

NEXT MEETING: ANTIQUE IDENTIFICATION



If you have something old and have always wondered what it's worth, bring it to the next meeting for a valuable answer.

Peter Bentz, an antique dealer and professional appraiser with a store at 771 N. Jefferson St., will be the featured guest at the Historical Society's general meeting on Monday, March 31. His presentation will be based on identification of items brought to the meeting by members or their guests. Questions will be answered about the age and value of items presented.

According to Mr. Bentz, identification clinics such as the one we have planned pose interesting "improvisational situations." As part of the program, Mr. Bentz will discuss the age, construction and unique characteristics of any piece brought to the meeting. Perhaps he will delve into the historic background of an unusual object.

Peter Bentz has been in the antique business since he was 12 years old and first set up shop in a vacant Watertown storefront owned by his father. He would ride his bicycle to auctions, buy an item for as little as \$1 and then resell it for twice the price. He handled glass, china, furniture and silver. When it was time to attend UW-M, he sold his antique stock and closed his Watertown location. During his college years, he earned room, board and tuition through the sale of antiques to collectors and dealers.

In addition to his antique and appraisal business, Mr. Bentz has taught classes about antiques at MATC.

To learn more about what an antique appraisal is all about, plan to attend our meeting on March 31. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 3476 E. Howard Ave. Bring a guest! And by all means bring those items about which you have always been curious!

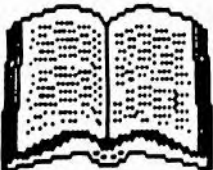
THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE

We have a number of committees for which new members are always welcome. Some committees emphasize fundraising while others are devoted to research and/or preservation of artifacts. Additional committees can be formed if there is a new direction to be pursued.

A list of current committees follows. The particulars about each committee will be discussed at the March 31 general meeting.

COMMITTEES: Membership; Fall Raffle; St. Francis Days; Arts and Crafts Fair; Landmarks.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!



The Historical Society recently sponsored a used book sale for the benefit of the St. Francis Library Fund. Hundreds of books in all categories were donated for the March 2 sale. About \$150 was raised-- at an average of 25 cents per book, that's a lot of books sold!

Books that were not sold are stored at City Hall. The Society plans to hold another sale to benefit the Library Fund. The tentative date is May 18 at the Community Center. We'll get the word out when the date is finalized.

HOBBIES TURN TO PROFITS

Our sixth annual Arts and Crafts Fair will be held Sunday, November 2, at the Community Center. The fair has been a success each year-- for both the craftspeople involved and for the Historical Society.

Members who would like to help with the organization of the 1986 Arts and Crafts Fair should contact our President, Diane Johnston, at 483-5883.

GENERAL MEETING
Monday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.
St. Francis Community Center
Program: Antique Appraisal
Bring a favorite item!
Guests Welcome!

OUR NEW OFFICERS

Three board members were elected during the annual meeting of the Historical Society in January. Elected were Lu Steinert, Marge Symkowski and Lois Neubauer. Fr. Raymond Fetterer, a charter member, retired from the board but continues as an honorary board member.

New officers for the Society were elected by the board. The President is Diane Johnston; Vice-President, Kathy Schwingle; Treasurer, Marge Symkowski; Secretary, Millie Schimelfenyg. In addition to Fr. Fetterer, the honorary board members are Terry Duffey, Mary DuPas, Colleen Schultz, Robert Schwingle, Carol Wagner, Richard Nuszbaum and Margie Heidenreich.



COME ON UP

The Historical Society board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held in our rooms on the second floor of Thompson School. (Enter the building through the east entrance.) Any member is welcome to attend the meetings. Maybe you have a new idea for the Society to consider or just want to keep up with the month-to-month activities. The next meeting is April 2.

PLANS IN THE MAKING

The Historical Society board is making tentative arrangements for two special trips.

Details are being investigated for a tour of the Milwaukee Harbor on the Iroquois Boat Lines. The tentative date of the outing for members and their guests is June 22.

There are also plans to tour the Rock County Historical Society in Janesville on August 24. Again, the date of the trip for members and their guests is tentative.

Watch for further information about these two events!