



South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1980

OFFICERS

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

Meetings for 1980

Sept. 8th and Nov. 3rd 7:30 p.m. at So. Milw. Sr. High Library

We hope you have had a pleasant summer and that you come to the first meeting of the season filled with enthusiasm for preserving So. Milwaukee history. Maybe some of you have had the opportunity to visit other communities and their historical museums to see how they do things. You might have come across a few good ideas to help promote ours. If so, why not attend Monday, Sept. 8th and share with us?

We hope to have a program that you will enjoy, and the meeting should prove to be of interest because of some of the things to be discussed. See you there.

The State Historical Society is looking for labeled pieces of furniture made in Wisconsin from the beginning of the furniture industry in 1850 to the depression years. Those pieces bearing a mfg's label are specifically being sought for an exhibit scheduled for July-Dec. of 1981.

Besides furniture they need the following: manufacturers trade catalogues; photographs relating to the furniture industry or showing Wis. made furniture being used or sold; information about furniture companies and the people

who worked in them.

If you have a piece that you aren't sure of, send the following information to Anne Woodhouse, Curator of Decorative Arts, State Historical Society, 816 State St., Madison, Wis., 53706.

Description (Arm chair, chair, ect.)
Information on label (city, mfg, ect.)
Kind of label (stencil, paper, ect.)
Your name, address and a photograph if possible.

We also have a request for information from the Herclerode-Meier Family Association. They are searching for descendants of those two families which came from Lebanon county, Pa. The Isaac Meier home, located in Myerstown, Pa., just east of Lebanon has been listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. It is in the process of being restored. Any information may be sent to Philip Brown, Pres., 665 River Road, Fair Haven, New Jersey, 07701.

Did you know that Rawson Park, which has one of the last stands of Native Beech trees in the state, was acquired by the city in 1918 and transferred to the Milw. County Park Commission in 1937. The land was originally part of the vast holdings

of the Rawson family which settled here in 1836.

Anyone out there interested in round barns? Larry Jost of 8735 West Hawthorne Court, Franklin, Wis. 53132 has just completed a book on the round and five sided barns of Wisconsin with information going back to 1797. The book sells for \$4.00 and you may write to him if you are interested in buying one.

The historical society was represented at the So. Milw. Art Fair on Aug. 10th with a booth manned by Ruth Lewis, Lois Schreiber and George and Laura Hook. Although the weather left much to be desired the society had a good day. Sixteen packs of note paper, one "From Then to Now" book and a goodly number of decorated rocks were sold.

We are on our second printing of the note paper which seems to be selling quite well. There are just a few packets of the depot note papers left and we may not be getting any more of those. We will bring some of each along to the Sept. meeting. They sell for \$2.00 a pack, eight cards in the society pack and ten in the depot.

LATEST ACQUISITIONS

We received a very nice, ornate wicker rocking chair and a book of poems written by a former So. Milw. resident in 1947 from Carmen Hertz.

From Richard and Mary Schultz came a huge, old tailors' iron.

Two dresses, one a blue silk foulard from 1912 which was made for Mrs. August Seymer, and the other a black crepe from 1914 made for Mrs. Warner Smoot were among things donated by Mrs. Bernice (Smoot) Gronewold. Also donated was an excellent picture of her grandfather's house on Rawson ave., the August Seymer home which dates to the 1890's.

Have you been over to the museum lately? A newer acquisition that graces the living room is a victrola that was donated by the Harold Saxlers. This is a super piece, and it works-- some of the Sunday house sitters like to put on an old-fashioned two-step or even a song by Sir Harry Lauder.

Russel and Betty Tschohl put on a very interesting program at our May meeting. They brought a variety of antiques and collectibles. Russ shared some secrets about furniture refinishing and Betty went around the audience telling about articles they had brought. It was so interesting in fact, that the building superintendent had to shoo us out at 10 o'clock.

Our program for September will prove to be as interesting, we think. Clayton Tollefson, Oak Creek, a member of the Commander in Chief's Guard of the Northwest Territorial Alliance will appear in authentic Revolutionary War uniform and give us some information about the group which participates in re-enactments of the Revolutionary War. He will try to answer any questions you may have about this period, as most of the members of the group are steeped in its history.

The group recently participated in an encampment at Stonewood Village when over 200 troops took part.

Keep in mind that the METROPOLITAN Reginal Convention will be hosted by the CUDAHY HISTORICAL SOCIETY this year. The date is October 11th. We'll let you know more at the meeting about what time and where it will take place. Let's have a good turn-out from our Society, we need to support each other.

We are still in need of some filing cabinets. Anyone out there have one or know where we can pick one up, cheap???

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In behalf of all the members of the Historical Society I would like to thank all those who so generously donated to the fund for having our museum sided with aluminum. We hope you have been around to look at the job, and that it meets with your approval. Although we did not reach the goal we had hoped for, which would have allowed us to complete the project with door and window trim, downspouts and gutters, and aluminum windows and doors, we were able to finish the upper trim and soffits. We need approximately \$2500 to finish the balance of the work. Downspouts and gutters are especially important since we did not have the old ones reattached to the house because it would have caused holes in the new siding. Perhaps by spring we will have enough in our coffers to take care of that part of our project. The house looks nice, we think, and for all your gifts we thank you again.

DoraLee Szewczuga

CONTRIBUTORS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Otto Kuppert | Christine Bettinger |
| Ruth Lewis | George and Barbara Klipfel |
| Russell and Betty Tschohl | Agnes Reingans |
| George and Laura Hook | Edward Kotschi |
| Robert Simbach | Procter Associates |
| DoraLee Szewczuga | Ferdinand and Bernette Brutvan |
| Richard and Barbara Grobschmidt | Chester and Leone Grobschmidt |
| Paul and Dorothy Holm | Hazel Gates |
| Raymond and May Thiboudeau | Janet M. Smith |
| Home State Bank | Joseph and Marie Frank |
| Frederick and Amy Hook | Gertrude Weiland |
| Leora M. Duwe | Appleton Electric Co. |
| Marguerite Barnes | Anne Monson |
| Roland and Anita Kanitz | Jack Haueter |
| Ruth Maddock | Walter and Lucille Siren |
| Mrs. Donald Rasmussen | Dr. Robert Nolan |
| Harold and Frances Saxler | Gene R. Weber |
| June Fykse | Chester Fowle |
| Mary McCarrier | So. Milwaukee Marine Bank |
| Ver Braken Card Shop | So. Milwaukee Savings & Loan |
| Atty. Robert Mullins | Mr. & Mrs. Harold Reed |
| Gertrude Endthoff | Carmen Hertz |
| Ethel Lange | City of South Milwaukee |

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to house sit this summer. We have had more visitors this year than last, a few from other states and one from France. Those who spent two hours of their Sundays (some more than once) were: Anne Monson, Otto Kuppert, Laura & George Hook, DoraLee, Gert Endthoff, Ruth Lewis and Lois Schreiter and Harvey Johnson. If we missed some we apologize, and thanks again.

Looking for ways to be of service to the community, the Historical Society decided to try to help those groups planning to hold reunions. The class of 1940 held their reunion on August 16th at the Bucyrus clubhouse and we set up a picture display and also set out some of our note papers and the "From then to Now" book". We learned from this, our first experience, that placement of the display is very important, and timing. The

first thing people at reunions do is to see how much everyone has changed, and they are not too interested in looking at old pictures, ect. Because we do not have proper display boards we had to lay the pictures and other items down flat on tables and we found that this does not work too well either. We will be doing the 1950 So. Milw. high school reunion on the 30th and hope to have a better set-up by that time. We need some vollunteers for this type of service, also. Get in touch with DoraLee if you would like to help.

The South Milwaukee Library has given us the month of October to set up a display in their case. We have had some good ones in the past. Would anyone like to set up the display this time, or help in anyway? Call DoraLee.

South Milwaukee Historical Society
717 Milwaukee Ave.
So. Milw., Wis. 53172

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 8th 7:30 p.m. --meeting

October 11th--Metro. Regional Convention--Cudahy Historical Society

November 3rd 7:30 p.m. --Meeting

Jan. 5, 1981 7:30 p.m.--meeting

Jan. 31, 1981--Society Dinner, BE Club--special program on the Lawson airliner

History is the glass through which we may behold, with ancestral eyes, not only the various deeds of past ages and the old accidents that attend them, but also discern the different humors of men.

-- Howell