



The Society  
Historical Society

Meeting 1st. Monday of the month, So. Milwaukee Library Blue Room, Time 7:30 p.m.

President - Ron Abrahamson	764-0714	House Restoration - Lillian Rankin	762-9534
Vice Pres. - Lois Schreiter	762-5214	Save the Depot - Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Secretary - Pat Abrahamson	764-0714	Book Sales - Ron Abrahamson	
Treasure - Laura Hook	762-0635	Accessioning - Florence Johnson	
<u>Committee Chairmen</u>		Newsletter - Pat Abrahamson	Laura Hook
Sunshine - Mary Mc Carrier	762-4833		Ron Abrahamson
Building and Grounds			
Don Broskowski	762-1467		
Membership - Laura Hook	762-0635		
Museum Curator - Florence			
Oral History - Johnson	762-3673		

Birthdays

At a recent meeting the members present gave us their birthdays for publication in the newsletter. Give an old or new friend a call or send them a card. Lets all get better acquainted! Send us your birthday to get on the roster.

- May 20 - George Hook
- May 31 - Bonnie (Rankin) Coley
- May 23 - Lois Schreiter
- June 30 - Penny Rankin
- Aug. 8 - Dr. H. Coley
- Aug. 9 - Sloan Alison Coley
- Aug. 21 - Mary Holm

Book

This is a great time of the year to purchase copies of So. Milwaukee Then To Now by our own Gertrude Endthoff. Remember--

Graduations	Weddings
Communions	Confirmations
Hostess Gifts	Etc.

Available at... Voice Journal  
Harvest Hut  
The Gift Hutch - Oak Creek  
Journal Printing  
So. Milw. Marine Bank

Home State Bank

Books available gift wrapped free of charge for all occasions. Call 764-0714.

In Memory of

The Society gratefully acknowledges gifts in memory of Lillian Dishong.

From the President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who have helped out in various capacities throughout the past year. I feel that the Society has grown and will continue to progress under the guidance of our new officers.

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

THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE-CHICAGO NORTHWESTERN TRANSPORTATION CO. DEPOT  
LOCATED AT 11TH AND MILWAUKEE AVE., SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI

OUR PROGRESS ON THE DEPOT

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin conducted a hearing for the application of the Chicago Northwestern Transportation Co. Abandonment of Facilities in South Milwaukee on March 22, 1977 in the City Hall Annex at 9 a.m.

Since South Milwaukee is a "point of departure" city the PSC must approve the action of moving the depot to the Oak Creek location. After this approval is granted the C.N.T. Co. may sell or dispose of the buildings and properties as they wish.

The rumor has it that Bucyrus-Erie Co. wishes to buy the land, remove the buildings and use the land for parking lot.

The P.S.C. may rule in the event of a historical building that the building may not be torn down but renovated and would not approve the abandonment until suitable plans and agreement had been reached by all parties. They are doing this in the case of Middleton and Monroe Center R.R. Stations (circa 1850)

The South Milwaukee Historical Society contends that we do not have "old buildings" in our city. Most buildings have been torn down to make way for new buildings, and the railroad station is probably the last remaining building of any historic value left in our city.

In our letter of March 24, 1977 to the P.S.C. we asked for time to gain local support for the purpose of saving the depot as a historical museum.

Mary Holm and Lois Schreiter found the original deed filed at Milwaukee county that sold the parcel of land to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Co. from the South Milwaukee Co. on May 31, 1883 for one dollar...."on the condition that said above described property shall be used for passenger depot and other railroad purposes."

The parking lot next to the depot was sold by the C.N.T. Co. to the City of South Milwaukee for \$31,500 on January 31, 1966. The City of South Milwaukee sold the parking lot to Bucyrus-Erie for an undisclosed price on September 5, 1968.

The State Historical Society sent us a copy of their letter to the PSC on March 31, 1977, which says "Based upon the information supplied by the South Milwaukee Historical Society we feel that this Railroad Station is a significant historical site and if the picture reproduced in the newspaper clipping is an accurate representation of the station, it also has some architectural merit. Based on these tentative observations, we feel that this structure is worthy of preservation and could be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places."

Buildings listed on the National Register may receive matching funds for restoration. We are in the process of nominating the depot for the National Register of Historic Places.

The State Historical Society informed us of three laws passed in the last two years which make funds available for preservation of historic or architecturally significant stations.

We have started to circulate petitions for local support to save the depot.

### SOCIETY CURATOR CHOSEN

Florence Johnson was recently selected to be the curator of our house museum. Her duties will include over-all supervision of the museum and the organization of exhibits. Please give her your cooperation and help.

### ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Our January 8 dinner meeting was attended by 71 members and guests. The brightly lighted clubhouse in Grant Park was a welcome sight on a very chilly night. Hot cider and punch was served. The tables were decorated with candles, news clippings, old tickets and other memorabilia. A delicious buffet dinner was served followed with a sing-a-long and dancing with concertina Millie. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Thibadeau are to be commended for the excellent manner in which they handled this function.

### SUNSHINE NOTES

Sunshine Chairman Mary McCarrier sent cards of cheer to the following members since the first of the year: Misses Alice Caveney, Maude Hook, Mmes. Laura Hook, Violet Hanley, Angie Hook, Barbara Schouten, Messrs. Steven Batovsky, Harold Reed, and Don Broskowski.

We hope all have recovered and will now enjoy the coming summer months.

A congratulatory card was sent to Lee and Jeffrey Wendt, now of Kohler, Wis. on the birth of their second son.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MRS. BARNES

Her 100th birthday was celebrated by one of our members, Mrs. Marguerite Barnes, who was born April 5, 1877. Congratulations from the Society were sent to her. We wish her continued good health and happiness. Mrs. Barnes lives with her daughter, Mrs. Leo M. Duwe.

### HOUSE RESTORATION

Decorator Wilbur Meyer has completed the wallpapering in the Society house. Papered in traditional Victorian era style, it is beautiful. Some painting is still to be done before it can be opened for viewing. Could we have more volunteers so it can be finished soon? We would appreciate receiving furnishings - even just one dish, chair, other pieces of furniture, documents, etc. Can't each of us contribute at least one item to make our project memorable?

### ORAL HISTORY

The Society has recorded several interesting people in the community. Florence Johnson will be assuming the chairmanship of this committee. Please call her if you know someone who should be put on tape.

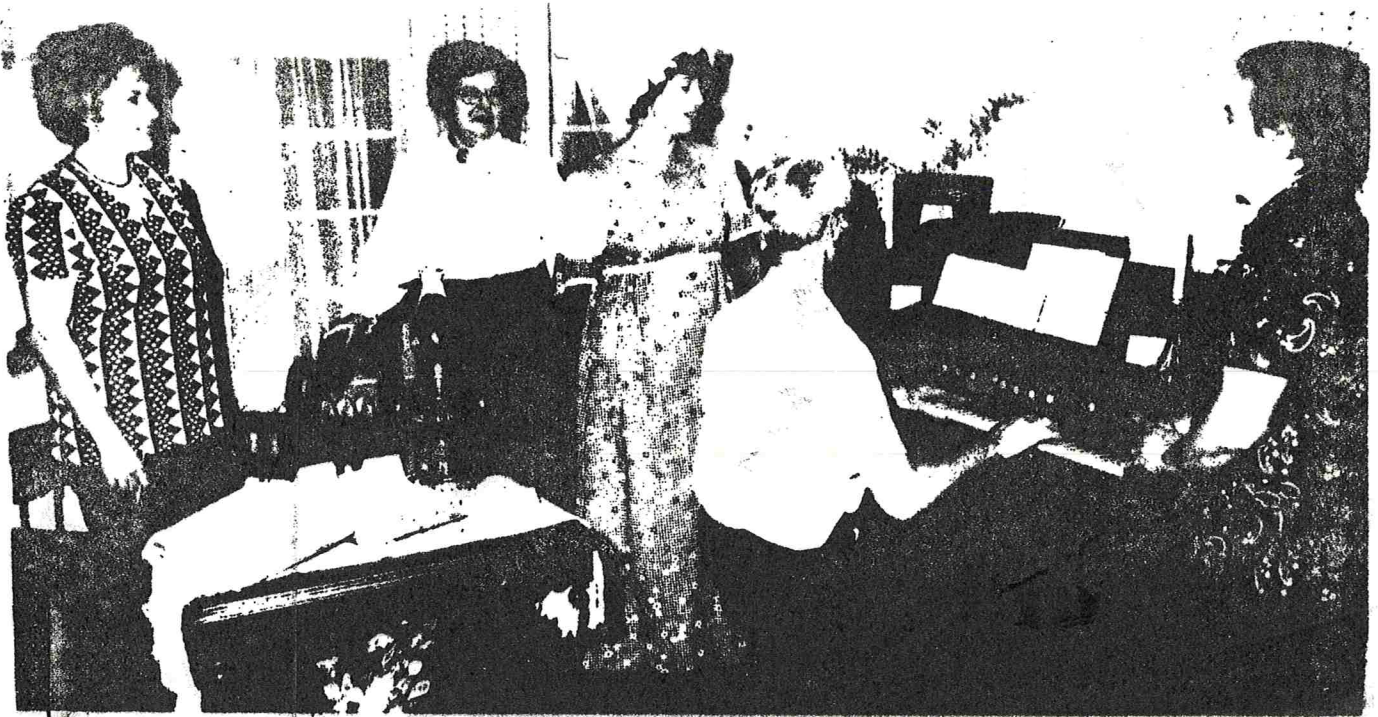
Following is a short summary of the taped interview of Gertrude Endthoff. The interview was May 10, 1976. Barbara Mueller was the interviewer.

Gert started teaching in South Milwaukee in 1952. She was to teach a unit on the history of the community. The third grade teachers started searching for information for a grade school text. Information was gathered from the Milwaukee Historical Society, the South Milwaukee Library, and from speaking to the older residents of South Milwaukee at a tea.

The first book was mimeographed. 300 copies were made and sold for \$1.25 and then \$1.50

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.

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 Dinner-Dance - Rick Tangen

#### 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 Historical Society  
Annual

Dinner — Dance

Saturday, February 4, 1978  
at

Grant Park Clubhouse  
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Music — Sing-along — Door Prizes

Punch Bowl — 6:30 p.m.  
Buffet Dinner — 7:30 p.m.  
\$6<sup>00</sup> per person

Detach and send to Laura Hook, 703 Minnesota Ave.  
with remittance by January 24, 1978.  
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Name -----

street -----

city -----

Phone -----

Number      Attending —      Remittance —



Are you interested in preserving the history of South Milwaukee?  
 Are you concerned about the loss and/or neglect of not only artifacts,  
 but information about the settling of the area now incorporated as  
 South Milwaukee?

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is interested, does care  
 and is concerned.

The Society was incorporated in October, 1972 as an affiliate of  
 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Its aims are to encourage  
 the preservation of all information and artifacts relating to South  
 Milwaukee.

We strive to arouse pride and community consciousness in the  
 heritage to be found here.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M.  
 at the South Milwaukee Public Library. Occasional speakers and programs  
 of interest are presented throughout the year. Refreshments are served  
 after the meetings so that members can socialize and become better  
 acquainted.

The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter which keeps members  
 informed of individual and group activities, as well as giving notice  
 of all meetings of the Society.

Some of the activities sponsored by the Society are: collecting  
 and cataloguing pictures, articles of clothing, books and all types  
 of written and printed material pertaining to South Milwaukee, its  
 founders and present residents, and collecting on tape an oral history  
 of memories and reminiscences of some of its elderly residents, as well  
 as documenting happenings of today.

An application blank for membership, describing the various types  
 of membership in the Society, is attached. If you wish to join, please  
 detach and mail to our membership chairmen.

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South Milwaukee Historical Society	+	Type of Membership	
Laura Hook or Jan Schumacher	+		
703 Minnesota Ave.	+	Regular Individual .	\$3.00
South Milwaukee, Wis. 53172	+	Family . . . . .	5.00
	+	Junior (to 18) . . .	1.00
Enclosed are my membership dues:	+	Retired Person . . .	2.00
	+	Business	
Name _____	+	Professional . . . .	10.00
	+	Organization	
Address _____	+	Sustaining . . . . .	25.00
	+		
City _____ Zip _____	+		

Your active support of our endeavors will be appreciated.  
 Dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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