



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, 53172

NEWSLETTER April, 2005

OFFICERS

President	JB Bulley	762-7605
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Judy Balestreieri	762-6382
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	Don Bulley	762-7605
Curator		

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Jewell Heise	2005	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2005	762-2712
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember: Monday, May 9th Pot Luck Dinner at the First Congregational Church, 1111 N. Chicago Ave. Doors open at 5 PM. Serving at 5:30 PM. Entertainment: BMC Daniel Haney of the Milwaukee Coast Guard Station. Slide presentation on Homeland Security on the Ocean.

July 16 Heritage Days

July 17 Open House Tours and Rummage (help needed)

July 23 Heritage Days Parade

July 24 Open House Tours and Rummage (help needed)

Wisconsin Historical Society Membership opportunity: Sign up at the Pot Luck Dinner for the State Society and get 50% off admissions at 9 State Museums, 10% off gifts, a great quarterly magazine, *Wisconsin Magazine of History, and Columns*, a bimonthly newsletter and our local society gets a \$5.00 rebate. Senior Citizen/individual is \$30.00; Senior Citizen/Family is \$40.00. Pick up a form at the Pot Luck Dinner and sign up.

From the President:

Dear Members,

Spring is here, seeds are planted and lawn mowers again can be heard. It is time for our Spring potluck. It will be at the Congregational Church located at 1111 N. Chicago Avenue with parking in the church parking lot. This is an important meeting, as we will be electing our officers for the coming year.

This Summer the museum will be open every Sunday with the hours of 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Volunteers are needed for this from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Some orientation for your afternoon at the museum can be given if needed. Just call me at 762-7605. Other summer activities are planned, you will see as you read further on in this newsletter. Hope to see you at the Spring Pot-Luck with your favorite dish to pass.

Happy 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 Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Last Fall the S.M. Historical Society sponsored a "Tea" for the widows groups from Divine Mercy Church. It was a great success and we wish to offer more of these to groups with a maximum number of 12 at a time. Contact JB Bulley for more information.

The Gertrude Endthoff Memorial Garden will be started soon at the Historical Society Museum. It will be to the right of the front walkway and will feature older varieties of plants. To offer plants or help call Judy Balestreieri 762-6382.

South Milwaukee is sponsoring a Clean Up Day on Earth Day Saturday, April 23rd. It's a great time to help the city with spring cleaning or do a spring clean up in your own yard.

Cudahy Historical Society has acquired a piece of land south of the depot from the City of Cudahy which they are developing with gardens and a sculpture of an immigrant family. The project will cost \$250,000.00 to complete. They have received a Community Development Block Grant of \$30,000.00. They are selling memorial bricks with your name printed on them to further support the project. Bricks are \$50.00 each. Contact Betty Chovanec 762 3428 for more information, or see Betty at the Pot Luck Dinner.

Piggly Wiggly grocery receipts have netted the SM Historical Society \$400.00. Our thanks to Jewel Heise and her crew of helpers who worked on cash register tallies. The Piggly Wiggly grocery store has given 8 (\$50.00) prepaid credit cards to our society. These will be available and for sale for \$50.00 each at the Pot Luck dinner. If you "shop the Pig" bring your cash or check to purchase one. This allows the Society to get \$50. cash and you to get \$50. of groceries.

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book by will be for sale at the Pot Luck Dinner. Authors, Nels Monson and Dean Marlowe, Jr., are presenting their first royalty checks to the SM Historical Society at the Pot Luck Dinner, May 9th.

Our Sympathy to the family of Carolyn R. Haack, who passed away March 9th. Carolyn was a genealogist and a very active member of both the Oak Creek and South Milwaukee Historical Societies.

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.

The City of South Milwaukee has appointed South Milwaukee Historical Society Member, Nels Monson, as City Historian. Congratulations!! Monson is the son of the late Anne Monson, who for many years was the Historical Society Secretary and promoter of local history. Nels has researched the Yellow Stone Trail and recently compiled and published a picture history of South Milwaukee. Nels discussed his book *Images of America, South Milwaukee* in March at the South Milwaukee Library. The book can be obtained through the Historical Society for \$19.99 (plus shipping if needed).

Membership:

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.

Support your Historical Society-----It is the best bargain around!

Jelly Jars with covers wanted--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.

I WAS BORN IN Cudahy? Town of Lake? Silverdale?

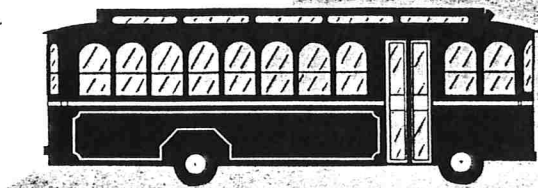
Lois' friend said she was born in and grew up in Cudahy. But her family home did not appear in any census of Cudahy nor was it listed in the Cudahy City Directory. Why? Well, as I later found out, the city of Cudahy annexed a portion of the Town of Lake that was called "Silverdale" in 1950 and her census information and city directory information is all listed under Town of Lake. The exact area annexed was from Grange Ave on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, and College Ave on the south and the railroad tracks west of Packard on the west.

An article about Silverdale appeared in the Cudahy Reminder Enterprise of April 7, 1983 called "Silverdale, A Nice Place to Have Lived" by Eileen Bourget.

I have searched the Silverdale area for a sidewalk that still bears an old inscription and only found one, on Wanda Ave near Kirkwood - It reads "Town of Lake, 1941".

When the United States was surveyed, land was divided in 36 square mile areas called Townships. The township identified as Town of Lake originally was bordered by what is now Greenfield Ave on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, College Avenue on the south and 27th street on the west. The Town of Oak Creek was south of Town of Lake and Town of Greenfield was west. As cities became incorporated they took land from the townships, so that now there is nothing left of Town of Lake, Oak Creek or Greenfield. The last change occurred in 1957 when the city of Greenfield absorbed what was left of the town of Greenfield. Town of Lake went out of existence in 1950 when it was absorbed by the cities of St Francis, Cudahy and Milwaukee.

Steve Schreiter 762-5214, sfs@execpc.com

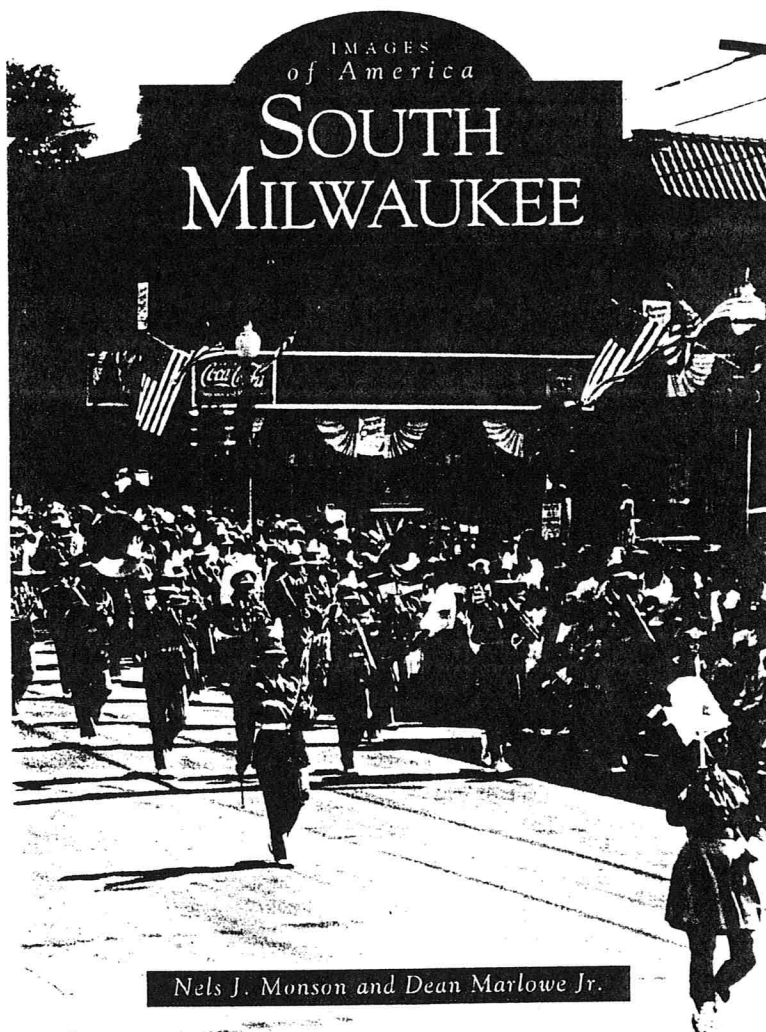


Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter



Nels J. Monson and Dean Marlowe Jr.

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, 53172

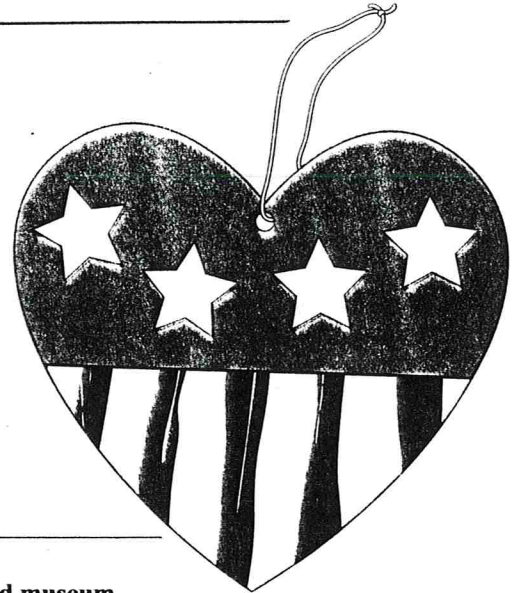
NEWSLETTER July, 2005

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	405-3516
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Nels Monson	764-6663

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember:

- July 16 Heritage Days, Drop off Rummage Items - 9 AM until noon behind museum.
- July 17 Open House Tours and Rummage (help needed)
- July 23 Heritage Days Parade
- July 24 Open House Tours and Rummage (help needed)

From the President:

Greetings!

It is an honor to be back as your President! In addition, it is also an honor to welcome back longtime member, Lois Schreiter, as your Secretary. Also, please welcome our new Curator/City Historian, Nels Monson, who brings a fresh outlook to the Society and the City of South Milwaukee. In addition, Nels is a member of South Milwaukee's Historical Preservation Committee. Our Officers and Board of Directors will be putting the final touch on this year's Heritage Days activities next week. Please stop by and enjoy the festivities and say "Hello". Looking ahead, our September Pot Luck will be held at the First Congregational Church on the second Monday of the month. In addition, please don't forget about our Museum hours during the summer. Every Sunday through Labor Day weekend, the Museum will be open from 2 - 4 PM. Hope to see you this summer!

Historically yours,
Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations: Call Dean Marlowe, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Grant Park Seven Bridges Nature Trail has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Yes! We knew it was very special.

Cudahy Historical Society is developing their depot with gardens and a sculpture of an immigrant family. They are selling memorial bricks with your name printed on them to go into the garden. Regular bricks, \$50.00 with 3 lines; and lg. bricks (8 x 16) are \$200.00 with 6 lines. Call Betty Chovanec 762- 3428 and see the mock up at Sweet AppleWood Days July 22-24 in Cudahy Park.

Piggly Wiggly grocery cards have all been sold. The cards are similar to a pre paid credit card. Our thanks to Jewel Heise and her crew of helpers who did the paper work on this fund raising project and raised \$450.00.

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., \$19.99.

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.

Membership:

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.

Support your Historical Society——It is the best bargain around!

Wisconsin Historical Society Membership opportunity: Sign up for the State Society and get 50% off admissions at 9 State Museums, 10% off gifts, a great quarterly magazine, *Wisconsin Magazine of History, and Columns*, a bimonthly newsletter and our local society gets a \$5.00 rebate. Seniors/individual is \$30.00; Seniors/Family is \$40.00.

Jelly Jars with covers wanted—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.

My Summer Vacation or Life in the Archives

Lois Schreiter with Steve Schreiter

Researching Great, Great Grandfather T.C. Fitzgibbon has brought me all kinds of new experiences. This was my great archival adventure into the world of research. In the past month of June and having added 5000 miles to our van odometer, Steve and I have visited libraries and archives in NY, PA, OH, IN, TN, IL

NY Horton, (formerly Hortonville) cream colored brick city library, street parking, residential neighborhood, use side door, front boarded shut, personal helpers, microfilm, early city records. Found T.C.F., his wife and brother with the John Magee family. TCF worked for the railroad (Erie) as it went from east to west. His military career starts in PA where he is required at age 16 to sign up for the State Militia, appointed 2nd Lt. by Packer or Pollack (PA governors) in the 2nd Vol. Reg. of Wayne County, Emmet's Guard.

Stueben County History Center at Bath, parking behind building, brick home of early settler, Joseph Magee, first floor – archives and library, friendly helpers (retired Registrar of Deeds)

Bath County Court House, meter parking on the square, microfilm and readers, personal help by the Register of Deeds, The film is in the wrong boxes, We helped to correct.

PA Wellsboro Historical Society, parked on street, old residence, two front rooms furnished as a period residence. The other rooms have displays like a museum, back rooms are the office and library. Friendly, knowledgeable personnel. Found T.C.F.'s brother with John Magee family (transported mined goods by rail) Statue of John Magee in town.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania State Archives, We first parked on the street at meter parking, 1 hour \$1.50, As we entered the guard at the door checked us in, ie, carry a notebook or paper, use their pencils and put everything else in a locker. Extensive card catalog on microfilm. Found an item. Write down numbers. Take numbers to guard. Get assigned a chair in a glass enclosed room. Wait for box of original files to get delivered to table by archival pages. Touching original 1858 documents. Research historians to help. Person in room and all chairs are monitored by camera.

Ate lunch in the State office building cafeteria, walked 2 blocks to - Harrisburg State Library, city garage parking, 6th floor (10 AM until 3 PM) \$6.00 took 15 minutes to get out of structure because of one attendant. This is a large library with reference librarians to help.

Hershey is a few miles away. Some might like the chocolate factory or the amusement park, but I liked the gardens, since I'm allergic to milk, yuk on the chocolate.

Cornwall and its iron smelter I found interesting. It is now a PA State Historical Site Museum. (1742-1883)
It is a place where indentured Irish worked in the 1840's in the mines, forests and smelter. (Perhaps TCF's father)

Lebanon County Historical Society, meter parking on street, red brick building, 2 librarians were helpful, early county records. The 98 degree heat and the air conditioner broken barely got me through one hour before I ran out of there.

IN Fort Wayne, Allen County Library, large city building, street parking, the card catalog and census records are on microfilm. This library is reputed to be 2nd best in the country for genealogy. Librarian helped to orient us to the floor plan. All books returned to book carts. Library Pages will help find what you need. This library had a lot on the Civil War materials organized by the state - We found one shelf on Michigan in the Civil War. TCF was an editor of a paper in Michigan in 1860 before joining the Union Forces. He wrote for the Nashville Tennessee Daily Union newspaper under the name of Grape Shot and Lance Corporal.

Came home, cut grass, watered plants and went to Tennessee, Nashville, State Archives.

TN The State Archives is a large building sitting on a hill next to the capital buildings above the lovely TN history garden. We drove up to a security guard station to get instructions. Park here on street, go into Archives. Get parking permit, come out and put it on the car. Windshield. Go in Archives, get library cards (free) (good for 3 years) sign in, security check purse. Librarian shows you where to look for your newspapers, assigns a microfilm reader to us (2 right next to each other). Then handed us the four films and we were ready to read.

After 7 hours with one break and a 1 block walk to lunch and back we decided to leave at 6 PM so as not to get locked in for the night.

This Archives site was neat, cool, helpful and comfortable place to work. The microfilm readers on the other hand were stressful. The wooden boxes had three adjustments that needed continuous focusing refinement in order to read. 1st. lever moved the page, top to bottom. 2nd lever adjusted focus about 6 inches at a time. 3rd lever rolled the film to the next page. Three hands would have been helpful. If you found something to photo copy, write down the page, date and column. When you have finished, rewind the film, take it off the machine to the copy place, put the film on the microfilm copy machine and turn the film to the page, date and column you want to copy, put in your quarter and press the button to print. We did not do a lot of photocopying. The newspapers were large and it was only possible to print 1/4 of a page at a time. When you used the microfilm copy machine, you had to sign a log book and were only allowed 10 minutes at a time. We ignored this because no one was in line and it was close to closing time.

Ed. Note: We found enough to want to purchase the microfilm in order to study it at our South Milwaukee Library microfilm reader. Our local reference librarian is checking the possibilities for us.

We found three copies of the newspaper "Columbia Sentinel" T.C.F. edited while in Columbia, TN with the "Federal Forces"(Southern Term) We ended our tour of Columbia, TN with a tour of a girl's school, an antebellum home and the Sons of the Confederacy's beautiful library. Decided to head for home via Dayton, OH to see an exhibition of paintings of 50 Polish Madonna's at the University of Dayton Library. The 1990's Dayton University library has a good Civil War Collection and a 5 cent copy machine. An added benefit was staying at our son, Dan's house for the second weekend . We had stayed with him on our route back from Pennsylvania a week earlier. The following Friday we received a call from Dan wondering what time we were arriving.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

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



**SYLVIA FABINSKI L
17560 W. NORTH AVE
BROOKFIELD, WI 53005**



SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A REVIEW OF 2005

Greetings from the Officers and Board of Directors of the South Milwaukee Historical Society. Our hope is that the new year brings peace, happiness and good health to all our members.

Our first official event of the year was the annual dinner held Feb. 12 at the South Milwaukee Community Center. A hospitality hour and delicious meal were followed by the evening's musical entertainment by Delores Bink on the Celtic harp. Images of America - South Milwaukee, the picture history book authored by Society members Dean Marlowe Jr. and Nels Monson, has been selling extremely well. The authors held several book signings and have presented the Society with some very generous royalty checks. The Society is grateful to Dean and Nels for taking on this monumental project. Jewell Heise again this year has been in charge of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store receipts; which netted the Society \$400. Our thanks to her and her helpers who worked on tallying the cash register receipts.

The membership was saddened by the loss of Carolyn R. Haack, who passed away March 9. She was a genealogist and very active in both our and the Oak Creek Historical Society.

In March the Society received some very exciting news about Nels Monson. The City of South Milwaukee appointed him City Historian. We congratulate him on this outstanding honor. He is also a member of the South Milwaukee Historical Preservation Committee. On March 21 the South Milwaukee Public Library held an open forum with Nels to discuss our city's rich history, the Images of America book, and the current state of historical preservation.

President Joyce "JB" Bulley organized museum visitation for school children, Scout groups and others interested in seeing our wonderful collection of antiques and materials pertaining to South Milwaukee. The South Milwaukee Water Department provided us with photos of the construction of the Mill Pond (circa 1930) which we copied for our archives. President Bulley put the photos into a book.

A Landscaping Committee was organized to plan a memorial garden in memory of our late Curator and City Historian, Gertrude Moe Endthoff. Committee members Don Bulley, Judy Balestrieri, Nels Monson, Barb Mueller, Richard Thinnes and Nancy Wucherer came up with some great ideas for the garden and commemorating plaque.

The Society purchased two memorial bricks from the Cudahy Historical Society. These will be placed around a bronze statue and flower garden at its depot depicting the arrival of early settlers to the area that their Society has commissioned. Betty Chovanec, a member of both Societies, envisioned the statue to commemorate the settlers and is an active member of the fundraising committee working to raise \$250,000 for the project.

We again contributed towards a street banner to be flown in downtown Milwaukee and purchased a full page ad in the South Milwaukee Football and Baseball Booster Club.



Along with generous donations from area businesses and memorials from members and friends, the Society was enriched by gifts of hats, paintings, journals and books. Former Society President Chester Grobschmidt donated a book, "South Milwaukee Memories 1946-1952" by Jack Vahradian and Classmates. Chet also presented us with the book "Jake The Forgotten Warrior" authored by Medal of Honor holder Gary C. Wetzel. Members have access to these texts at the museum.

A representative of the Milwaukee Coast Guard Station presented a program on harbor and water safety and homeland security, as well as holding us all in thrall with videos of Coast Guard rescues in perilous waters, for our May 9 potluck supper. The evening was highlighted by an election of officers which named Dean Marlowe Jr. as President and Lois Schreiter, Secretary, positions both have previously held.

Memorial Day signaled the start of our Sunday open houses. The auxiliary building was used for rummage sales coordinated by Jewell Heise. She also donated her Thursdays during the summer and fall months to keep the sales going. Terrific job, Jewell! In June word was received that the Grant Park Seven Bridges nature trails had been placed on the National Registry of Historical Places — a wonderful honor for this jewel in our city.

In July Society members manned a booth on Milwaukee Avenue during the annual "Evening on the Avenue" event. Theresa Aghbashian, Addie Becker and Eunice Hahn rode in the Heritage Days parade. The gals were a big hit wearing vintage hats from the museum. At the Sept. 12 potluck dinner Dr. Robert Nolan presented information and a slide show on the making of the History Tree which is now on permanent display outside South Milwaukee High School.

The Gertrude Endthoff Memorial Garden dedication was held outside the museum Oct. 29, a beautiful sunny day. President Marlowe began with an introduction and welcome of the members. A toast with Asti and Strauss waltzes provided by Steve and Lois Schreiter added to the occasion. Nels Monson gave a short talk on his predecessor's excellent historical research, several poems were read and Addie Becker reminisced about her friendship with Gert. President Marlowe and Historian-Curator Monson unveiled the bronze plaque. It was an exceptional event for an exceptional lady.

Vice President Addie Becker and Board Member Eunice Hahn rode in the city's Old Fashioned Christmas parade on Nov. 27. As in past years, Society members served cookies, coffee, cider and juice at City Hall following the parade. Our Bake and Craft Sale was held Dec. 3. Thanks to all who donated items or money for the event.

Plans for 2006 include training sessions for members who wish to give museum tours. Any member interested in doing this should contact President Marlowe. A student scholarship is being considered through the SMHS History Department.

New members are always welcome. Please "talk up" the Society. Information about the Society is available on the city website www.southmilwaukee.org and also on the Milwaukee County Historical Society website www.milwaukeehistoricalsociety.org.



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, 53172

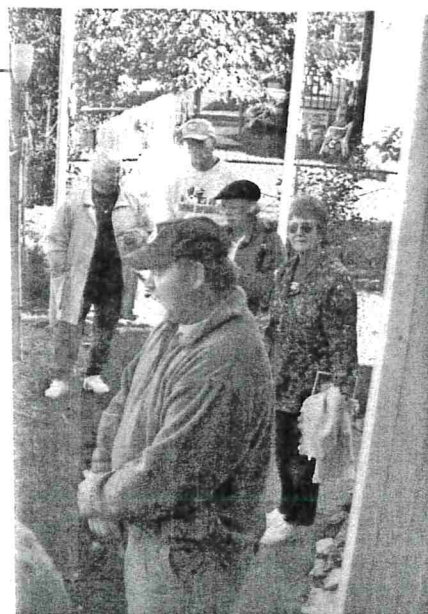
NEWSLETTER Nov., 2005

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	405-3516
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Nels Monson	764-6663

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 2 Delivery of bake and craft goods 6 to 8 PM at the Museum appreciated.
Dec. 3, Bake and Craft Sale, Museum, 8AM to 2 PM
Feb. 13 Annual Dinner,

From the President:

Greetings!

Thanks to everyone who attended the dedication of the Museum Garden in memory of our late Curator/City Historian, Gertrude Endthoff. We were blessed with a beautiful day to remember such a beautiful person!

Thanks also go to Chet Grobschmidt for donating a book authored by long time resident Jack Vorhadian regarding South Milwaukee High School memories from 1946 to 1952, Members have access to the text at the Museum by appointment.

Our Bake and Craft Sale will be coming up shortly (December 3), so please plan to attend and support your society. Plans are being made for our annual Dinner in February- watch the next newsletter for details.

Stop and count your blessings this upcoming holiday season and reach out to those less fortunate. Volunteer, donate or sponsor activities through South Milwaukee Human Concerns or an agency of your choice. Your heart will be warmed.

May God bless you and yours.

Historically Yours,
Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlowe, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Memorial Garden Dedicated

Gertrude Endthoff Memorial Garden Dedication was held October 29th at 1 PM on a beautiful sunny afternoon. President Dean Marlowe, Jr. began with a short introduction and welcome to 20 of our finest members. Lois and Steve Schreiter provided Strauss waltz music for the background and 2 bottles of Asti for toasting. Barb Mueller brought cheese and crackers. The perennial garden was augmented with mums, geraniums and pumpkins by Theresa Aghbashian and Lois Schreiter. Nels Monson gave a short talk on his predecessor's excellent historical research. Judy Balestrieri pointed out all the plants already in the garden. Chet Grobschmidt presented a book of memories to the SMHS from a former resident and high school football player who now lives in Florida. Lois Schreiter read a poem by M. Mueller and A. Malmborg entitled Autumn. Addie Becker reminisced about her friendship with Gertrude Endthoff and she closed with a poem by former historical society member and South Milwaukee City Poet, Caroline Kotowicz entitled Only a Moment (1980) Everyone took home a few daffodil bulbs to plant outside their door to remember a garden can show us the beauty in our lives.



Grant Park Seven Bridges Nature Trail

What ever happened to the concrete line posts from the 1800's that were on the trail between the first big bridge and the Area 5 Pavilion? The posts are no longer laying in the trail and the erosion is bad.

The Bake and Craft Sale will be Dec 3rd from 8 AM to 2 PM. The Museum will be open for deliveries on Friday night from 6 to 8 PM. Friday deliveries are appreciated.

The First Congregational Church sponsored a historical tour of their cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 4:30 PM . Nels Monson, dressed in an 1860's top coat and hat, provided a wealth of informative history and entertaining stories about the cemetery and its residents. The path was marked with luminaries and lanterns. Judy Balestrieri kept the lanterns lit and the congregation provided snacks and fellowship following the hour and a half tour. If you missed it this year, encourage Mr. Monson to repeat it next year.

As a direct result of the July 05 SMHS Newsletter story about our research and archival digging this June, Steve Schreiter and Ruth Lewis found that they share the same great, great, great grandfather. Another example of how connected we all are. I am pleased, thankful and thrilled. Wow!!

Angel Food Pina Colada Cake (low calorie, good taste)

One step Angel Food Cake mix.

- 1 15oz. Can of crushed pineapple with the juice
- 2 cup of flaked coconut

Mix and bake in 9 X 13 greased pan. 350 degrees about 30 minutes or until light brown and tooth pick comes out clean.

Top with whipped topping or eat just as it is

Options: 1. add mini chocolate chips or food coloring

2. If you prefer, instead of the pineapple and juice, use 1 cup canned pumpkin and 1 cup applesauce.

A Great Christmas Present:

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlowe, Jr. , \$19.99.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS: Gregory Meka, Linda J. Noll, Mary Taucher

OUR SYMPATHY goes to the family of Stella Peplowski, who died Nov. 1, 2005. Stella was a life time member of the South Milwaukee Historical Society. Stella Peplowski's sister Celia is a SMHS member living in Mobile, Alabama.

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.

Membership:

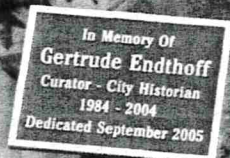
Senior, \$6.00; Single, \$8.00; Family, \$10.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$15.00;
Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues to
Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172
(414)764-2118.

Support your Historical Society——It is the best bargain around!

Jelly Jars with covers wanted—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.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.
News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter
Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter
Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

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





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue, 53172

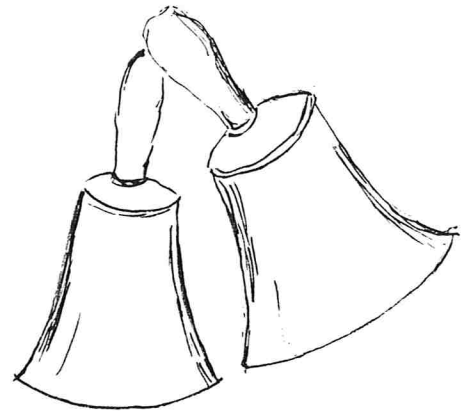
NEWSLETTER Jan., 2006

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Nels Monson	764-6663

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember:

Feb. 11 Annual Dinner, Social hour 5 PM; Dinner 6 PM; Entertainment: Adult Hand Bell Choir from St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church, Cudahy, At the Market Place Cafe, on the corner of Puetz and Chicago Rd., Oak Creek. Please join us. \$18.00 per person . Send in form on page 3 of this newsletter with your money.)

From the President:

New Years' greetings to you! Hope you had a Merry Christmas.

The Board of Directors is planning cosmetic interior and exterior changes to the Museum for 2006. In addition, more photos and artifacts will be displayed in the museum. Thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and crafts for our Bake and Craft Fair! Our Bake and Craft Fair was very successful.

Many of you have expressed interest in obtaining the 2005 collector ornament. I have asked the Association of Commerce to have additional ornaments made for those interested in purchasing them. Please contact me at 414 768 8790 to place your ornament order. In addition, the Board of Directors has sent three designs suggestions for the 2006 ornament to the Association of Commerce for consideration; the Association will make the final decision sometime later in 2006. The ornaments will be available later in 2006, and are a fundraiser for both the Society and the Association. Our Annual Dinner will be held at the Market Place Café in Oak Creek on February 11. Please contact Addie Becker at 764-2118 to reserve your place; I look forward to seeing you!

Historically Yours,
Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

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

Call Dean Marlowe, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Curator's Report

Greetings to all! I hope the New Year finds you well. Yes, it is I, your humble curator sending out my first (and long overdue!) "State of the Museum" report. I realize that I have officially held the position of Curator\Historian for almost a year now, but I wanted some time to assess the situation as I see it before commenting on it formally:

First, I hope you have noted the fact that the layout of the "Museum" has changed a bit in the last 16 months. This was done to try to create a sense of what it may have been like to live here a century or so ago. I am constantly looking for ways we can heighten the experience for visitors to our museum. I hope we are off to a good start! Thanks to those who have helped in this transformation, especially to Judy Balestreiri, who has been very generous with her time and efforts in making many positive things happen.

Also, there have been steps taken towards improving our building's curb-appeal. Some badly overgrown bushes have been removed from the front of the house. The "Gert Garden" and landscaping has added a new beauty to the façade and yard. Again thanks to all volunteers (especially Don Bulley and Richard Thinnes). The front porch area has taken beginning steps at improvement, thanks mostly to the beautiful restoration of the original pediment (or triangle shaped wooden ornamentation piece) above the porch. For this, special thanks are in order to Mavis Buckland for the use of her considerable artistic talents! Plans are underway to replace the badly dated and broken aluminum screen door for something more befitting a Victorian-era building. I think it is important to concentrate on restoring the porch and entry of the building. Another visible way, perhaps, to increase interest in what we are trying to accomplish here .

I have, however, come to the conclusion that we are rapidly running out of room. When I first came here, it seemed that large parts of the Museum proper had been used as storage space! Of course, when trying to organize nice display areas that are uncluttered with boxes, tables, etc., means that stuff has to be put somewhere else. The question now becomes "where?" What it boils down to is this, we need to find ways to increase storage space and/or reduce inventory. This is an important subject that needs to be addressed. At the very least we should drastically narrow what kind of things we should be willing to accept as donations. Again, a topic for board meetings, but one I feel is crucial in trying to improve the visitor's experience while viewing our wonderful collections.

Here's to a Great Year!

Nels J. Monson, Curator\Historian
South Milwaukee Historical Society

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlowe, Jr. , \$19.99.

Support your Historical Society——It is the best bargain around!

For only \$100.00 you will never have to remember to send in your dues again.

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.

Lois' Letters

Thank you for the many Bakery and Craft items and donations of money we received for the Bake and Craft Sale in December. Thank you to the members who worked the sale hours, those who set up, took down and cleaned up after the sale. The society needs the help of every member whether it is selling, buying, or labor of another kind. When we say "Thank you for your support ." that is what we mean. Our income from the B & C Fair plus donations was \$227.75

Our Annual Dinner is coming up soon. Saturday, Feb 11, 2006. It will be held at the Market Place Café in Oak Creek. The menu includes chicken breast stuffed with rice, baked potato, salad, rolls, vegetable and beverage. Desserts will be provided by Theresa Aghbashian, Barbara Mueller, Cecelia Pomahac and Lois Schreiter. Use the sign up form on page 3. If anyone needs transportation within the S. Milw., Oak Creek, Cudahy area call Lois Schreiter, 762-5214 .

As some of you know Steve and I sing with a group called the Community Chorus. The Chorus performs 2 public concerts and 6 concerts at retirement homes in December and in May each year. This December we sang at San Camillo and after the concert talked to a few of the residents. We were surprised to learn that the lady we were talking to used to live a block away from our house. We sent her a newsletter and here is her note back to us.

Dear Mr and Mrs Schreiter,

I was delighted to get your newsletter and picture of my old house. Thank You! I read with interest your newsletter and knew personally Wm. Demoe and Chet Grobschmidt and their parents. The house(116 Lake Dr.) was built in 1929 and I lived there with my parents (Nicholas and Eva Hogan) until we sold it in the mid 40's when my folks built their retirement home on 715 Aspen St., South Milw. I grew up going to St. John's Grade School and S. Milw. High School and graduated in 1938. My father worked as a policeman in Grant Park and my playmates were the children of his boss, Mr. Fred Wulff. Those were happy years of my young life. The editor of the local newspaper, The Voice at the time was Art Heubner who lived next door, north of us. I hope you continue to enjoy your neighborhood. (Our neighborhood was featured in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper recently. Ed.) After my parents died, I moved to Hales Corners where I lived with my first husband, Lou Rose, who worked at Nordberg. Before our 7th anniversary he died of open heart surgery. Again I moved to Elm Grove, married my 2nd husband, Neil Hofmann. Now we're on our 13th year at San Camillo, loving every minute of it.. Thanks again for your interest. Aurelia Hofmann

South Milwaukee Historical Society Dinner and Membership form:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Form of payment: cash _____ check _____

Dinner Menu: Stuffed chicken breast with rice, salad, rolls, vegetable and beverage

Dinner reservation for _____ person/s @ \$18.00 per person _____

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 and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.

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

At Christmas Eve Mass at Divine Mercy Parish on College Ave. this year a squirrel ran into the church as the service was beginning.

The Nativity Squirrel

**He had traveled all day,
Wearing his gray fur coat.
He was eating seeds,
Blown round by the circling wind.
As the door opened to people
Entering the church.
He too entered
Anxious to see inside
Searching to see inside**

**He ran up one aisle
And down another,
Not looking at the crowd.
Where could this babe be?**

**He ran through the choir,
Up a Christmas tree
Next to the altar,
Looking around,
Scared, he dashed across the altar.
To the crib, where the babe was found.
Hiding in the branches
And looking around, pleased.
He had found the babe this
Christmas Eve.**

**Lois Schreiter 2005
(After the service he was ushered out.)**

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

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





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER April 2006

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Nels Monson	764-6663

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 Aviation History, Lecture by Michael Goc, journalist, author/editor has received Awards of Merit from the WI Historical Society for 8 of his many books; Speaking on Aviation History (including Lawson airplane) Mr. Goc comes with a long list of accolades. See note.

Monday, May 8, 2006 Pot Luck Dinner, First Congregational Church, Pine and Chicago, 5:30 PM Entertainment: Slide presentation by Chuck Boie, President of Mitchell Gallery of Flight, retired commercial artist, illustrator and pilot.

From the President:

Happy Spring! Thanks to everyone who made our Annual Dinner a success!

The Board of Directors is making plans for the upcoming Pot Luck Dinner to be held at the First Congregational Church, Pine and Chicago Avenues, on May 8th. Our entertainment chairperson, Addie Becker, is putting together an entertainment program, and Eunice Hahn, our Nomination Chairperson, will bring forward a slate of Officers and Board Members for election.

The 2006 Collector Ornament has been selected; the ornament will have the image of the S.M. Railroad Depot on it. The Association of Commerce selected the design from the suggestions given them from the Association and the Historical Society Board. The ornaments have been ordered and will be available for sale in time for the City's Heritage Days celebration.

The Society will again participate in the Heritage Days celebration. Our Board members will have a booth on July 26th at the "Evening on the Avenue", from 2-8 PM. The Museum will be open each Sunday of Heritage Days from Noon to 4 PM.

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

Just a reminder, the Museum will be open Sundays from noon to 4 PM starting Memorial Day weekend, through Labor Day weekend. Stop by and say "Hi" and enjoy our new displays put together by our Curator, Nels Munson. Private viewings can also be arranged by contacting Nels at 764-6663. The Society has decided to make an annual \$500.00 Scholarship available for graduating seniors who showed interest in the study of history. South Milwaukee residents with a 3 points grade level, attending public or private high schools and who will be attending college in the fall of 2006 are eligible. Scholarship information can be obtained from our Scholarship Chairperson, Lois Schreiter. Students can also contact South Milwaukee High School History Chairperson, John Riggins for additional information.

Historically Yours,
Dean S. Marlow, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Curator's Report

Greetings! As springtime approaches we are busy getting ready for the open season at the Museum. I am planning a few different types of events there; more details will follow as they develop. I am looking for ways to increase interest in what we are trying to accomplish there and try to add a bit more vitality to our role in the community. As we all know, South Milwaukee has a great history to it and the more people that can get involved, the better we will be.

Our collection has recently received some special and unique items from Mr. Daniel Sparkowski, now of Woodruff, WI. Mr. Sparkowski is the son of Barney Sparkowski, who spent many years working at Grant Park under Frederick Wulff. Items include some very rare photographs of the park from the family collection as well as some other things of special interest for Grant Park history fans. The old (1921-1947) Grant Park Tourist Camp has always fascinated me and I am always on the lookout for any photographs of it. Unfortunately these are very rare (I've only seen two). If anyone knows of some please let me know. Thanks to Judy Balestreiri for some great "detective" work in tracking down Mr. Sparkowski.

The Historical Society board recently approved the purchase of 80 more of the *Images of America* books. Our original order of 300 is now down to around 50 so we need to replenish. These books have been a great moneymaker for the Society.

Nels J. Monson, Curator/Historian

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.

Our Sympathy to the family of Barbara Klipfel who died recently, Barbara Klipfel was a life member, and a willing helper at many of our events.

Our membership was saddened to hear of the death of Sylvia E. Fabinski, who died Feb 22, at the age of 93. She was preceded in death by her late husband Felix W. Fabinski. In 1973 Mr. and Mrs. Fabinski donated their home at 717 Milwaukee Ave. to the South Milwaukee Historical Society for its use as a museum and to store and display historical artifacts. The Fabinski's were the parents of Penny Rankin who along with her then husband Dennis Rankin founded the South Milwaukee Historical Society in 1972. We extend our sympathy to the Fabinski and Rankin families on their loss.

Barbara Mueller

Lois' Letters

Michael Goc, author of Forward in Flight, The History of Aviation in Wisconsin, will present an entertaining and locally focused view of Wisconsin's ventures into flight May 2, 2006 at 6:30 PM., at the South Milwaukee Library. Wisconsin has a surprisingly significant and interesting aviation history. It begins with Count von Zeppelin, continues with World War I hero General Billy Mitchell, airline inventor Alfred Lawson, (South Milwaukee) air mail pilots, aircraft builders, inventors and eccentricism, and culminates with the contributions of Paul Poberezny, who founded the world's largest general aviation organization—the Experimental Aircraft Association in Hales Corners in 1954. Mr. Goc is listed with the Wisconsin Humanities Council Speakers Bureau Catalog 2006-2007.

Lois Schreiter

We hope to see all of you aviation enthusiasts there. Bring a friend. Remember the Pot Luck the following week and bring a friend again.

DVD's ARE NOT ONLY FOR MOVIES

Imagine a college level class, but no need to drive to UWM, MATC or Marquette or any of the other local colleges. No registration lines, no forms to fill out, no classroom. How would you like a cool beverage in your hand as you sit in your favorite chair and listen to the lecturer?

The Teaching Company of Chantilly, Virginia offers classes on DVD (and VHS tapes or audio CD's – your choice). Their catalog offers classes in history, religion, science, etc.

Lois and I signed up for a class on the Civil War recently and discovered that we looked forward to sitting in our easy chairs in front of the TV and watching a 40-minute lecture. Professor Gary Gallagher of the University of Virginia, a specialist in Civil War history, presented our Civil War class.

The material consisted of 8 DVD's, each of which included 6 lectures for a total of 48 lectures. Each 2 disc's were packaged in a sturdy plastic container together with a 74 page booklet which includes outlines of each lecture, recommended readings and questions to consider.

Professor Gallagher touched on political considerations, civilians during the war, campaigns, battles, generals, strategy and many other facets of the war. But he never dwelled on any one area. The lecture scene in our DVD was a room arranged as an office or classroom, with windows, bookshelves, even some Civil War items, musket, hat and battle picture. About a dozen people were in the audience. The DVD presentation included maps, photos, drawings, sketches, and newspaper headlines as appropriate.

Lois and I recommend this class. We were very impressed with it.

Steve Schreiter

Support your Historical Society——It is the best bargain around!

For only \$100.00 you will never have to remember to send in your dues again.

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.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Form of payment: cash _____ check _____

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 and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.

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

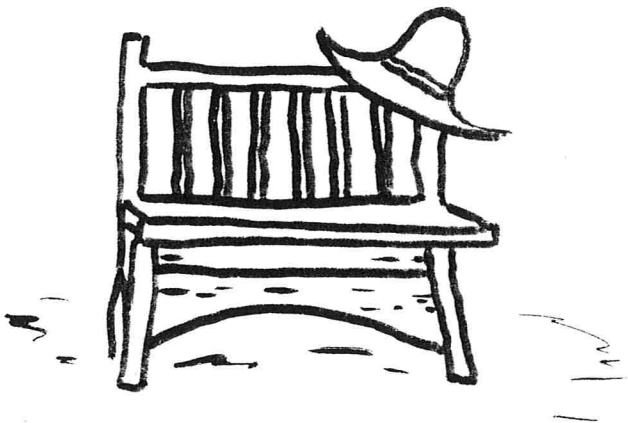
Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

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

□



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER July 2006

OFFICERS

President	Dean S. Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Nels Monson	764-6663

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712

ROOF REPAIR

DONATIONS

WELCOME

Dates to Remember:

- July 23 and 30** Heritage Days Open Houses 12 – 4PM Tea, coffee, homemade desserts available.
- July 26,** Evening on the Avenue, 2-8 PM Look for us. Help us raise building funds. Checks are acceptable.
- September 11** Pot Luck at the First Congregational Church 5:30, Entertaining talk by Dolly from Wildflower Bakery.
- February 10** Annual Dinner

From the President: Greetings, everyone!

Plans are in the final stages for the Heritage Days celebration at the Museum. The Museum will be open each Sunday of Heritage Days from Noon to 4PM. On July 23, the Society will sponsor a book signing by Author Alice Klaybor. Alice's children's book, Meet the Robins, is on sale at the Museum for \$5.95. Alice lived in the 1200 block of Marquette Avenue for 39 years. Her book takes place in South Milwaukee.

Remember, the Museum building will be open Sundays from 2-4 PM and by appointment.

Summer finds the Society in a precarious financial position. Due to repairs to the exterior and roof at the Museum building, the Society's operating funds have been significantly reduced. In addition, additional repairs are needed to the plumbing and other interior repairs, which will further drain operating funds. I am asking you, our members, to find it in your hearts to make a contribution to the Society to offset these costs. The Board of Directors is also looking at other ways of funding in order to continue the preservation of South Milwaukee's rich history.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration! Enjoy summer!

Historically Yours,

Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., President

FOUNDED MARCH 1972 BY MR. AND MRS. DENNIS RANKIN

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

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Museum Roof Repair Fund

Richard Thinnes, who does a marvelous job maintaining the museum grounds, has removed upwards of 20 squirrels from the attic of the Museum. The roof and some siding has been damaged and the repair is in progress. The cost is \$12,000.00. We are soliciting donations to help defray the large expense. We will have donation containers at our booth on Milwaukee Ave, July 26 just east of the corner of 10th and Milwaukee Ave. Please help do what you can. WE ALSO NEED MEMBERS TO HELP MAN THE BOOTH. IT'S A FUN TIME. COME AND HELP.

Curator's Report: There is no curator's report. Nels Monson has asked to be on hiatus until October.

Donations from Dora Lee Szewczuga Belfield include a 1900's soda fountain glass from an Ice Cream Parlor on 9th and Milwaukee Ave. and some 1911 South Milwaukee Journals.

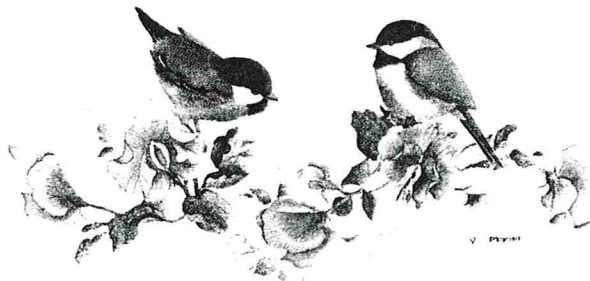
Door plaques are installed noting donations from Ruth Lewis and the S.M. Lions for the new front and back doors at the Museum.

Dr. Nolan notified the society of a Channel 10 TV program. Outdoors Wisconsin has produced a 15 minute program on the South Milwaukee High School Tree of Life Totem carving. It was aired in late June.

***Images of America, South Milwaukee*, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.**

Our Sympathy to the families of Francis Saxler and Rosemarie Broskowski. Fran Saxler died in January. She was a life member and served on the Board of Directors. She always helped out at our bake sales and special events. Rosemarie Broskowski died in July and was a life member of the Society, she and her late husband, Don, spend many hours promoting and keeping the museum operating in the beginning years in the 1970's and 80's. Both families were involved with the beginning of this Society and devoted to the preservation of South Milwaukee History.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS A PAGE ON THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE WEBSITE. The site is getting remodeled so check it out sometime.



Lois' Letters

First annual \$500.00 Scholarship Award went to Amanda Framberg, a South Milwaukee High School 2006 grad. Amanda is going to study at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the Fall. We wish her the best. She sent a thank you letter to us:

Dear South Milwaukee Historical Society Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for giving the students of South Milwaukee High School the opportunity to compete for a scholarship from the SM Historical Society. It was a great way to connect the future to the past.

I want to thank you so much for the \$500.00 scholarship, it is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Lois Schreiter for attending and presenting the award at the Senior Honors Program. It was a great honor to receive this award in the presence of my peers.

I greatly appreciate this assistance with my college education. Thank you!

Amanda Framberg '06

Come join us for the two Open Houses we will have on July 23 and 30. Both are Sunday afternoons from 12 noon to 4 PM. Come and chat. Have a cup of tea or coffee and a homemade dessert.

We have decided to not have a rummage sale this year for lack of rummage to sell. So please come and enjoy a homemade yummy dessert with us.

The City Newsletter will be mailed to your house in September. Look for the Historical Society flyer on the inside of the letter. We are trying to promote and enlarge our membership. Get a friend to join.

Support your Historical Society-----It is the best bargain around!

For only \$100.00 you will never have to remember to send in your dues again.

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.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Form of payment: cash _____ check _____

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 and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.

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

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

South Milwaukee Historical Society Booth

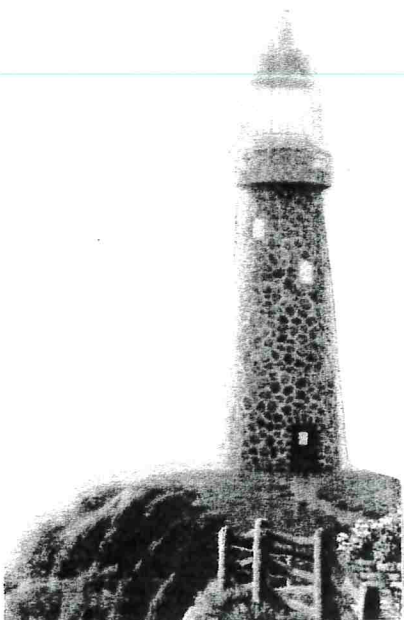
Evening on the Avenue July 26, 2006

**North side of Milwaukee Ave – three doors east of 10th
Avenue**

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER October 2006

OFFICERS

President	Dean S. Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Lois Schreiter	762-5214

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Dolores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



Dates to Remember: February 10, 2007 Annual Dinner

Greetings from the President's desk!

Thanks to those who made contributions to the Society's building fund! Your donations will be put to use this month for much needed plumbing repairs to all three floors of the museum building. We hope that no unforeseen problems pop up that would require additional expenditures.

Thanks also to those of you who attended our September Pot Luck. Everyone was entertained by Dolly Merten's talk and the discussion by Alice Klaybor regarding her children's book, Meet the Robins: thank you Dolly and Alice!

The society's website will be undergoing significant changes in the coming months. South Milwaukee resident and UW-M Graduate Student, Lynda Citro, will be working on a Master's project to provide a digital library on the website. This will include a virtual tour of the museum, photos and other items to be accessible at your fingertips. Thank you, Lynda!

The society will begin raffling off a kid's chopper bike in the coming weeks. Barbara Mueller and Theresa Aghbashian are working out costs. Tickets will be available shortly. The drawing will take place at our May Pot Luck. Stay tuned for details. Thanks to Addie Becker for her donation.

Donations of items and time are always welcomed and appreciated. The Board is working with our new Curator, Lois Schreiter to continue the daunting task of organizing the many documents, pictures and other items into archival files, as well as planning additional displays for the public.

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

The Board of Directors is also interested in saving the Lawson Airline Building, and designation of the building as a local historical landmark. The Historical Preservation Commission will be meeting on this subject Wed, October 18 at 6:30 PM; the South Milwaukee Common Council must give final approval of this landmark. Come and make your voices heard! Have an enjoyable fall season!

Historically Yours,
Dean S. Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Museum Roof and Plumbing Repair Fund

Donations from M/M Chet Grobschmidt, Janice Tangen, H. Hempel, E.Krisberg, J. Hugel-Ttee, K. Stanic THANK YOU!

Four of the large trees around the Museum were pruned by Luke Strachura to keep the squirrels further away from causing damage to the roof. Lisa Strachura, Richard Thinnes, Steve and Lois Schreiter moved branches to the alley for 2 hours Mr. Strachura's fee was donated by Steve and Lois Schreiter.

Welcome to New Members: Janice Tangen, Sue Ziarek, Carol Braby, and Mary Totushek

Curator's Report:

Nels Monson resigned in August. Lois Schreiter was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the Office. Lois Schreiter will resign as curator on Dec. 1, 2006.

Lois' Letters: This August my high school class had its 50th reunion. The committee planned a full weekend of activities including touring the new Discovery World Pier Wisconsin on Lincoln Memorial Drive. It was a joy to see Dr. Nolan's magnificent tree sculpture gracing the inside of the building with wood chips still on the floor.

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: Steve has graciously offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

Inventory of Museum and updating the docent tour book (last done by Gertrude Endtthoff and me in 1989) is progressing. The living room, dining rooms and Lincoln rooms of the museum are completed and ready to put on the computer. The inner room is in progress and the kitchen has not been started.

National Historic Register Lawson Building is now owned by the city. The South Milwaukee Preservation Committee would like to see it designated at a City Landmark also. It is the site where Fisk Rubber Co existed. The Fisk Company was the first to make synthetic rubber in the USA. When they moved on, the Lawson Airliners were made there. The first airliners made in the USA. Then a company named Continental Faience and Tile made decorative tile there; and when raw materials were difficult to import during the war, pottery was made there. Now the building is used for cold storage and auto restoration. It has 28000 sq. ft of space. There is a lot of room for parking, offices, and green space. A place where a visionary person could say this could be an awesome place.

CONTINENTAL FAIENCE AND TILE COMPANY

Faience refers to a fine grade of painted or glazed pottery or porcelain. Name comes from Faenza, Italy the original place of manufacture. Continental Faience and Tile was formed in 1925 and operated until about 1940 at 909 Menominee initially using the old Lawson Aircraft building to the rear and later constructing the building nearer 9th Avenue. The front door of that building, which can be seen from the street, has decorative tile in an arch shape over the door.

Both of the buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places and are currently owned by the City of South Milwaukee.

We are researching the tile company and its owners and officers and need information from anyone who recalls or has documents related to the business. Apparently they had sales offices in New York, Chicago and Detroit in addition to South Milwaukee and were known by architects throughout the United States. We would especially like to acquire a catalog (or copy of same) of the various types of tile offered by Continental.

Whitney Gould, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel architectural reporter, wrote about the buildings in an article of December 18th, 2005 entitled "Inside old factory, tiles a riot of color." She mentioned several sites that have or had Continental tile including: The old Eagles Club (now The Rave), Avalon Theater, St Stephen church, Milwaukee Water Treatment Plant, First Baptist Church in West Allis, and many older homes in our area. Even Society member Barbara Mueller has discovered Continental tile in her home. Apparently some officers and employees of Continental built homes in South Milwaukee and they need to be located and the tile photographed if at all possible.

According to the 1935 South Milwaukee Centennial Booklet, names associated with Continental were: Carl Bergmans, president and treasurer, Werner Lehman, vice-president and Verna Piellusch, secretary. The 1930 census of South Milwaukee also identifies William Ouweneel (wife Irene Ouweneel) living at 707 Marshall as commercial salesman for a tile factory. Any information on these people would also be greatly appreciated.

Researchers Kathy Roberts and Kelly Dudley of Phoenix Arizona have been collecting data on Continental for several years, Kathy grew up in South Milwaukee and her father, Frank Roberts was a merchant on Milwaukee Avenue for many years. They hope to some day write a book about Continental and Carl Bergmans.

Call or write or email Lois or Steve Schreiter -414 762-5214, sfs@execpc.com, 104 Brookdale Drive. SM., 53172

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.

Newsletter via the Internet: We have not tried mailing the newsletter by Internet yet.

Support your Historical Society——It is the best bargain around!

For only \$100.00 you will never have to remember to send in your dues again.

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.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form:

Name: _____ Date: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number: _____
Type of membership: _____ amount: _____
Form of payment: cash _____ check _____

**Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00;
Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.**

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

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

Printing: Lois L. Schreiter

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





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER January 2007

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	768-8790

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Delores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson	762-2712	



Dates to Remember: February 10, 2007 Annual Dinner, see President's letter

Greetings from the President's desk!

The Society has begun raffling off a kids' chopper bike as a fundraiser for the Society. Additional prizes include \$50 gas cards. Tickets are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Thank you to Judy Soulak for printing the tickets at no cost to the society! Please help support your society by buying/selling raffle tickets. The Board has decided to choose the winning raffle tickets at our May Pot Luck Supper; you need not be present to win!

At the request of the Board of Directors, I sent letters in support of a movement to save the historic buildings at the Soldiers Home Memorial Historic District at the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee from being converted into condominiums. Thanks to Mary Nelson of the South Milwaukee Historical Preservation Commission for organizing the movement to continue to honor our Veterans and save the buildings and grounds.

Thanks go to Jonalee Merkel, a UW-Madison student who, in December, published a paper analyzing the influence of ethnic groups on South Milwaukee's social history (1893-Present). Her paper will be on the website soon. Jonalee worked many hours at the Museum and the South Milwaukee Public Library doing research on this subject.

In October, the Board appointed me Curator/Historian for the Society, effective December 2, 2006. Please look for my reports in the future "Curator's Corner" section of the newsletter regarding my progress. I have sent letters to all South Milwaukee Elementary School Principals, to arrange tours for all Fourth Grade students.

Thanks again go to Joe and Judy Soulak who graciously donated their time and talents to print the Society's new and improved informational flyer. The colors have changed to ivory and burgundy, the colors of our welcome sign at the museum. Thanks also go to Jewell Heise for distributing the flyers throughout South Milwaukee.

Look for additional changes to our website. The Digital Library project done by UW-Milwaukee Graduate Student, Lynda Citro has been completed. Please take a virtual tour of our Museum, view the digital library and other additions to the site. Thanks go Lynda and her Professor, Iris Xie of the UW-Milwaukee College of Information Sciences for coordinating these additions. You will also notice that additional items will be imaged and placed on the website, giving everyone the opportunity to view the documents and pictures contained in our archives, not otherwise available to the public. Also new in 2007, a President's Report and Curator's Report have been added to the website, so everyone can keep track of the happenings of the Society.

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

Please plan to attend our Annual Dinner at Papa Luigi's (Formerly the SM Community Center) on February 10; Lynda Citro will be presenting her Digital Library Master's Project. Cost is \$17 for a Chicken Dinner with Potato, Vegetables and Dessert. Our Pot Luck Supper will be held in May, at the First Congregational Church; Officers and Board members will be elected. In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society, all present officers cannot serve a third consecutive term in their position. My personal thanks go to all officers who served their two terms in office. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President; much has been accomplished over the last two years.

May everyone have a Blessed and Prosperous New Year.

Historically Yours,
Dean Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 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.

Mark your calendar for the South Milwaukee Historical Society's annual dinner on February 10, 2007 at Salvatore's/Papa Luigi, 1919 12th Avenue in South Milwaukee. Cocktails are at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM consisting of baked chicken with salad, baked potato, and green beans almondine, dessert and coffee. Cost \$17.00 per person. For additional information or to make a reservation, contact Addie Becker, 414 764-2118. The evening program will be provided by Lynda Citro, a masters program student at UW-Milwaukee in Information Technology. She has been photographing and digitizing the library, documents, pictures, card catalog and is making an audio-video of the museum, maps and hyper links. She is a former SM resident.

Raffle Tickets for a "Kid's Chopper Bike and 2- \$50.00 gas cards are on sale for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, the drawing for the raffle prizes will be May 14, 2007 at the Pot Luck Supper at the First Congregational Church. Raffle tickets will be available at the February 10 Historical Society Dinner or call Theresa at 414 762 5623 or Cele at 414 768 0167.

The Historical Society is giving some consideration to turning the Lincoln Library area into a research center. We have an outstanding collection of books on President Lincoln and feel the collection would be better suited to another venue where it would get more exposure. The books could be moved to the South Milwaukee Library or the Newberry Research Library in Chicago. Both will be contacted to see if there would be an interest in housing this collection. The Lincoln Library was donated to the society by Dr. Harold Hein. We will need to attempt to locate Dr. Hein's daughters for their input and recommendations. Any member with information on how we could get in touch with the Hein family should contact Lois Schreiter at 414 762 5214 or send information to the museum, 717 Milwaukee Ave. South Milwaukee, WI 53172

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is seeking nominations for the 2007-08 term for the offices of president, vice president and secretary. The positions are for a one year term with re-election for another year. Any member interested in holding one of the offices is asked to contact the membership committee Barb Mueller, 762-2712; Cele Pomahac, 768 0167 or Eunice Hahn 764 3689.

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: Steve has graciously offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

Inventory of Museum and updating the new 30 page docent tour book is done. Lois Schreiter compiled the list of these artifacts with the help of Steve Schreiter, Barbara Mueller, Richard Raatz, Theresa Aghbashian, Addie Becker, Jewell Heise, Betty Chovanec and Eunice Hahn. Without their help it could not have been done. Lois Schreiter, Curator, (Sept to Dec., 2006)

Anyone with information about Midwest Pottery is asked to call, write or email Lois or Steve Schreiter -414 762-5214, sfs@execpc.com, 104 Brookdale Drive. SM., 53172

Historic Preservation in South Milwaukee Wisconsin

Thanks to former mayor Chet Grobschmidt, whose foresight resulted in an ordinance creating the Historic Preservation Commission of the Common Council of the City of South Milwaukee. This commission consists of 7 volunteer members who are appointed for terms of 1 to 3 years. They have no budget but may request funds from the common council as needed. One of the Councils aldermen is always a member of the Commission; today that member is Alderman Mike McCarthy. The Commission is currently led by its chairman Mr. Nels Monson. Mr. Monson was recently contacted and asked about historic preservation in our city and the activities of the Commission.

Interviewer: Does our City have any buildings or locations worthy of preservation?

Mr. Monson: Here in south Milwaukee we are very fortunate that we still have a number of buildings that I think have good historical value for the community. We've been losing a few over the past few years but there are several left that may be saved.

Interviewer: Are there any buildings or sites that are being preserved?

Mr. Monson: In South Milwaukee we have 3 properties on the National Register of Historic Places. That's the railroad depot, the post office and the Lawson /Continental Buildings. So those have national designation. There are some Milwaukee County Landmarks to. Two of the three properties have recently been given local historic designation by the South Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission. That happened in 2006 The railroad depot and the post office have been given local designation.

Interviewer: What is the depot used for now?

Mr. Monson: Currently the depot is the building offices of Benkowski Builders, Incorporated. The current owner of the business is Jay Benkowski, whose father purchased the building in 1978 and saved it from the wrecking ball. That building is on the National Register of Historic Places. He's done a great job on that property. That's an example of what I'd like to see done with more buildings in South Milwaukee, to fix up our old buildings. One thing about that building, a portion of it is the offices of Benkowski Builders where Mr. Benkowski conducts his business, but he does have a section of it that is preserved, where you walk into the building, its the waiting area of the passenger station. It is used but there is a space that you can appreciate.

Interviewer: What is the situation regarding the Lawson/Continental buildings?

Mr. Monson: The Lawson/Continental building is the property of the City of South Milwaukee. We are currently trying to work out a way to save the building. The tenant should be moving in the next several months. And after that's done we are going to have to come up with a plan. I'm not sure what the city has in mind but I hope the Historic Preservation Commission can help in preserving that building. It is a National Register Landmark and there is quite a history behind that building. I think that building is very important for future generations of South Milwaukeeans. So they can appreciate the contributions of people like Alfred Lawson. We were fortunate to have him in our community. I want that story to be told for years to come and not just knocked down.

Interviewer: A lot of people know about Lawson but what's Continental?

Mr. Monson: Continental Faience and Tile Company was one of a number of ceramic tile companies popular in the 20's thru the 50's. Continental Tile was well renown among tile enthusiasts who are very interested in what's going on relative to the factory building, especially the tile showroom and president's office, both of which are intact and beautifully tiled. We have some supporters in Arizona who have researched the company and its employees. They have been a great help in this process.

Note – The Lawson/Continental building is located at 909 Menominee Ave, at the corner of 9th and Menominee. It is sometimes referred to as the 'Pottery Building' because it was used by Midwest Pottery Company from 1944 to 1950.

Interviewer: Many people think that because a property is on the National Register it's automatically going to be preserved. Is that true?

Mr. Monson: Well just because it's on the National Register of Historic Places doesn't mean it has any level of protection from demolition if the owner wants to knock it down. There are some procedural statutes that must be met but if the owner of the property wants to knock it down, there is nothing to prevent him from doing it.

Our thanks to Mr. Nels Monson for taking the time to meet with us and talk about the Historic Preservation Commission. All interested in history and the City of South Milwaukee are indebted to him and the commission for their efforts in preserving our past. Mr. Monson gave many more interesting insights to the Commission and its work that may be the subject of a future article. *Images of America, South Milwaukee*, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2007

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Form of payment: cash _____ check _____

Annual Dinner February 10, at Salvatore's, 5:30 cash bar, 6:30 dinner \$17.00 per person _____

Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00;

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations 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.

Jewell Heise has been doing Fund Raising for the Historical Society for many years. She works with Piggly Wiggly Grocery receipts and makes great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your Piggly Wiggly receipts and clean Jelly Jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

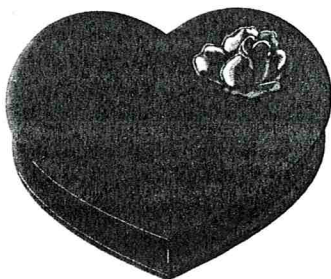
Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

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

Thank you for
your support in
time and \$.



SMHS Board



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER April 2007

OFFICERS

President	Dean S, Marlowe, Jr.	768-8790
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President	J.B. Bulley	762-7605
Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	768-8790

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Jewell Heise	2008	762-4650
Barb Mueller	2008	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2007	764-3689
Delores Kowalski	2007	762-4231
Betty Chovanec	2006	762-3428
Cecelia Pomahac	2006	768-0167

Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson 762-2712

Dates to Remember: May 14, 2007 Pot Luck Dinner, serving at 5:30 PM Entertainment: Steve Schreiter presents "Finding the Past, A to Z"

Greetings from the President's desk!

As I move on from the Presidency, I leave the Society in good hands, with much work, and many projects to come. Special thanks go to Addie Becker and Jewell Heise for their moral support and encouragement when times were tough. Thanks to everyone I served with and those who I served. I will remain on the Board of Directors as Past President and Curator to make a smooth transition. In closing, I say "Thank you" to all and may God Bless each one of you.

I remain Historically Yours,
Dean Marlowe, Jr., President

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 2 to 4 PM and by appointment. Volunteers are always needed. Visitors, school groups, scouts, families, clubs and individuals are welcome.

Raffle Tickets for a "Kid's Chopper Bike and 2- \$50.00 gas cards are on sale for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, the drawing for the raffle prizes will be May 14, 2007 at the Pot Luck Supper at the First Congregational Church. Raffle tickets will be available before the drawing or call Theresa at 414 762 5623 or Cecelia at 414 768 0167.

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

Our Vice President Addie Becker has been promoting our two history books, Then to Now and the Image, South Milwaukee at local businesses. Grace Lane Collectibles sold \$82.50 in books. Frank's Barber Shop has Image books and O'oh La La Salon donated \$50.00 to the Historical Society.

Our special thanks to retiring Board Members Jewell Heise 9 years, Delores Kowalski 6 years, Betty Chovanec 6 years. We thank you for your gifts of time and talent you have given to all of us.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society web site has some new items, a research paper and the curator's letter. The Historical Society will again support the Heritage Days Banner for the Chicago Ave.

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

Welcome to new member Mayor Zepecki and Life members Pat Bordak, Jennifer Stolpa and Theresa Aghbashian

The Historical Society is again sponsoring a \$500.00 Scholarship toward college to a high school senior who lives in the city of South Milwaukee. We will announce the winner at the May Pot Luck Dinner.

EMMA ABBOTT

Page 55 of Gertrude Endtoff's book, "South Milwaukee Then to Now" has a paragraph about Emma Abbott:

"One woman of South Milwaukee to become famous was Emma Abbott. About 1868, a family by the name of Abbott came to Oak Creek and lived in a little house on the west side of North Chicago Avenue where Oak Street is now. They had quite a large family. Emma, one of the daughters had a fine singing voice and often sang at entertainments. Her father was a voice teacher and gave lessons, but Emma needed further training than he was able to give. As the family was poor, they got help from someone outside the family who was interested, so Emma could continue to study music. She traveled and studied in many foreign countries and became famous as an opera singer."

The 1870 Federal Census of Oak Creek Township, Milwaukee County Wisconsin (recall that South Milwaukee came into existence in 1892) contains: Seth Abbott 49, a music teacher, Almira 45, his wife, children, George 22, Emma 20, Leon 18, Frederick 13, Lizzie 10. Note: the same family is listed in the 1860 census in Peoria Illinois, by 1880, Almira and some of her grown children are living in Waukesha, while Seth is in Minneapolis.

Both her father Seth and mother Almira Palmer Abbott came from musical families, so it was no surprise that Emma, their oldest daughter, showed musical talent at an early age. Seth earned a

living teaching music and performing, and he taught Emma how to sing and play the guitar in her pre teen years. Even as an adult, she was small in stature, anecdotes say her guitar looked huge in her arms

The family moved to Peoria Illinois when Emma was 2 years old and she graduated from high school there at age 16. After teaching school for one term, Emma realized that she must sing and joined a troupe of traveling entertainers called the "Lombards" With them she toured several states and gained experience.

She then decided to give her own concerts, making her own posters and placing them around the town in which she was performing. The concerts were usually given in hotel parlors.

While performing in Cleveland, Ohio, Emma made the acquaintance of Clara Louise Kellogg and Miss Kellogg agreed to advance Emma the money needed to travel to New York and study with leading voice teachers. She studied there and accepted a position singing in a church. The church conducted a fund drive to give Emma the money necessary to travel to Europe and continue her training.

After spending a year or so in Milan and Paris, and after marrying her husband Eugene Wetherell, a New York druggist, Emma signed a five-year contract to perform in Great Britain with the impressario Mapleson. She broke the contract a few years later, when she would not perform "Traviata", an opera she considered immoral.

Emma was a very charitable person and donated to various charities during her lifetime. One particular charity was the St John's Guild of New York City, which provided food, clothing, fuel and similar necessities to the city's impoverished. In 1875 Emma underwrote the \$20,000 cost of a ship that would accommodate 2500 sick children and their mothers. The ship operated from July 1881 until 1902, serving a total of 909,104 patients. The "Emma Abbott" was replaced by another ship, the "Helen C. Julliard"

In 1878 the Abbott English Opera Company was organized under the management of her husband and a Mr. Pratt. They traveled throughout the United States to enthusiastic audiences. Presenting mostly light operas, her favorites were "Daughter of the Regiment", "Paul and Virginia", "Chimes of Normandy" and "Martha". Her operas were known for costly, tasteful and historically correct costumes.

Emma Almira Abbott Wetherell, born Dec 9, 1850 in Chicago, Illinois, died Jan 5, 1891 in her room at the Templeton Hotel at Salt Lake City Utah. Married Eugene Wetherell in Paris in 1873. Cremated and buried with her husband, who predeceased her, in Gloucester, Massachusetts. They had no children. Her only known biography – *The Life and Professional Career of Emma Abbott*, Sadie A. Martin, published in 1891 (reserve in the Milwaukee County Federated System, 927.873 A 131M). Other books about her are: "Recollections of Emma Abbott", Mary E. Stewart, *The Waukesha Freeman*, Jul 11, 1912; "Famous Singer of To-day and Yesterday", Henry Charles Lahee, (Google Book Search); and, "Biographies of Notable Americans", Rossiter Johnson ed. (Google Book Search).
Steve Schreiter

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2007

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00;

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations 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.

Jewell Heise has been doing Fund Raising for the Historical Society for many years. She works with Piggly Wiggly Grocery receipts and makes great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your Piggly Wiggly receipts and clean Jelly Jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter

Labels by Stephen F. Schreiter

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



M/M STEPHEN SCHREITER LL
 104 BROOKDALE DR.
 SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172



South Milwaukee Historical Society

NEWSLETTER July 2007

OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Jan Tangen	483-1621
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President and Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	405-3516

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Robert Pfeiffer	2010	764-1135
James D. Rothschadl	2010	766-1633
Barbara Schouten	2010	764-2315
Barb Mueller	2009	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2008	764-3689
Cecelia Pomahac	2008	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



From the President's desk!

Welcome to the new officers and board. Come and greet them at our coming events.

I am honored and grateful that those attending the May Pot Luck Dinner elected me president. I hope to serve you and do my best to lead and help the society this coming year. This summer we are celebrating 35 years of being a historical society. Thank you to our founders who are still members, Dennis Rankin, Chet Grobschmidt, and Dora Lee Szewczuga Belfield.

We have an ambitious summer planned. So far we have had the Ice Cream Social on June 9. We sold 20 sundaes, 2 scoops, 2 toppings, \$2.00. We made \$24.50 profit by selling our unused products. The best part was the good time we had visiting. The "Now" newspaper actually came and took some pictures. Perhaps you saw Dean Marlowe scooping out ice cream in the July 12 issue. Our thanks go to Ron Mueller, Steve Schreiter and Richard Thinnes, who helped set up the ice cream booth, tables and chairs for the outside event. Addie Becker was our cashier while Barb Mueller, Eunice Hahn and Jim Rothschadl showed the museum. Retrospect: The sundaes got good reviews, especially the raspberry (from my garden). The location and advertising did not draw many people.

I have spent the last week working on picture display boards. The theme is "What three South Milwaukee buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places?" This triangle display will be at Evening on the Avenue and Lionsfest. We always need people to "man the booth". So come and sit a spell, visit with your neighbors, and promote the historical society.

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

July 29, Sunday afternoon, we will have mini classes in our outdoor classroom. I hope the weather is good.

1:00 Intro to Geneology, a short version by Steve Schreiter

1:30 S.M. Buildings on National Register of Historic Places, Lois Schreiter

2:00 Yellowstone Trail, What is and the experiences of Steve Schreiter on the trail.

2:30 History of the Mill Pond/ Grant Park , by Nancy Wucherer and Don Bulley

3:00 Walking Tour of Hawthorne Ave

August 2 Thursday Open House 1 to 3 PM Have you noticed our new hours?

August 6 Monday will be our Brat fest at the Museum

A New South Milwaukee History DVD? Would you like to help? Our showing of the Oconomowoc DVD in June was viewed by 14 people and thought to be a do able project. Two people from Oconomowoc came who had not previously seen it and gave us an idea for fund raising.

A few month's ago I visited the Lawson building at 909 Menomonee Ave. I looked at the huge open space and thought it would be a great space for a museum, garden, teaching and gathering place. It needs more discussion. Some of the benefits would be:

- 1. Large amount of floor space for movable walls and galleries**
- 2. Handicap access**
- 3. Large space for office and storage**
- 4. Small apartment for caretaker**
- 5. Space for gift shop**
- 6. Space for coffee bar**
- 7. Indoor and outdoor classroom**
- 8. Space for hands on projects**
- 9. Space for video or movie projects**
- 10. Room for parking and native Wisconsin garden
Including wild garlic, onion, blood root, high bush cranberry, etc.**
- 11. Meeting room(s) rental?**

Lakeview School is celebrating 50 years this fall. If anyone has pictures or stories about their life and times at Lakeview School call the school secretary and leave your name and phone number and a description of what you have or call one of the board members.

**Preserving the Proud Past,
Lois Schreiter, president**

Museum Visitations:

Call Dean Marlow, Jr. allow 45 minutes. The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open the first Thursday of the month 1 to 3 PM and by appointment. Volunteers are always needed. Visitors, school groups, scouts, families, clubs and individuals are welcome.

Raffle Results: Tickets were drawn at the May 14th Pot Luck Dinner.

Winners are: "Kid's Chopper Bike- Linda Rozekcard

\$50.00 gas card – Shirley Van Ruden

\$50.00 gas card – Betty Chovanec

Basket of Bath Supplies – Richard Raduenz

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

The Historical Society sponsored a \$500.00 Scholarship toward college to a high school senior who lives in the city of South Milwaukee. The committee, Lois Schreiter, Barb Mueller, Theresa Aghbashian, and Addie Becker had a difficult time choosing because our contestants had great scholastic, essays, athletic and service achievements. Our winner this year is Julia Keyes of South Milwaukee High School. Congratulations Julia!

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99.

This book makes a wonderful gift! We will have some for sale at "Evening on the Avenue" Come and see our display on 10th and Milwaukee after your spaghetti dinner at the fire house.

Good friends are hard to find and due to ever increasing printing and postage cost, we need your support of \$10.00 a year. Won't you please help to preserve South Milwaukee's history?

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2007

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ **amount:** _____

Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00;

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations 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.

Jewell Heise has been doing Fund Raising for the Historical Society for many years. She works with Piggly Wiggly Grocery receipts and makes great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your Piggly Wiggly receipts and clean Jelly Jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

**Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.
News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter
Addresses by Stephen F. Schreiter**

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



**M/M STEPHEN SCHREITER
104 BROOKDALE DR.
SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172**



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 2007

OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Jan Tangen	483-1621
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President and Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	405-3516

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Robert Pfeiffer	2010	764-1135
James D. Rothschild	2010	766-1633
Barbara Schouten	2010	764-2315
Barb Mueller	2009	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2008	764-3689
Cecelia Pomahac	2008	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



From the President's desk!

Our July Mini Classes held outside under a canopy on a warm Sunday Heritage Weekend were attended by 20 people and 8 warm people took the walking tour of Hawthorne Ave. I hope you all learned at least one new thing and had a good time also. The Bratfest was held on the first Monday in August. We sold 20 plates of brats, chips and soda and made about \$50.00 Perhaps our location and time should be changed to the park on 10th and Chicago and the time extended to 7 PM.

Our presentation to the CDA on the Lawson/ Continental Building went well. At least they didn't laugh at us openly. We asked for a 50 year lease at \$1.00 a year. I think we could make the building into a great museum. Mark Draeger wrote his remembrance of The Factory.

Our Bake and Craft Sale will be Dec. 1, 2007 from 9 until 2 PM. Come and enjoy a cup of hot cider. Shop for Collector Ornaments, Christmas Cards, Note Cards, Image Books, and Then to Now History Books.

Dec. 15, 2007, Christmas Tea at the Grant Park Clubhouse will be a joint effort with Friends of the Mill Pond and your SMHS. It will feature finger sandwiches, waldorf salad, and desserts. It is reservation only event. The cost is \$12.50 Deadline is Dec. 8th. Call 762-5214 or 571-1191.

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

Next Fall we will host the State Historical Society's Metropolitan Local History Convention on September 13, 2008. It includes all the suburban historical societies in our area. It will be held at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club. We need to provide a tour of our museum, Grant Park or preservation projects we are working on for an afternoon program event. Lunch will be catered. More details in future newsletters.

We have lost two vibrant members Joe Longo, died Aug. 5, 2007 and Ron Mueller, Oct. 13, 2007 Joe Longo was a generous donor and Ron Mueller helped set up our ice cream social booth and told stories about the bridle trails in Grant Park.

Maritime Historical Society sponsored a Crossing's Tour on the Lake Express. Steve and I participated in their event. We had a bumpy crossing Friday going to Muskegan along with many Irish Dance competitors. After an overnight in Muskegan, we toured two lighthouses, a submarine, a museum, had a lovely lunch, a quick tour of the Milwaukee Clipper restoration and then a very smooth ride home Saturday evening. Their collection is housed in the Zeidler Room at the Central Library in Milwaukee where they hold their meetings.

**Preserving the Proud Past,
Lois Schreiter, president**

Curator's Greetings!

The society acquired an original City of South Milwaukee Welcome sign donated by Richard Gaidish. Mr. Gaidish was a city employee for years; many thanks for this beautiful addition to our collection.

Thanks also go to Joe and Judy Soulak who generously donated original copies of the Voice Journal Newspaper from 1939 and bound copies of the Voice Journal Newspapers from 1942 to 1965.

Lynda Citro, who worked on the Society's website has taken a job as a Library Director in Florida. Before leaving, she and her husband, Phil donated an original survey book from 1932 for the Norris Farm in South Milwaukee, which was located on College Avenue. Thank you so much Lynda and Phil.

Acquisitions: 1. Stefanowski, Guziewski, Benkowski, Lindstrom family for the grocery store scale from the 13th Ave store, 2. Richard and Marc Gaidish family donated a City of SM sign from the corner of Nicholson and College, 3. Copies of the 1922 Centennial Book from Bob Pfeiffer at the Library, and 3. bound copies of the Voice Journal 1942 to 1965 from Joe Soulak and hand delivered by Richard Thinner to the museum. 1932 Survey of Norris Farm from Lynda Citro and husband, Phil.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open the first Thursday of the month 1 to 3 PM and by appointment. Allow 45 minutes. Volunteers are always needed. Visitors, school groups, scouts, families, clubs and individuals are welcome. Call Dean Marlow, Jr.

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see *membership form*) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

The Factory

By Mark Draeger, SMHS Member, Nov. 2007

I moved to South Milwaukee in the Winter of 1960. I was in kindergarten at that time and attended school at Lakeview. My father worked at Line Material, and wanted to live closer to the Central Plant where his office was located. We moved into the old Dude Iannone house on the corner of 9th and Marshall. It was an interesting location, as we had the City Garage behind us, an empty lot on the curve north of us (later Krambo, Kroger, and Tate's), and only one other house on our "block". That other house was the Dobratz's, and Edgar, Lucille with their sons Mike and Phillip, and Grandma Guenther lived there. Edgar worked as a welder at Line Material, so Dad knew him and us kids quickly became friends. Mike was quite a bit older than me and soon went into the Service. So Phillip, who was my next older brother Lee's age, was the one I remember most. Phillip was one of those guys who was always the instigator in any group of kids that got together to do something. He always knew of a construction site that we could play "King of the Mountain" in, or an abandoned rail car we could investigate, or where to dig for arrowheads. How he always seemed to know about these things, I'll never know. So Phillip was the obvious person to introduce us to "The Factory". He knew 2 or 3 different ways to get in, where the Police or nosy neighbors wouldn't see us. There was so much overgrown vegetation around the buildings that we always had good cover. There was one neighbor down the street, however, that seemed to always be at home, and would watch for anybody near the factory. She was our biggest threat. Luckily, we never got caught, or I'd have some tough explaining to do to my father. Remember, back then physical punishment was the norm, and kids didn't have any rights. So we would play in the factory every chance we got for years. I must have been historical way back then, as I loved looking through the old invoices piled in the front office, looking for the oldest dates I could find. They were all pottery or tile invoices and railroad bill of lading as I recall. The oldest went back to about WWII, or maybe the late 30's, so I was disappointed and didn't keep any as souvenirs. Remember, WWII was only about 20 years ago at the time, and recent history. I was looking for "real antiques" from the 1800's, when my Grandparents were born. That would have been old to me! And besides, pottery and tile sounded "girly" to me, I was hoping for cool machines, radios, or old cars on the invoices. Besides the office, we explored every inch of that factory. We always went in the daytime, as even Phillip thought it was too dangerous at night. Even so, it was always dark inside. We didn't carry flashlights, as that would give it away to our parents who told us never to go into the factory. One of the scariest things that regularly happened in the factory was Phillip's dare to me to go investigate the far southwest corner of the factory, closest to the railroad tracks. That corner was where hobos that rode the trains would sleep or drink between "rides". Since it was pitch black in that corner and there were no windows, you never knew if a hobo was back there in the mountains of paper and debris. Well, young boys have to take a dare if challenged, so off I went on way too many occasions. As I slowly crept over into the darkness, my heart raced with fear

and anticipation. If nothing happened, I hurried back out into the relatively dim light joining my friends and continued our exploring quite proud to be so brave. However, if I stumbled upon a hobo, they usually let out a yell or a curse, and terrified they would “get” me, I ran out to find my friends already high-tailing it to the front and out the window.

Since I was fascinated with the old factory, Edgar told me about its history. He was the one who first told me it was an airplane factory. I didn't believe him, as only the Wright Brothers made early airplanes as far as I knew. Just like Henry Ford made the only early cars. And besides that, there was nothing airplane related left in the factory to indicate they were ever built there. He also told me how that area was all part of his parents farm from the City Garage to the tracks that was swampland, to the fertile fields all around the farmhouse. The farmhouse and garage were all that were left of the original buildings, and that's what I knew as where the Dobratz's lived. I could hardly believe that the modern and thriving City of South Milwaukee was once farmland. Edgar thought the factory was important, and didn't like to see it in such disrepair. Looking back, I understand how he must have remembered that front office with all its beautiful tilework when it was in operation. To me, it was just a dirty old abandoned playground to have fun in. Out in front of the office window, set flush into the ground, was a beige colored sundial, about 3 ft. in diameter. This sundial was somewhat ornate, had markings for the hours, and had the four directions of the compass on it. It was all one cast piece without any paint or tile embedded in it. I was confused by it because it had no vertical piece standing up that would cast the necessary shadow to read the time. And it didn't appear to have anything broken off of it. Edgar told me that was because it was just meant to be a decoration. He sternly warned us kids not to deface or break it in any way, and we promised we wouldn't. One day, about 1970, he decided that too many other people besides us good kids, were going in and trashing the place. So he and his sons dug up the sundial and moved it to his back yard in front of his screened in cottage to preserve it from being stolen or damaged by vandals. As I recall, it cracked in two pieces when he dug it out, but he carefully reset it in his yard and it looked good as new. The other day, when the Society toured the factory, I looked over the fence to see if I could spot the sundial, but I couldn't. It could be that it was moved or taken away years ago, or perhaps the lawn has grown over it in the last 37 years. Edgar and Lucille died some years ago, and I saw Phillip at his Mother's funeral. He was living in Florida at the time. I don't recall where Mike was living.

Edgar loved telling me about the old airplane factory, maybe because I was the only one interested at the time. He told me how the area south of the factory down 9th Avenue was open farmland with a nice hill for a plane to take off from. He also told me that Lawson was very important in aviation history and that if the plane didn't crash, I would have learned all about him in school. He was an eyewitness as a boy to the take-off and crash and it seemed his father knew Mr. Lawson. I'm sure Edgar would be surprised that I'm telling this story today

Editors Note: The Draeger and Dobratz homes at 2500 and 2514 9th Ave. still stand. Factory is the Lawson/Continental Faience Building at 909 Menominee Ave.

Think Christmas.

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99. This book makes a wonderful gift.

Bake and Craft Sale

Dec. 1, 2007

9 AM to 2 PM

Christmas Shop:

Collector Ornaments \$12.00,
Divine Mercy Chapel
Historical Society Christmas Cards,
Note Cards, Image Picture Books,
Then to Now History Books
Spoons and tie tacks
Bakery and crafts

Have a cup of Cider

Good friends are hard to find and due to ever increasing printing and postage cost, we need your support of \$10.00 a year. Won't you please help to preserve South Milwaukee's history?
South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2007

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____ Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00; Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations 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.

Jewell Heise has been doing Fund Raising for the Historical Society for many years. She works with Piggly Wiggly Grocery receipts and makes great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your Piggly Wiggly receipts and clean Jelly Jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter

Addresses by Stephen F. Schreiter

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





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 2007

OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Jan Tangen	483-1621
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President and Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	405-3516

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Robert Pfeiffer	2010	764-1135
James D. Rothschadl	2010	766-1633
Barbara Schouten	2010	764-2315
Barb Mueller	2009	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2008	764-3689
Cecelia Pomahac	2008	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



From the President's desk!

Our July Mini Classes held outside under a canopy on a warm Sunday Heritage Weekend were attended by 20 people and 8 warm people took the walking tour of Hawthorne Ave. I hope you all learned at least one new thing and had a good time also. The Bratfest was held on the first Monday in August. We sold 20 plates of brats, chips and soda and made about \$50.00 Perhaps our location and time should be changed to the park on 10th and Chicago and the time extended to 7 PM.

Our presentation to the CDA on the Lawson/ Continental Building went well. At least they didn't laugh at us openly. We asked for a 50 year lease at \$1.00 a year. I think we could make the building into a great museum. Mark Draeger wrote his remembrance of The Factory.

Our Bake and Craft Sale will be Dec. 1, 2007 from 9 until 2 PM. Come and enjoy a cup of hot cider. Shop for Collector Ornaments, Christmas Cards, Note Cards, Image Books, and Then to Now History Books.

Dec. 15, 2007, Christmas Tea at the Grant Park Clubhouse will be a joint effort with Friends of the Mill Pond and your SMHS. It will feature finger sandwiches, waldorf salad, and desserts. It is reservation only event. The cost is \$12.50 Deadline is Dec. 8th. Call 762-5214 or 571-1191.

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

Next Fall we will host the State Historical Society's Metropolitan Local History Convention on September 13, 2008. It includes all the suburban historical societies in our area. It will be held at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club. We need to provide a tour of our museum, Grant Park or preservation projects we are working on for an afternoon program event. Lunch will be catered. More details in future newsletters.

We have lost two vibrant members Joe Longo, died Aug. 5, 2007 and Ron Mueller, Oct. 13, 2007. Joe Longo was a generous donor and Ron Mueller helped set up our ice cream social booth and told stories about the bridle trails in Grant Park.

Maritime Historical Society sponsored a Crossing's Tour on the Lake Express. Steve and I participated in their event. We had a bumpy crossing Friday going to Muskegan along with many Irish Dance competitors. After an overnight in Muskegan, we toured two lighthouses, a submarine, a museum, had a lovely lunch, a quick tour of the Milwaukee Clipper restoration and then a very smooth ride home Saturday evening. Their collection is housed in the Zeidler Room at the Central Library in Milwaukee where they hold their meetings.

Preserving the Proud Past,
Lois Schreiter, president

Curator's Greetings!

The society acquired an original City of South Milwaukee Welcome sign donated by Richard Gaidish. Mr. Gaidish was a city employee for years; many thanks for this beautiful addition to our collection.

Thanks also go to Joe and Judy Soulak who generously donated original copies of the Voice Journal Newspaper from 1939 and bound copies of the Voice Journal Newspapers from 1942 to 1965.

Lynda Citro, who worked on the Society's website has taken a job as a Library Director in Florida. Before leaving, she and her husband, Phil donated an original survey book from 1932 for the Norris Farm in South Milwaukee, which was located on College Avenue. Thank you so much Lynda and Phil.

Acquisitions: 1. Stefanowski, Guziewski, Benkowski, Lindstrom family for the grocery store scale from the 13th Ave store, 2. Richard and Marc Gaidish family donated a City of SM sign from the corner of Nicholson and College, 3. Copies of the 1922 Centennial Book from Bob Pfeiffer at the Library, and 3. bound copies of the Voice Journal 1942 to 1965 from Joe Soulak and hand delivered by Richard Thinnes to the museum. 1932 Survey of Norris Farm from Lynda Citro and husband, Phil.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum is open the first Thursday of the month 1 to 3 PM and by appointment. Allow 45 minutes. Volunteers are always needed. Visitors, school groups, scouts, families, clubs and individuals are welcome. Call Dean Marlow, Jr.

Geneology by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

The Factory

By Mark Draeger, SMHS Member, Nov. 2007

I moved to South Milwaukee in the Winter of 1960. I was in kindergarten at that time and attended school at Lakeview. My father worked at Line Material, and wanted to live closer to the Central Plant where his office was located. We moved into the old Dude Iannone house on the corner of 9th and Marshall. It was an interesting location, as we had the City Garage behind us, an empty lot on the curve north of us (later Krambo, Kroger, and Tate's), and only one other house on our "block". That other house was the Dobratz's, and Edgar, Lucille with their sons Mike and Phillip, and Grandma Guenther lived there. Edgar worked as a welder at Line Material, so Dad knew him and us kids quickly became friends. Mike was quite a bit older than me and soon went into the Service. So Phillip, who was my next older brother Lee's age, was the one I remember most. Phillip was one of those guys who was always the instigator in any group of kids that got together to do something. He always knew of a construction site that we could play "King of the Mountain" in, or an abandoned rail car we could investigate, or where to dig for arrowheads. How he always seemed to know about these things, I'll never know. So Phillip was the obvious person to introduce us to "The Factory". He knew 2 or 3 different ways to get in, where the Police or nosy neighbors wouldn't see us. There was so much overgrown vegetation around the buildings that we always had good cover. There was one neighbor down the street, however, that seemed to always be at home, and would watch for anybody near the factory. She was our biggest threat. Luckily, we never got caught, or I'd have some tough explaining to do to my father. Remember, back then physical punishment was the norm, and kids didn't have any rights. So we would play in the factory every chance we got for years. I must have been historical way back then, as I loved looking through the old invoices piled in the front office, looking for the oldest dates I could find. They were all pottery or tile invoices and railroad bill of lading as I recall. The oldest went back to about WWII, or maybe the late 30's, so I was disappointed and didn't keep any as souvenirs. Remember, WWII was only about 20 years ago at the time, and recent history. I was looking for "real antiques" from the 1800's, when my Grandparents were born. That would have been old to me! And besides, pottery and tile sounded "girly" to me, I was hoping for cool machines, radios, or old cars on the invoices. Besides the office, we explored every inch of that factory. We always went in the daytime, as even Phillip thought it was too dangerous at night. Even so, it was always dark inside. We didn't carry flashlights, as that would give it away to our parents who told us never to go into the factory. One of the scariest things that regularly happened in the factory was Phillip's dare to me to go investigate the far southwest corner of the factory, closest to the railroad tracks. That corner was where hobos that rode the trains would sleep or drink between "rides". Since it was pitch black in that corner and there were no windows, you never knew if a hobo was back there in the mountains of paper and debris. Well, young boys have to take a dare if challenged, so off I went on way too many occasions. As I slowly crept over into the darkness, my heart raced with fear

and anticipation. If nothing happened, I hurried back out into the relatively dim light joining my friends and continued our exploring quite proud to be so brave. However, if I stumbled upon a hobo, they usually let out a yell or a curse, and terrified they would "get" me, I ran out to find my friends already high-tailing it to the front and out the window.

Since I was fascinated with the old factory, Edgar told me about its history. He was the one who first told me it was an airplane factory. I didn't believe him, as only the Wright Brothers made early airplanes as far as I knew. Just like Henry Ford made the only early cars. And besides that, there was nothing airplane related left in the factory to indicate they were ever built there. He also told me how that area was all part of his parents farm from the City Garage to the tracks that was swampland, to the fertile fields all around the farmhouse. The farmhouse and garage were all that were left of the original buildings, and that's what I knew as where the Dobratz's lived. I could hardly believe that the modern and thriving City of South Milwaukee was once farmland. Edgar thought the factory was important, and didn't like to see it in such disrepair. Looking back, I understand how he must have remembered that front office with all its beautiful tilework when it was in operation. To me, it was just a dirty old abandoned playground to have fun in. Out in front of the office window, set flush into the ground, was a beige colored sundial, about 3 ft. in diameter. This sundial was somewhat ornate, had markings for the hours, and had the four directions of the compass on it. It was all one cast piece without any paint or tile embedded in it. I was confused by it because it had no vertical piece standing up that would cast the necessary shadow to read the time. And it didn't appear to have anything broken off of it. Edgar told me that was because it was just meant to be a decoration. He sternly warned us kids not to deface or break it in any way, and we promised we wouldn't. One day, about 1970, he decided that too many other people besides us good kids, were going in and trashing the place. So he and his sons dug up the sundial and moved it to his back yard in front of his screened in cottage to preserve it from being stolen or damaged by vandals. As I recall, it cracked in two pieces when he dug it out, but he carefully reset it in his yard and it looked good as new. The other day, when the Society toured the factory, I looked over the fence to see if I could spot the sundial, but I couldn't. It could be that it was moved or taken away years ago, or perhaps the lawn has grown over it in the last 37 years. Edgar and Lucille died some years ago, and I saw Phillip at his Mother's funeral. He was living in Florida at the time. I don't recall where Mike was living.

Edgar loved telling me about the old airplane factory, maybe because I was the only one interested at the time. He told me how the area south of the factory down 9th Avenue was open farmland with a nice hill for a plane to take off from. He also told me that Lawson was very important in aviation history and that if the plane didn't crash, I would have learned all about him in school. He was an eyewitness as a boy to the take-off and crash and it seemed his father knew Mr. Lawson. I'm sure Edgar would be surprised that I'm telling this story today

Editors Note: The Draeger and Dobratz homes at 2500 and 2514 9th Ave. still stand. Factory is the Lawson/Continental Faience Building at 909 Menominee Ave.

Think Christmas.

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Neis Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$19.99. This book makes a wonderful gift.

Bake and Craft Sale

Dec. 1, 2007

9 AM to 2 PM

Christmas Shop:

Collector Ornaments \$12.00,
Divine Mercy Chapel
Historical Society Christmas Cards,
Note Cards, Image Picture Books,
Then to Now History Books
Spoons and tie tacks
Bakery and crafts

Have a cup of Cider

Good friends are hard to find and due to ever increasing printing and postage cost, we need your support of \$10.00 a year. Won't you please help to preserve South Milwaukee's history?
South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2007

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____ Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00; Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations 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.

Jewell Heise has been doing Fund Raising for the Historical Society for many years. She works with Piggly Wiggly Grocery receipts and makes great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your Piggly Wiggly receipts and clean Jelly Jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter

Addresses by Stephen F. Schreiter

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



~~M/M DANIEL ADAMCZYK 1/1/2007~~
~~2409 10th AVE, APT 106~~
~~SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172~~



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER January, 2008

OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Jan Tangen	483-1621
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President and Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	405-3516

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Robert Pfeiffer	2010	764-1135
James D. Rothschild	2010	766-1633
Barbara Schouten	2010	764-2315
Barb Mueller	2009	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2008	764-3689
Cecelia Pomahac	2008	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



From the President's desk!

Our Bake and Craft Sale did well. Even with marginal weather, attendance was good, and we made \$566.00. Great work everyone, especially Addie Becker, Sue Ziarek, Theresa Aghbashian, Jewell Heise and Richard Thinnes for making the phone calls, manning the booths and putting up signs. Thank you to all who braved the weather to attend, donate, and purchase our special bakery and crafts. I enjoyed serving the apple cider.

Fifty-two brave people again battled the snow to attend our first annual Christmas Tea held on December 15 at the Grant Park Clubhouse. We joined forces with the Friends of the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Waterway organization to provide lunch, raffles and door prizes in a delightfully historic and beautifully decorated atmosphere. We washed china and real silverware before and after the event. Many lovely dishes graced the tables. The event was the idea of Judy Balestreieri, who used her wonderful collection of teacups. The catering by Greg's Soup r Desserts was delicious and artfully prepared. Nancy Wucherer, Barb Schouten, Barb Mueller, Kathy Briesemeister, Sandy Balestreieri, Rachel Klein, Patrick Garret and myself were the wait staff. Carol Paulson and her Greek exchange student daughter, Antioni Cuni, talked about the costumes they wore. John Bordak, won the 96 bottles of Miller Beer and party tub raffle. Congratulation John! The Miller Beer raffle made \$290.00. Gross income was \$1052.00, expenses \$632.00, \$420.00 profit is shared by the S.M. Historical Society and the Mill Pond/Oak Creek. Thank you all for participating.

We hope YOU are expressing your concerns to our CITY OFFICIALS about the Lawson/Tile building at 909 Menomonee. Public Hearing Monday, Jan 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at city hall 2424 15th Ave. It may be the only way to save this double historic site.

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

After Christmas when the trimmings come down, if you are thinking of discarding or changing your decorations for next Christmas, think about donating them for our sale next November. Our bake and craft and Christmas decoration sale will be Nov. 15 or 22, 2008. Bring your used Christmas decorations to the Historical Society Museum, Thursday, January 17 between 1 and 3 PM. Questions? Call 762-5214

Keep in mind a Garden Tour Fund Raiser on Saturday, June 28 from 10 AM to 3 PM. We want 10 gardens to tour. If you think you would like to show your garden, call me. We will need volunteers to work each site. To sign up call 762 5214.

Next time you are at the Museum notice we have working doorbells thanks to Richard Thinner. The carpets on the stairs to the second floor have all been renewed front and back, thanks to a generous donation by South Milwaukee Carpets at 10th and Milwaukee Ave. Thank you, Mr. Gary Lugauer.

Our next event is the Annual Dinner to be held on a Saturday AFTERNOON this year.

Feb 9, 2008 11:30 social, dinner about 12:30

Salvatore's on 12th and Monroe

Menu: Stuffed pork chop, baked potato, green beans, and more for \$22.00 per person. The entertainment will have an Irish theme with Irish Dancers through the help of Janet Wood and Irish straw weaving by Linda Daly. We hope to see a huge crowd at this afternoon event. Send in your reservations and dues to Addie Becker by Feb. 2, 2008.

Preserving the Proud Past,
Lois Schreiter, president

Geneology by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$20.00. This book makes a wonderful gift any time of the year.

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.

THE NEWSPAPERS OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

By Ruth M. Lewis & Steve Schreiter

Part 1

1892 was a significant year in both the history of South Milwaukee and in the history of journalism in this area. South Milwaukee was incorporated as a city in that year and *The South Milwaukee Journal* began publication in a building at 917 Monroe Avenue.

T. J. Russell was the paper's founder and publisher for many years. It became known throughout the southern part of Milwaukee County under the name of Russell and Miner, Mr. Russell's son-in-law.

Ownership rapidly changed in the early 1900's, L.A. Miner purchasing his father-in-law's share in 1904, shortly thereafter F.M. Lemmers obtained the paper from Miner's estate, and in 1905 Fred L. Hook took control of the newspaper. Mr. Hook published the paper as a weekly together with C.A. Fish until 1933 when Fred Hook's son George, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Journalism, expanded their business to include job printing.

In 1930, Ferdinand Neumann and Arthur Huebner started a weekly newspaper-"shopper" known as "The Businessman's Voice." It later was renamed "The Voice of South Milwaukee" and was published in their facility at 13th and Monroe Avenue. Along with "The Cudahy Voice" Neumann also operated a radio station from the site, using call letters WRJN. Heubner eventually bought out Neumann and expanded his commercial printing by purchasing Koerner Press, which was operated at the rear of 906 Madison Avenue.

Huebner sold the combined newspaper publishing and commercial printing operation to Gordon R. Lewis in May 1947. Lewis was a Marquette University College of Journalism graduate and former day editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel. He also had experience starting and editing the "Hump Express"; a newspaper distributed to US servicemen during World War II in the India, China, and Burma Theater.

The owners of the South Milwaukee Journal sold their newspaper to Leo Stonek, publisher of the Cudahy Reminder in 1950, and he continued to publish the paper using his existing facilities. In 1951, Lewis, the publisher of the Voice purchased the subscription list from Stonek and in turn, sold Stonek the subscription list and publishing rights to the Cudahy Voice. The combined newspaper in South Milwaukee then became "The South Milwaukee Voice-Journal"

1955 saw a need for expansion and modernization of the paper facilities, so Mr. Lewis constructed the publishing-printing plant at 723 Milwaukee Avenue. (Next to, and just west of the South Milwaukee Historical Society museum.)

After the sale of the operation to Leroy T. Kreutzig in 1960, Gordon Lewis remained as editor until 1965. During his tenure as editor and publisher, the paper won more than a dozen major awards for excellence

Kreutzig continued to publish the paper until 1975 when he sold the business to Joseph Soulak

Part 2 to Follow

References:

- (1) – "South Milwaukee Then to Now" by Gertrude Moe Endthoff, 1976, Journal Printing Co.
- (2) – Notes Provided by Mr. Joseph Soulak, rec'd December, 2007
- (3) – Conversations with Ruth M. Lewis, January, 2008

Notes:

- Mrs. Endthoff's book is still in print and available through the South Milwaukee Historical Society.
- The South Milwaukee Library has microfilm of *The Journal* and *The Voice-Journal* from 1892/2005

Good friends are hard to find and due to ever increasing printing and postage cost, we need your support of \$10.00 a year. Won't you please help to preserve South Milwaukee's history?

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2008

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Dinner reservations for Feb. 9th: _____ \$22.00 per person

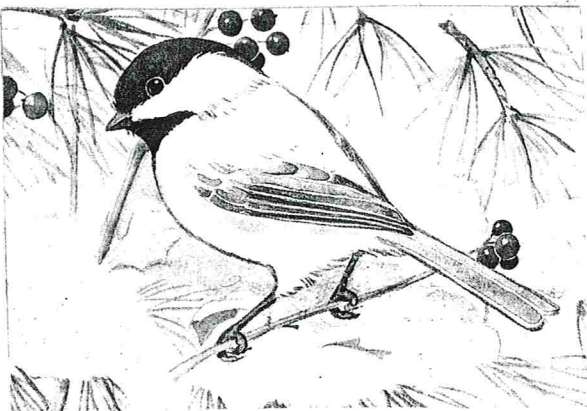
Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00; Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.

Piggly Wiggly Grocery has discontinued their 1 % refund on receipts and is changing to a 4% return on scrip. Jewell Heise will continue making her great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your clean jelly jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter, Addresses: Stephen F. Schreiter

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





South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER January, 2008

OFFICERS

President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Addie Becker	764-2118
Secretary	Jan Tangen	483-1621
Treasurer	Theresa Aghbashian	762-5623
Past President and Curator	Dean Marlowe, Jr	405-3516

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Robert Pfeiffer	2010	764-1135
James D. Rothschild	2010	766-1633
Barbara Schouten	2010	764-2315
Barb Mueller	2009	762-2712
Eunice Hahn	2008	764-3689
Cecelia Pomahac	2008	768-0167
Barb Mueller is Sunshine Chairperson		762-2712



From the President's desk!

Our Bake and Craft Sale did well. Even with marginal weather, attendance was good, and we made \$566.00. Great work everyone, especially Addie Becker, Sue Ziarek, Theresa Aghbashian, Jewell Heise and Richard Thinnes for making the phone calls, manning the booths and putting up signs. Thank you to all who braved the weather to attend, donate, and purchase our special bakery and crafts. I enjoyed serving the apple cider.

Fifty-two brave people again battled the snow to attend our first annual Christmas Tea held on December 15 at the Grant Park Clubhouse. We joined forces with the Friends of the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Waterway organization to provide lunch, raffles and door prizes in a delightfully historic and beautifully decorated atmosphere. We washed china and real silverware before and after the event. Many lovely dishes graced the tables. The event was the idea of Judy Balestreieri, who used her wonderful collection of teacups. The catering by Greg's Soup r Desserts was delicious and artfully prepared. Nancy Wucherer, Barb Schouten, Barb Mueller, Kathy Briesemeister, Sandy Balestreieri, Rachel Klein, Patrick Garret and myself were the wait staff. Carol Paulson and her Greek exchange student daughter, Antitoni Cuni, talked about the costumes they wore. John Bordak, won the 96 bottles of Miller Beer and party tub raffle. Congratulation John! The Miller Beer raffle made \$290.00. Gross income was \$1052.00, expenses \$632.00, \$420.00 profit is shared by the S.M. Historical Society and the Mill Pond/Oak Creek. Thank you all for participating.

We hope YOU are expressing your concerns to our CITY OFFICIALS about the Lawson/Tile building at 909 Menomonee. Public Hearing Monday, Jan 14, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at city hall 2424 15th Ave. It may be the only way to save this double historic site.

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

After Christmas when the trimmings come down, if you are thinking of discarding or changing your decorations for next Christmas, think about donating them for our sale next November. Our bake and craft and Christmas decoration sale will be Nov. 15 or 22, 2008. Bring your used Christmas decorations to the Historical Society Museum, Thursday, January 17 between 1 and 3 PM. Questions? Call 762-5214

Keep in mind a Garden Tour Fund Raiser on Saturday, June 28 from 10 AM to 3 PM. We want 10 gardens to tour. If you think you would like to show your garden, call me. We will need volunteers to work each site. To sign up call 762 5214.

Next time you are at the Museum notice we have working doorbells thanks to Richard Thinnies. The carpets on the stairs to the second floor have all been renewed front and back, thanks to a generous donation by South Milwaukee Carpets at 10th and Milwaukee Ave. Thank you, Mr. Gary Lugauer.

Our next event is the Annual Dinner to be held on a Saturday AFTERNOON this year.

Feb 9, 2008 11:30 social, dinner about 12:30

Salvatore's on 12th and Monroe

Menu: Stuffed pork chop, baked potato, green beans, and more for \$22.00 per person. The entertainment will have an Irish theme with Irish Dancers through the help of Janet Wood and Irish straw weaving by Linda Daly. We hope to see a huge crowd at this afternoon event. Send in your reservations and dues to Addie Becker by Feb. 2, 2008.

Preserving the Proud Past,
Lois Schreiter, president

Geneology by Steve Schreiter: Steve offered to do one hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership dues. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned to Addie Becker with dues. Forms may be obtained from Addie Becker (see membership form) and also on the Internet at www.ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book is for sale at the SM Historical Society. Authors are Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$20.00. This book makes a wonderful gift any time of the year.

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.

THE NEWSPAPERS OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

By Ruth M. Lewis & Steve Schreiter

Part 1

1892 was a significant year in both the history of South Milwaukee and in the history of journalism in this area. South Milwaukee was incorporated as a city in that year and *The South Milwaukee Journal* began publication in a building at 917 Monroe Avenue.

T. J. Russell was the paper's founder and publisher for many years. It became known throughout the southern part of Milwaukee County under the name of Russell and Miner, Mr. Russell's son-in-law.

Ownership rapidly changed in the early 1900's, L.A. Miner purchasing his father-in-law's share in 1904, shortly thereafter F.M. Lemmers obtained the paper from Miner's estate, and in 1905 Fred L. Hook took control of the newspaper. Mr. Hook published the paper as a weekly together with C.A. Fish until 1933 when Fred Hook's son George, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Journalism, expanded their business to include job printing.

In 1930, Ferdinand Neumann and Arthur Huebner started a weekly newspaper-"shopper" known as "The Businessman's Voice." It later was renamed "The Voice of South Milwaukee" and was published in their facility at 13th and Monroe Avenue. Along with "The Cudahy Voice" Neumann also operated a radio station from the site, using call letters WRJN. Heubner eventually bought out Neumann and expanded his commercial printing by purchasing Koerner Press, which was operated at the rear of 906 Madison Avenue.

Huebner sold the combined newspaper publishing and commercial printing operation to Gordon R. Lewis in May 1947. Lewis was a Marquette University College of Journalism graduate and former day editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel. He also had experience starting and editing the "Hump Express"; a newspaper distributed to US servicemen during World War II in the India, China, and Burma Theater.

The owners of the South Milwaukee Journal sold their newspaper to Leo Stonek, publisher of the Cudahy Reminder in 1950, and he continued to publish the paper using his existing facilities. In 1951, Lewis, the publisher of the Voice purchased the subscription list from Stonek and in turn, sold Stonek the subscription list and publishing rights to the Cudahy Voice. The combined newspaper in South Milwaukee then became "The South Milwaukee Voice-Journal"

1955 saw a need for expansion and modernization of the paper facilities, so Mr. Lewis constructed the publishing-printing plant at 723 Milwaukee Avenue. (Next to, and just west of the South Milwaukee Historical Society museum.)

After the sale of the operation to Leroy T. Kreutzig in 1960, Gordon Lewis remained as editor until 1965. During his tenure as editor and publisher, the paper won more than a dozen major awards for excellence

Kreutzig continued to publish the paper until 1975 when he sold the business to Joseph Soulak

Part 2 to Follow

References:

- (1) - "South Milwaukee Then to Now" by Gertrude Moe Endthoff, 1976, Journal Printing Co.
- (2) - Notes Provided by Mr. Joseph Soulak, rec'd December, 2007
- (3) - Conversations with Ruth M. Lewis, January, 2008

Notes:

- Mrs. Endthoff's book is still in print and available through the South Milwaukee Historical Society.
- The South Milwaukee Library has microfilm of *The Journal* and *The Voice-Journal* from 1892/2005

Good friends are hard to find and due to ever increasing printing and postage cost, we need your support of \$10.00 a year. Won't you please help to preserve South Milwaukee's history?

South Milwaukee Historical Society Membership form: 2008

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____

Type of membership: _____ amount: _____

Dinner reservations for Feb. 9th: _____ \$22.00 per person

Dues: Single, \$10.00; Family, \$15.00; Life, \$100.00; Business, \$25.00; Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society. Send membership dues and dinner reservations to Membership Chairperson, Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-2118.

Piggly Wiggly Grocery has discontinued their 1 % refund on receipts and is changing to a 4% return on scrip. Jewell Heise will continue making her great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your clean jelly jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650.

Newsletter published quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Nov.

News Editor and printing: Lois L. Schreiter, Addresses: Stephen F. Schreiter

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

