



South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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 1981: January 5th, March 2nd and May 4th. 7:30 p.m.
at the So. Milw. High School Library

SOCIETY DINNER

Make plans to attend the society's annual dinner to be held on Sat. Jan 31st at the BE club-house. Last year we were forced to turn down many who wanted to attend because we used the executive dining room and there was not enough space. This time we have reserved the large dining room so there will be room for all of our members and friends. Our special program is one that will interest many South Milwaukeeans. George Hardie, an aviation historian will share pictures and information he has gathered over the past 40 years about the Lawson airliner which was built here in So. Milw. in 1920-21.

We ask that if any of you who plan to attend have souvenirs of the plane which crashed on its maiden flight, May 8, 1921 near 9th and Blake aves, please bring them along for display.

A reservation slip is included on the last page. One need not be a member of the society to attend. Also, if you need transportation, indicate that on the slip and we'll arrange a ride for you.

HOUSE NOTES

We hope you have had the opportunity to visit the society museum since the new siding and downspouts were installed over the summer and early fall. The cost so far has come to \$4,987. Still to be done are the door and window trim and aluminum storm windows and doors for the lower story. Upper aluminum windows were installed several years ago. Cost of the trim, windows and doors will come to about \$2,000, so your gifts are still welcome.

We would like to thank the following for their donations to the renovation fund. Their contributions were received after the last newsletter.

Lola Doe
Lynn Rankin
Claire and Ervin Schilder
Vance Chamberlain
The Bucyrus-Erie Company

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House SITTERS

Those who finished up the season as hosts to visitors at our museum were: Lynn Rankin, Annette Kerlin, Lola Doe and Mary McCarrier. George Hook did all the fall clean-

up work this year and painted the front door. Our thanks to them all.

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BOOKCASE NEEDED

Since the last newsletter we have received two filing cabinets for our accessioning room. They were much needed because of the many acquisitions we have received (and hope to receive in the future) The society also purchased two four shelf steel shelves that will make keeping order a little easier.

But, we are still in need of a nice bookcase to house the growing collection of Lincoln books that have been donated by Dr. Harold Hein. It has outgrown the small case that was available, so if you have one not being used, perhaps you would consider donating it to the society.

* * *

HELP GIVEN

In October, Dr. Irving Merrill of California visited our museum seeking information he needs to complete a project he is working on. We were able to help a little---

Dr. Merrill (related to the Fink family here) is seeking information on several So. Milw. men who accompanied his grandfather, J.C. (Julius Ceasre) Merrill on a trip from Oak Creek to Chicago, on to St. Joseph, Miss. and then by covered wagon along the Oregon Trail to Idaho in 1864 in search of gold. J.C. had kept a journal of the trip and Dr. Merrill is preparing it for publication, but he was advised to tell what happened to the men after their journey.

Those on the trip were Charles Carey and Henry and Stephen J. Durbin of So. Milw.

Interestingly enough the Carey family is mentioned in the letters from the Civil War period that were donated to the society just last winter. From them we were able to show the Carey's moved to Iowa in the late 1860's. And we were able to put Dr. Merrill in touch with one of our members, a descendant of the Durbin family. Dr. Merrill is also seeking information on Cynthia Wood who married J.C. in 1869. She was a relative of Appolonia Wood Fowle who was married to Henry Fowle.

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METRO CONVENTION

Several members of our society attended the Metropolitan Regional convention which was hosted by the Cudahy society on Oct. 11. Reports on projects and problems were given by other societies and a wonderful ethnic meal was shared by all. Cudahy also had a very interesting display of ethnic artifacts and took everyone who wished to go on a tour of their depot. Those attending from So. Milw. were: George and Laura Hook, Gert Endthoff Otto Kuppert, Ann Monson, DoraLee and Arlene Barsamian.

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The South Milwaukee Historical Museum is listed in two recent guide books. One, the Wisconsin Traveler's Guide to Historic Sites, is from the Wisconsin Division of Tourism and the State Historical Society and the latest one--A Guide to Museums in Milwaukee County, is put out by the Milw. County Historical Society. Twenty three sites are listed with pictures. We will have them for sale at the January meeting. Cost is \$1.

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Do you still need a last minute Christmas gift that will be long appreciated? Why not give a

copy of the book "South Milwaukee-Then to Now" by Gert Endthoff. The society is offering them for sale for just \$7.50 a copy. They are available from any of the officers or at the Home State Bank and the Voice Journal office. They can even be gift wrapped for you.

The society also has note paper for sale that would make a nice gift. One packet is only of the depot, 10 cards for \$2, and the other has eight cards with four drawings of So. Milw. buildings, also \$2.

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A Holiday Open House was held at the museum on Sunday Dec. 14th. Laurie Fieber, So. Milw.'s Junior Miss acted as hostess and Betty Tschohl played the antique pump organ. Christmas carols were served up along with dainty and tasty cookies provided by our members.

This was a spur of the moment project--once the tree was put up at the house it seemed like a good idea to have some type of doings to go with it. We think it might be a yearly project, one

that could be expanded to include the sale of craft items or what have you. Keep it in mind for next year. We will bring it up at the September meeting and ask for volunteers.

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When you make your reservation for the dinner why not enclose your dues for 1981? They are due January 1st anyway, and, if you wish, a donation to help defray the cost of the trim, storm windows and doors would be greatly appreciated by the society, also.

If you are unable to attend the dinner you may use the notice below to send you dues or gift. Dues: \$3 for individuals; \$5 for family; \$10 for business and \$1 for Sr. Citizens.

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The program for the Jan. 5th meeting should prove to be interesting. Cecil Sundean of the Greendale Historical will present a slide program on the History of Greendale. On February 23rd we will reciprocate-- Rick Grobschmidt will show our slide program to Greendale's Society.

So. Milw. Historical Society
c/o 703 Minnesota Ave.
So. Milw., Wis. 53172

Annual Dinner
Sat. January 31, 1981
6:30 p.m. BE Clubhouse

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Please make a reservation for _____ persons. _____

Renew my dues for 1981. _____

Donation to museum renovation fund. _____
(tax exempt)

Total enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Transportation needed: _____

CASH BAR