

## **Supporting the Work of the Washington Historical Society**

When Marguerite Lucas was President of the Historical Society, she raised money any way she could -- from annual dues to bake sales at area banks on Saturday mornings. When the organization took on the task of purchasing and restoring the Zinser home and office, she turned some of those responsibilities over to committees that sold books, held garden and cemetery walks, and sponsored Christmas tours of homes. All of these activities and annual dues did and still support the annual operations of the society -- the office expenses, programs in the schools, utilities and other costs of running the organization.

Once the Society was able to complete the restoration of the two buildings and pay the mortgage, the city of Washington returned the interest paid on the principal to the Society. In turn, the Society used that money to establish an endowment fund which is managed by a local bank and invested with Northern Trust in Chicago. Although the principal has varied with swings in the market, the endowment has grown to over \$50,000. The Society has no intention of spending the principal and using only the earnings to maintain the property. To date, nothing has been spent. Several years ago, the Board decided that they would like eventually to have an endowment of \$250,000 which should produce at least \$10,000 annually to maintain the properties. Eventually what has been restored will need to be upgraded. Earnings from the endowment will be available to cover these expenses.

Gifts may be made to the endowment at any time on an annual or on a one-time-only basis. When paying their annual dues, members could write a larger check and indicate that the amount over and above the dues is to be designated to the endowment fund. Memorials represent another way of supporting the organization. Last year memorials given in honor of Don Uphoff and Joyce Nordhielm made significant additions to the endowment. Finally, members are encouraged to consider placing the Washington Historical Society in their estate plans. For further information, please contact Karl Taylor at 444-4154 or Judy Gross at 444-2287.