



# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820

“The Past Has A Future”

Volume 4

September-October 1984

Number 5

## PRESERVATION ACTION NEEDED

### Christie Clinic Update

As recently announced in the news media, Christie Clinic has voted to begin the long discussed expansion program. Currently, this program involves the demolition of all the remaining buildings on the blocks fronting University and Neil streets. PACA is not opposed to the Clinic expansion. However, it is felt that there are viable economic uses for the two buildings located on the corner. These could easily house the administrative and business offices of the Clinic and perhaps other adjunct clinical functions such as the Christie Foundation and an expanded pharmacy operation. This would leave the main building exclusively for clinical functions. PACA is preparing a proposal outlining these and other suggestions that will show the potential these buildings have. In addition, there are some very lucrative tax advantages available for investors in the renovation of historic buildings; these advantages would be available to the Clinic.

The importance of these buildings does not lie just in their individual historic and architectural value, but also in the contribution that they make to the character of downtown. Does Champaign want to be known as the downtown of parking lots? That is what will replace these particular buildings; they are not in the way of the actual expanded clinic facility. The 100 block of University Avenue will be composed of one giant, barren parking lot anchored at one end by a large bank building and at the other by a large clinic facility. Parking lots may be convenient to some, but they are not inviting to pedestrians nor do they impart a very impressive visual image for a business. The retention of the two buildings on



the corner will not significantly decrease the parking potential of the Clinic, but it will help preserve the pedestrian scale of downtown Champaign and make Neil and University streets much more pleasant visually.

It is going to take much hard work to convince Christie Clinic of the merits of preserving the buildings in question. PACA is asking you to take action and call a Christie doctor to let him know your feelings about preservation. Let the Clinic administration know also. Letters to the editor of the NEWS GAZETTE and calls to City Council members would let the public at large know that there is support for preservation in this community. NOW is the time to take action. If you don't care, why should they?

### Urbana High School Update

At their September meeting, the Urbana School Board voted to adopt the 4-year high school and 2-year middle school plan. The date of implementation of this plan and which buildings

will be used was not decided at that time. The school administration is to make recommendations as to facilities for the 4-year high school at the November 20 Board meeting.

Also at the September meeting, the architects presented a detailed cost breakdown of renovation expenses for the old high school complex. Expenses were broken down according to necessary and desirable; also, it was shown which items could be renovated with life safety bonds (which do not need voter approval) as opposed to referendum taxes. Adjustments were made to the renovation cost reducing the estimated cost for the old high school slightly. Copies of this report are available from the School Board office.

The Committee to Save Urbana High School is urging everyone to call a school board member or the administration before November 20 and let them know your opinion on both the 4-2 plan and on the issue of reusing the

continued on page 2

old high school. The Committee also plans to ask the Urbana Teachers Association and the Student Senate to help in this cause.

Educationally, it has not been shown that a four year high school is better than a three year school. Even though Urbana is one of only eight other districts in the state with a three year school, it is felt by many people that the students are receiving an excellent education and that a 3-3 plan is not a handicap. Since the two schools are on the same campus, advanced students are able to take high school courses and there is interaction between all students. This would not be possible if the junior high were located at the Brookens building. In addition, the *total* cost of a switch to a 4-2 plan has not been addressed. Only the question of building renovation has been looked at and even that question has not adequately considered higher future enrollment projections.

The high school situation is a complex problem that must be addressed now. The current building is in need of renovation due to age and inadequate maintenance. It also is not in compliance with state handicap accessibility requirements. However, all of these items can be resolved and the high school could serve for another fifty years. But it will take the concern of citizens to save the building.

If you care about the high school, let people know. Decisions will be made soon!

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Superintendent Grebner | 384-3636 |
| School Board Members:  |          |
| Anna Merritt           | 344-4573 |
| Donald White           | 367-6765 |
| Carlos Donaldson       | 367-3925 |
| Dona Robinson          | 367-4735 |
| Linda Applequist       | 344-2389 |
| Robert Waaler          | 344-4628 |
| Jean Burkholder        | 384-4001 |

## NOTES

There are two exciting exhibits of central Illinois architecture currently on display in the Bloomington-Normal area. "Architectural Styles" will be shown at the University Historical Museum in Williams Hall of the ISU campus (203 School Street, Normal) until November 11. "McLean County Architecture: Presence of the Past" is at the McLean County Historical Society Museum, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington, until November 23.

PACA is currently in the planning stage of a new program aimed at people who are renovating their own homes. Hopefully, a "Homeowners Network" can be established to lend support and advice to those caught up in the seemingly never ending job of restoration. Monthly meetings are planned with a program or topic specifically related to the needs of the group. Members will be encouraged to share their experiences and problems so that others can either offer advice or avoid the same problem. Perhaps too a "hard labor" bartering system can be set up for those large, hard to handle restoration jobs. Look for more information on the new program in the near future or call PACA (359-0114) for more information or to give suggestions.

The Nomination Committee is currently seeking the names of people who would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors. The only qualification is a desire to help preserve Champaign and surrounding counties. The Board currently meets on the second Monday of each month. Three Board positions will be voted on at the annual membership meeting to be held early next year. Nominations should be relayed to Norman Baxley (384-2253) or Hermenia Kruidenier (384-5006).

## MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION

PACA was the local sponsor of the National Trust Program "Revitalizing Downtown: A National Videoconference" which was distributed to more than 440 sites in the United States and Canada. Locally, more than 30 people attended the day-long broadcast where they learned about the National Main Street Center's proven strategy for revitalization. Government officials, business people, students and citizens-at-large from Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul and Danville were represented at the conference.

The National Main Street Center has developed a strategy to help towns around the country. The Main Street approach is flexible, comprehensive, and incremental. It seeks to rebuild the image that downtown projects to shoppers, residents, investors and visitors.

By concentrating on improvements in four related areas citizens learn how to put existing resources to better use. They also learn how to build more ef-

fective public-private partnerships so that everyone who has a stake in downtown has a role to play in its revitalization.

The Four Point Approach consists of:

**Promotion**—presenting Main Street as a lively alternative to competing commercial areas and as the focal point for community events;

**Economic Restructuring**—diversifying the market appeal of Main Street by strengthening business management, recruiting new tenants, and adapting older buildings to new uses;

**Design**—enhancing the visual qualities of the buildings and public spaces that make downtown a special place, and

**Organization**—coordinating the efforts of individuals and institutions that have a stake in the downtown.

If you are interested in learning more about this program PACA has the the video conference available on both VHS and Beta format videotape. To arrange a viewing call 359-0114.

## THE PROBLEM SOLVER

This months column is devoted to the HOUSE COLLECTION available at your local library. Remember, if you have a specific restoration problem, let PACA know and our team of experts will try to find a solution for you. Call or write PACA with your problem.

**The House Collection or everything you wanted to know about home repair, construction, remodeling, and restoration (almost)**

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED . . .

What is the safe way to wire electrical outlets in bathrooms?

What should I know about foundation repair before I call a contractor?

How can I make my home more dependent on solar energy?

Can I tuckpoint my chimney myself?

Where can I find some good advice on remodeling my bathroom?

OR any of a hundred other "how-to-do-it" questions?

If you have ever had a house project or a house problem and wanted just the right book, the *House Collection* may have the information you need!

WHAT IS THE *House Collection*?

The *House Collection* is a major col-

lection of books and magazines on all aspects of home construction, maintenance, remodeling, restoration and repair. The intent of the collection is to be *comprehensive*. If you want a book we'll probably have it, and if we don't have it we'll buy it. Eventually we plan to have *everything* (almost).

#### WHO CAN USE THE COLLECTION?

Anyone with a card from a Lincoln Trail Libraries System member library. Request the materials you want at your local public library. If your home town library has a computer terminal, you can search the entire *House Collection* from right there. Forty-seven public libraries are members of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System, and any one of them can borrow books from the *House Collection* for you. Ask your local library to help you.

#### WHY HAVE A *House Collection*?

The *House Collection* is one of a group of specialized collections located in co-operating libraries in east central Illinois. These collections—part of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System "co-operative collection development" plan—are designed to provide the highly specialized books that we all want once in awhile, but that no library needs all the time.

#### WHAT MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE?

Two things. The first is automation. Without automation, specialized collections for entire areas just couldn't work. But with automation libraries can search each other's collections in minutes and request books on interlibrary loan. So you can now sit down in Urbana (for example) and see what the public libraries in Champaign, Rantoul, Monticello, and many other towns have in their collections, request the books you want, and get them in just a few days. With that kind of fast service available, libraries can rely more on each other's collections and begin to specialize.

The second is financial support. Half the cost of the *House Collection* is from a special grant from the Lincoln Trail Libraries system, which is funded by the State of Illinois. Without this support the *House Collection* would have been impossible.

You can borrow books from the *House Collection* through any one of these Lincoln Trail Libraries System member libraries:

Arcola Public Library  
Arthur Public Library  
Bement Township Library  
Casey Township Library

Catlin Public Library District  
Champaign Public Library and  
Information Center  
Charleston, Carnegie Public Library  
Chrisman Public Library  
Cisco, Willow Branch Township  
Library  
Danville Public Library  
Deland, Goose Creek Township  
Carnegie Library  
Fairmount, Vance Township Library  
Georgetown Public Library  
Gibson City, Moyer Library  
Gilman, Douglas Township Library  
Homer Community Library  
Hoopeston Public Library  
Kansas Community Memorial Library  
Loda Township Library  
Mahomet Township Public Library  
Mansfield, Blue Ridge Township Public  
Library  
Marshall Public Library  
Martinsville Township Library  
Mattoon Public Library  
Melvin Public Library  
Milford Township Public Library  
Monticello, Allerton Public Library  
Newman Township Library  
Ogden Rose Library  
Onarga Public Library  
Paris Carnegie Public Library  
Paxton Carnegie Library  
Philo Township Public Library  
Piper City Public Library  
Potomac Public Library  
Rantoul Public Library  
Ridge Farm, Elwood Township  
Carnegie Library  
St. Joseph Township Swearingen  
Memorial Library  
Sheldon Township Public Library  
Sidell District Library  
Sidney Community Library  
Tolono Township Library  
Tuscola Public Library  
Urbana Free Library  
Villa Grove, Camargo Township  
Library  
Watseka Public Library  
Westville Public Library

#### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Alice Edwards  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Zalar  
Mr. Harold Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Culbertson  
Mark Igleski  
Karen Kastein  
James Kozik  
Mr. & Mrs. James Page  
Tim Gregg

Remember, your membership dues are tax deductible and a membership in PACA is a great holiday gift idea!

#### HERITAGE AWARD

November is the last month to nominate your favorite building or site for the first annual PACA Heritage Award. Categories include:

Outstanding Heritage Contribution Award  
(Residential, commercial or institutional property which has accomplished recent renovation or restoration and is architecturally and/or historically significant.);  
Landscape Heritage Award  
(Recognition of significant landscape, related structures or landscape art.);  
Landmark Heritage Award  
(Anniversary of significant date or recent accomplishment of National Register or landmark quality building.);  
Residential Heritage Award  
(Residence of architectural and/or historical significance.);  
Institutional/Commercial Heritage Award  
(Institutional or commercial building of architectural and/or historical significance.);  
Environmental Heritage Award  
(Accomplishments for the environment or other sites such as commercial, residential, or farm outbuildings, bridges, streets, roads, alleys, signs, vehicles. Significant dates, persons, or events in northeast Illinois history can also be acknowledged.)

Winners will be announced at the annual membership meeting next year. For further information call PACA.

#### SLIDE SHOW AVAILABLE

Is your church, social or business group having a hard time coming up with program ideas? Let PACA come to your rescue.

The Cattle Bank slide show, "The Cattle Bank: Decay, Restoration and Impact," is now available for group showings. The sixteen minute program traces the history of the building and shows, in detail, the restoration process. It is narrated by radio personality Joe Roark, and has nineteenth century concert and parlor music by Neely Bruce. This one-year project was partially funded by a grant from the Champaign Arts Council and was produced by Greg Hargus, Bill Schmidt and Bruce Hannon.

Groups interested in reserving the program should call Karen Kummer, 359-0114. An honorarium is requested to help defray PACA's production costs.

## CHRISTMAS PRESERVATION IDEAS

Here are some Christmas ideas for the ardent preservationist.

*First Day*—To a friend or relative who has everything, give that person a historic downtown building plus rehabilitation plans.

*Second Day*—Buy exterior paint in any of the appropriate Victorian colors for a spring paint-up job.

*Third Day*—Plan a day at Cleveland Wrecking in Chicago looking for "delicate demolition" items to enhance the interior of your home or a friend's.

*Fourth Day*—Stocking Stuffer—A

package of 000 steel wool and a bottle of linseed oil plus working gloves.

*Fifth Day*—A gift certificate from Bix Stripping.

*Sixth Day*—Give a friend an audit course at the University of Illinois in preservation planning, history of landscape architecture, and/or history of American architecture.

*Seventh Day*—Create a limited partnership with several friends and save a historic building.

*Eighth Day*—Make an old-fashioned yule log and give as a sign of friendship.

*Ninth Day*—Give a membership to the National Trust for Historic Preser-

vation or to PACA.

*Tenth Day*—Offer to take a friend next spring on the Frank Lloyd Wright House Walk in Oak Park. Enjoy being in a historic district.

*Eleventh Day*—Give a subscription to the *Old House Journal*.

*Twelfth Day*—Treat yourself for half an hour each Sunday at 3:30 P.M. to watch "This Old House" on Channel 12.

These are suggestions for the Twelve Days of Christmas. Let your imagination fill in the other 353 days.

(reprinted courtesy of Patricia Donahoe-Petrie)



PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820

## ARTS COUNCIL OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

709 West University Avenue  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CHAMPAIGN, IL  
PERMIT NO. 618

### PACA Newsletter

Published by the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County.

**President:** Neil Strack

**Vice President:** Gregory Hargus

**Treas.:** Norman Baxley

**Exec. Director:** Karen Lang Kummer

359-0114

Please submit material for publication in the next newsletter before 15th of month.

## Membership Application P.A.C.A.



### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

#### INDIVIDUAL

- Adult ..... \$10.00
- Student (1/2 time or more) ..... \$ 5.00
- Senior Citizen ..... \$ 5.00
- Family (includes all members of a household with no more than two members being over age 21) ..... \$15.00

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

#### CIVIC

- Over 100 members ..... \$100.00
- 50-100 members ..... \$ 75.00
- Up to 50 members ..... \$ 50.00

#### CORPORATE

..... \$ 50.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street State Zip

Make check payable to: PACA, Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61820.