



# RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

[www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org)

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| February 16, 2010<br>Tuesday<br>7:00 PM | Rock Island Park Administration Office 1320 24th Street<br>Hauberg Center 1300 24th Street<br>Presentation of original art work to the City of Rock Island Park Board followed by the RIPS meeting in the Hauberg Center. <i>See article on page 4</i> |
| March 16, 2010<br>Tuesday<br>7:00 PM    | Gas & Electric Credit Union 2300 4th Avenue Rock Island<br>Hosted by Daryl Empen<br>Discussion and selection of the 2009 Historic Preservation Awards. <i>See the Nomination Procedures below</i>  |
| April 20, 2010<br>Tuesday<br>7:00 PM    | Hilt-Keator House 925 17th Street, Moline<br>Hosted by Walter & Anne Lilius<br>Enjoy the tour of this historic Moline home followed by a business meeting <i>See article on page 3</i>   |

Comments and suggestions for Society activities are always welcome, now and in the future!  
Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities.

## PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year in celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May, the Rock Island Preservation Society presents Historic Preservation Awards and Certificates of Recognition. The awards and certificates are presented to individuals, groups or businesses who have made special efforts to preserve or restore historic structures in our community or whose actions have served to support historic preservation in Rock Island. Projects honored must have been completed by the end of the previous calendar year.

**We understand that to undertake the task of genuine preservation is indeed a challenge and those who accept that challenge and perform the task well, should be heartily and publicly commended.**

To qualify for an award or recognition, a structure may be:

- a residential, commercial, religious or public building,
- in the city limits of Rock Island,
- 50 years old or more

The society shall consider for recognition a person or persons who have saved an historic structure from being destroyed or defaced, accomplished a major restoration or renovation of an historic structure, or by example or by special efforts, furthered the ideals of historic preservation in Rock Island.

For more information about the Awards and to see past winners, go to [www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org) and link to Preservation Awards

**Nominations are still being accepted!**

If you know of a preservation project or a special person who should be considered for an award or certificate of recognition, please send us the address of the building and a description of the project or advocacy activities. Mail the information to Rock Island Preservation Society, PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261. Send us an e-mail at [rips@rockislandpreservation.org](mailto:rips@rockislandpreservation.org) or call Diane at 309/788-1845.

Nominations must be received no later than **March 1, 2010** for 2009 awards.

**Plan on attending the March 16th RIPS meeting at the Gas & Electric Credit Union to view the nominees**

## VILLA ENTRANCE ARCH RECONSTRUCTION

In the early morning hours of July 14, 2005 the Villa de Chantal at 2101 16th Avenue was engulfed in flames. The oldest portions of the magnificent Neo-Gothic style structures were badly damaged. After the smoke cleared, the ornate white glazed terra cotta entrance to the main building stood tall amidst the devastation.

During the months of discussion surrounding the fate of the Villa de Chantal buildings, the grand white arch survived. Even during the demolition of the buildings all around it, the grand white arch stood tall. The solid construction and the majestic presence of the arched doorway seemed to demand that it be preserved.

Thanks to a special group of people with the Rock Island – Milan School District, the arched doorway was saved from the wrecking ball. A stone mason was brought in to carefully dismantle the architectural gem. Each piece was numbered and carefully packed away so the arch could be reconstructed at a later date. And then to further ensure the future of the arch, the Board of Education approved a request from Rock Island Preservation Society to gift the arch to the Society.



The Entrance Arch still stood after the devastating fire which destroyed much of the historic Villa de Chantal in July 2005

Rock Island Preservation Society gratefully accepted the gift and began the Villa Entrance Arch Reconstruction Project. The Sisters of the Visitation have agreed to the reconstruction of the entry arch on their land in Calvary Cemetery in Rock Island. The cemetery site is along 31st Avenue and the reconstructed arch will be visible from the street. The architectural firm of Scholtz Gowey Gere Marolf Architects has been chosen to design and oversee the reconstruction project

As work on the project progresses, we would like to hear from Villa alumni and project supporters who would share with us their remembrances of the school. If you would like to share your memories, learn more about the project or be added to our Villa Entrance Arch Reconstruction Project mailing list, please contact us at [rips@rockislandpreservation.org](mailto:rips@rockislandpreservation.org). See the related article on page 4 of this newsletter.

We are excited about both the Villa entrance arch reconstruction project and the Villa de Chantal memory corner at the new school. We hope you are as well. But as a small non-profit organization we cannot ensure this reconstruction without your help. Your financial contribution toward this endeavor is essential to its success. Rock Island Preservation Society is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**If you would like to make a tax deductible financial contribution to the project,  
please mail your contribution to**

**Rock Island Preservation Society  
Villa Entrance Arch Reconstruction Project  
PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261**

For more information on the history of the Villa de Chantal, see the Postcards From Home article that ran in the Rock Island Argus/Moline Dispatch on June 24, 2001. This article link is available on the Home Page of the RIPS website, [www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org)

## HILT - KEATOR HOUSE

This Italianate house is a side-hall design, with both front and side gables; the front gable featuring an oculus window. Characteristic of Italianate style, the house features tall windows with rounded tops, and elaborate brackets along the roof edges. The wrap-around porch and later additions now give more of a colonial revival flavor to the overall appearance.

The house was built in 1869 by John Hilt, a developer who owned a local brickyard. In 1870, Mr. Hilt sold the house to Jerman Keator. Mr. Keator is one of the best known pioneer lumbermen of the upper Mississippi valley. During the period of his operations on the Black, Chippewa and St. Croix rivers, Mr. Keator was one of the heaviest loggers in that district. In addition to his logging ventures, he was instrumental in organizing the First National Bank of Moline. He assisted in organizing the first street railway company in Moline and was its president for three years. In 1877 he built the Keator House, described as the only first-class hotel in Moline.



Detail of the Hilt-Keator House roofline, with elaborate brackets and oculus window

*Photo by Walt Lilius*

In 1890, the house was sold to Charles Pope, an executive with Deere & Co. In 1908, in partnership with A. E. Montgomery (a founder of the Moline Elevator Company), Mr. Pope incorporated the Midland Motor Car Company, taking over the factory of the Deere-Clark Motor Car Company. Deere-Clark had faced bankruptcy in 1907. In 1913 the Midland Company also went bankrupt. The Papes made extensive changes to the house, including an elaborate set of floorplan changes.

The house is known to many present-day Quad-Citians as the home of Dr. Martin Dondanville from 1915 to 1962. From 1962 to 1997, the house was owned by Carroll & Mary Feuerbach, who sold it to the current owners, Walter & Anne Lilius. In February 2000, an accidental fire raced through the second floor and attic. Rebuilding provided an opportunity to return much of the interior to a more period appearance.

The house is in the Overlook neighborhood. It is at the edge of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, and has a view of the river as well as views of Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa. During the later 1800's and early 1900's, many of Moline's important citizens built their homes along this bluff, on, or close to Eleventh Avenue. This includes many Deere family members, the Velie's and the Allen's.

**All RIPS members are invited to tour this historic Moline home on  
Tuesday, April 20 starting at 7:00 pm.  
925 17th Street, Moline  
Hosted by Walt and Anne Lilius**

## RIPS MEMBERSHIP

RIPS membership year ends in February. Please use the enclosed renewal form or go to the membership link on the Home Page at [www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org).

Our dues of \$10 per person per year have remained the same for 25 years and are fully tax deductible. Of course additional donations are always welcomed. Your newsletter label tells you when your membership expires or has expired. Due to the cost of postage, we cannot keep non-members on our mailing list. We will gladly send you a membership card if you wish, however if you do not need one, it does save us additional postage.

If you have any questions, call Diane Oestreich at 309-788-1845 or email [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com)

## CLOCK TOWER TOUR

Details are being worked out for an upcoming tour of the Corps of Engineers Clock Tower on the Arsenal Island.

The tour will include seldom seen areas in the Tower. While the date has not yet been determined, we are hoping for a Saturday morning in late April or early May.

Watch for an announcement in the monthly minutes or by email.

## PRESENTATION OF ARTWORK

On February 16, the Rock Island Preservation Society (RIPS) will present the Rock Island Parks and Recreation Board with a framed picture of the historic bridge at Hauberg Center during the regular Board meeting. The bridge, which arches over a ravine and stream, is part of the brick driveway that winds through the wooded landscape upwards from 12th Avenue and 22nd Street to the historic Denkmann-Hauberg home atop the hill. The picture will be displayed in the house that Suzanne Denkmann built just prior to her marriage to John Hauberg and which the Park Board now operates as a community center.

The original painting was created by former Rock Island resident, Mark Cook, who donated reproduction rights to RIPS. The archival quality print in the original size, about 8 x 10 inches, captures the old bridge in intensely colored brushstrokes that evoke dappled sunshine through the adjacent woods.

Mr. Cook, a 1978 graduate of Rock Island High School, attended the University of Illinois and later graduated from The American Academy of Art in Chicago. For the past 26 years, he has been an artist, illustrator and designer. He currently works for Hallmark Cards Inc. in their Multimedia Studio.

Mr. Cook grew up on 24 ½ Street, near Hauberg Park where he often played. He says, *“As a kid I literally spent years in the woods behind the Hauberg house. There is probably no place on the planet that had more impact in my life than Hauberg Park and woods behind it. If all the other days in my life were washed away leaving only the days I spent in those woods, I would still consider my life rich, satisfying, and full.”*

He adds, *“Over the years I developed the practice of painting landscapes from memory. I sit down and reflect on places I played or fished at or hiked through. I would then do small paintings of those areas trying to capture the emotional quality of my memories.”*

**All RIPS members are invited to attend the presentation at the February RI Park Board meeting at the Rock Island Park Administration Office, 1320 24th Street on Tuesday, February 16th at 7 PM.**

**Following the presentation, the monthly RIPS meeting will take place in the Hauberg Civic Center next door to the Administration Office**

## VILLA CORNER AT THE RICMS

RIPS has begun gathering pictures, books, narratives, and other memorabilia of the former Villa de Chantal to be part of a permanent resource at the new Rock Island Center for Math & Science, built on the site of the historic school. Donations already include a copy of *Bells on Two Rivers* by Katherine Burton, a number of historic postcards and photos, and a framed watercolor print of the building.



**A framed print of a watercolor by local artist Harlan King was donated by Shannon Hall.**

We would like to hear from Villa alumni and friends who would share with us their remembrances of the school. Donations of artifacts, photos or other memorabilia are also sought, but please contact us first with a full description of any items prior to sending them. If you, or someone you know, would like to share your memories, please contact us at [rips@rockislandpreservation.org](mailto:rips@rockislandpreservation.org) or mail to RIPS-Villa Corner, PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261.

## LEGISLATION UPDATE

### State Tax Credit for Historic Rehab

A bill has just been introduced into the Illinois House of Representatives, called House Bill 4823, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Act. This bill would authorize tax credits against Illinois income taxes for 25% of the costs of rehabilitating eligible historic property, including residential and commercial properties. It also would allow excess credits to be carried back and forward as well as transferred, sold, or assigned.

Two similar bills have also been introduced in the Illinois Senate, and the bills, if they go forward, would need to be reconciled.

For more information, go to the Illinois General Assembly site, [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and enter “HB4823” in the search.

To show your support for the rehabilitation credit, contact your state representative and senator. Contact information is linked on the Home page at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)