



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1983

## OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Vice President	Grace Broskowski	762-5474
Secretary	Anne Monson	762-1091
Treasurer	Laura Hook	762-0635

BOARD MEETING: Monday, February 7th, 7:30 p.m., museum

Regular MEETING: Monday, March 7th; 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

---

Hello to you all in this new year of 1983. We trust you all had a wonderful holiday season and are now settled down to thinking about getting involved in your historical society's projects for the year. Plan on participating and having a good time. It's work, it's bother, yes, but it is rewarding to know you are helping to preserve your community's history. Come to the meetings and see how you can help.

\* \* \*

The Christmas Craft and Bake Sale was a success again this year. Bakery came in and went out just as fast. Who could resist some of those great looking cookies, breads and cakes. We also had an interesting assortment of handcrafts offered for sale, and did quite good with those also. We thank all who gave of their time and talents to make this sale a success. We took in over \$200 again.

\* \* \*

On Monday, January 31st the St. Francis Historical Society invites you all to attend a special program they have scheduled at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Francis High School, on the Lake drive. It is a Fashion Show put on by the Goodwill Industries. It promises to be an interesting evening, so plan on attending if you can.

\* \* \*

Did you attend the January meeting? If not you missed an opportunity to tour the renovated South Milwaukee Depot. The meeting was held there, with a little program put on by Bill Fisher and George Becker, of the Benkowski Builders Co, owners of the building. Mayor Grobschmidt and Mr. Benkowski also greeted the guests. Benkowski Builders bought the depot after it was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in

1978 through the efforts of Lois Schreiter and DoraLee Szewczuga of the Historical Society. Although the depot would have made an excellent home for the society the cost of purchase and renovation and future upkeep would have just been too much. We think Benkowski Builders deserves some recognition for preserving this part of South Milwaukee's past for future generations to appreciate. They certainly have the Society's ---- recognition, and thanks !

\* \* \*

Our Annual Dinner is coming up in March, March 5th, to be exact. It's the Saturday before our March meeting. The dinner will be held at the B-E Clubhouse, with a cash bar preceeding the 7 p.m. dinner. Cost has risen just a bit from last year, but what hasn't? And an excellent program makes it truly worthwhile if the thought of one of B-E's great dinners doesn't.

The program this year will be put on by members of the Northwest Territorial Alliance, a Revolutionary War group. There will be a style show of the varied garments worn by persons in that time period. We're sure there may be a question and answer portion to the program also, as these are very knowledgeable people concerning the Revolutionary War era.

THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FEBRUARY 23rd!!!!!!!!!!

---

South Milwaukee Historical Society Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 5th  
B-E Clubhouse  
12th & Milwaukee Ave

Cash Bar: 6-7 p.m.  
Dinner: 7 p.m.  
Cost: \$7.25

Please make a reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$7.25 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose my 1983 dues \_\_\_\_\_

(\$3 person, \$5 family, \$2 senior citizen) total

Make checks payable to: South Milwaukee Historical Society

Mail to: Laura Hook, treasurer  
707 Minnesota Ave.  
So. Milw., Wis. 53172

If you have any questions contact one of the officers.

It's DUES time again members. That time of the year seems to come pretty fast in all organizations, but the cost for membership in the historical society is minimal and probably just covers the cost of the newsletters sent out each year. Your generosity in other ways has carried most of our projects forward, but we would like to see more of you involved. Dues may be sent along with your reservation form, or you can pay at the dinner, or at the March 7th meeting.

\* \* \*

DoraLee is looking for one or two volunteers to help out with some filing at the museum. It would involve perhaps a total of eight hours, two hours a week for about a month to clear up a pile of miscellaneous clipping, books and pictures that has been accumulating. She would like to have the Society's holding in good order by late spring. If you can offer just a few hours or even more please call her at 762-7828. It would be evening hours as she works days.

\* \* \*

Has anyone ever heard that South Milwaukee participated in the 1893 World' Fair at Chicago? Well, they did. With an exhibit worth \$5,000, a great deal of money at the time. The Milwaukee County Historical society came up with that information and called to see if we knew any more about it. Noone did. Even Milwaukee did not participate, they said, and wondered what kind of exhibit we had. If they find out, they will let us know, and if we can find out we'll call them. Anybody---????

\* \* \*

The furnace work has been done at the house and it seems to have made a great difference in the heating. The unit is very small and takes up almost nothing of the basement. Zoned heat was not possible so only one thermostat was installed. Plumbing will begin soon and that will take care of most of the leak problems, we hope.

\* \* \*

DoraLee was a part of a panel discussion group at the Annual Convention of Local History at Madison in November. She and others on the panel were part of the "Beginnings" exhibit group and told of their learning experiences doing the exhibit. The program and a picture is given in this month's "Exchange", the Local History Newsletter.

While at the Convention, Lois Schreiter, Gert Endthoff and DoraLee were able to pick up on an offer of a free microfilm viewer and copier from another society. It is an almost new Bell & Howell. Lois, DoraLee and her husband, Cliff drove out to Neosho to pick it up. The viewer has been given to the Library for use. It will be an asset to genealogists, students and others when it is set up for use, perhaps in the near future.