

NEWSLETTER  
SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
August 1979

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OFFICERS

President	DoraLee Szewczuga	762-7828
Vice President	Gertrude Endthoff	762-8852
Secretary	Ruth Lewis	762-2361
Treasurer	Laura Hook	762-0635

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NEW MEETING PLACE BEGINNING WITH SEPT. 10th MEETING: The Historical society will continue to meet on Mondays at 7:30, but we will be meeting in the library annex of the Senior High School instead of the Blue Room at the public library. We needed to find a new place for our meetings since we have to vacate the public library by 8:30 p.m. which would not give us enough time for a meeting and a program. Perhaps when the new firehouse is built we can request the use of the proposed community room. This would also be a more central location. If anyone needs a ride for the meeting, please call DoraLee and she will try to arrange one for you.

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MEETING DATES THIS YEAR: We will continue with our every-other-month meetings. The first one will be on Monday, Sept. 10th and the next will be November 5th. We will have a program for the Sept. meeting thanks to the efforts of program chairman, Rick Grobschmidt. He has arranged for a film from the County Historical Society entitled "Wisconsin Industry in Two Centuries." It will trace industry in the state from the fur trade down to the energy crisis. A representative from the county society will be on hand to answer questions after the film.

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WE ARE SORRY to have to report the loss of one of our charter members. On July 31st Mr. Harry Jagodzinski passed away. Many will remember Harry as a collector of F.D. Roosevelt memorabilia but we will remember him as an enthusiastic historian, one with a pleasant smile and word for everyone. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to his wife, Dorothy and their family.

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WE HAVE A REQUEST for information about Heinrich (Henry) Zimmer who came to this area about 1844 and settled on a farm on what was then called "the New Road", possibly south 13th, between Puetz and Ryan Roads. He had two sons, Henry and Herman who later operated the 120 acre farm around 1860. Anyone who might have information can write to Ed Zimmer; 7406 W. 90th St.; Los Angeles, Calif.; 90045

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY attended the Metropolitan Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History on June 9th. hosted by the Brown Deer Society. Besides an informative meeting and a splendid lunch, a tour through Channel 6 T.V. , Badger Meter Works, and Brown Deer's historical museum, the "Little White School House" was enjoyed by everyone. Those attending were George and Laura Hook, Otto Kuppert, Gertrude Endthoff, DoraLee Szewczuga and Mary McCarrier.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 12th was a perfect day for the So. Milw. Art Fair, and thanks to the space donated for the society's use by Harvey Johnson, we were able to set up a picture display that drew the interest of many people and helped to sell four "From Then To Now" books, twenty-one packs of note cards, three maps and four rocks. Many people did not seem to realize that there was a historical society here, or that we are and have been, gleaning materials and information about our community. We should try to set up displays at these events more often. Our thanks to Gert Endthoff, Ruth Lewis, Otto Kuppert and Harvey Johnson for their help.

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George Hook and DoraLee set up shop in front of the Journal Printing office for Sidewalk Days the 27th of July. Several packs of note cards and a book or two were also sold on that occasion. It was one more place to let people know we're here. It was a beastly hot day, and we thank George for his perseverance.

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Another thank you goes out to all of you who "house-sat" this summer. Although we did not have a great number of visitors, every one counts with us. Thank you to: George and Laura Hook, Lois Schreiter, Ann Monson, Mary McCarrier, Ann Kerlin, Lynn Rankin, Gert Endthoff, Otto Kuppert, Harvey Johnson and to any others we might have missed.

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THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE public library kindly donated the use of their display case for the society's use for the whole summer. Two displays were set up that seemed to be of interest to many. One featured pictures of Old So. Milw. along with artifacts from the museum, and the other displayed various types of small item collections that might be started as a hobby, such as stamps, coins and dolls.

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SPEAKING OF PICTURES, those of old So. Milw are always a hit, so if you have pictures you wish to donate, now is the time to do it. If you would rather keep them, perhaps you would consider lending them



for copying. In any case, noting on the back of pictures, names, dates and places in soft pencil is a good thing to do even for your own use.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS thought they had the problem of having the Society house painted solved earlier this summer after receiving an ok from the Social Development Commission to hire several young people to scrape and paint. However, after putting an ad in the papers, calling the high school and asking around, not one person was interested in the job. Perhaps it was because the job was limited to those between the ages of 18-21, and that it only paid minimum wages. We have been advised to try again next year, only earlier in the year. A lot of work needs to be done at the house besides painting. A new faucet had to be replaced in the upper flat bathtub. When the plumber checked the basement pipes, they too, were found to be in bad condition and the entire lateral system may have to be replaced. In any event, a new water shut-off system will have to be put in next spring, since if there is a leak, only a plumber has the equipment to turn the water off. This is a bad situation. Several windows are broken and some of the storm windows are missing. These problems will be discussed at the Sept. meeting.

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One of the latest acquisitions for our museum is a handmade petticoat that dates to about 1860. The bodice is hand crocheted and the skirt is muslin. It was made by the great-grandmother of Mrs. Sy Ball from whom it was received. Other items include an old pair of glasses, a kerosene lamp, a china spoon rest of unusual design and many pictures and negatives of So. Milw. sites and people. A dining room table and chairs that he refinished was given to the society by Harvey Johnson. It has been set with handpainted dishes and old silverware.

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OUR TREASURER, Laura Hook received a letter recently from Mrs. Elting Morison of New Hampshire stating that she had seen a book about South Milwaukee and that she would be interested in purchasing several copies for her family. Three copies were soon in the mail. If the Morison name sounds familiar it is because of the Girl Scout house on Hawthorne ave. that was given to the scouts by Amelia E. Morison in honor of her mother, Harriet (Cook) Elmore. in 1926 and used for many years. It is now a private residence, but the picture of Mrs. Elmore that hung over the mantel in the living room there is now hanging in our museum, along with the bronze plaque that identified Hawthorne House to hundreds of girls that spent week-ends there.

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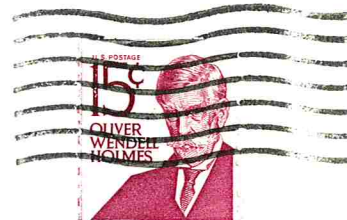
ONE OF OUR MOST successful fund raising projects is coming up soon. This is our ANNUAL RUMMAGE AND PLANT SALE. This year the date will be Saturday, Sept. 22nd. So start saving your discards, and if you have a green thumb, start a few slips from your favorite plants. We need help in pricing and setting up items for sale, also people to help on the day of the sale selling and also showing the house, as it usually is open to the public at the same time.

In the past, Rummage Sale Day has also been Work-around the house Day. Last year the men pulled out the shrubs in the front and re-planted along with general cleaning up. This type of work is needed again before the winter sets in. We will ask again at the Sept. meeting for discards and helpers. Give a thought to joining in this year, we really have a good time.

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SEE YOU AT THE MEETING, SEPT. 10th, 7:30 p.m. SOUTH MILWAUKEE  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY ANNEX

*South Milwaukee  
Historical Society*



*Mrs. Lois Schreiter  
104 Brookdale Drive  
South Milwaukee, Wis.*