



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Volume 21

September-October, 2001

Number 5

Hazen Bridge Sign Dedication Ceremony

A crisp autumn Sunday greeted PACA members and Richmond family friends at the September 23 ceremony to unveil the Hazen Bridge informational sign. Vice-president Trevor Jones, who designed and installed the sign, spoke on the history of the bridge and the donation by Jack and Marjorie Richmond that enabled PACA to save the bridge from demolition years ago. The following are Trevor's remarks.

The bridge spans the Sangamon River; a river that has been important to the people who lived in what is now Champaign County for centuries. This area was once home to the various members of the Illiniwek Confederation—most importantly among them were the Kaskaskia, who used the river as a source of water and food, and as a means of transportation. In the eighteenth century, Pottawatomie and the Kickapoo moved into the area, followed soon after by white settlers who were migrating north. These settlers initially lived by the riverbanks and used the trees that grew here for tools, houses, and to fence in their livestock. They farmed the bottomlands near the river, and only rarely ventured out onto the prairie. By the end of the Civil War, farmers had learned how to till under the tough prairie grasses, and, to the surprise of many, found they occupied some of the best farmland in the world.

By the 1890s, central Illinois was prosperous and the Sangamon River had gone from a valuable resource to an obstacle to be bridged. Farmers needed to cross the river as they moved their threshing machines to new fields and their grain to growing local and regional markets. The Champaign County Bridge Committee met and decided to build a structure to make it easier for residents to cross the river. In June of 1893, the County Commissioners of Highways chose the Severs Manufacturing Company of Oskaloosa,



Jack and Marjorie Richmond celebrate the dedication of the Hazen Bridge informational sign. The Richmonds donated the land on which the bridge rests to PACA, thus allowing the bridge to be preserved.

Iowa (the second lowest bidders) to construct the bridge for the then princely sum of \$4985.00. The bridge was built in Oskaloosa, partly put together, and then shipped to the site for final assembly. It has sixteen spans of the Pratt through truss type, and is 120 feet in length. Local residents were hired to put the bridge together, and current Newcomb Township Road Commissioner Richard "Whoop" Dean remembers that his great uncle made enough money working on the bridge that he was able to buy a new box wagon. Although the bridge is of a once common design, it has some unique features. The extra long approach to the bridge elevated the structure above the flood plain - and a good thing too as the Sangamon River rose over eight feet in a single day in 1914 - but the bridge was left standing. The Hazen Bridge did great service for a hundred years until plans were made for a new bridge in the early 1990s, and the Hazen Bridge was slated for destruction. The Preservation and Conservation Association stepped in to try to save the structure, and thanks to the efforts of

volunteers, the cooperation of county officials, and the generosity of Jack and Marjorie Richmond, the bridge was saved. The Richmonds have a long history in the area, Jack's grandfather, John W. Richmond, once owned the land on which the bridge stands, and I still frequently meet people who remember buying Christmas trees from the Richmonds here.

Today, we are here to dedicate a new sign commemorating the history of the Hazen Bridge. There were once many bridges like this one in Central Illinois, but their number is continually decreasing. Preserving this bridge allows us to make a concrete connection with our past and preserve a small piece of it for future generations. I'd like to thank the members of PACA, Jack and Marjorie Richmond, and Al Friederick for helping install this sign.

PACA e-mail address:

pacaexdir@home.com

PACA Receives Statewide Preservation Award

The Nathan C. Ricker House rehabilitation effort was rewarded with a Richard H. Driehaus Exceptional Advocacy Award by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI). A number of PACA members attended the ceremony where Dan Leasure and Art Zangerl, the chief contractors on the project, were honored for their efforts. John H. Stassen, Chairman of the LPCI Board of Directors spoke about the project and reason for the award:

This project is the epitome of a community-based effort, one that combined the skills and dedication of many people over several years. The Preservation and Conservation Association, or PACA, purchased the Nathan Ricker House in 1996 after it was threatened with demolition for a new apartment building. The purchase was made possible through the generosity of an anonymous lender. This lender was the first of the Ricker House's many good fairies.

Built in 1892, this Queen Anne-style house is believed to be the only residential design of Nathan C. Ricker, the longtime head of the University of Illinois' architecture and engineering departments.

PACA volunteers undertook a complete renovation of the dilapidated building's interior and exterior in order to prepare it for sale as a private residence. Aluminum siding, flimsy paneling, crumbling chimneys—this building had every preservation headache in the book. Along the way, some of the missing features were reconstructed with the help of an Endangered Building Grant from LPCI.

While working on the house, PACA was also busy placing it on the National Register of Historic Places, obtaining designation as Urbana's first local landmark, placing a preservation easement on it, and helping the new owners secure a local property tax assessment freeze.

Now do you see why this project goes beyond rehabilitation?

Membership Certificates Available

PACA has designed an attractive membership certificate for those members who would like to display their preservation affiliation. The certificates are free to members and are available at the architectural salvage warehouse. Stop by and ask for yours any Saturday morning or Wednesday evening.



Dan Leasure and Art Zangerl accept a LPCI Richard H. Driehaus Exceptional Advocacy Award for their Ricker House rehabilitation on behalf of PACA. LPCI President, David Bahlman holds the award.

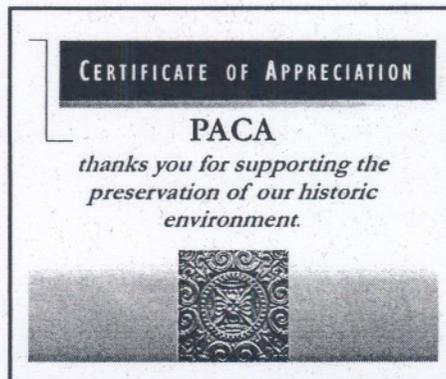
Lindley House Addendum

The article on the Lindley House in the last newsletter compressed the recent history of the house and neglected to mention the ownership of the Dunns. The house, at 312 W. Green, Urbana, was built in 1892 for Dr. and Mrs. Austin Lindley; they lived there until 1922. Mrs. Lindley left the house to her niece, Ida Hubbard Fisher and her husband Guy in 1935. The Fisher's sold the house to John and Grace Grob, who had a well-known interior decorating business. In turn, the Grob's sold the house to Walter and Eleanor Bennett and Joseph and Lou Laughlin in 1961. Crossroads Realty Company and the Country Store Stationers Shop were housed in the residence. Doris Dunn was a partner in Crossroads Realty and acquired an interest in the house in 1970; she and her husband Donald Dunn took sole ownership of the business and house in 1974. Crossroads Realty continued to do business at 312 West Green and the house also held various law offices. The

Dunns rehabilitated the house during their tenure, including scraping the exterior down to bare wood and repairing deteriorated elements. Doris Dunn's love of the house is shown in the three-inch thick binder she compiled on the history of the house, including pictures of the interior and exterior. The Dunns sold the house to the Conservatory of Music in 1986. This history, and the original Rudolph Gill blueprints for the house, were passed onto the current owners of Lindley House, Carolyn and Norman Baxley in 1996.

New Board Member

Due to an overseas move, newly elected PACA Director Dan Shapiro resigned his position. At the September Board meeting, the PACA Board appointed Robert Nemeth to fulfill Shapiro's unexpired term. Nemeth was born and raised in Urbana and now lives in Sadorus; he is an independent architect. Three board positions will expire in 2002; PACA members are encouraged to nominate (or self-nominate) members to the board. Board members are elected at the Annual Membership Meeting and serve a three year term. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the evening. Call PACA if you are interested in serving.



Heritage Award Nominations Sought

The Heritage Award Committee is seeking nominations for the 2002 Heritage Awards. Categories include residential, commercial, institutional, landscape, and landmark projects. Special Heritage Awards are also given to individuals who have worked to preserve a special aspect of our heritage or who have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community. The nomination process is quick and easy; a form is enclosed with this newsletter. Self-nominations are encouraged, especially for construction related projects.

President Dan Leasure has appointed three members of the PACA Board to serve on the 2002 Heritage Award Committee, but is also seeking one or two PACA members-at-large to serve. The Committee selects winners in various categories from preservation projects throughout the county. A time commitment of two to three evenings in January and February is all that is required. Please call PACA if you are interested in serving on the committee.



PACA members and friends help celebrate at the Third Annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation Party.

Membership Party

Weeks of cleaning and organizing the warehouse paid off for the PACA members who attended the third annual membership party and volunteer recognition day. The salvage crew showed off new salvage acquisitions and the recently framed office and workshop. After a new ADA compliant bathroom is plumbed and electrical and phone wiring installed, the rooms will be drywalled and finished. PACA will then move its office from the Greek Revival Cottage to the warehouse and our preservation resource files and library will be accessible to the public.

PACA would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped clean and organize the warehouse for the party and Radio Maria for supplying the beer, Corkscrew Wine Emporium for supplying the wine, and Longhorn Smokehouse Barbecue for the great food. Herriott's Coffee Company supplied the coffee as it does every Saturday morning. Thanks also to Rich Cahill for organizing the event and to all of our dedicated volunteers who have contributed special efforts over the past year: Bob Swisher, Rich Cahill, Mike Miller, Dan Leasure, Darrel Foste, Kathy Reeves, Robert Nemeth, Mike Richards, Judy Skreiner, Allan Eckel, Bill Oldenweller, and Al Friederick.

Membership Application P.A.C.A.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Adult\$15.00
- Student (1/2 time or more)\$10.00
- Senior Citizen\$10.00
- Family\$20.00
- Corporate\$75.00

- NEW
- RENEWAL

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

e mail address: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: PACA, Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Lachlan F. Blair Memorial Scholarship

As reported in the last newsletter, PACA past president and long-time preservation advocate, Lachlan F. Blair, died in August. Memorial contributions in honor of Lock have been donated to PACA by friends and relatives. After consultation with his widow, Mary Blair, the PACA Board of Directors has established the Lachlan F. Blair Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will pay the conference registration fees for a member of the Champaign Historic Preservation Commission, the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, or a local citizen to attend the annual statewide preservation conference. The two to three day conference is held each fall in locations throughout the state and is sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Applications for the scholarship will be available in the summer.

Contributions to the Blair Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made to PACA.

Salvage V.I.P.'s

Bob Swisher
Rich Cahill
Mike Miller
Darrel Foste
Dan Leasure
Mike Richards
Judy Skreiner
Colleen Brodie
Nancy Coombs

Remember to check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. The date shown indicates when you last renewed; membership runs for one year from that date.

Salvage Donations

University of Illinois
First Presbyterian Church, Urbana
Paul Smith
John Deppe
Abe Lincoln Realty - Neil Foltzler
Tom Skaggs
Randy Kangas & Suzanne Bissonnette
Jacqueline Gergen

New & Renewing Memberships (received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mare & Jim Payne
Linda & Doug Mills
Mrs. Helen Levin
Mrs. Donald V. Dobbins
Dr. William D. Youngerman

Over Ten Year Members

Kathe Brinkmann & Art Zangerl
Jennifer Putman & Bruce Komadina
Ruth Miller
Pat & Harry Jensen
Jack & Marjorie Richmond
Sandra & George Batzli

Five to Ten Year Members

November & Anthony Bamert
Betsey & John Cronan
Community Development Department, City of Urbana (Corporate)
Monica J. Cox
Sue Feldman & Pius Weibel
Rita Gentry
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Brighton
Michael & Scottie Miller
Jeff & Cathy Cunningham
Suzanne Bissonnette & Randy Kangas
Sheryl & Joe DeBarr
Ellen Deason & Patrick Roberge
Joe & Phyllis Williams

One to Four Year Members

La Payne Photography (corporate)
Judy A. Skreiner
Jim Creason
Bonnie & Frank Bailen
Ray & Marilyn Harrison
Dan Ginther
A. Mark Neuman
Elizabeth Cardman
Louise Krauss
Ann Lucia Chan
Curtis Abert
Jim Proefrock & Marlo Welshons
Marty Sachs
Fran Turquette
Ron & Wendy Turner
Joan & Herman Edwards
Carol Stoddard
Randy Cox
Ilona Matkovszki & Brian Adams
Kate Hunter & Jens Sandberger
Andew Phillips & Brenda Koenig
Pat Crozter

New Members

Ippatsu Salon (corporate)
Chris Knight
R. Merle Stauffer
Phyllis & David Godwin
Brian Brauer
Linda Beale & Clifford D. Clark
Laura Curtis
Rick Stewart
Andrew Speer
The Bread Company
Anna Flanagan
Darla Hill
Denise & Rocky Phelps
Annette Schoenberg
Anthony H. Thomas
Rand Hartsell
Suzanne Bachmann
Kent Anderson

PACA Newsletter

P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

Dan Leasure, President
Trevor Jones, Vice-President
Kathy Reeves, Secretary
Richard Cahill, Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director



359-PACA: Telephone & Answering Service
website: pacacc.org

Printed on recycled paper

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHAMPAIGN, IL
PERMIT NO. 133

Protecting the Irreplaceable for 20 Years