



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172  
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 1990

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OFFICERS 1989-1990

President	Rick Tangen	762-2199
Vice President	Resigned to return to school	
Secretary	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Treasurer	Laura Hook	762-0635
Past President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Curator/Historian	Gertrude Endthoff	762-8852

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (term expires)

Steve Czerwicznik	1993	762-2089
Arline Barsamian	1992	762-3624
Lorraine Fuhreck	1992	762-1915
Dr. Harold Hein	1991	483-4826
Mary Magnuson	1991	762-9428



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

DECEMBER 1	BAKE AND CRAFT FAIR AT MUSEUM	9am to 2 pm
JANUARY 14	BOARD MEETING	
FEBRUARY 16	ANNUAL DINNER MEETING	keep date open-more info in Jan.
MARCH 11	REGULAR MEETING AT MUSEUM	

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Another year is about to end and we have done a lot at the South Milwaukee Historical Society.

We have the house wiring done. There is track lighting on the quilt in the center room. The basement has all new florescent lights, maybe now we can get some help and get the basement cleaned!

The only lighting not completely done is on the outside-- for the sign and one that will shine on the flag from dusk to dawn.

We are now selling spoons with the logo on, and also tie tacs. The spoons can be bought with the date on for six dollars or for five dollars without the date. The tie tacs sell for ten dollars. These make great Christmas presents.

The Christmas Fair will be held December 1st from nine until two. You can bring your bakery and crafts Friday night after six thirty till about eight. WE NEED HELP ON THIS PROJECT. If you can HELP, please, PLEASE COME!

Don't forget your dues are due the first of January.

In February is our annual dinner at B.E. Club on February sixteenth. It will be a sit down dinner. You can pay for the dinner at the same time you pay your dues.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS.

Richard Tangen, President

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### BASKETS - FROM SHOPS TO FACTORIES

In the last three newsletters we have featured articles on how to make baskets and who made baskets in South Milwaukee. Today we have a first hand report from someone who was there live and in person, Harold W. Hein.

"Several of the fifth and sixth graders at the new high school, now the Junior High, worked after school at the South Milwaukee Basket Factory. We wove the strips in and out of the ribs and would do eight baskets by six o'clock, making five cents basket, forty cents an afternoon. After we had woven the market basket, full time workers there nailed on the top edge and attached the handles on the ends.

One day I came to work and slapped Joe ? on the back causing him to swallow a mouthful of nails. The workers kept a mouthful of nails in their mouths and with a magnetic hammer would touch the hammer to their lips attaching a nail which then was nailed into the wood basket rim. Joe chased me all over the shop. He was so mad and of course I felt terrible. I hardly slept that night, but the next afternoon on getting to work I found Joe there working as usual."

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SAVING GASOLINE: Harold Hein writes, "The H.E. Wegwart family lived at 821 Hawthorne Ave, and a daughter named Marvel invited me to go with them to Burlington in their electric car. We drove there, charged the batteries and returned to South Milwaukee by dark. This was seventy years ago. What a pity the electric battery was not further developed, maybe our present fuel problem would not be with us."

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WORK AT THE MUSEUM: THIRD SATURDAY of each month-- 10 AM TO 12 AM

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Who invented Ivory Soap? White soap, its first name, was invented in 1878 by chemist James Gamble for his cousin, Harley Procter. Gamble, and Harley and William Procter were founders of the Cincinnati soap firm. Within a year after White soap was discovered, a worker overseeing the soap vats went to lunch, forgetting to switch off the master mixing machine. Returning after lunch he found that too much air had been whipped into the solution. He decided to pour the batch into hardening and cutting frames, anyway. The result was floating soap and an instant sales success. A new name was needed for the soap and Harley Procter chose one from the 45th Psalm: "All thy garments smell of myrrh, aloe and cassia, out of the ivory palaces. (from the Boston Globe)

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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.

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DEC. 1 - BAKE AND CRAFT SALE  
9 AM. TO 2 PM. AT MUSEUM  
MAKE IT  
BAKE IT OR  
BUY IT



Scott  
Penc.



MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS:

An elegant 1800's wheelchair was donated to the Society.

Also donated were logging tongs and an old Maytag washing machine.

The Lincoln Book collection continues to grow.

An ivory satin wedding dress worn by Harriet Fowle in 1894 wedding to Merwyn Howes. Their wedding was the first wedding to take place in front of the fireplace in the Hor<sup>ce</sup> Fowle home now the Grant Park Golf Club House. Also worn by her great grand daughter for her wedding last year in Texas. Donated by her great aunt Ruth Howes, daughter of Harriet and Merwyn Howes.

Dr. Carl Bridges of <sup>N.H.</sup> Vermont donated his photo collection from the 1930's of South Milwaukee. The last page is a genealogy of the Rawson family from Boston, MA

A black seal skin coat with Karakul or Broadtail trim <sup>worn by</sup> came from Mrs. Walter Smoot <sup>Warner</sup> *donated by her daughter.*

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NOTICE BY-LAWS AMENDED: ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND MONDAYS.

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Hertiage Days and both rummage sales were a success. There were 6 tours around South Milwaukee on the Milwaukee County Trolley with about 200 people touring. This was our first attempt at this type of summer day. The Schwan Ice Cream truck was a nice complement. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the day go smoothly.

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May Thibaudeau's talk at the pot luck supper was enjoyed by all present. We are proud to have her as a member of the Historical Society.

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There were five Museum Tours this fall. Two groups of girl scouts from St. Mary's Church, a brownie group from Blakewood school and two fifth grade classes from Blakewood school visited the South Milwaukee exhibits.

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

For Genealogy research a nominal fee will be charged.

Published in Jan., Apr., Aug., Nov. each year.

Newspaper editor: Lois Schreiter



Donations are being accepted for ceiling repair and basement remodeling. Send to S.M.H.S. / Laura Hook

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	\$4.00	Professional	\$10.00
Single	\$5.00	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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I can help with \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

South Milwaukee Historical Society  
717 Milwaukee Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172



Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Schreiter  
104 Brookdale Dr.  
So. Milw, WI. 53172