



South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1981

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: May 4th, September 14th and November 2nd. 7:30 p.m.
at the Historical Society Museum, 717 Milw. Ave.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION will be held at the May meeting. Not only do we need new officers, but four board members as well need to be selected. Now is the time to offer your services. The board meets every other month at the museum. Their job is the approval and authorization of the expenditures of the organization, the creation and implementation of policies for the development, operation and maintenance of facilities and the disposition of the assets of the organization by sale or gift. They have the power to create or terminate committees and in general carry on the business of the society.

This is your society. Get involved. New ideas are needed. If you have thought that the same people seem to be doing everything, now is the time to offer your services, as has been stated. Perhaps they are only doing so because no one else has offered to help.

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THOSE WHO ATTENDED the Society's Annual Dinner at the end of January agree that it was very enjoyable as well as informative. As you recall from the last newsletter, our guest was Mr. George Hardie, an aviation historian, who presented an excellent program about the Lawson airline.

We'd like to thank George Hook who went into the airplane business (clothespin type) and made all of the table decorations, and Laura Hook who once again did an excellent job taking care of the reservations. Also our thanks to all those who brought pictures and stock certificates relating to the Lawson factory, and to Bruce Szewczuga who ran into some snags in building a scale model of the plane which was built here in South Milwaukee in 1920-21. Each piece of the model had to be handmade and along with the cost the job proved to be more than expected so only half of the model was completed, but, it did give some idea of the magnitude of the plane. Bruce says the model will be finished and will be donated to the society to hang in the museum. Also Mr. Hardie says he will donate some extra material so we can set up a permanent display.

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RUMMAGE SALE-- The Society will hold a rummage sale on Saturday, June 6th at the historical house. We need your rummage items, also craft and handwork donations, as well as plants and what have you-- The rummage sale continues to be our main method of fund raising, so we need all the help you can give. Get in touch with one of the officers if you have items to donate. We will ask again at the May 4th meeting. Helpers will be needed also, as we usually have the house open at the same time for people to go through.

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IF YOU HAVE NOT paid your dues for the year as yet you might like to do so now. You can send them to Laura at 703 Minnesota Ave. or pay them at the May meeting. With the rising cost of postage we can only allow one mailing of the newsletter after the first of the year (when dues are to be paid) if you have not paid. So this will be your last newsletter unless you send them in now. We need the support of all of our members, even if they are unable to participate as fully as they might wish.

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IF YOU MISSED the January meeting, you missed an interesting program. All you ever wanted to know about the community of Greendale was presented as a movie program by Cecil Sundean and his wife of the Greendale Historical Society. It was thoroughly enjoyable, every phase of the building of Greendale was covered. Our society reciprocated with our slide presentation about South Milwaukee on February 23rd at Greendale. Rick Grobschmidt showed his excellent slides and DoraLee spoke about our society. They also displayed some artifacts about SM.

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IF YOU ARE interested in receiving the WISCONSIN PRESERVATION newsletter (formerly called the National Register of Historic Places in Wisconsin Newsletter) you can write to: Editor, Wisconsin Preservation, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison, Wis. 53706. It is free of charge to Wisconsin citizens.

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THE SOCIETY HAS received a "Thank You" from the Mayor for our part in making a success of the dedication of the new Fire Station on April 5th. The society was called upon to serve cake and punch after the ceremonies. Those who helped were: Adam and Caroline Kotowicz, Gert Endthoff, May thibaudeau, Ann Monson and Susan Shulfer. Also giving assistance were Otto Kuppert, Rick Grobschmidt and DoraLee.

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK will be May 10 through 16 this year. For the past two years the Society has held an open house for their part of the observance. A date has not been chosen as yet. We will do so at the May 4th meeting.

RECENTLY SEVERAL groups of scouts have toured the historical house. DoraLee took Den 2 of E. W. Luther school through in early March. Later some thank you letters were received which are shared here with you.

"Dear Lady,

Thank you for letting us come to the house. It was worth the money to come.

Craig Kalinowski"

Dear Miss Szewccugee,

Thank you for letting us come to your house. I liked it alot. I hope we could come again some-time.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Anderson

P.s. Thank you for the bookmark that you sold us.

Dear Miss Szewccugee,

Thank you for letting come to to house.

Dan Condon

(drawing of the pump organ)

P.S. that music was queer. Once again thank you.

Dear Mrs. Szewczugee,

I liked it-the trip -it was alright thank you.

Sighend,

Cris P/

P.S. Do you like old people

Dear Mrs. Szewczugee,

Thank you for leting us come to your house. I liked it a lot. I like the organ best.

Jason Dudley

Dear Miss Szawbuccugee,

Thank you for leting us come. It was very nice. I wish we could do it again.

Sincerly,

Eric Goetsch

DoraLee says that the old victrola and the pump organ seem to make the biggest impression on the kids. It would be wonderful if we could come up with some more and better types of displays. We have the material, all we need are the volunteers.

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THE SOCIETY IS STILL in need of a nice book case to house the growing collection of Lincoln books that have been donated by Dr. Hein. Do you have one available?? Call one of the officers if you do. Also needed are some folding chairs. We have a few, but if meetings continue to grow at the museum we will need more. A floor lamp would also be useful as there are no overhead lights in the living room where the meetings are held.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE season begins with Memorial Day. Before that we are planning a clean-up day both inside and outside. Furniture will need polishing, linens need to be washed and starched. The displays need sprucing up and the grounds cleaned up a little. May 16th (a Saturday) has been tentatively set. More discussion will be had at the May 4th meeting.

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THE SOCIETY'S CONTINUING project of renovating the exterior of the museum will get under way again this summer when the window trim and new combination storm/screen windows will be done. That will just about complete the job undertaken two years ago. The board is looking at estimates for painting the inner windows and porches. Refinements, such as shutters, ect. will come in time. The main purpose is, as the board feels, is to make the place as easy to take care of as possible.

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SOME RECENT ACQUISITIONS include a framed picture of the United States done in indian arrowheads, some of which were found in the South Milw. area; some pictures of the old basket factory that was located on the creek near No. Chi. ave; some pictures of the old grist mill, ruins of the old high school after it burned, So. Milw. scenes, BE and the ravine; several pictures of the Lawson plane crash and stock certificates of the Lawson company and several ariel views of So. Milw. about 1931.

*South Milwaukee
Historical Society*



*Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Schreier
104 Brookdale Drive
South Milwaukee, Wis.*