

NEWS LETTER

SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



The South Milwaukee Historical Society opened one room of the Historical House at 717 Milwaukee Ave. with artifacts donated or lent by your generosity. From left are Dora Lee Szewczuga, Gertrude Endthoff, Lois Schreiter, George Hook and Caroline Kotowicz singing Christmas Carols in September during the rummage sale. This picture was made on an electronic stencil.

Officers

- President - Lois Schreiter
- Vice-President - Dora Lee Szewczuga
- Secretary - Gertrude Endthoff
- Treasurer - Laura Hook

Board of Directors

- Ron Abrahamson
- Richard Grobschmidt
- Florence Johnson
- Otto Kuppert
- Mary McCarrier
- Dennis Rankin
- Richard Kleist

Committees

- Membership - Laura Hook
- Sunshine - Mary McCarrier
- Curator - Florence Johnson
- Hospitality - Lillian Rankin
- House Restoration - Lillian Rankin
- House Maintenance - Dennis Rankin, Otto Kuppert, Ray Thibaudeau, Don Broskowski
- Dinner-Dance - Rick Tangen

Our first regular meeting will be held January 9 in the Library Blue Room. Please note this day on your calendar.

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The annual dinner-dance will be held February 4, 1978 at the Grant Park Clubhouse. Social hour with punch bowl at 6: 30 p.m. with a buffet dinner at 7:30 p. m. There will be music, a sing-along, dancing and door prizes. Come - bring your mate or a friend!. The cost is \$6.00 per person. All reservations should be in by January 24. See attached reservation sheet.

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We were saddened by the death of Esther Kleist, wife of Richard, who died Thursday, December 15, 1977, after a long fight with cancer. Esther managed to get to most of our meetings until the last few months.

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1978 Membership dues are now due. Please remit soon so a membership roster can be completed. When filling out the remittance blank, please add your current phone number. Suggest a membership to a friend, relative or neighbor. Or - why not give a gift membership. We will send a gift card for you.

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The slide presentation of historical sites and buildings in South Milwaukee was enjoyed by all who attended the November meeting. Rick Grobschmidt photographed and arranged this visual aid and will have the tape recorded narrative ready for loaning to schools or organizations in our city in another month. This is a much needed addition to the teaching local history, especially in the schools.

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The State of Wisconsin Historical Society has received some funds to review the Indian occupation in our area. We are hoping they will do a survey of Indian Mounds and help us to preserve some of the uniqueness of South Milwaukee. If you have any knowledge or artifacts obtained in our area will you call and share your information with us? Call Lois Schreiter at 762-5214.

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The house maintenance crew, Otto Kuppert, Ray Thibaudeau, Dennis Rankin and Don Broskowski, have worked hard in the past months to keep the boiler and heating plant working at the Historical House and the plumbing leaks found and repaired, and the resulting holes in the walls covered. Thanks fellas. May your next year be easier for you. If any other members have spare time and would be willing to help on the upkeep of the house, please volunteer your services. Many hands will make each project a little easier.

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Another new project we would like to get into is a booklet about the past mayors of South Milwaukee. Anyone offering information or help in the project will be welcomed.

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The plate rail will soon be installed in the House dining room. This is the time for each of us to donate a plate of ours or from someone else. Please!

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A framed list of charter members will be lettered by Barbara Grobschmidt and hung in the front hall of the House.

DEPOT COMMITTEE REPORT

The depot committee has drawn up a report about their findings regarding the depot and has sent it to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Committee in Madison. A decision on whether the depot qualifies for nomination as a National Historic landmark will be made in January.

A letter telling about some of the historic facts uncovered and a plea for saving the depot has been sent to the local newspapers and the Common Council.

The Depot Committee has also sent a letter suggesting several locations in South Milwaukee as county landmarks to the County Landmark Commission. They include the depot, the Fowle house in Grant Park, the Rawson home and the Hook house on Rawson Ave.

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT

The rummage sale was held on two weekends in September due to the large amount of rummage received, for which we thank everyone. The sale was huge success. We made \$227.76, part of which was transferred to the book fund and the rest added to the general account.

We wish to thank all those who helped with the sale, setting up, pricing, selling and especially those who donated items. Some good articles were left over, so they were stored for next year's sale. The clothing that was left was donated to Human Concerns and all of the books not sold were given to the Friends of the Library. We understand that the Library selects the books it does not have and the rest the Friends sell to earn money for special projects.

If you didn't have a chance to help at this year's sale, keep it in mind for next year. The workers had a good time and got to know one another better.

One of the big pluses of the sale was the large amount of donations of artifacts and furnishings for the house. One room is nearly completed, and things were collected for other parts of the house and exhibits.

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL CONVENTION

The 1977 Metropolitan Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council of Local History was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Hales Corners October 29, 1977. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society was the host council.

Regional reports were given by representatives of fifteen societies. Richard Grobschmidt reported for our Society. A copy of our history South Milwaukee - Then to Now was presented to the Genealogical Society for their library.

Michael Fox of the State Society gave a short explanation of the microfilming project in Milwaukee County.

"Folk Art in Wisconsin," a slide presentation by Thurman Fox of the State Society, was an appeal to people who have folk art to photograph it and send slides to the society so existing folk art can be catalogued.

The highlight of the afternoon, following a luncheon in the church gym, was a talk by Dr. James D. Walker, Local History and Research Specialist from the National Archives, Washington, D. C., who discussed various records and history found in the archives and how to proceed to find them.

The busy day ended with a tour of the Genealogical Branch Library of the Mormon church in Hales Corners.

The 1978 convention will be hosted by the Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE - THEN TO NOW

Be sure you have a copy of 140 years of history of our city in South Milwaukee - Then to Now by our own member Gertrude Endthoff. We do not realize it, but these books become more valuable as each year passes. Put a copy away now for your children and grandchildren who will treasure it then more than you do now.

Again books will be appropriately gift wrapped, without charge, ready for giving. Cost of the book is \$7.50, including tax. Contact Ron Abrahamson, 1618 Manitoba Ave., phone 764-0714. Books can also be obtained from the South Milwaukee Marine Bank, The Home State Bank, Voice-Journal Co., and Journal Printing Co.

Let's all get behind the sales of this great book so our outstanding obligation can be paid and we begin to realize the profits from it.

For mail orders detach blank and send to Ron Abrahamson, 1618 Manitoba Ave., South Milwaukee, Wis., 53172.

Please send _____ copies of South Milwaukee - Then to Now to

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occasion for wrapping _____ Plain wrapping _____

Remittance Enclosed _____

(Please add an additional \$1.00 for mailing)