



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, 53172

NEWSLETTER July 2004

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Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember: July 18th, Heritage Days Open House, noon to 4 PM
Walking tours 1 PM and 3 PM with Nels Monson
July 25th, Heritage Days Open House, noon to 4 PM

From the President:

Well summer is here! Summer means Heritage Days. This year we will celebrate it a little differently. We will be giving tours of the museum and we will have the History Hut complete with hot dogs, buns, snacks, water and soda. We will have our annual rummage sale with interesting things to buy and, of course, Jewell's jams and jellies, but we will NOT have the usual "Trolley Rides" due to the cost of the trolley. We will however, have two walking tours under the supervision of Nels Monson. Tickets for these tours will be \$1.00 and can be purchased at the Museum. Walking tours will take place at 1 PM and 3 PM, starting at the Museum.

The Society is open every Sunday from 2 to 4 PM except on Sunday, July 4th when the house will be closed. If you have questions call me at 762-7605.

Have a great summer,

JB Bulley, President

Museum Visitations: Call J.B. Bulley at (414)762-7605 allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open for viewing on Sunday afternoons 2 to 4 PM and by appointment. Visitors, school groups, scouts, families, clubs and individuals are welcome.

Your support of our Historical Society is appreciated.

The Mary Jacobs Schwan Doll House

Mary Jacobs Schwan built this doll house in 1979 at the Warnimont Senior Center in Cudahy (now the Lawrence P. Kelly Center) . It took six months of almost daily work to complete. Mary finished the doll house and brought it home to 210 Marshall Avenue just before Christmas. The doll house was decorated for Christmas.

The house is completely furnished and measures approximately 2.5 feet square. It is complete with front and side porch. Even the internal doors are hinged. The stones on the exterior of the house were painstakingly broken from larger stones. The wooden shingle roofing was hand cut from large cedar shakes. Mary's neighbor, the Hadjinians, donated carpeting for the dollhouse from their business, Bogasian Carpets.

Many of the Christmas decorations were made by Genevieve Kliebhan, Mary's sister. The baby grand piano was purchased at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. The rest of the furnishings were either made by Mary or purchased by her. Approximately \$500 worth of materials and furnishings went into the making and decorating of the dollhouse.

This extraordinary and absolutely unique dollhouse was donated to the South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum from the estate of Mary Jacobs Schwan. It will be a feature exhibit at the Heritage Days Open House on July 18, 2004.

Curator's Corner by Gertrude Endthoff is a saddened and empty corner. Gertrude Endthoff, 86, past away on April 13, 2004. Endthoff 's dedication showed through her service to the Historical Society. She was secretary of the Historical Society in 1978; vice-president 1979, 80, 81; worked on the Board of Directors 1978 to 1983; and following the death of Florence Johnson, the Board of Directors appointed Endthoff and Dora Lee Szewczuga Beilfeld Co-Curators. She became the sole Curator in 1984, a position she held until her death. Endthoff wrote her book Then to Now, a History of South Milwaukee, because she was supposed to teach local history to her fourth grade class. Since there was no South Milwaukee History book, she gathered the information herself and wrote her own curriculum on the subject. It evolved into the book and a life long study of South Milwaukee History. Gertrude loved to travel, dance in ballroom competitions, collected carnival glassware, art, dolls, and buttons. She spent enjoyable hours among her flowers and raspberries. Our sympathy goes to her nieces and nephews. We will miss her greatly.



WRITING YOUR STORY-----

YOUR STORY CAN START WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Where does your story start?? What do you enjoy doing?

What do you enjoy talking about?

What are the stories about your families? Who, what, when, where, why? Unlock your memories of the past and write a story for your grandchildren. Your autobiographical writings or letters or stories may be an inspiration to the next generation or the one after that. Talk to your grandchildren through letters or maybe audiotapes. Notebooks are still sold in the stores, too.

Who are you? Your full name. Do you always write it the same way?

Who were your parents? Grandparents?

What do you remember about them?

Who are you brothers and sisters?

Who are their children?

What key events occurred? Where were you born? Where did you go to school? When and where did you get your first job? Your first love? Married? Retired?

Where did you live? As a child, as an adult, now?

Why is your family important to you?

What did you enjoy doing? Occupations ? With your free time?

During retirement? Traveling?

Who influenced you? What religious or political ideas shaped you?

What values do you want to pass to the next generation?

What prayer books did you use? Do you have a favorite prayer? Pictures of family?

Do you have any meaningful advice for your grandchildren or great grandchildren?

“Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding,” (Job 12:12)



S M Historical Society trivia:

In 19----- there was 1 (one) out of state member. Today there are-----out of state members.

If you gave 5 minutes of your time each week to help the Historical Society, in a year how much time would you give?

For only \$100.00 you will never have to remember to send in your dues again. Senior, \$6.00; Single, \$8.00; Family, \$10.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$15.00; Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414)764-2118.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. If you know of someone who should be remembered, please contact Sunshine Chairperson Barbara Mueller, 762-2712. If you leave a message, please indicate if the card should be sent to their home, hospital or nursing home. The name of the hospital or nursing home would also be appreciated.

Trivia answers: 1976 there was 1 out of state, today, 10 members; 4 hours and 33 minutes.

Wanted--Jelly Jars with covers--Call Jewell Heise, 762-4650.

SAVE grocery receipts from Piggly Wiggly for Historical Society. Mail to Jewell Heise, 1822 Manitoba Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. Thanks for the added effort.

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