



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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 1982: January 4th, March 1st, May 3rd. 7:30 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum, 717 Milw. Ave.

Our Annual Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 1982. It will again be held at the Bucyrus Erie clubhouse, a place we've found to be congenial, with good access and the food is ALWAYS good. This year we think the program will not only evoke memories, but will cause those attending to want to share those memories, good or bad. It is a program of "songs, slides and shared perspectives on the subject of World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. The songs are a combination of praise and criticism of the United States and the slides cover everything from famous people and events to candid shots showing man's inhumanity to man." The program is called "WARS AND PEACES." It is a new program funded by the Wisconsin Humanities Committee and sponsored by Beloit College.

The program is designed to help us share our perspectives and to voice our own impressions on a past historical event, in this case the wars of the United States still within our memory. We hope you will not be "turned off" by this type of program, for it does cover a history known to us all, and that is one of the purposes of your historical society---to help keep history alive. The dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. A registration blank appears on the last page for your convenience. We hope to see you there.

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Our society received its first MEMORIAL FUND recently. It was given in the memory of Dr. Melroy Kane who passed away last May 9th. Dr. Kane practiced dentistry in South Milwaukee for 26 years, retiring in 1960. We are sure he was well known to many of you. The fund has been set aside for a special project or item that will be purchased in Dr. Kane's memory. While we offer our sympathy to Mrs. Kane on the loss of her husband, we would like to thank her and those who gave to this memorial fund.

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The CHRISTMAS<sup>S</sup> Open House, Bake and Craft Sale that was held on Saturday, Dec. 12th was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Lillian Rankin, who was in charge. She spent many hours calling members who responded with wonderful baked goodies and craft items. The

society made over \$170 thanks to all of you who donated items and baked goods, worked at decorating the house and selling. We won't mention names for fear of leaving someone out, but members response to society projects have always been super, so thanks to you all.

\* \* \*

WELCOME to our new members. We hope you will be able to attend the meetings and share with us any ideas you have to make our society a better one. Carol Rominski and family, Mrs. Ethelda Gouza, Helen Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lennartz, Mr. & Mrs. Homer Gates, Mrs. John O'Leary and the Michael Janikowski family.

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SMALL REPAIRS and maintenance around the museum were taken care of before the really cold weather set in. Don Broskowski repaired the locks on the garage and basement doors. He has been picking up pipe when available so that when we can finally get to the plumbing problems in the basement we will have some on hand. The basement windows were covered with heavy plastic by DoraLee and her husband, Cliff, and general yard work, raking and cleaning up was again done by George Hook. The society will need a new lawn mower next spring. The old one is beyond repair.

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WE ARE SORRY to report that one of our members passed away earlier this fall. Miss Hilda Donsing was a Deaconess in the Episcopalian church and a member of an early South Milwaukee family.

\* \* \*

OUR HISTORICAL society sends its newsletter to many other societies and in turn we receive theirs. One of the latest to arrive was from the WISCONSIN SLOVAK Historical Society. It is based in Cudahy, but has members from all over. The newsletter was filled with information on Slovak doings and better yet with lots of receipies for Slovakian goodies. If you are of Slovak heritage and wish more information about this society, address: Wisconsin Slovak, P.O. Box 164, Cudahy, Wi. 53110.

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IN AN EFFORT to generate a little interest in genealogy (which should go hand-in-hand with local history, we think) we will receive as a gift from Janet Lewis Smith, a member from Virginia, the "A.R. Andreas' HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE" originally published in 1881 which has been reprinted and an index made of over 20,000 names through the efforts of the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society. This two volume set will be prized by all those interested in tracking down their Milwaukee family history. Our society also has available an 1876 Atlas of Milwaukee County, and 1876 Atlas of Indiana, and an 1882 History of Porter & Lake Counties, Indiana. South Milwaukee city directories and phone books are also available. Some family histories have been given to the society, among those are ESCH, RAWSON, HOWES and DURBIN. We invite this type of information from you also.

THE SOCIETY HAS invited a special showing of antique valentines for Sunday, February 14, 1982 at the museum. The valentine collection belongs to a South Milwaukee couple who have graciously agreed to set up a display for us. We will have more information at the Jan. 4th meeting, but if any of you have a special valentine, a decorated pillow or candy box, or anything relating to the sentimental holiday that you would like to lend for the show, just get in touch with one of the officers.

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WE HAVE JUST five members who live out of state and through the newsletters we try to keep them abreast of the things going on in the society. We have a Sunshine Lady, Mrs. Mary McCarrier, who sends out get well cards, cards of sympathy, ect. to those members we know are ill and so on. But, for those out of towners whom we do not see, or hear from very often, we wish you well, and hope life is treating you good. A special "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY" to Neil and Bonnie Coley of San Ramon, California.

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ONE OF OUR members suggested that for the ANNUAL DINNER those who attend should wear period clothing if they wish. We think it a nice idea. This particular dinner program lends itself to several eras of clothing. 1917--1940's and almost, but not quite, contemporary style. Perhaps some of the men still have their old uniforms. And since we ARE a historical society, any earlier periods of clothing would be appropriate, also. Why don't you dig through your old trunks and see what you can find. It'll make the dinner just that much more fun.

Now, just fill out the reservation below and get it off to Treasurer, Laura Hook at 703 Minnesota Ave. And mark your calendar for SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th. The deadline is January 24th. DUES ARE DUE the 1st of the year, so include yours now, if you wish, also.

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

ANNUAL DINNER  
Sat. Jan. 30, 1982  
6:30 p.m. BE clubhouse

Cost: \$6.50 Per person

Please make a reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

Membership  
Renew my \_\_\_\_\_ for 1981 \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$3.00 ind., \$5.00 family, \$2.00sr. citizens)

total

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash bar?

THE JANUARY 4th meeting will be a business meeting with a "Show & Tell" program to follow. Bring something of interest to share with those attending. It doesn't have to relate to South Milwaukee history. At our last program of this type Russ and Betty Tschohl brought some really nice items used by So. Milw. merchants for advertizing, and after they "showed" them they donated them to the society. These items were used in a display in the dining room. We understand there is a lot of this type of thing available, plates, key rings, fancy thermometers, ect. Keep in mind that your society would like even such humble items as these.

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The silver snow falls lightly  
The year speeds fast away.  
Tomorrow's sun is bringing  
Another Christmas Day.  
And midst beloved faces,  
My thoughts are roaming free,  
While fervently I whisper:  
God bless them all for me.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A  
BETTER NEW YEAR.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
717 Milwaukee Ave.  
So. Milw., Wis. 53172