



South Milwaukee Historical Society

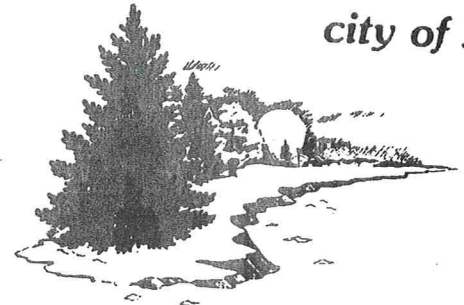
717 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172
NEWSLETTER JULY, 1991

OFFICERS 1991-92

President	Richard Thinnas	762-6214
Secretary	Anne Monson	762-1091
Treasurer	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Past President	Richard Tangen	762-2199
Curator/Historian	Gertrude Endthoff	762-8852

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (term expires)

Dr. Harold Hein	1994	483-4826
Mary Magnuson	1994	762-9428
Steve Czerwiczniak	1993	762-2089
Arline Barsamian	1992	762-3624
Lorraine Fuhreck	1992	762-1915



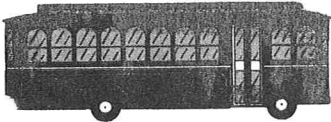
city of . . .

South Milwaukee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

JULY 21 to 28 HERITAGE DAYS IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE
OPEN HOUSE IN ALL CITY BUILDINGS ON JULY 21

JULY 28 12 TO 4 PM TROLLEY TOURS (6) SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE SIX
TOURS. ALSO AT MUSEUM -- ICE CREAM, OPEN HOUSE, AND
RUMMAGE SALE



KIDS FROM WISCONSIN CONCERT 7 PM FREE TICKETS AT
CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER 9 POT LUCK AT SENIOR CENTER 5:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 14 THE METROPOLITAN REGIONAL CONVENTION OF WISCONSIN
STATE AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES WILL MEET AT THE
BUCYRUS CLUB. WE ARE THE HOSTS THIS YEAR. 8:30
COFFEE, 9:00 REPORTS, 12:00 LUNCHEON ABOUT \$8.00,
PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP ON HANDLING CLOTHING BY STATE
SOCIETY, OPEN HOUSE AT MUSEUM 2:45 TO 3:30 PM.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Some people think propaqanda is a new invention. It is not. From the time we lived in caves, we human beings have not only wanted to understand, and be understood, we have also wanted to persuade each other. We have always wanted something, and we have always tried to get it from the other fellow: sometimes with clubs, more often with words. That is why communication between your President and you members includes propaqanda devices.

Some people say propaqanda is "all lies" and "is bad" or only used by "the enemy" during wartime. Such people are themselves using the propaqanda device of over simplification. Propaqanda can be based on lies, or on half truths, or on truths. Propaqanda devices can be employed for bad reasons(in selling a useless quack medicine) or for

FOUNDED MARCH 1972 BY MR. AND MRS. DENNIS RANKIN

INITIAL DIRECTORS — DENNIS RANKIN • PENNY RANKIN • GEORGE HOOK • MARY McCARRIER • BRUCE RAYESKE
DORA LEE SZEWCZUGA • WILLIAM DOMOE • LILLIAN DISHONG • CHESTER GROBSCHMIDT

good reasons, (in promoting a historical society and its needs). And although propaqanda has proven an effective weapon during war time--always used by all sides--it is equally effective in peacetime.

By now you may be wondering what this is all about? As your new president, I think we all need to use propaqanda to; help our society. Each and every one of us needs to spread the word--the truth about our wonderful society and what it is doing and has done to make our community a little better place in which to live!

We, the board of directors, need your help. We could not be such a "great society" with out your continued, and, most important, increased help.

What can you do? Well, where can I begin? There is so much that could be done in our museum: for example; as you know we are open Sundays during the summer and we need sitters who are willing to give two hours to show visitors our great collections.

We need help in raising funds to continue the restoration of the museum building. Our "cookie jar" is almost empty and we need help financially, ei, the back porch, painting, setting up the basement for displays, etc.

We need help at the Metropolitan Local History Convention we are hosting in September: Can you get involved?

We need help for Heritage Days--taking care of visitors to the museum, helping out at the rummage sale, workers to sell ice cream, donations.

I could go on and on. However, the bottom line is you --our members, friends, and supporters. We need you. In the past South Milwaukee people, and Society members have been great, but with the end of this century approaching we need to get the word out(propaqanda) to more people to join us as new members, and to our present members to increase their contributions so that we can continue our fine work here at the Museum and in our community. Will you not help? Can you get more of your friends and relatives involved--especially our young kids--they have so much to give; energy, enthusiasium and ideas.

Give it some thought, get involved and help your Society. "Uncle Rich needs you."

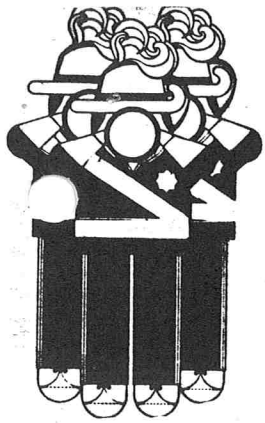
Respectfully Your President,
Richard G. Thinnes

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Harvey Johnson and Alice Baumgartner both members died June 25, 1991. Harvey used to do many repair jobs at the museum and he donated the dining room table and chairs. We will miss them.

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

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.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is grateful to Tony Kotchi for giving his collection of oil paintings of early South Milwaukee to the city for display, appreciation and safe keeping. They are displayed in City Hall



It's the long awaited return

THE WISCONSIN SPECTACLE OF MUSIC

Saturday July 13, 1991

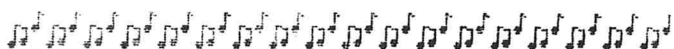
SPECTACLE OF MUSIC: In 1946 the first Spectacle of Music was held. It was the idea of Frank Caveney, business manager of the South Milwaukee Municipal Band, aided by Dean Potter and Arthur Drews, director of the band.

Marching bands, drum and bugle corps, twirling teams invaded the city of no hotels from most states of the U.S.A. Every large space was used to set up cots for the participants overnight stay. Schools, churches, and homes were filled. Church kitchens set up food lines to feed the visitors. Competition took place on Saturday morning. A huge street parade dominated Saturday afternoon. It was a sight to behold with floats from many organizations and neighboring communities. Often the crowds were between one and two hundred thousand people. The Spectacle City Mariners Drill team in 1963 had nine straight State titles in Madison.

Saturday evening the bleachers at the High School Athletic field on Pine Avenue were packed for the colorful, thrilling, professional competition of marching, twirling and music. **A SPECTACLE INDEED!** These Spectacles were held for 26 years until the cost of housing and feeding the competitors became prohibitive.

Gertrude Endthoff

(ed.note-I used to come from the north side of Milwaukee to enjoy the music, color and pagentry. Thanks for the great memories.)



NEW PLAZA
1000 MILWAUKEE AVENUE

In 1892 a young village was developing a new business center. A land boom was on. Farm lands were being bought up and subdivided into residential and business lots.

C. Weber built a two story cream city brick building to serve as a bar and hotel. It served the public as a tavern until the 1980's when it was razed. It was known as the Corner Inn.

In 1991 the land was given to the city for a small park or plaza.

The street scaping crew is working with Barr street paving bricks which were recycled from along and between the rails of the Transit Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company route on Milwaukee Avenue.

1000 Milwaukee Avenue Plaza will improve the looks of the busiest intersection in the city and provide a handsome place to stop and reflect on the past and future.

Gertrude Endthoff



A new book is off the Kent State press. It is SIXTY MILLION ACRES by James Oberly. As a reward for faithful military service in all the U.S. wars from the American Revolution to the Civil War, the federal government gave up to 160 acres of public lands to soldiers for retroactive payment. More than 550,000 veterans, their widows and minor heirs received land, not cash. Only about 5 percent of the veterans who received the land grants actually used them, most sold their land bounty for cash.

Lois Schreiter

GRANT PARK SEVEN BRIDGES

Over a ravine which crosses Eb's Creek is a rustic wooden beam footbridge and on the archway can be read: "Enter this wild wood and view the haunts of nature" which beckons you across. The woods are deep and natural. The pathways lead through various parts of the area. White and yellow birches can be seen, as well as, oaks, maples, poplars, elms and evergreens. Many of the plants were marked with signs to help identify them. This project was started in the mid 1930's to provide work for the needy under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, known at the Works Progress Administration.

A nature trail was built with some steep stairs and some shallow steps to follow the contours of the ravine leading, twisting and turning across seven wooden bridges. The flow was sometimes slow and sometimes tumbling rapidly on its decent to Lake Michigan for a distance of about a half mile.

In the early spring, you see a wide assortment of spring flowers. If you are quiet and observant there are many birds to be seen and heard. The scampering and chattering of squirrels and chipmunks are evident. The ravine is lovely and cool in summer. In autumn the yellows, reds, and greens, and browns of the trees preparing for winter is a beautiful sight. Winter finds the bridges and branches edged in diamond ice crystals or covered with soft white snow, while the stream trickles and gurgles as it rolls along between icy banks.

The ravine is a place for people to walk and enjoy, for

lovers to wander, for the young to run, jump and climb, but a little too steep for those no longer nimble, but who remember. It is a favorite picture taking spot. Many a wedding party chose this place to record the occasion.

The Milwaukee County Park Commission still has naturalists who are available to guide tours through the area explaining why the area was developed and pointing out plants and animals by name. (For group tours call Wehr Nature Center)

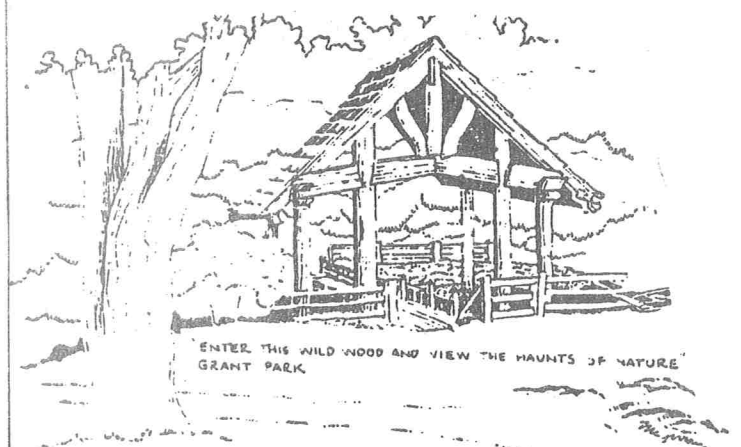
The creek and ravine was on land which was purchased by Ebenezer Dibley in 1838 at \$1.25 per acre. This land was farmed by the Dibley's until it was purchased, subdivided and later acquired as park land before 1936.

(Golf course area purchased from H. Fowle in 1910.)

If you have not visited the ravine, take the time to discover the beauties of nature at each season of the year.

As South Milwaukeeans, a great pride should be felt in the vast heritage which has been developed, made available and should be preserved with appreciation for future generations.

Gertrude Endthoff



sketch by Barbara McGovern

FOR SALE: ~ ~ ~

- ** Post Card views of early South Milwaukee still available at \$1.00 each. We just sold a set of 20.
- ** Engraved 1991 pewter spoons available for \$6.00.
- ** South Milwaukee History books, hard bound, cranberry color, a \$7.50 bargain.
- ** Note cards, scenes from South Milwaukee, large and small packs. \$4.00
- ** Tietacs \$10.00

~ 717 Milwaukee Ave. Sundays 2-4pm ~

The Wingfoots

The Wingfoot was the name given to small--very small--temporary, one family, emergency housing units. The houses were built by the Good Year Company under federal government contract to relieve a severe housing shortage after the end of World War II.

In South Milwaukee, a small Wingfoot village existed where the present High School is located.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is the place to see a model Wingfoot house. It was built by a friendly member of the Society and is on loan until the end of Heritage Days, July 28.

The house is a 1/35 scale model Wingfoot, built from sketches based on personal recollections and family photographs--not scale floor plans or blueprints. As such, certain details and features may be inaccurate and/or out of proportion. The builder wonders if you have any pictures or recollections of the Wingfoots. Call any of the Board of Directors and come to see the model.

The builder, who does not want his name mentioned, thanks all the friendly people in the city halls of South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Cudahy, and St. Francis. Thanks to those who helped him at the Milwaukee County Historical Society and Mrs. Delores Tolkalz, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reynolds, Jr.

And we thank the Builder.

** SPECIAL NOTE:

The model builder is looking for pictures of the buildings between 11th and 12th Street on Milwaukee Avenue. Especially wanted are ANY pictures of POMPLUM'S ICE CREAM PARLOR.

*Wanted
opposite side of street*

Catch the Spirit

Heritage Days 1991

In 1992, South Milwaukee celebrates its 100th Birthday as a village. The name was changed in late 1891 from Oak Creek to South Milwaukee and the census on August 8, 1892 revealed a population of 517. A charter was granted by the circuit court, and the first village election was held on December 3, 1892. Fourteen men were chosen to run the village business.

• • • • •
DOES ANYONE SEW???

Costumes would be fun.

Here's a sample of 1893 fashion.



132 Lady in walking-out dress with Gentleman, c. 1893

This walking-out dress of the early 1890s has a short jacket fitting close to the figure at the waist, and a wide turned-down collar and revers. The leg-o'-mutton sleeves are finished off with small, turn-back cuffs. The jacket, open in front, reveals the shirt blouse with its softly-fitted front. The felt hat has a wide brim, which is ornamented with ribbon and a stuffed bird with wings. The full bell-shaped skirt, with the centre panel edged with braid and ornamented with straps and buttons, reaches the ground.

The gentleman wears the popular lounge suit. The high-buttoned jacket fits fairly closely to the body and is braided. The trousers are creaseless and come well down over the boots. He wears the popular, high starched collar with a large tie.

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

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

News letter is published in Jan., Apr., Aug., Nov. each year.

Newspaper editor: Lois Schreiter, 762-5214

Donations are always graciously accepted for repairing the museum building. Send to S.M.H.S. Treasurer / Lois Schreiter

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 Lois Schreiter
104 Brookdale Dr.
South Milwaukee, WI. 53172

Name _____
 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____
 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