

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

SCHPS  
P.O. BOX 5017  
BETTENDORF, IA 52722

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



"Let your heritage not be lost, but bequeath it as a memory,  
treasure, and blessing, and preserve it for your children."

— Christian Metz, 1846

## One of Nature's Fairest Spots!

SCHPS October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at 700 Waverly Road, Davenport, the Good Samaritan Home. It will be a joint celebration with the Schuetzenparke Gilde. 80 years after Schuetzen Park officially closed, a community effort has made it possible to preserve "One of Nature's Fairest Spots" for current and future generations. The Schuetzenparke Gilde has done a fantastic job fundraising and restoring the park area. If you haven't seen it, come! The celebration starts at 5:00 p.m., meals and refreshments will be served on the site at 5:30 and a live band from Germany will perform at 6:30.

Several of our SCHPS members are also active with the Gilde so you will see familiar faces when you arrive and will have a chance to make new friends.

For more information, e-mail [SchuetzenPark@aol.com](mailto:SchuetzenPark@aol.com).



The club house at Schuetzen Park, c. 1900. Photo courtesy of <http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/qcmemory/QCHistory/Places/Schuetzen>

## Oct. 2003 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting  
Oct. 9, 2003 • 5pm  
700 Waverly Rd, Davenport

*President*

Ella Hartmann, 441-0698

*Vice President*

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*Secretary*

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*Newsletter Editor*

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*Board Members*

Fred Vogt, 326-4180

Laura Kauth, 322-7333

Suzi Rynn, 359-3704





## Tragedy Strikes

John Frueh of the Davenport Historic Preservation Commission writes...

The Edward C. Mueller mansion, owned by Debbie Chaney, at 429 W 6th Street was seriously damaged by fire on Tuesday, September 23, 2003. The Mueller mansion, one of 3 on W 6th Street, between Ripley and Scott Streets, was built by the youngest son of Christian Mueller, the founder of Mueller Lumber Company. The home is part of the famed Gold Coast, the area of W 6th Street between Ripley and Gaines Streets. The Gold Coast got its name because Davenport's most prominent Germans lived in the homes during the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries.

The fire started in a second story wall cavity when a roofing contractor was soldering a flat metal seam roof covering a first story room. The contractor was using a torch with an open flame to solder the joints against the wall. The fire spread up the 6 inch wide stud cavity in the mansion's roof destroying the entire roof of the home. Rough estimates of the damage are over 300,000 dollars. Smoke and water damaged the rest of the home.

40 Gold Coast residents gather on Saturday morning, September 27th, to help the homeowner move her possessions out of the damaged home and into storage. On Sunday evening residents met in an emergency meeting to help Debbie come up with a plan to get the home weather tight before the winter. It was also decided to set up a Save the Mueller Mansion Fund. The neighborhood association will meet Sunday, October 5th, to discuss making a large donation from the association's treasury to kick off the fundraising. John Frueh, chairman of the City of Davenport's Historic Preservation Commission is making contacts through the community to build support for the fundraising efforts. Members of the neighborhood feel it would be a horrible tragedy if the Mueller mansion was lost to the wrecking ball and would leave a bad scar on the Gold Coast. More information will be forthcoming as the neighborhood works out the details of the save the mansion effort. A news conference will be called to announce the fund and its location.

## September Meeting a Success!

What a treat to get to see two historic houses with great river views! The Carl Liebscher house at 204 Prospect Terrace is a serene Greek Revival home with one of the best river views in the city. Bob Yapp's reconstructed Gothic house at 1412 E. River Drive is a great combination of modern convenience married with great respect for the past. It was another very enjoyable SCHPS evening!

## Of Historic Interest

John Pischke, (563-659-3476) of DeWitt, Iowa is a limestone mason and a specialist in restoring 19th century limestone buildings. If you would be interested in learning more, call him or write HISTORIC FOUNDATIONS, John C. Pischke, 2660 252nd St., DeWitt, Iowa 52742.

## 909 West 3rd Street gets a New Lease on Life.

John Lewis Community Services has restored this property which most recently was used as a warehouse by Architectural Salvage to store and resell salvaged items of architectural and historical significance. The property was originally the DeMacklot row house built in the late 1850's to house laborers who came to Davenport for the factory and mill jobs. The exterior has been restored to its original style and now has eight efficiency units which are providing affordable housing for working individuals. The house is located in the Third Street Historic District which contains a significant concentration of historical residential structures.

## \$15 Can Make a Difference.

SCHPS 2003-2004 Annual Dues now Due If your newsletter contains an envelope addressed to our PO Box, you haven't paid your \$15 dues. We need your continuing support to bring you programming relevant to local history, to have a voice in our community for preservation and to have our awards ceremony in May. Unfortunately, this will be the last newsletter you'll receive.

## Let's Hear it for Ferenc & Karen!

Ferenc Beiwel, our treasurer, is always there when you need a helping hand. Karen Anderson, after an exhaustive search, located fireplace replacements for the LeClaire House. Work needed to be done on them at Kloppenberg Foundry so Frank did the heavy lifting and transporting of them to the foundry. You'll soon have an opportunity to see the fireplaces in place!

Karen, as always, has been very busy. She's met with the Regional Grand Excursion committee. The committee is buying and distributing Antoine LeClaire coloring books with historical information. She took part in a tour of the future site of the eight foot flood wall which will protect the water company. She has been working with Sarah-Eva Carlson, who is researching an incident around 1862 when 39 native Americans were killed in an encampment near Hillcrest Avenue and McClellan Blvd.