

The Yorkville Times

Yorkville Historical Society

P.O Box xxxx

www.yorkvillehs.org

March, 2003

Letter From the President

Eddie Lee

I continue to be impressed with the creativity and energy of our society's members! The Clock Project, which has been a dream of Jan Ramsey since her presidency, is a perfect example of what makes our society so vibrant. The time for this wonderful project has arrived, and I appreciate the efforts of Jan and her fine committee to give York a permanent and fitting memorial to Mel Ebersold!

Our March meeting was "strictly business" and we accomplished much in less than an hour. The final version of our society's by-laws was approved. We talked about the auction, coordinated by Ken Spalding, which will help fund the clock mentioned above. We also asked Peggy Enright to share her expertise and prepare a \$1000 budget for items to be sold at Summerfest. Jan Ramsey and Ann Allison are once again seeking assistance with the 2003 Christmas Tour, which will be here before you know it! Before then, however, Marge Neary will be in touch with you about a May social. Let's take time at the May meeting to enjoy each other's company...and plan even more projects!

Editorially speaking

By Ken Spalding

"It's time." You'll be hearing this phrase a whole lot around our fair City as the Yorkville Historical Society launches and implements its Town Clock Fundraising campaign. Our goal is to acquire, erect, and maintain a Town Street Clock for the City of York. This beautiful addition will serve as a memorial to the late Mel Ebersold for his years of distinguished service to our community and to the Yorkville Historical Society.

A tentative site on Congress Street has been selected, and we are working on its approval. The total cost of this worthwhile project is estimated at \$17,000. We are working with the York Downtown Merchants Association, the York Chamber of Commerce, and other local civic groups to ensure the success of this project.

Our first major event will be a live and a silent auction that will be held instead of our regular business meeting on Thursday, April 24th at 7 PM. The First Presbyterian Church of York has graciously lent us their beautiful Family Life Center (Gym) to host his event.

We are looking for donations of antiques, uniques, decorative accessories, good furniture, baked goods, and similar items that we can sell. We are also looking for service donations or perhaps the use of your mountain or beach house that can be auctioned off as a vacation escape for a night or two. The possibilities are endless!

If you have an item, ideas, or a question, please feel free to contact any member of the clock committee listed below. We will also make arrangements to pick up larger items and donations, so please plan ahead and contact us now.

Most importantly, please plan to attend and participate in the wonderful event. Bring your neighbors, family, and friends and watch me in action as your professional auctioneer...Have fun...Win a bargain or two. Auction registration and preview begin at 6 PM. There will be refreshments, door prizes, and much, much, more!! This may be the social event of the season...Plan now to attend!

Committee Members

Jan Ramsey 684-3844

Peggy Enright 684-5592

Maryanna Richbourg 628-0274

Genevieve Polites 684-2590

Jeanne Ferguson 684-6860

Jim Neary 684-0624

Charles Boyd 684-6003

Frank Robards 684-5942

Grace Ebersold 684-2822

Ken Spaulding 628-1818

Eddie Lee 628-6615

A special note from your editor

Ken Spaulding

Friends, neighbors, and fellow members, please excuse us for condensing and even skipping some of our regularly featured columns in this and aggressively involved in the YHS issue of The Times. No pun intended, but most of the newsletter committee members are also active on Clock and Fund Raising Committee that they have each run short of time to complete regularly scheduled columns. Numerous meetings and tons of telephone calls, emails and personal visits have us well on the way to achieving our goal. Each committee member truly believes that this project will come together planned. Our April 24th auction is just the beginning. Please lend us a hand and help us any little way that you can. Donations are needed of auction goods and services. Baked goods are needed for the cake auction and bake sale. Help is needed picking up items before the auction as well as setting up, working the auction, and cleaning up after the event. If everyone will do something to help, the task will be much more enjoyable for everyone concerned.

We know we can count on each and every one of you. Please call or see any member of the clock committee and let us know what you plan to do to help us out.

There have already been many wonderful things donated to the auction, but we still need many more to help us achieve our goal to have the clock in place and dedicated by the anniversary of Mel's birthday on March 22, 2004.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

It's Time to Plan!

By Jan Ramsey

The 2002 Christmas in Olde York Home Tour has come and gone, which means it is time to plan for 2003! It is imperative that we have at least four or five houses for this event. People want to see houses. This article is a plea to all of you to help us find homeowners who will agree to open their homes the second weekend in December. We have many fine historical houses in the area and by starting early, we hope to be able to get them committed to the tour. Everything else will seem easy. If you know of any possibilities, please contact Anne Allison (684-6088) or Jan Ramsey (684-3844 after 6 PM).

Before the Christmas Tour arrives, we must celebrate SUMMER. Plans for Summerfest are being discussed. This celebration will be held Saturday, August 23. The Society will have a booth to sell items, to recruit members, and to give out information about our wonderful historic city. Volunteers are always needed to staff the booth-so get ready for a call at a later date. Better yet, call us and volunteer. Thanks in advance for your help.

Recognition Given

By Jan Ramsey

Floyd Allison, a pillar of the Yorkville Historical Society, was named the Volunteer of the year at the annual membership meeting of the Greater York Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held at Spring Lake Country Club on February 7. Floyd is a charter member of the Society and has given many years of service to the community in numerous ways. He certainly is well deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Floyd.

WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN?

By Grace Ebersold

Cougar's Den is now open. This is the former White Rose Café on Congress Street that is now owned by Jane and Terry Gillfillan. Hours are Mon- Wed. 7-9, Thurs. and Sat. 7-11, Fri. 7-12. Menu lists everything from hot dogs to rib eye steak. Check it out.

Ann and Terry Morrison purchased the Neely Drug Store building also on Congress Street. They will sell flower arrangements for weddings and funerals, silk arrangements, live plants, collectibles and gift baskets. They hope to rent the old soda fountain and lunch counter section of the building. That leaves only two buildings remaining vacant on Congress Street. Downtown York is bustling these days!

What is not "up downtown", but will be up in the next month...is the Mural. We know we have been "at it" for a year, but Johnny and I think you will be pleasantly surprised when you see it. How did this all happen? I will start at the beginning. Under the auspices of the Downtown Business Association, Johnny Wine and Mary Anna Richbourg came up with the idea of the mural and asked

me to help. That's just what I did, "And I helped". Johnny sketched all the buildings and churches and I drew the downtown stores. Then Johnny watercolored it; we had prints made from it and they were sold at Summerfest and around town. The money from the prints was used to purchase the materials to make and paint the mural.

Some of you may not know how this mural will be attached. You see, we are not painting it on the Belk Building wall. First of all, the wall is so rough we could never paint a straight line. We took the print to Diversified Signs & Graphics. Mike Wilson had his people put it on the computer and the computer cut out all the pieces! (Yes, this surely is a new age). We are using 3/4inch Marine plywood. Forest green painted sheets of this plywood will be attached to the wall and then the buildings will be attached (screwed and bolted) to these sheets.

After these building pieces were cut out, they were primed. We are using Exterior Gloss Enamel to paint the individual pieces. Our biggest problem was mixing the primary colors to our needs. Stir, stir, add some more yellow, no, some more navy...does that look right???? We have a lot of little jars with strange colors mixed in them.

We started painting before the Christmas Holidays at times there were as many as 20 volunteers working all over Johnny's shop. We stopped for the holidays and continued at our usual Tuesday night workshop from 4-8 PM. As of April 1st, we have three more pieces to finish! We will be done in a couple of weeks. Then it will be time for Mike Wilson to hang the mural. The finished size should be 12 X 30 feet. Watch the Belk Building or watch the newspapers to see What's Up Downtown.

CORRECTIONS TO THE BYLAWS.

By Grace Ebersold

The full revision of the Bylaws were accepted in the March 28th regular meeting except for two minor corrections:

Under Article VI - Executive Board

Section I .The Society shall be governed by the Board of Directors, herein after referred to as the Board, and shall consist of no fewer than eight etc. etc. etc.

Section II. The Directors shall be elected at the annual January meeting (in

even years) to serve four-year _____ terms. (Staggered has now been omitted)

Please correct your copy. If you need a full corrected copy of the By-laws contact Grace at 684-2822.

Collecting Today

By Ken Spaulding

I'll be the first to admit that I'm an auction addict and have been since the ripe old age of five. Back then ten cents was a legitimate bid, for twenty dollars you could buy as many round oak china cabinets as you cared to buy and a one dollar bid on a treadle sewing machine made you the laughing stock of the auction. Fainting couches, Morris chairs, and parlor furniture were among my earliest conquests... I also had a serious compulsion for old books and board games back then

What is an auction and what part does an auction play in the collecting world today? We will examine the surface of the auction profession in this column. Webster's Dictionary says that auction means sale to the highest bidder. This definition is the very essence of the auction world. The truest form of the auction as we know it today dates back to earlier military times. The Colonel used a strong verbal chant to sell surplus supplies, bounty, or other goods. Today, many auctioneers use the honorary title of Colonel in honor of those earlier traditions.

Over the years the auction method of marketing proved to be very vital in our agriculturally-based economy. Crops like tobacco and cotton were often sold at auction as well as livestock, grain, equipment, and, yes, even slaves! Later, automobiles, real estate, antiques even slaves! Later, automobiles, real estate, antiques, and other higher-valued commodities entered the domain of the auction world.

Collectors today are apt to encounter several types of auctions.

- Live Auction. The auctioneer uses his voice and a distinctive style of chanting to call out the bids.

- Silent Auction. Items are displayed with a bid card in front of them. Potential buyers enter their names and what they are willing to pay on the bid card. Bids are raised by adding your name and the amount you are willing to pay on the bid card. The successful bidder will be notified at the auction conclusion. This is very similar to the way online auctions are conducted in venues like Ebay.

- Dutch Auction. In a Dutch auction there is normally more than one lot of the same or similar item to be sold. Jewelers often use a Dutch auction format to

liquidate larger quantities of goods. A Dutch auction can be an oral or written bid auction.

- Chinese Auction. Chinese auctions are most commonly used in a charity or party type setting. At our Christmas party, we use this form of auction: numbers are drawn and gifts are opened individually in a numeric fashion. The person opening the gift has the choice of keeping the gift he or she opens or "stealing" a gift from someone else who has already opened one. After two or three "steals," the gifts are "retired" and can no longer be stolen by another party. Once all the gifts have been opened, the first person who opened a gift does have the right to "steal" any gift that was opened during the event.

Chinese auctions are a lot of fun.

- Absolute Auction. If an auction is advertised as an absolute auction, it means that whatever is being offered for sale will be absolutely be sold to the highest bidder regardless of price. In my opinion this is the purest form of an auction, but it is not widely practiced locally.

- Reserve Auction (Also called minimum bid). In this scenario, the owner or auctioneer has set a limit on how low an item may be sold. Many sellers have an investment or financial stake that they want to protect. In most cases, the reserves are less than actual market value so the buyer still has an opportunity to come out ahead on his purchase.

There are many other forms of auctions being practiced today, and like every other form of business enterprise, the auction business is constantly in a state of change. I could write pages and pages about the auction profession that we wouldn't have room to print in this newsletter.

Eddie Lee had asked me to talk about the auction profession at our April 24th meeting; one thing led to another and our first major fundraising event in quite a long time has been implemented! Plan now to attend our benefit auction! It will be held Thursday, April 24th at the Family Life Center of the First Presbyterian Church. Preview and registration begin at 6PM with the live portion of the auction starting promptly at 7PM. We will be holding both a live and a silent auction as well as an old-fashioned cake auction. Refreshments will also be served. We have accepted some wonderful donations and are still looking for more items to sell.

Bring your donation along with your purse or your wallet and a good friend and enjoy the evening. If you have never attended an auction, this will probably not be your last, as auctions tend to be rather addictive in nature. This is a golden opportunity to see and hear your normally quiet and controlled editor in action doing what he loves to do best!

Yes, you may call me Colonel.

Poetry

Compiled by Grace Ebersold

Always remember to forget
The things that make you sad.

But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad

Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue.

But don't forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that have passed away

But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

DO IT ANYWAY

By Gene Bedley

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway

If you are successful,

You will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God.
It never was between you and them anyway.

THE JAILS OF YORK, SC

FLOYD ALLISON

Ed: This is the first in a series of articles by Society members about various buildings in York.

In 1785 thirty-three counties of South Carolina were established by the S. C. Legislature, York

County being one of them. In 1786 a commission was appointed by the county to build a Courthouse and a Jail. The courthouse was to be built of square logs, 30 feet long and 22 feet wide, on two acres on the corner of Congress and Liberty Streets. While there is no description of the jail construction, it was to be 22 feet long and 16 feet wide on the other side of Congress Street. I do not know the exact location of this building.

In addition to the jail the Sheriff was directed to erect stocks and a whipping post and it is said both were liberally used.

The next jail, constructed in 1828, is what is presently known as the Wilson building and is situated directly across the street from the Courthouse door. While often attributed to the design of Robert Mills, the building was designed and built by Robert Leckie, a Scottish stonemason, thought to have come to America to help build the Landsford Canal.



S. Congress St.



Entry to old jail house S. Congress St.

I was told by a local electrician who had done some wiring there that the floors and ceiling were of twelve inch square logs laid against each other. He was impressed by this as, when he did his wiring, electric drills were not available.



302 W. Liberty St

The next county jail stood at the rear of the Courthouse in the area where the courthouse extension was erected. It faced on West Liberty Street. I do not know the year of construction.

The fourth county jail was located further west on West Liberty Street and still

stands there.

It is presently occupied as apartments. It is on the left side just before you come to Harbor Street on the right. It was built 1933-1934.

I recall touring this jail before it was occupied by prisoners. The Sheriff lived on the first floor. On the second floor at the front were two cells used for female prisoners and behind that were six cells, three on each side. The third floor was never finished. It was very modern for its time, with remote mechanical locks on the cell doors. The bars on the cells were round steel with the center case hardened. I remember Sheriff Moss saying that someone had slipped a hacksaw blade in to a prisoner and he heard them sawing on the bars. He just let them saw. One of the prisoners later said the bars were hollow and the interior bar rolled. At the time the jail was built, it was designed for an elevator, but, at that time the County Legislative Delegation "ran the county". Mr. W. R. Bradford, a Representative, was a very frugal man in both his personal life and handled the public funds in the same manner and he eliminated the elevator. I was a Deputy Sheriff 1950-1954. One night it fell my lot to pick up a passed out drunk at a local nightspot. When I got to the jail it simply carry him up the stairs. I obtained some help and even at that it was a job to get him up the narrow winding stairs. I then knew why the local police "cussed Old Man Bradford" so much. No one ever escaped from the interior of this County jail.

The current county jail is in the Moss Justice Center on Highway 5. I do not know the history of the city jails. The jail I remember consisted of two cells, constructed of flat iron bars on all four sides and top and bottom. It was used as a holding cell until the inmate could be transferred to the county Jail. I understood that it was in an earlier City Hall, a frame building on East Liberty Street, and was moved to the "new city hall" when it was built next door in the 1920's. When the present City Hall was built a complete jail was included.



BENEFIT AUCTION!!!

Thursday, April 24th - 7 PM

First Presbyterian Church of York Family Life Center (Gym)

10 West Liberty St., York, SC

The Yorkville Historical Society

is pleased and excited to announce a
Live and Silent Auction Fundraiser.

Auction proceeds will be used for
the acquisition, placement, and maintenance of a
TOWN STREET CLOCK!!

The clock will be dedicated to the
MEMORY OF MEL EBERSOLD

for his years of distinguished service to our community
as an active member of the Yorkville Historical Society and
Mayor Pro-tem of the City of York.

We have already accepted many wonderful donations including
antiques, collectibles, furniture, original artwork & paintings,
custom web design, tickets to local attractions,
landscape design services, and custom floral designs.

Cash and other donations will be greatly appreciated.

Ken Spaulding, SCAL 3303R, a licensed auctioneer
with over 25 years of experience, will conduct the live auction.

Refreshments, door prizes and old fashioned FUN!

Bring a friend and a donation or two and spend the evening.

Help us support a most worthwhile cause!

We will gladly pick up your larger donations for the auction!

Preview and Registration start at 6 PM

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!!!

Questions? Call Ken Spaulding (803)628-1818

or Grace Ebersold (803)684-2822

PARTIAL LIST OF ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED
BY THE YORKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GYM
FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUYING

A STREET CLOCK FOR DOWNTOWN YORK

APRIL 24TH 7 PM REGISTRATION AT 6 PM

Tall Cranberry vase
Large blue and white bowl
1 Pewter triple candelabra and 2 pairs of brass candle sticks
Unusual armadillo pin cushion holder made from shells
2 small framed needlepoint pictures
Pink perfume bottle w/ stopper
Pair of hand painted plates
Antique cup and saucer
Oriental covered powder box
Several small figurines
Set of 4 pressed glass cup plates
Set of 5 pressed glass salt cellars
Neat vintage dress
Round lace tablecloth
Vintage tablecloth
Vintage tablecloth
Long tapestry table runner
Blue and white Chinese figure
Small collection of Red Rose Tea animal figures
Art deco chrome plated jewelry or trinket box
Antique oak swivel desk chair to refinish
Set of 8 Fostoria "American" pattern punch cups
Store glass lighted display case
Organ Stool
Late Victorian spring rocker
3 clocks...2 Mantle.... 1 Ceramic



1960 Stereo Cabinet... Stromberg Carlson
Old cubby hole desk
Spinet Piano (Everett) Pecan wood with piano bench
7 piece late carnival pitcher with 6 glasses



Marigold carnival glass bowl
Pair of carnival glass candlestick holders
Fireking bowl and cake plate
Handpainted Bavarian relish dish
Wonderful selection of china and glass
Birthday cake stand...unusual wooden piece
Neat double vase with swinging children figures
Lily of the valley two tiered tidbit tray
Violet Creamer and sugar
Beautiful cranberry to clear party set
Silver-plated 3-candle candelabra
Carved wooden wall hanging of African male bust
Neat pottery pitcher with dolphin handle (As is)
Small primitive skillet w/hand forged iron handle
Super hand pointed Bristol vase
Victorian Bristol biscuit jar w/silver plated lid (as is)
Original water color landscape
Flax spinning wheel
1971 Honda CB 350 Motorcycle...low mileage.... Needs work.
Large garden sculptured frog fountain

Curved glass corner curio cabinet Hall Pottery
Big canary Birdcage...new...featured in Martha Stewart Magazine
65 year old wooden chair Antique oil painting
Antique oak chest Oak roll-top desk



2 Victorian upholstered chairs

Services: Custom web design-tickets to local attractions-
Landscape design - floral designs. Two day stay in mountain cabin,
Custom framing of your picture (\$50 limit) House cleaning

Progress on the Mural





Wall Mural