



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172
NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 1993

OFFICERS

President	Addie Becker	764-2118
V.-President	Richard Tangen	762-2199
Secretary	Anne Monson	762-1091
Treasurer	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Past President	Richard Thinnas	762-6214
Curator-Historian	Gertrude Endthoff	762-8852

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term expires)		
Jewell Heise	1995	762-4650
vacancy	1995	
Dr. Harold Hein	1994	483-4826
Mary Magnuson	1994	762-9428
Steve Czerwicznik	1993	762-2089
vanacy	1993	



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

FEB. 13 ANNUAL DINNER AT BUCYRUS CLUB 5:30 SOCIAL, 6:15 DINNER, 7:30 SLIDES/DIORAMA "A RETURN TO EUROPE'S WORLD WAR II BATTLEFIELDS" BY GREG MEKA
DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FEB. 8 TO JEWELL HEISE OR USE FORM ON BACK OF THIS LETTER - \$11.50-BAKED CHICKEN, SLIDE SHOW FREE at 7:30pm.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The holidays have come and gone. And with that there comes the taking down of the Christmas tree, putting away the decorations for the next year, and the losing of the almighty extra pounds that were acquired from eating those delicious Christmas goodies.

Our Craft and Bake Sale held in December was a success. As always a great big thank you to all who participated.

We now have smoke alarms through out the museum and a fire extinguisher. These were donated by some very generous people and were installed by the South Milwaukee Fire Department. Thank you all.

Our annual dinner meeting is being held on February 13, 1993 at the Bucyrus Club. We have an interesting program planned on World War II with a slide presentation. The S.M.H.S. Officers, Board and I would like to see you there, as it is always a fun evening.

Addie Becker, President



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



PAINTING OF South Milwaukee's old mill pond with red grist mill and falls is from the collection of historic impressions in oil by Tony Kotchi, 3604 E. American Ave., Oak Creek.

South Milwaukee's Old Mill Pond

The screams of children could be heard
Four seasons of the year,
In South Milwaukee, on Oak Creek,
When angry falls were near.

The rugged children swam and fished
And skated on the ice.
In fall some hunters tried their skill -
Wild poultry -- that was nice.

The Miller Road passed near the pond,
For Model T's a test,
From either side they'd roar down hill,
Then climb to top for rest.

Those were the years before the change,
When footpaths scarred ravine.
Perchance the Indians used those trails,
Where spawning fish were seen.

A footpath led you to the dam,
And danger lurked at falls.
Huge gates held water in ravine,
The excess spilled down walls.

A red gristmill stood at the falls,
The water turned the wheels.
Here's where the farmers ground their grain
And made all sorts of deals.

For years the mill had withstood time
And flourished in its trade.
It stood so proud in servitude
And contributions made.

T'was there the robins raised their young,
In eaves or window sills.
Descendants saw our town grow up
From mill between two hills.

And then disaster hit the site,
A man died at his post.
The raging creek, that turned the wheels,
Rebelled and claimed the host.

The host now dead, the water rose,
The gates were torn to shreds.
Once more the river claimed its course,
In natural river beds.

The grinding wheels would turn no more,
With gates beyond repair.
The youths that spent those happy hours
Retraced their steps to stare.

For years long after mill was closed,
With dam gates open wide.
A gloom of hopelessness prevailed,
And romance there had died.

The visionaries foresaw plan,
To rebuild our mill pond.
So passed the landmarks and our mill,
Of which we all were fond.

With idle mill and open gates,
The Miller hill would die.
New roads doomed foothpaths in ravine,
And walks as time passed by.

The Miller hill now has new falls,
To view as you drive by,
The water rolls off solid wall,
A beauty when it's high.

An island and a shelter built,
The site took on new look,
That rugged valley is now park,
Compare old pictures took.

'The king is dead -- long live the queen!'
Her beauty's everywhere.
With sports and trails or drive on through,
She lives because some care.

But for two millstones now hard by,
Who'd believe a mill stood near,
You'd swear, by music of the falls,
Our red mill is still here.

-- Ervin J. Schilder Sr.



TREASURERS CORNER

The annual dinner reservation form is on the last page of this letter. Reservation are due by Feb. 8th. Thanks for sending in your dues. Your membership cards will be attached to this newsletter. The number on the address label next to your name is the date when you paid your dues.

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO THE FAMILY OF FELIX FABINSKI. Mr. Fabinski died December 16, 1992. He is the father of Penny Fabinski Rankin and former father in law of Dennis Rankin, who were founders and presidents of the South Milwaukee Historical Society. Mr. Fabinski and his family spent money, time and effort to legally transfer the former family home at 717 Milwaukee Avenue to the Historical Society in 1974. It was opened to the public in 1977. Felix Fabinski, the South Milwaukee Historical Society thanks you and your family again. We hope you like what has happened at the museum. We wish you happiness in your new journey.

BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUING HEALTH TO SUPERVISOR RICHARD KUZMINSKI, who is home, and out and about after receiving a new heart.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. NEIL AND BONNY RANKIN COLEY ON THEIR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Dr. Neil surprised Bonny with a life membership in the SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Bonny was the 1951 Spectacle of Music Queen. The Coley's live in San Ramon, CA

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

For Sale: TWO LOTS in Forest Hill Cemetery. Offers accepted. \$800.00 value. See Gertrude Endthoff or write to the society address.

Send FAMILY HISTORY INFORMATION to: S.M.H.S., 717 Milwaukee Ave. 53172

THANK YOU FOR USING YOUR PIGGLY WIGGLY STORE GROCERY RECEIPTS: The S.M. Historical Society has just received \$100.00 from Piggly Wiggly for your efforts. Put grocery slips into the slot in the store marked for the S. M. Historical Society. One per cent of the total amount of the receipts is returned to the society.



Newsletter is published in Jan., Apr., July, Nov. each year.
Newspaper editor: Lois Schreiter, 762-5214

Dues are listed below. 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 _____

ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATIONS: Must reply by Feb. 8th. Baked Chicken Dinner at Bucyrus Club, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:15, Slides 7:30
 Number attending _____ x \$11.50 each = total \$ _____.

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



CARL CRANE 2-91
 5409 WHITCOMB DR
 MADISON, WI 53711

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