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From the Chairman

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from the Chairman

Looking at the present HHF membership list, a pattern emerges that provides several clues as to the types of people who are interested in a historic preservation organization. They are generally active, involved people concerned with the quality of life in their community and taking pride in its heritage - intensely involved with the upkeep of their own small corner of the world. Many live in restored, or in the process of being restored, homes, and those who don't, form a large cheering section for those who do. Members are usually seen on historic house tours, either as hosts or touring, and find pleasure both in creating and viewing beautiful things. Many collect antiques, old books, or memorabilia. Looking at a weathered barn or a beautifully proportioned facade turns them on more than a nightclub or an expensive sports car. So does spending a fall Sunday afternoon picnicing and touring New Market, Alabama.

Clem Labine, editor of "The Old House Journal," says that preservationists are "un-American" in the sense that we oppose the conventional American idea of consuming ever more. He feels that preservationists ... are actually the new wave of pioneers. We are struggling to reverse the "use it up and move on" mentality. We are moving in and picking up the pieces. We are taking individual buildings and whole neighborhoods that have been discarded and trying to make them live again. We are cleaning up after society's litterbugs.

In teaming up with folk musicians to present a lively slide program on architectural preservation, Roy Swayze of Eutaw, Alabama, illustrates his philosophy that "preservation should be fun, or a person shouldn't get involved in it."

A concerted drive for new members for HHF will soon get underway. Membership dues provide our operating expenses, and while the Foundation has no paid staff, operating costs have risen as we have greatly expanded our activities. Preservationists are nice people. If you know someone who is interested in working for a more prosperous and beautiful city consciously taking pride in its heritage, and who would enjoy our activities, please invite that person to join.

We hope that YOU are enjoying YOUR participation in HHF. We always invite your suggestions for activities and projects and appreciate your help.

Lynn Jones