



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172
NEWSLETTER November, 1989

OFFICERS 1988-1989

President	Rick Tangen	762-2199
Vice President	Patricia Bordak	764-4394
Secretary	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
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Past President	Addie Becker	764-2118

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (term expires)

Arline Barsamian	1992	762-3624
Lorraine Fuhreck	1992	762-1915
Dr. Harold Hein	1991	483-4826
Mary Magnuson	1991	762-9428
Gertrude Endthoff	1990 also Curator	762-8852
Steve Czerwiczuk	1990	762-2089

EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 18 9AM TO 12 NOON WORK/PARTY AT MUSEUM.
DECEMBER 1 6 - 7:30 RECEIVE GOODS FOR BAKE SALE AT MUSEUM
We need bakery and crafts.
DECEMBER 2 9 - 12:00 BAKE AND CRAFT SALE, OPEN HOUSE AT MUSEUM
FEBRUARY 17 ANNUAL DINNER AT B.E. CLUB 5:30 SOCIAL HOUR,
SIT DOWN DINNER 6:30, CHICKEN WELLINGTON -
ENTERTAINMENT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I would like to thank everyone who helped sit during the Summer. We had a lot of people come through and look at the Depression Glass. A special thanks to Gertrude Endthoff for the loan and setting it up.

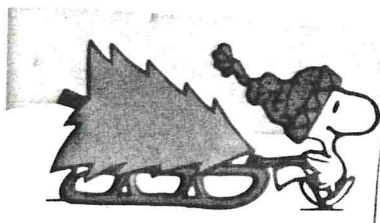
For those of you who missed the pot luck, we had a very interesting talk on home security by Police Officer Ken Stephany, and I think everyone learned something.

Some important dates to remember:

December 2 Our open house, bake and craft sale from 9 to 12
We will set up and take in goods on Friday from 6 - 7:30, and Saturday morning starting at 8 o'clock.

I also hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season.

Richard Tangen, President



John Fowle Jr. built the first frame house in the area called Oak Creek, before it became South Milwaukee, from lumber sawed at the Fowle mill on the south east corner of Oak Creek Parkway and Mill Road.

Several great additions were received at the society in the past few weeks . Janet Hobart Smith of Falls Church, VA sent a book entitled BOUND FOR IDAHO. It is a trail journal of Julius Merrill's search for gold. Henry and Stephen Durbin, Janet's great uncles, accompanied Julius Merrill and Charles Carey to Idaho in search of gold in the 1860's. They left from the Rawson Avenue Depot located on the southwest side of the Rawson Avenue Railroad Crossing in (then) Oak Creek by train on April 28, 1864. They went to Chicago and then on to St. Louis, MO and on by wagon arriving in Boise, ID on Sept. 19, 1864. This detailed journal of maps of their journeys and photos of their successful search for gold. Geneologies of the four men are given. Julius Merrill was a relative of the Fink Family, who farmed on College Avenue where SouthTowne is located today. Durbin's were also early settlers as were the Carey's. Doctor Irving Merrill, a relative did an excellent job of documenting the journey. Dr. Merrill has visited our society and worked with Doralee Szewczuga and Gertrude Endthoff, curators.

A copy of A HISTORIC STREET CAR RIDE JUNE 19, 1889, this book traces a day of a street car through Milwaukee. It was presented to the S. M. Historical Society by Gertrude Endthoff.

Our Lincoln Library is continuing to grow. Thanks to Dr. Harold Hein. It is suggested that a floor to ceiling shelving unit be built on the north wall of the Lincoln Room, so books can be displayed properly.

Donald Miller of Theinsville, sent a large assortment of photos and memorabilia concerning his mother's family, the Heidelbergs. They were prominent settlers in the area. Donald's mother was Leonora Heidelberg, daughter of Leonard. One of the many photos is of the Heidelberg brothers, Fred, Leonard, August and George. Leonard had a basket factory along Oak Creek and manufactured white oak splint baskets. Copies of the business letterheads verify this. Our next issues of our news letter will contain information on how the baskets were made.

SEARS ROEBUCK MAIL ORDER HOMES -- look for article in our next issue.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE WIRELESS CLUB -- AS I REMEBER IT in the next issue.

WORK AT THE MUSEUM: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, CLEAN UP DAY AT MUSEUM. Members will again meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the third Saturdays of each month to work on items at the museum. Coffee and planning will take place at 9 a.m. promptly and will be followed by action at 9:15. Inventory, filing, cleaning, setting up and taking down Christmas trimmings and museum drudgery will be intertwined with conversation, comraderie, laughte and radio music. If you are able to help -- come!

Geneology help wanted by the Historical Society. Payment included.

Experience required. Call 762-8852.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS:

Dear Members:

According to a brochure distributed by the S.M.H.S., the building I own at 1007 Milwaukee Avenue was built by Henry Doensing in 1891, and was the first commercial building in South Milwaukee. Since the 100th Anniversary is approaching, I would like to compile a history of the building--transfers of ownership, who has lived here, how the building has been used, events which have occurred at the address--anything at all.

If anyone can provide me with information or offer suggestions for obtaining information, I shall be grateful.

Sincerely,
Bonnee Beth Lugauer
South Milwaukee Carpets
1007 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172
(414) 764-0434

Do you realize that many common items from your youth and your mothers' "modern kitchen" have become museum pieces?

What about our museum collection policies? The time and the least expensive way, to collect is NOW. Should we sit down and draw up lists of contemporary items which we should collect while the "getting is good"?

Where are the wooden softball bats, World War II toy soldiers, Duncan yoyos, glass orange juice squeezers, Davy Crockett hats, steel beer cans, Flexible Flyer sleds, hulas hoops, pressure cookers and on and on?

The Walter Hatch mansion was located on the hill where the water tower is now. The first community fire was at the Hatch residence. The Hatch Cutlery Factory made knives and silverware in buildings to the north of the Bucyrus Club in the late 1800's. One of the buildings is now the office of S & M Recycling. Any further information about that building is being sought. Call 762-8852.

The Auto Speedway opened on Aug. 26, 1928 on 5th Avenue just north of Carrollville. The track had an oiled road and heavily banked turns. There was a grandstand and bleachers for 15,000 people. Any information or pictures about racers will be appreciated. Call 762-8852.

OUR SYMPATHY to the Joyce and Harold Van Dusen Family for the fatal accident involving their daughter and granddaughter. Joyce has been a member and willing helper since our society started.

If you know of any members that are ill, please call Mary Magnuson, 762-9428 with the information, so she can send them a card.

RUMMAGE When cleaning cabinets --don't discard the things you haven't used in years. Save those things for the Rummage Sale. If you think they are antiques show them to Gertrude Endthoff. As curator, she decides if they will fit into the museum exhibits or storage. Tax

deductible appaisals are given for donated items.

NEEDED AND WELCOMED -- SOUTH MILWAUKEE CITY DIRECTORIES FROM 1911

The Eagle Horseshoe Factory was located in this community probably before the name became South Milwaukee. It was the only one of its kind west of Pittsburgh. The factory turned out 60 tons of horseshoes daily. It was located on the north west side of the Rawson Railroad crossing.

HOUSE: Electrical rewiring proposal by Chris Herwick, master electrician and society member, has been accepted by the Board of Directors of the Historical Society; however, the work has not been started yet.

RECIPE TAKEN FROM COMMUNITY COOKBOOK-SOUTH MILWAUKEE-1917

TO MAKE HOME HAPPINESS CAKE:

Take one cupful each of: purity, honesty, unselfishness, justice and common sense;

Half a cup each of sense of humor and flower of love, sifted several times with 2 teaspoonfuls of mutual confidence.

Spice to taste with wit, nonsense and naivete.

Bake in layers in a moderate oven.

Filling - generous mutual appreciation.

Ice thickly with true courtesy.

by E. R. Weber

OUR NEW YEARS WISH FOR YOU IS THAT 1990 WILL BE FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM, AND THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WHERE THE ACTION IS.

IN HAWTHORNE AVENUE'S RESIDENTIAL AREA AND THE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT CAN BE FOUND A BED AND BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN AS THE RILEY HOUSE. IT WAS THE TWO AND ONE HALF STORY HOME OF W.J. RILEY AND FAMILY FROM 1903. THE FAMILY OCCUPIED THE HOME FOR OVER 50 YEARS. MR. RILEY WAS A CITY ATTORNEY FOR MANY YEARS. IN 1850 WHEN P.T. BARNUM BROUGHT HIS CIRCUS TO OAK CREEK THE PERFORMANCE WAS HELD ON WHAT WAS LATER THE W.J.RILEY PROPERTY. IT IS SAID THAT TOM THUMB, THE MIDGET, PERFORMED IN THAT CIRCUS. THE LOCAL BUTCHERS SUPPLIED THE ANIMALS WITH FRESH MEAT.

MRS. E.S. DAUPHIN SENT AN ARTICLE ON HAIR WEAVING, WHICH WAS AN ART IN THE 19TH CENTURY. THIS HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR FILE TO EXPLAIN WOVEN OBJECTS GIVEN TO US PREVIOUSLY.

DO YOU HAVE any family history that you can share for our files?

SEND INFORMATION TO: S.M.H.S., 717 MILWAUKEE AVE., SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172

For Genealogy research a nominal fee will be charged.

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Dues are due each January. If dues are not received by March the members name will be removed from the mailing list. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH TIME, MONEY AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROGRAMS.

THANK US BY BECOMING A MEMBER. YOU ARE NEEDED.

Dues:

Seniors \$3.00 Professional \$10.00
Single \$4.00 Life Membership \$100.00
Family \$6.00 HELP PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE. YOU LIVE HERE.

Send to Laura Hook
703 Minnesota Ave.
South Milwaukee, WI. 53172

Name _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Street _____
 Phone _____ I can help with _____
 Type of Dues _____ \$ _____
 ANNUAL DINNER \$11.50 PER PERSON number coming _____ \$ _____
 total amount \$ _____

South Milwaukee Historical Society
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Mr. + Mrs. Stephen Schreiter
104 Brookdale Drive
South Milwaukee, Wis.