

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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May 2020

Greetings from SCHPS!

Hopefully you are all staying healthy and safe.

We are sorry that all our tours and guest speakers have been cancelled for the near future.

- SCHPS annual picnic at Schuetzen Park may be rescheduled for fall.
- The Farnam Dinner has been rescheduled for March 2021.



If you are a current member (2019/2020) with paid up dues, your e-mail membership will extend until June 2021 for no additional cost!
If you need a paper copy, \$5 will be charged to help cover printing and mailing costs for the coming year (2020/2021).

Donations to SCHPS are always gratefully accepted.

Schützen Park Sesquicentennial Celebration September 26 from 12-4.

Come and help us celebrate 150 years of being a part of the Quad Cities community. Live music, food, drinks, games and more. More details to follow. Our live band for the day is the ÜberCool Band of St. Louis, Missouri.

This is not a SCHPS event, so watch the Schützen Park website for further information. [<http://www.schuetzenpark.info/>]



Happy May birthday to our artist in residence – Mary Costello! She is a long-time member/board member.

Ward Olson

December 5, 1923 – April 16, 2020

Tribute to Ward from SCHPS

--written by Mary Costello

It was probably in 2010. Well-known artist Ward Olson offered SCHPS his large drawings of local buildings to be made into notecards for promotion of our Historic Preservation work and as a fundraiser. I was assigned to get the artwork from him. On a sunny afternoon that fall, I visited him at his unusual, nature-covered pink house. His yard was cool, as trees and bushes swayed in the breeze. Ward graciously invited me in. A painting of his wife, Beverly, dominated the pink family room. They had been married for 58 years. He talked about her with great affection. It was clear he was missing her greatly. I sensed his loneliness in that lovely, art-filled house.

We borrowed from him eight of his original architecturally-precise pen and ink drawings from which our cards were made. The buildings were softened with additions of old-fashioned coaches, top hats and the long, flowing gowns of the late 1800s and turn-of-the-century period, when many of the historic houses he drew were built. Ward was known for his portraits, riverboats and paintings of famous Quad-City buildings. He seemed to love preserving the look of the past. Olson was very generous with his artwork donating it to fundraisers like the Le Claire House, Vander Veer Botanical Park and others. In so doing, he raised thousands of dollars for their benefit. His notecards have greatly enhanced the work of SCHPS.

Ward Olson lived a long, full life. He served in the Navy on the destroyer, *Samuel M. Moore*, during WWII in the Pacific; returning to the states, he became director of Bawden Brothers Advertising Agency in Rock Island and later of another agency in Davenport, Iowa. After 37 years in the commercial field, he retired and did freelance for 36 years.

He had three children – Tom a doctor in Bettendorf, and two daughters, Susie Johnson in Minnesota and Becki Brown in California along with grandchildren and great grandchildren. His wife died in 2009 and he moved into the Kahl Home in 2017. He said that he drew all his life. In grade school he doodled in his textbooks and he was still drawing in the nursing home when he was 96.

He loved dancing, traveling and being with friends and family. As late as last year, he was seen in a golf cart with his son at the Bix; an event where he used to dance with his wife at the McClellan turnaround almost as light and fantastic as Fred Astaire.

Do you have any information or ideas to share for our newsletter?
Contact one of the board members.