

Santa Visits Patients at St. Joseph's

The Sisters of St. Francis of St. Joseph of the Pines hospital entertained the employees of the hospital and a few other guests with a Christmas party in the main lobby on December 22. Christmas carols were sung after which Santa arrived and distributed gifts to each one present. He then visited all the patients in the hospital and presented each with a Christmas remembrance. Yuletide decorations throughout St. Joseph's hospital were very attractive again this year, especially the Bethlehem scene in the main lobby and the smaller one in the hospital chapel. The large Christmas tree in the round also added to the Christmas spirit.

Restorations Can Be Fun; They Are Hard Work Too, But Well Worth While

(Associated Press) Americans are discovering the romance of their nation's history by reliving it in the places it was made.

Through the country, from Massachusetts to California, historic restorations are in progress. Some are multimillion dollar projects, like the White House in Washington and Colonial Williamsburg, Va. Others are shoe-string - financed by local antiquarians, anxious to preserve the interesting and unusual of past generations.

Some restorations—primarily in the original 13 colonies—are concerned with structures of the colonial and Revolutionary War period. In the South there is vast interest in preserving the architecture of the ante-bellum and Civil War era. Out west the folks want permanent reminders of the gold rush days.

When antiquarians are lucky (and happiest) there is an original structure to work on. Even a tumbledown and decaying house is just dandy. It's a restoration project even if all that remains is an old cellar or foundation.

Many Shrines Destroyed
But, as the interest in reviving the past grows ever greater, there is a spate of reproductions on historic sites. Many old buildings have completely disappeared, partly through fire or other disaster but more often because Americans seem to enjoy tearing down another generation's handiwork and replacing it with something spanking new.

Whether restoration or reproduction, the public is responding with enthusiasm and cold cash admission fees.

Enthusiastic amateur antiquarians are the heroes of these projects. In almost every instance some part-time zealot has built the bonfire which resulted in raising funds and setting everything in motion. The antiquarian usually is the one who has a field day leading research into the correct type of nail, matching old oak panelling and uncovering exactly the right model of an old fireplace.

Rockefeller millions—some 25 of them—have been poured so far into the greatest and best publicized of the restorations, Colonial Williamsburg. It seems to be the pattern of many smaller projects, two of which aren't far away from the Virginia community.

One is tiny Waterford, whose population of 200 is going in for individual restoration of its old homes and business buildings in the shape of its colonial past. Leesburg, Va., for a short time U. S. capital during the War of 1812, is doing the same thing.

Many old New England homes have disappeared. Citizens of Plymouth, Mass., are reproducing the early buildings of the original Pilgrim settlement under guidance of a non-profit corporation in a project estimated to cost \$1,500,000.

A thousand members of a historical society have raised funds to salvage a 1680 house in Wethersfield, Conn. Amateur researchers have experimented to achieve perfection here—even developing a stain of beer and iron rust to match new clapboards with weathered originals.

Old Natchez Blooms
Admission fees paid by tourists pay for the meticulous upkeep of many a Natchez, Miss., mansion. Most are classic examples of old plantation homes. Each year a Natchez "pilgrimage" is conducted through the homes and 50,000 people have a chance to roll back the years. During pilgrimage week everyone in town dresses the part of ante-bellum belles and cavaliers.

In Savannah, Ga., a restoration project turned a slum district into a garden spot—and provided new, better homes. Private funds went into the restoration of ancient buildings and an old garden. The ground is the site of an experimental botanical garden, started soon after General James Oglethorpe founded the colony in the 18th century.

Arkansas has restored the cluster of buildings in Little Rock which was its territorial capital. The buildings are furnished with authentic pieces of the period. One contains the complete primitive equipment of the states' oldest newspaper, The Arkansas Gazette.

Home of Lincoln
Abe Lincoln's New Salem has been re-created by Illinois. Actually, there's only one old building on the site but that is the cooper shop in which Lincoln read Blackstone and Shakespeare by the flickering light of wood shavings. New Salem was Lincoln's home for six years—and the place he courted Ann Rutledge.

One of the gayest restorations in the land is Virginia City, Mont., once the "liveliest town west of St. Louis," and until recently going to pieces fast. State

Senator Charles A. Bovey and his wife took hold of the town and already have restored much of its old main street. There's a bale of hay saloon, an inn with modern concessions to plumbing, a drugstore complete with gold fever day nostrums. Last year 50,000 tourists visited the town.

California is recapturing its past, too. Columbia, a gold rush town which at its peak had 45,000 population, is being restored. In the early days it was a collection of shacks which burned down at least once. Later, those who struck it rich built sturdy edifices of brick and iron which had traveled west around the horn. When restoration started, there were about 20 buildings in fair condition.

These are only a sampling of what is going on! There are literally scores of projects, some big, some small. Kentucky is showing its pioneer life with a reproduction of Old Fort Harrod. Pennsylvania has spent a half million dollars recreating the manor house of William Penn in Bucks County, a monument to the founder of the Keystone state.

On New York's Long Island, the historic Mulford Farm at Easthampton is being restored to its condition 300 years ago, a project of Easthampton residents and the local historical society.

A memorial to the continental troops under General George Washington has been constructed at historic Valley Forge, Pa.—30

huts of the type the troops lived in through the dreadful winter of 1777-78.

Whole Village Recreated
A whole pioneer New England village, Sturbridge, has been recreated near Worcester, Mass., with 288 shops, mills, houses, a church and general store. Newport, R. I., has plans which it hopes will turn it into a Williamsburg of the North by focusing attention on its old buildings and some of the "great houses" of bygone social days.

One of the most unusual turning back of pages to the past is the last ship of the great American whaling fleet, the Charles W. Morgan, and the old square rigger Joseph Conrad, both anchored permanently in Mystic, Conn., harbor. The living museum of seafaring a hundred or more years ago is visited by thousands each year.

While it's fun for the history bugs to play detective in turning up old lumber with adze marks and uncovering ancient locks and lintels, the public equally enjoys the restorations.

Seeing the uncovered past with modern eyes is more instructive than history books. Restorers of old Williamsburg say that the project so fascinated John D. Rockefeller, Jr., an antiquarian, that he frequently arose early in the morning to wander through Williamsburg streets, absorbing the atmosphere of a time long past.

Visitor tallies seem to prove that he is no different in his reaction than less wealthy folks.

Milk-production on North Carolina farms during August totaled approximately 150 million pounds.

Gymnasiums Being Built at Highfalls and West End

The Highfalls and West End schools are at last getting their long-desired gymnasiums. Work on both is about 65 per cent completed, reported Supt. H. Lee Thomas to the county commissioners at Carthage Tuesday.

The tentative amount of \$30,000 was appropriated for each. This was not expected to include heating, plumbing and electrical work. However, said Mr. Thomas, indications are that only about \$3,000 more will be needed to complete the entire job at both schools.

He said about \$1,000 is being saved through use of the furnace of the old Aberdeen elementary school, which was burned down about a month ago, to heat the gymnasium at the West End school. It was not damaged by the fire, he reported.

The commissioners have been visited a number of times by delegations from the two schools, urging the need for a gymnasium. Construction of a gym was authorized at the Highfalls school a few years ago and material for exterior construction (cinder block) was delivered. However, no appropriation was made for labor and the blocks have remained on the site, awaiting some action, for a considerable length of time. "All we need is to get those blocks shaped up into walls," a delegation told the commissioners last summer. It wasn't quite that simple, but

anyway the walls are up and soon the two gymnasiums will be ready for use. It is hoped to use state funds to build one at the

Cameron school, Mr. Thomas said. FOR RESULTS USE THE PILOT'S CLASSIFIED COLUMNS.



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