



South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1980

OFFICERS

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

OUR NEXT MEETING DATE is Monday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sr. High School library annex. This is our annual election and last meeting until next September, so we know you'd like to attend. Mark your calendar. Besides officers, we need to elect three board members. Nominations will be taken from the floor on all positions.

We will also have to vote on several issues. One is whether to change our meeting dates from Mondays to Tuesdays next fall when the new fire station is completed. We have requested the use of the community room there when the building is finished, but we cannot have Mondays. All that is open is Tuesday. The board thinks that changing our place of meeting would be an improvement as an aid to our older members. It is more centrally located, the parking is better and it will be on the first floor.

The other issue concerns the house. We have raised about \$300 in addition to the \$2000 from the city to either have the house painted or as a start to having it sided with aluminum. The board hopes to have all the figures for you by the May meeting.

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAM for the May meeting about antiques and the antique business will be presented by Betty and Russ Tschohl, former residents of South Milwaukee and now owners of 1857 HOUSE ANTIQUES out on Nicholson rd. They have joined our society and have graciously agreed to tell us a few things about old things.

Betty says that if anyone wishes to bring an article she will try to tell them something about it and perhaps what it is worth. One article per person, please. We will do this as time allows.

OUR FEB. 2 DINNER MEETING was a huge success. Because of limited space in the executive dining room at the BE clubhouse, we were forced to turn away quite a few people who wanted to attend, and for this we are sorry.

We are getting a head start on next year's dinner to be held Sat. January 31st. We have made arrangements for a larger dining area so that we can accomodate all those who wish to come.

This years dinner was excellent as it always is at the club, and the program put on by Rick Grobschmidt was truly enjoyed by all. The theme of the dinner was "Streets of Old. So. Milw."

Next year's theme will center around the Lawson airliner, and Mr. George Hardie, jr., an aviation historian, will present the program. He has been collecting material about Lawson, the man, and the Lawson airliner for forty years. This plane was built in South Milwaukee in 1921.

WE ARE NOW LISTED in the Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. It lists various institutions archival holdings and their solicitation policies. It is used by researchers and as a reference work for libraries throughout the nation.

RUTH LEWIS AND DoraLee attended a workshop at the Milw. County Historical Society on Feb. 29th. The day long program consisted of things like how to set up displays, how to construct a better newsletter, the care and management of documentary materials, how to take care of old fabrics and photographs and it ended with a tour of their workshops and storage areas. It was a very interesting day, and you might like to keep it in mind for next years workshop, as anyone may attend.

THE METROPOLITAN Regional Convention for the Council for Local History will be hosted by the CUDAHY HISTORICAL SOCIETY this year. It will be held on October 11. We will let you know at the Sept. meeting more of the arrangements.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Council will be held on October 31-Nov. 1. No doubt at Madison.

HOW ABOUT PLANNING A Fall bus tour for our Society??? Does someone out there want to help plan a tour to someplace like LongGrove? or to some of the historic sites around Milw.? or how about one out to OLD WORLD WISCONSIN??? Well, bring it up at the May meeting and we'll talk about it.

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THERE WILL BE A SPRING RUMMAGE & PLANT SALE on Sat., May 31st at the Society's house coupled with our spring clean-up around the premises. We have many things left from the fall sale that are still in the garage that we need to get rid of. If you have items you wish to donate, or some plants or plant slips you could donate, please contact one of the officers.

RECENT DONATIONS

McGraw-Edison, Kyle	\$20.00
Products Plant	
So. Milw. Women's Club	\$100.00
So. Milw. Lion's Club	\$200.00

We will need volunteers to help with the sale and to work around the yard and to keep the house open for tours on that day. Plan to help--we have a good time and you will get to know other members a little better. We will ask again at the May meeting.

Our most sincere thanks to them all for their help and support.

WE WISH TO EXTEND our warmest greetings and a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our oldest member--Mrs. Margurite A. BARNES. On her recent birthday she was 103 years old. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

CLIPPINGS--If you were one of those nice people who agreed to help with gathering news clippings and now have a stack you want to get out of the way, bring them along to the May meeting. But please don't stop with your clipping--these are the things that make it easier for researchers of the future. And they are the ones we have to consider.

KATHY MASON is looking for some information about the Senak family which lived on Milw. ave. about where the YMCA building is. If you can help, her number is 762-2433.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID your dues for the year, now is the time to do it. You will be dropped from the society roster and will not receive any more newsletters if they are not paid by the end of May.

Don't drop out--get more involved in the Society--learn more about your community. With the high price of gasoline we will be spending more time on our own area, it seems, and what better way to spend it then learning of our past history and helping to collect the present.

THANKS TO MR. HAROLD HEIN we now have 53 books in our Lincoln Collection. He has been donating them to us over the past few years and we thank him again.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR donations of furniture for the house, especially living room furnishings. And we desperately need FILING CABINETS since we have been getting more and more archival materials.

Some of our more recent acquisitions include: handmade dresser scarves and bed coverings from the Millard family which dates back to the 1860's at least, donated by the Booker family.

From June Fykse we received several booklets about So. Milw., a good picture of the Moore Basket works and one of the Congregational church.

From George and Laura Hook came several small old purses, a pair of embroidered babyshoes, a telegraphers key that was used at the

depot, a pair of wooden shoes and a machine that cures one from falling hair to ingrown toenails, it seems, among other things.

And from George's cousin Mrs. G. Henderson of Saint Louis, we received a collection of Civil War letters and a few others that were written by Persis Rawson and relatives of the Rawson family in the late 1860's and early 70's.

Janet Hobart Lewis Smith of Falls Church, Va. has been sending things to the Society right along. She has given us many good pictures of sites in So. Milw. and information about the Hobart family.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D like to donate to the Society and would like to have an appraisal for your tax records we now can provide this service. Betty Tschohl, who is a registered appraiser, will perform this service for us, but only if the item is donated first. If you wish to have items appraised for your own records you may contact her yourself.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have enjoyed my year as president of our Society, but then I enjoyed all the years I have been a member. Perhaps it is because I became involved in helping to gather the history of our community.

Maybe the reason I became involved is because So. Milw. is my home by choice and not by birth. Coming from a large community like Milw. to a contained community such as So. Milw. is, the local history was not so awesome and out of reach to one who wanted to pursue knowledge of it.

The best place to start, I found, was at the oldest cemeteries in the community and soon family names fell into place. The library was next and then going directly to the people for information. Putting together the history of a community

is like working a picture puzzle. Every small piece counts.

The piece YOU hold may seem unimportant by itself, but it has a place to fit in that completes the picture.

So don't lose YOUR piece--write down your family history, identify all your pictures, start a journal of what you remember from your childhood on. It's ALL important.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the May meeting.

DoraLee

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION week will be the second week in May. Our house will be open on Sat. May 10th as part of the activities in southeast Wis. Lois Schreiter will again present a program about the depot

and community history at 10:30 a.m. And the house will be open for tours.

Doesn't it make you feel good to see that the depot is being repaired?? Benkowski builders have been repairing the roof and taking up the platform on the west side of the station. We've been told that a wrought-iron fence will be put up. Why don't you drop them a line and let them know you appreciate what they are doing-- they are saving a part of history for us and our children.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 5th--Mon. 7:30 p.m.--MEETING
May 10th--Sat. 10:30 a.m.--Preservation program at house
717 Milw. Ave.
May 31st--Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
RUMMAGE & PLANT sale at the house

South Milwaukee Historical Society
717 Milwaukee Ave.
South Milwaukee, WI 53172



*Mrs. + Mrs. Steve Schreiter
104 Brookdale Drive
South Milwaukee, Wis.*