PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

NEWSLETTER FALL 2012

The booklet included with this newsletter describes our thirty-seventh annual Tour of Historic Places to be held on Sunday, September 30, 2012. The tour is titled *A Racine Sampler* with an emphasis on a variety of architectural styles and the compelling stories of the people who lived, worked, and prayed in these buildings.

- 4637 Lathrop Avenue - The Ernst Klinkert Barn (1889)
- 4637 Lathrop Avenue - The Ernst Klinkert Farmhouse (1889)
- 4717 Lathrop Avenue - The Wallace & Margaret Piper House (1950)
- 4717 Lathrop Avenue - The William & Marlyn Piper Log Cabin (Rebuilt onsite 1975)
- 2714 County Line Road - The Augustus and Margaret Piper House (1880)
- 1339 Lincoln Street - Engine House No. 4 (1888)
- 1501 Erie Street - Saint John's Lutheran Church (1896)

The sites can be visited in any order during the tour hours of noon to 5:30 p.m. Trained guides will be stationed at each site to give pertinent information regarding history and architecture. You will have an opportunity to view a private collection of historic Racine brewing memorabilia at St. John's Lutheran Church. For additional information on this special exhibit, please refer to the tour booklet. Refreshments will be served at the church.

Advance tickets are $12 and can be purchased at the following locations:

Borzynski's Farm and Floral Market 116000 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant
First Weber Group 1100 North Main Street
Larsen's Bakery 3311 Washington Avenue
Milaeger's 4838 Douglas Avenue
Milaeger's 8717 Hwy. 11, Sturtevant
Miller's Flowers 219 Sixth Street
O & H Bakery 1841 Douglas Avenue
O & H Bakery 4006 Durand Avenue
Personal Touch Flowers by Julie 5445 Spring Street
Personal Touch Flowers by Julie 4060 North Main Street
Uncorkt 240 Main Street

On the day of the tour, tickets are $15.00 regular price or $40.00 for a premium ticket and will be sold on the grounds of the Wallace and Margaret Piper House, 4717 Lathrop Avenue. Information is also available at www.preservationracine.org.

In addition to the buildings featured on this year's tour, Photographic Design (Carol and Brad), Don Vander Leest, and Don Ricchio will be located in the Klinkert barn. They will display and offer for sale works of art with a Racine theme.

Off road parking will be available in the field adjacent to the Klinkert barn and in the we energies parking lot across the road from 2714 Country Line Road.

News Highlights

The State Historical Society's 2012 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference will be held in Madison on September 28 - 29. This is the sixth annual conference in which the Society brings together professionals and volunteers to discuss their work in preserving and sharing our history. This year's conference will offer 22 sessions covering diverse subjects such as: preserving historic windows and doors; adaptive reuse of common buildings; insuring small museums and historic sites; and social media for small nonprofits. They will also offer 14 workshops for in depth exploration of topics. For more information, please go to www.wisconsinhistory.org.

On September 4, 2012, the *Huffington Post* reported that the Frank Lloyd Wright archives, including more than 23,000 architectural drawings, 44,000 photos, large-scale models and manuscripts, and other documents, have been moved permanently from Wisconsin and Arizona to the Museum of Modern Art and Columbia University's Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, both located in New York City. The models will be housed at MoMA and the papers at Avery. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation will continue to preserve Wright's National Historic Landmarks at Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin and Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona.

A Carriage Comes Home

At Preservation Racine's February Membership Meeting, we had the pleasure of being the guests of Emily and Arthur Montgomery in their historic manufacturing building, Racine Business Center, located at 1405 - 16th Street. Preservation Racine member, Jim Mercier, is working with Emily on researching all of the tenants who have occupied these buildings. We have asked permission to reprint a recent article they published in their *Tenant Telegram*.

A Racine Wagon & Carriage Co., manufactured sleigh and carriage made by Racine-Sattley Co. returned to their places of origin on July 17, 2012. We have them on permanent loan from a very generous Jim Mercier, a Racine history buff and collector. The display will be open soon for viewing. These two vehicles, manufactured in the 1800s and early 1900s, are the start of RCB honoring the entrepreneurial spirit and rich manufacturing history that was nurtured within these walls. They are a testament to their longevity as well as ours.

Racine Wagon & Carriage Company built this building in 1865 to manufacture a full line of spring vehicles and farm wagons including vans, surreys, carriages, express and delivery wagons, and phaetons. Putting this time frame into perspective, in 1865 Abraham Lincoln is assassinated five days after signing the Confederate surrender which ends the Civil War. The Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery, takes effect. The Homestead Act of 1862 has been approved granting family farms 160 acres to settlers on land carved out of Indian Territory. As the 1860s continue, the U. S. purchases Alaska from Russia. The first practical typewriter is patented. George Westinghouse invents air brakes for railroad trains, goes on to patent 400 inventions, found 60 companies, including Westinghouse Electric Company. Laura Ingalls Wilder is born in Pepin, WI, and Horatio Alger publishes his first book, *Ragged Dick*, with the "rags to riches" theme. American entrepreneurship is burgeoning.

One can imagine the activity spurned on by westward expansion and the industrial north, planting Racine as a hub of innovation. Racine Wagon & Carriage Company was producing the vehicles to meet the needs of incoming immigrants and outgoing pioneers. The factory consisted of wheel, smith, wood, trim, paint, and assembly shops. "The company ground all of its own paint, built its bodies, gears, tops, manufactured all of its cushions, backs, dashes, fenders, forgings, and made all its own wheels, welding the axles and tires with electricity."

In 1903 the company merged with Sattley Manufacturing Company of Springfield, Illinois becoming the Racine Sattley Company. Sattley manufactured plows and implements. The headquarters remained in Springfield, but the factory here continued to manufacture farm wagons and spring vehicles. This was the first successful consolidation of a plow company and vehicles. However, the times they were a changin'. In 1910 the automobile industry surpassed the wagon and carriage industry, yet Racine-Sattley announced that it would not be manufacturing autos and would stay with wagons and carriages. By 1914 a new company organized becoming the Racine Carriage Company with J. C. Lund as secretary and treasurer. He had been a long time employee with Racine Wagon & Carriage Co. At this time the company discontinued manufacturing farm wagons. The factory was remodeled and equipped with up-to-date machinery and tools modernizing its equipment and supplying a sprinkler system. Racine Carriage Company opened a repair department that included retrimming and painting, with special attention to automobiles. In 1916 the "Sattley Building" was renamed the Racine Industrial Plant and officially became the first business incubator in the country with J. C. Lund managing the facility. By 1920 sixteen different companies were running businesses within these walls.

Emily has invited all interested Preservation Racine members to view the museum, now called "Spirit of the Racine Entrepreneur" on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be in conjunction with the Artist Community Annual 16th Street Studio Open House. Visitors should use the 16th Street entrance.

Starving Artists Fair

Preservation Racine once again had a booth at the Starving Artists Fair in East Park on Sunday, August 5. This is the event where the sites for Preservation Racine's annual Tour of Historic Places are announced. Tony and Xanthi Merlo set up and took down the booth. George Mangold, Tony Merlo, Jim Mercier, Nat Cycenas, and Vivian Merlo were greeters and tended the booth. George designed and produced the tour poster, incorporating Charles Vallone's photographs of the seven tour sites. This handsome poster is now in the Artists Gallery's window - thank you, Brad. On that Sunday, it was a lot of fun promoting the tour and meeting the people who came by the booth. Thank you to all of our volunteers.