

Marshall prepares for 17th historic tour

Celebrated as the birthplace of Michigan's public school system and location of some splendid historic homes and buildings, Marshall is preparing for its 17th annual walk through history.

More than 10,000 visitors are expected to converge on the city Sept. 6-7 to take in the many sights, sounds and events.

Lending a special significance to this year's tour is the town's observance of its 150th anniversary. Calling attention to Marshall's century and a half of major contributions to regional, state and national history, the 1980 tour has been designated "Out Sesquicentennial Salute."

On this year's tour schedule are 16 of Marshall's fine showplaces and mer-

cantile establishments, all preserved and enhanced over the years through the dedication of local citizens.

Tourists will walk through the richness of the past via eight elegant examples of 19th and early 20th century residential architecture, three magnificent museums, a replay of Civil War battles and an old fashioned parade featuring both a regimental band and a file and drum corps.

BONUS ATTRactions include an arts and crafts show and an antique sale at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall as well as a look at five revitalized storefronts in the downtown area.

Now famous for its fine examples of

architectural excellence reflecting a number of styles and periods, Marshall offers a look at living history.

Each home and building on the tour has its own story. Avenues echo the footsteps of pioneers, authors, legislators and statesmen who found their way into the annals of Michigan and America.

Among them was W.D. Boyce who founded the Boy Scouts. His Italianate villa is on the tour along with two others of the same style and vintage.

Also included are three homes representative of the Greek Revival style of architecture, a Queen Anne mansion and a Sears & Roebuck mail order catalog home from the 1920s. Two of the

residences are on the National Register of Historic Places as are the three museums.

One of the homes, built in 1837, is believed to be the oldest brick residence in Michigan.

COMMEMORATING THE conception of the state's public school system is an unusual piece of oak statuary at the H.C. Brooks mansion, home of the man who was the town's benefactor and leading preservationist.

The sculpture, executed with a chain saw, is a representation of the Rev. John D. Pierce and Isaac Cray as they designed an educational system now in use throughout the United States. They

are depicted sitting under an oak tree, the stump of which has now become their memorial.

The carving is known as the Education Oak and can be seen by those attending the home tour. Funds to underwrite the cost of creating the statue were raised by Marshall school children.

Also along the tour route will be instrumental and vocal groups to entertain the crowds and each home will feature a special outdoor attraction or exhibit. Meals, beverages and light refreshments will be available at numer-

ous places throughout the town under the auspices of local churches and civic organizations.

The Honolulu House at the intersection of Michigan and Kalamazoo avenues will be the starting point for the tour. Tickets, available there, are \$7. Children 12 or under are admitted free.

Advance tickets, \$6 per person, may be obtained by writing to Marshall Historical Society, P.O. Box 68-A, Marshall, 49068. Tickets are valid for either day or the tour. For information on group rates, write to the Marshall Historical Society.

Design '80 conference to be held at Cranbrook

Successful community revitalization programs will be one of the focal points of the "Design Michigan Conference '80" at Cranbrook Academy of Art Aug. 21-23.

Titled, "Community Revitalization Planning and Management: Maximizing Existing Resources Through Design," the conference is the second of a series of Design Michigan, an outreach program of Cranbrook Academy of Art that is funded by Michigan Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. A proceedings handbook detailing the 1979 conference is available.

The 1980 conference will focus on the practical application of urban design, historic preservation, environmental art and energy planning in community improvement. Also discussed will be state and national funding and assistance programs.

Keynote speaker will be Charles Zucker, assistant director of the National Endowment for the Arts' Design Arts Program. Other speakers are from Lansing, Traverse City, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Immediate inquiry is encouraged. For more information, call 645-3312.

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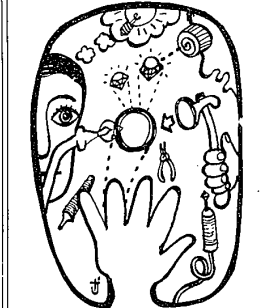
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