# THE BUCHANAN HOUSE BRENTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 FRANKLIN ROAD BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

CONTACTS DONNA GAITHER RUTH LUTGEN (615) 776-5413 touring about the history of the chaper.

### Buchanan House

This lovely home required lots of planning and arrangements to make it ready for the tour as it is used for Sunday School classes at Brentwood United Methodist Church. The continual use of the building made many of the arrangements impossible to do before the last minute.

One week prior to the tour Pat Higgins, owner of Accent Florist, and I met at the house to discuss what could be done to decorate for the tour. Pat let us use several gorgeous silk arrangements and then did a beautiful fresh floral vase for the entry.

Since the house was empty, Diane Sylvis, suggested that we do some displays in one of the larger rooms of the home. Tom Bain brought two cases of Civil War artifacts that he had collected. Many of the bulletts, belt buckles, etc. has been found in the front yard of the Buchanan house. Scott Smith loaned a collection of wonderful old clothing (some pre-Civil War). We hung the clothing on hooks that were attached to the ceiling instead of placing the clothes on mannequins. Everyone seemed to enjoy looking at the old-fashioned style of the clothing and remarked on how tiny they were.

The history of the house (see attached) was commpiled through several phone calls to members of the Buchanan family. If there had been a bit more time, I feel that there could have been more history, pictures, etc. to show and tell about the house.

Visitors were welcomed to the house by hostesses who directed them through the dining room into the breakfast room and up the back secret staircase. Once upstairs they could see and hear about the collections of artifacts and

clothing. Then they came down the main staircase into the foyer and exited through the living room French doors.

The Buchanan house is a beauty--desperately needing some tender loving care. My hope is to look for a financial source for that "TLC" in order to restore this exquisite home to its original grandeur. It would be a shame to let this lovely place be neglected.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Hirsch

Sam Buchanan was in the lumber business. In the early 1920's he began construction on what was to be his pride and joy, the Buchanan House. He spent approximately 3 years constructing the house, leaving the foundation to sit for six months to "settle" before continuing with additional construction. Each building stage of the house was carefully monitored. The house was finished in 1926 when the Buchanan's and their four children moved in.

After the Buchanan's left the home, it was sold to Mr. Claude Dunn and his wife. They lived in it until she died and shortly afterward it was sold to the City of Brentwood. The city purchased the home in 1980 and on July 22nd, 1980 it opened as the Brentwood Public Library. There were two renovations done after the home was purchased by the city in order to accommodate the needs of the library. In 1986 the Buchanan House was sold to Brentwood United Methodist Church.

### BUCHANAN HOUSE

#2

The home had a secret back staircase that emptied into the breakfast room. The front staircase was one of the most beautiful parts of the home. The treads were made of oak and are still intact. There used to be a beautiful balustrade extending down the staircase that was removed during a later renovation of the home. On the landing there was a storage box where members of the family would sit. Upstairs were 5 bedrooms.

BUCHANAN HOUSE

#3

The living room was quite large and Mr. Buchanan had to add horse hair to the plaster to give it strength to support the walls of that room. At one time the plaster cracked and had to be redone. Sam Jr., marvelled at the ingenuity of his father in flxing the crack.

The home was always open for friends. The boys played basketball and hockey in the attic and skated in the basement. Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan entertained quite frequently and sometimes never knew how many of their children's friends would be sleeping overnight.

Thursday 4,811

Tuesday.



ne beautiful Brentwood Library has just been painted on the outside and the second floor has been remodeled make room for the ever growing collection there. The library currently has over 10,000 volumes.

Photo by C. Clark

## 3rentwood Library expands facilities to serve citizens

".....Passed the gate and the ie trimmed lawn....'

So the song goes and so are e words that come to mind nen driving through the autiful stone gate and up the inding lane through a green rpet of grass and tall trees the Brentwood Library.

Setting back, well of ranklin Road, the three story antation style home former-

owned by Claude Dunn, pesn't look like the typical tting for a public library.

Purchased a few years ago the city of Brentwood, the ilding has housed a growing ollection and recently the brary's administration ecided it was time to expand nd use three rooms available 1 the second floor.

moved into the house that we would have to use the second floor rooms," Janice Keck, head librarian of the county system said.

The expansion will increase the library's space by 66 percent, Keck said.

One room will be used as a reference room, one will be used as a children's activity room and the other will be used as a reading room, said Kathryn Shelhart, librarian at the Brentwood facility.

replastered and painted; carpeting was put down in all however. three rooms, the hallway and the stairway.

pening at the Brentwood proving the grounds around

"We knew as soon as we Library in addition to the add- the building. ed space.

> "We had to have the city manager's permission to do any work on the inside of the building, so when I called Dave Woodard to ask about the second floor, he said that if we did the remodeling to the inside, the city would paint the outside," Keck said.

So Woodard arranged to have CETA workers paint the outside trim of the building.

The library board and the city of Brentwood are not the on-The rooms have been ly groups making improvements to the library,

The Brentwood Garden Club and Murray Ohio Company But a lot more has been hap- have put many hours into im-

In addition to cleaning up the overgrown brush around the building, the club has planted many fall and spring bulbs.

Murray Ohio has also donated their services and offered to cut the grass for the library as a public service. Keck said that the company will use test models of lawn mowers to cut the grass.

So, with the combined efforts of the library board, the city of Brentwood, the Brentwood Garden Club and Murray Ohio, the Brentwood Library is a beautiful sight in the commercial section of the city and is providing more services and resources for the city's citizens.

### Now owned by Brentwood U.M. Church, Buchanan House served as home to prominent families, city's first library

#### By Joetta Sack Journal Staff Writer

This is the sixth in a series of articles on the Historic Brentwood Tour of Homes

The Buchanan House is a familiar site to most Brentwood residents, having been the home of two prominent families, the Brentwood library, and now part of the Brentwood United Methodist Church.

Sam Buchanan, who was in the lumber business, began building his home in the early 1920's. He spent about three years on the construction, even letting the foundation "settle" for six months.

The home was completed in 1926, and had five bedrooms; a secret back staircase, and a front staircase with an ornate balustrade that was the focal point of the house. The balustrade was removed and destroyed during a later renovation.

According to Sam Buchanan, Jr., one of the four children, "the home was always open for friends.

The boys played basketball and hockey in the attic and skated in the basement. Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan entertained quite frequently and sometimes never knew how many of their children's friends would be sleeping overnight."

Even then, Brentwood had water problems. Buchanan said water had to be hauled by mule from the spring at what is now Brentwood



The Buchanan House will serve as a tearoom sponsored by Brentwood United Methodist Church's women's group during the October tour sponsored by the city's Historic Commission.

Country Club, and the water for drinking and home. cooking was in another area.

There was a sulfur spring in the back of the wife, who lived there until she died.

The home was sold to Claude Dunn and his

It was sold to the City of Brentwood in 1980 and was used as the Brentwood Public Library from 1980 to 1986, when it was pur-

chased by the Brentwood United Methodist Church.

The home is currently used for a counseling center and Sunday school classes.

The home has been maintained well, but Brentwood United Methodist Church doesn't have the money needed to completely restore it, said church member Linda Hirsch.

"Three or four years ago, there were some beautiful period light fixtures installed, but other than that, there hasn't been a lot done.

"The money just isn't there."

Hirsch said she hopes someone will eventually restore the home to its original splendor.

"It's a very interesting place. I think it's one of the most beautiful homes in the city," Hirsch said. "Somebody who wanted to restore it would have a ball."

A tearoom will be featured at the home on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., said Loretta Morgan, tour chairman. Plate lunches and cookbooks will be sold.

"People can walk through the home if they want, but its primary purpose is the tearoom,"

The home will be closed on Sunday, Oct. 4. The tearoom will be sponsored by and benelit the Brentwood United Methodist Church's women's group.

"They use the money for mission work," Morgan said.