at 345 North Batavia Avenue). He was not a member of the "adventurers," a partnership of York staters, who unbeknownst to him got a franchise from the state to build a dam. These men, VanNortwick, Alanson House (202 Adams), Colonel Barker (508 N. Washington) and Churchill (Elm and Water) tried to purchase the swamp of McKee and did acquire it finally for they knew that the holder could construct a second dam, giving keen competition to the upriver dam. They transformed the slough into a pond by first draining it and then dumping the dirt in back of the present Junior High School. They built a mill race at the southwest corner, ultimately furnishing power to run the large paper mill (Batavia Container), the U. S. Windmill and Pump Company (south end abutting First Street) (still standing) and the paper bag company (Foland Bowling Alleys).

In 1876 a bridge with stone arches replaced the embankment so that one could merrily skate under the arches to the north end of the pond. In about 1905 the bridge was widened . . . the skaters still swooping happily under the arches which now had concrete pillars beside the

limestone ones to support the wider bridge. Mr. Swanson, employed by Rempe Sharpe and Associates to widen Wilson Street, and responsible for the drawing of construction, needed a picture to corroborate his boyhood memory. Two were helpful, one contributed by Mrs. Warden of Kaneville and another with sharp details given by Mr. Robert Popeck. A conversation with Mr. Claude Hanson, who worked with Supervisor Lamb on the project, gave more assistance.

All this was needed because when the pond was filled in, about 1964, to make the shopping center, the bridge was covered. The construction drawing could not be found in order to connect the wider Wilson Street with the old bridge supports. Thanks to the newspapers' stories, the puzzle was solved.

The Old Church School: Call it what you may, according to your association with it: the first Methodist Church built in 1852; the church-school purchased by the Board of Education in 1888 (Miss Grace McWayne had the primary grades taught in this building because she thought that the little ones should be separated from the "big" people in the big beautiful Victorian limestone West side school); the manual training building; the School for Exceptional Children, and then back to classroom use again until it was rightfully declared unsafe as a school. It still remains one of the most beautiful structures in the Fox Valley, both because of its Greek Revival design and because of the excellence of its workmanship.

Now it is on the market. What to do with it? It may be transferred privately on negotiated terms to another tax-supported institution or it must be sold at public auction . . . that's the law. The Historical Society is sponsoring discussions that hopefully, through the joint efforts of several groups, will result in a financially sound program. One meeting was held January 20. Another open meeting will be conducted February 8, at 12:30 in the Batavia Public Library. All persons are invited, especially those with \$60,000, an idea as to its profitable use, or information as to a group that might possibly rent an upstairs room for a continuous period of time, for regular meetings or for occasional conferences. Information as to possible money grants is welcome.

MONEY! MONEY!

The Historical Society extends thanks to Harold Miller for auditing the treasurer's books and finding them correct.

The Society awaits the opportunity to thank you, February 13, when you pay your dues . . . or they may be mailed to P.O. Box 15, Batavia . . . \$3.00 single; \$5.00 tandem.

MOST IMPORTANT . . . The Batavia Depot Museum will be closed during the month of February because of the bitter cold weather.

Warmly, L.G.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 18, No.2.

Batavia, Illinois P. O. Box 15

Regular Open Meeting

Time: Sunday, April 17, 1977

Place: First Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall

Activities:

1. 3:00 P.M. - Business Meeting.
2. 3:30 P.M. – Program: "Batavia in 1870". Speaker: Jean Humphrey (Mr. Murray)

Mrs. Humphrey has analyzed the 1870 census to discover pertinent facts about the people in our town in that year under specific categories, namely ethnic origins, occupations, real estate holdings, numbers in families, etc. She tots it all up on a computer but is interested in the population not as numbers but as individuals. She will not present a stylized lecture as such but will discuss the subject with the audience in order to discover anecdotal understandings or corrections, - yes, corrections. For instance, the record has Nelson Burr (318 N. Van Buren) as Nelson Buss.

Mrs. Humphrey's preparation is excellent: a B.S. from Wisconsin, an M.A. from Northern Illinois University, and work towards a doctorate by the same institution. (Judge Samuel Drake Lockwood is her research topic).

She teaches political science and local history at Waubensee Community College.

3. 4:30 P.M. - Refreshments served by members of the Baptist Church under the chairmanship of Herbert and Lucille Carlson.

At the last Batavia Historical Society board meeting, it was decided that the refreshment hosts and hostesses should be compensated for their expenses. It was felt that a few people had taken more than their share of such responsibilities and that more members should be involved.

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The Batavia Historical Society has a copy of the 1850 census. (Jean had promised us a print-out of the 1870 census too). It is fun to read. The names are intriguing. Of course, there are the simple ones like Lee, Mack, Smith and Clapp, and familiar names such as Town, Van Nortwick and McKee, but there's also the name of one of the two resident peddlers, Cephas Astran. Seremius Parce was a pearl asher, whatever that is. And Makepeace, one of the original land developers, a contentious group, just couldn't cope. And then there's John Acres, a farmer. Of a population of 892, there were 12 blacksmiths, 10 coopers, and 3 "gentlemen".

The ethnic origins or places of birth are interesting. 337 were New Yorkers.

Mrs. Donovan recently gave the society a map of Manchester, New York, source of many Batavia settlers. (The society has an early map where the designation is "Manchester" and in 1839, Will Van Nortwick headed a letter to his son in Fort Edward, New York "Manchester." Instead of Manchester, however, Judge Isaac Wilson named the town after his own home town -- Batavia.) 222 came from elsewhere in Illinois, and 46 came from Vermont. (We are corresponding with the president of the Stratford Historical Society. The Youngs came from there, as did Daniel Hyde and several others apparently.) 67 came from Canada; Jean Humphrey will explain that. But the amazing and wonderful thing is that there were 54 who had come from Ireland, and how badly they were needed, especially as stone-cutters! And how much they needed the potatoes which had continued to

be produced from the first bushel of seed potatoes which Christopher Payne had brought with him so that none of the new settlers need starve during the first difficult winters. There were no Swedes at that time, although the story was different in 1870.

Mrs. Humphrey has organized her computations and deductions with the aid of a computer, John Gustafson's organizations were along the same categories, but much more time-consuming. It would be interesting to put the two lists on computer to see how many families here still here after the 20 year lapse in time. Perhaps we can do that.

An article in the Beacon-News the other evening stated that Winfield was a strong community because there were many families who had been there for several generations, giving continuity. A quick recall, with little research, gives these families who were probably living in Batavia in 1870 or before:

<u>Forbears</u>	<u>Present Day</u>
1. C. B. Conde	Neal Conde family
2. Ebenezer Bradley	William Buchanan, West Chicago
3. Daniel Hyde	Bert Hyde family
4. O. M. Tomle	Richard Thomle
5. Theodore Wood	Walter Wood
6. Amos Burton	Mary Chapman
7. Will Van Nortwick	Bill and John Van Nortwick
8. Martin White (Weisgerber)	Marion Bohr
9. Adin Mann	Forrest Mann
10. George Weaver	Roy Weaver family
11. Joseph Burton	Joseph Burton, Geneva
12. General Thompson Mead	Ora Mead
13. J. E. Derby	Malcolm Derby
14. Charles Schimelpfenig	Schimelpfenig family
15. James Mair	Hugh Mair family
16. Lawrence Barker	?
17. Nelson Wolcott	Oliver Wolcott, Doris Hagner
18. Dr. R. J. Patterson	?
19. James Stewart	Grace Oregon
20. Charles Shumway	Eunice Shumway

We are sure this list is incomplete and inaccurate. Where are the Irish?

There were 46 Swedes here in 1870. Who are their descendants? Those whose names are here or whose names should be here, please attend April 17th. We need your information. (By the way, cultural roots may be largely the knowledge of others' family roots.)

All this reminds me of a third grade class I visited the other day. We talked about roots: vegetable, family, and cultural. Those kids had made family trees going back several generations! It is thrilling to see how enthusiastic Batavia school children are about their local history. Their teachers do a good job.

Speaking of genealogy, the Batavia Park Board is presenting a course in genealogy four Thursdays at 3:00 P.M. beginning April 6th. A reservation has been made in the name of the Batavia Historical Society. If interested in attending, please call Lucile Gustafson, 879-1212. We need more information as to organize the society's materials so that it can be available for researchers. We have frequent calls for information that we do not have the resources or time to investigate properly. Can anyone help with this one?

Clara Reiter, born in July, 1903, would like to know the street where she was born. Any information? If so, call 879-1212.

Old Structures Again

Bill Van Nortwick says he agonizes at night about the possibility of the old church school and Bellevue being destroyed -- many of us do. There is a conference in Glen Ellyn April 16th concerning the preservation of old structures and several Historical Society members and interested persons are attending. Briefly, the program includes three sessions beginning at 9:30 A.M. Session 1, the new Illinois Preservation Act by Scully, the National Register coordinator, Grants possible; Session 2, Historical Markers, how to set up; and Session 3, Lunch at Stacey's tavern (luncheon and tour). Call Lucile Gustafson at 879-1212 today if interested. The total cost, including luncheon, is \$4.75.

This project is sponsored by the Congress of Historical Societies and Museum. There will be a group of Batavia Historical Society members attending. It is important that we be informed. Real estate people, city officials and other concerned persons should be there.

Art Exhibit at the Depot Museum

If you feel a need to burst with pride, visit the present exhibit, and you will. By the way, acting as docent (a \$25.00 word!) at the museum is anything but boring. Where else can you entertain out of town guests without having to furnish refreshments? Our guests love the place. We do need the assistance of our newer and younger members.

Sad News

Mrs. Lucille Young Barkdoll died Sunday. Her forbears came to this area in the 1850's. She would have been included in the list on page 2. She has a son living in Maryland. Her father was named Justin Young after their next door neighbor in Stratford, Vermont, Justin Morrell, who established land grant colleges in 1862.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS TO BECOME OLD TIMERS BY ATTENDING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING APRIL 17 AT 3:00 P.M. AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH. AND PLAN TO PAY YOUR DUES, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO.

I'll be seeing you . . .

L(ucile) G(ustafson)

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 18, No.3

September 1977

Batavia, Illinois

Published by the Batavia Township Historical Society

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Regular Open Meeting - Time: Sunday, September 11, 1977, 3:00 P.M.

Place: Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: From Negro Spirituals to Modern Black Music
Mrs. Grace Oregon, Pianist and soloist *

Comments on the Blacks in Batavia

Business Meeting: Current Projects
Fiscal Situation

Social Hour: Tea and cookies . . . or maybe coffee. Please take this opportunity to greet old friends and to meet new members. Also you are invited to sign up as hosts and hostesses. Those who cannot serve may wish to make a contribution to the iron pot.

*Note: Mrs. Oregon is a musician with unusual talent, performing in an area that Batavians seldom hear. Be sure the concert is announced in your church bulletins. It will be a real treat.

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MESSAGE RELAY

Docents

A lot of different people have a variety of messages to forward to you. Jean Conde, chairman of volunteers, says that only 57 members out of a total of about 350 have acted as hosts and hostesses . . . docents to you. No one is more important to the success of the Depot Museum than a hospitable and informed guide. Most Saturdays and all Sundays are busy days for the volunteers. Our visitors come from a wide area to see our museum and the displays, Chicago suburbs principally, although there are frequent visitors from other states and occasionally one from a foreign country. Almost without exception they are charming people whom we would be pleased to entertain in our own homes. It is desirable to use couples Sunday afternoons because they tend to be social occasions and because the hours are later (3 - 5 P.M.).

Weekdays, i.e., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (2 - 4 P.M.) are busy in a different way. Visitors are fewer but Carla Hill can always keep you busy at the work table in the library stamping magazines or making out accession cards. Certain saintly souls report every month as regular as clockwork for their two hour stint. Please phone Jean (870-3646) to volunteer your services.

ArchiCenter

Miss Mary Snow has graciously agreed to undertake a delightful but responsible task. Mrs. Victoria Matranga wrote the Society inviting Batavia to present a 45-minute illustrated lecture concerning the transformation of our local CB&Q station into a viable, effective, charming museum. Mary will present it as more than a joint project of the Park Board and the Historical Society . . . as a venture and adventure of the whole town. Her topic will be "Bring the Past into the Future: the Batavia Depot." The talk will be presented September 21 at 12:15 in conjunction with a presentation by the Smithsonian Institution, no less. This is surely one of

the greatest honors that our town has received. The Society will prepare about 2000 free handouts about our experience. Now here is the request: Wally Cunningham and Mary took four rolls of pictures at the museum Saturday, August 26 . . . interior views of current exhibits, racks of costumes, trash and treasures being processed, as well as exterior views. But she also needs colored slides of the station at its old east side site and in transit October 10, 1974. If you have any that she might choose to use, please phone her at 879-5705, the museum at 879-1800 or L.G. at 879-1212.

Program

Mrs. George Autenreith (Yvonne), our talented program chairman, has a request. She would like to work with a different corps for each successive meeting. She solicits your cooperation. She is directing our attention to the people of Batavia, chiefly as concerns our cultural heritage. You know that Grace Oregon will present a program of Black music at the next meeting, September 11. In December we shall enjoy Elizabethan music by the madrigal singers. In February we shall learn of the part that industrialists have and are playing in our town. The Easter program in April will feature some Easter music and different Easter customs. If you are moved to volunteer, you may see Yvonne at the next meeting or you may call the museum, 879-1800.

Historic Documents

Charles Ohleson, our cataloguer of documentary materials, compliments us on our rich treasure of source materials. He considers us fortunate in having predecessors who knew what was worth saving. Every few days as he sorts "Junque" into piles of relative value, he comes across extremely valuable items. (Fortunately for us he is a true scholar who can recognize the unusual and valuable). Presently there is on display in the Gustafson library original poll books of 1860 and 1864 when Lincoln was elected pres dent. There is even a tally sheet recording votes as we always did in pre-computer days with four lines and a cross bar. Above the case is a lithograph of The Wigwam, the meeting place for the 1860 Republican convention when Lincoln was nominated. This was collected by N. P. Gustafson.

One day Chuck said, "Look at this receipt. It is dated 1851 and is acknowledgment of payment toward a \$100. purchase of CB&Q stock by Spencer Johnson." Again, in with these road tax tolls was an original Van Nortwick letter. All such documents are filed in a special notebook between mylar sheets and kept in the fireproof safes.

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Cooperation

We quote Dispatch, the Illinois State Historical Society publication, Series 4, Number 27: "The Batavia Township Historical Society (eastern Kane County) reports considerable success in its work because of the cooperation of various local and statewide organizations and agencies. With a membership now totalling 350 . . . including several city officials . . . in a community of 10,000, the Society had the cooperation of the fire department (in the hydrant decoration for the Bicentennial), the city council (in a windmill photographic contest at the Society's train depot museum), the park board (for providing the museum building . . . the Society furnished artifacts, money and volunteer workers), the Landmarks Preservation Council ("in a very successful preservation"), a local bank (paying for printing a historic calendar), and the Illinois Department of Conservation (in a program of historic house recognition)."

Presently we are involved in several cooperative efforts. One of these is the creation of an interesting display through the united efforts of a bank, the schools, and the Depot Museum. We expect that the public will find them of value and interest. Posters concerning each of our local

schools are being assembled. For instance, the one concerning the Louise White School will show photographs of the four latest principals, pictures of the two limestone buildings and the new site, and photographs of the two groups of school children, one of persons now grandparents, and the other, of their modern counterparts. They will first be shown in the Batavia Bank and then probably in the schools and the Depot.

The new McDonald's is to adopt the depot theme. The walls will be decorated with pictures of early Batavia industrial and railroad history, and probably murals of the 1872 lithographs. We have assisted interior designers with pictorial materials frequently.

Dr. Lindsay Baker from Lubbock, Texas is writing a book on windmills. He spent two days studying and copying valuable materials he had found nowhere else. He got a lead on Batavia when he read John Gustafson's Historic Batavia in the Library of Congress. He found especially valuable a huge scrapbook of original materials collected by the Larson-Becker Company. He will return the courtesy by making xerox copies of windmill material about Batavia that we do not have, such as a monograph prepared by Ed Parre on windmill dynamics for the U. S. Wind Engine and Pump Co.

Several members of the Batavia Township Historical Society are playing important roles in the public buildings committee, Dave Sawitoski and Carl Hinds representing us directly.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce Board luncheon meeting we offered our assistance to them in their project. Inquiries for information still reach the society via the Chamber of Commerce and the City Hall. The latest was a request for information as to the origin of the name of Batavia. In answering we added information about three other names we had: Big Woods, Lowell, and Manchester.

FINALE

Every visitor to the museum receives an art map of historic structures, a folder about the museum, and a brief history of Batavia. We are enclosing a copy of the latter with this letter. If you have no need of it, please give it to someone who would enjoy it.

Mr. Wm. Davidson, great grandson of Judge Lockwood, visited the museum last Sunday. (Have you come lately . . . or ever?)

See you Sunday, September 11, at 3:00 P.M. at the Civic Center to hear Mrs. Grace Oregon sing spirituals.

As ever, L.G.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 18, No. 4

Batavia, IL P.O. Box 15

Regular Open Meeting

December 11, 1977

Time: Sunday, December 11, 1977 at 3:00 P.M.

Place: Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT - BATAVIA'S CHURCHES

Date	Church	Contribution
1835	The Congregational	Christmas Carol
1836	United Methodist	Memories - The Messiah
1836	First Baptist	Scripture, St. Luke II, 1-20
1842	Calvary Episcopal	Scripture, St. Matt. II, 1-14
1854	Holy Cross Catholic	Lighting of Advent Candle by Santa Lucia
?	Faith Church - Brethren	Christmas Carol
1871	Evangelical Covenant	Old Time Church Christmases Swedish
1872	Bethany Lutheran	Christmas Carol
1882	Immanuel Lutheran	German Lullaby
1951	Logan Street Baptist	Memories
1955	Trinity Chapel	Go Tell It On the Mountain
1970 ?	Baptist Chapel	Christmas Wish
1972-75	Fox Valley Christian	Christmas Greetings

Business Meeting: Brief

Social Hour: A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Dues are Due

Jean: "Only about half the membership have paid their dues. You tell them."

Dave: "We're spending money like crazy. We have to get some in!"

Some expenditures are from committed funds not affected by membership fees. Your society paid to the Batavia Park Board \$970.00 for memorial trees planted in honor of various members. There are beautiful plates designating specific trees. Also memorial funds have been spent to buy a much needed bookcase and some books. But as for operating expenses round figures:

Insurance on artifacts	\$196.00
Police protection system	200.00
Newsletters and mailing	100.00
Museum office supplies	100.00

Magazines and books	\$50.00
Booklets given to school libraries	75.00
Free materials about Batavia	250.00
(This totals to 4000 pamphlets)	
Acid-free files and boxes	200.00
Issuance of Old Batavia II	200.00

Note: None of these expenses are covered by any tax levy. They add up to a lot of money. It represents our contribution to the pride and understanding of Batavia by Batavians and by a lot of non-Batavians. I guess we had better pay our dues:

Singles - \$3.00, Tandem - \$5.00; Life - \$50.00; Donation - ?

We may pay at the next meeting, December 11 or mail to Batavia Historical Society, P.O. Box 15.

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Batavia Depot Museum News

Docents: Jean Conde is doing a marvelous job in organizing docents for the Museum. It is they who are hosts and hostesses to the great number of visitors (250-350 a month) who enjoy our museum. Without them the museum could not operate. Volunteers all. Many of them retired women.

Now here is an edict. Unless twelve couples, a man and a woman, offer to spend two hours: any one Sunday at the museum from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M., the museum will not be open those Sundays for which there are no volunteers. Why? Winter visitors may well be different in numbers and interests. Last year during the skating season an influx of visitors tended to arrive just before closing time. The new restaurant may well bring more guests, many more hopefully. At 5:00 P.M. the weather, if cold, darkness has set in, and the roads are often slippery. We cannot expect women to "man" the museum alone under such circumstances -- we would feel guilty if anything "untoward" happened. And so, couples, please call either 879-3646 or 879-1212 for one Sunday. It is your responsibility to offer, not ours to beg. Incidentally, this is fun!

Old/New Clothes: The Batavia Historical Society owns quite an extensive collection of beautiful costumes now in the museum. You saw Mrs. Ethel Lewis Bartelt admiring her 67 year old wedding dress when she visited the museum the other day. (Chronicle picture) Shirley Lindgren Hoover, by the way, has offered to "do it up" so that it may again look bright and fresh. Two weeks ago we received a valuable collection of clothes when the Brogden house was emptied -- Mrs. Walter (furniture) Carlson's beautiful dresses, velvet cloaks and her daughter's baby clothes and graduation gowns. Then last week came another bonanza, without a doubt one the most valuable artifacts, namely, the wedding gown once belonging to Martha VanNortwick, daughter of John Smith VanNortwick. He was the brother of the VanNortwick who lived in the newer of the two stone houses on Batavia Avenue. He lived in the present Gustafson home from about 1873 to 1893. It was brought to us by Mary Burton Chapman; her grandmother was Mary VanNortwick.

Documentary Materials: We are blessed to have a rich store of original and very early documents. When Ann Alexander was here she started to organize the mishmash of materials. We have been complimented on the care that we are able to give our materials. The Park Board has procured the services of Charles Ohlson to act as curator so that the materials may be readied for research. He spoke to the Historical Society Board the other evening as to what he had accomplished and the process of establishing the Gustafson Library in the museum. A new/old bookcase to hold materials has been purchased with money donated by the Class of 1947. The Society has no right to accept important books and papers unless they are protected and yet made available for study.

Merry Christmas: Come visit the museum during the Christmas Season. Under the leadership of Carla Hill little Brownies and Girl Scouts are really decorating it up!

Closed: December 11 (meeting date) and Christmas Day. Special Open House Sunday, December 18.

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Historic Batavia

Well Deserved Commendations

The Batavia Chamber of Commerce is certainly to be congratulated on its current project of recreating Batavia Past with appropriate antiques and Christmas decorations. The merchants are responding enthusiastically with beautiful windows. As for Batavia Christmas of the Present, the prize goes to the Woodland Hills and 14th Colony guys and gals on their luminaria venture. They expect to sell 12,000 this year, the profits to go to some worthy project. The candles, sacks, and sand will be for sale at the Depot Museum on December 2, from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. and from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. the next day, Saturday. Give your home a facelift this Christmas. By the way, if there should be any candles remaining, they will be for sale the following weekend.

Some of our fellow citizens have certainly “put it on the line” while the rest of us remain critical or just apathetic (which may be worse) as far as conservation of Old Batavia is concerned. The Downtowners are certainly to be admired in that they have “saved” two old limestones, which are now ready for occupancy. More recently, of course, Schielke, Beck, and Richter have purchased the range of four buildings on the south side of the island. Most recently, Donali's is buying the old E. H. Gammon place (Johnson Funeral Home to you). They will all need renters. Do any of you have information or influence that can help? The havoc played on the old Newton Wagon Works (Batavia Body Company to you) is a lesson to all of us as to what is apt to happen under absentee landlordism. We feel the present aspect of the old Church School (McWayne School Annex) has been saved. We're still trembling about the ultimate fate of the old Bellevue Place.

New Batavia residents are doing a fine job in restoring some of our beautiful older homes. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are searching for old pictures of 345 N. Batavia Ave. so that they may properly restore that home. Can anyone help? The McIntyres face the herculean task of restoring the old Judge Isaac Wilson house on East Wilson and Prairie. Some renter-bandit

tore out the beautiful old walnut staircase. They even hope to remove the old asbestos siding some day. The George Pierces from Lombard will soon call the old Pahnke house on Elm Street home. The present owners of the beautiful Italianate Frank E. George Hoag house on Prairie and the Gothic limestone Garson-DuFour-Peckworth house on Washington have undergone interior refurbishing. We understand that their ceilings are so high that even tall sons need paintbrushes attached to long handles in order to reach the corners. The old Frank K. George house on Lincoln, a very rare Federal type certainly needs to be-adopted by someone who will give it TLC. The Paul Seamans on VanBuren are having to sell their Italianate (Nelson Burr house). They will sell it only to someone who will respect it. The McFeeleys are most happy in their "new" house, the old Spooner-Pinzini home on Main Street. We are grateful especially to the City Council and Public Structures for seeking viable uses for our old structures so that they may endure.

To some of you this newsletter is almost the only contact you have with this town. We appreciate your continuing interest and support. And to all of you -- MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GOOD NEW YEAR.

Lucile Gustafson

Be sure to attend Christmas Meeting, December 11.