



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**

□

