

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Ave

South Milwaukee, Wi. 53172

P R E S E R V I N G T H E P R O U D P A S T

**FOUNDED
MARCH
1972**

Founders

- Dennis Rankin
- Penny Rankin

Initial Directors:

- George Hook
- Mary McCarrier
- Bruce Rayeske
- Dora Lee Szewczuga
- William Domoe
- Lillian Dishong
- Chester Grobschmidt

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	ROBERT PFEIFFER	764-1135
V. PRESIDENT	LOIS SCHREITER	762-5214
SECRETARY	SUE ZIAREK	520-1959
TREASURER	RICHARD RAATZ	761-3941

BOARD OF CURATORS

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RICHARD THINNES
STEVE SCHREITER, GENEALOGY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(TERM EXPIRES):

ESTELLE HAACK	(2011)	762-8124
CAROL BRABY	(2012)	870-7857
ADDIE BECKER	(2013)	764-2118
J.B. BULLEY	(2013)	762-7605
BARBARA SCHOUTEN	(2013)	764-2315
BARB MUELLER	(2013)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

- A Brief History of Grant Park 2
- Tids & Bits 3
- Membership Form 3
- Coming Events 4

Congratulations to the Officers and Board Members who were elected at the May 3 meeting. A special thank you to the committee who worked on putting the pot luck dinner together and to the First Congregational Church for allowing us to use their hall.

Summer is finally here and with everything we've got going on the next couple months we wanted to get the word out as early as possible. First up is the Garden Tour at the end of June. There's still time to buy your tickets. Look inside for more information. In July we'll be participating in Evening on the Ave and the Grant Park 100th Birthday celebration. Check out the brief history of Grant Park on Page 2 of the newsletter. In August is the Wisconsin Historical Society Regional meeting. You'll find details on that inside too. Also in August we have a tour of the Mitchell Gallery of Flight at General Mitchell International Airport with our own personal tour guide, Jim Rothschadl. And

last but not least is our fall pot luck meeting on September 13th. We hope you can join us for at least some of these activities and if you would like to volunteer for any of them please call Lois Schreiter at 762-5214.

We recently solicited our life members for donations to the Golden Circle Building & Maintenance Club. We'd like to thank you for the generous donations we've received so far. We have a number of projects that need to be done at the museum. Those of you who are not life members will have an opportunity to join in the near future! Watch for an invitation in the fall newsletter.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. See you at the South Milwaukee Downtown Market!

Bob Pfeiffer

P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:

Please consider signing up for the electronic version of the newsletter. Send me an email at sziarek@wi.rr.com and type 'Subscribe' in the subject line. **GO GREEN** and save the Historical Society some money!

GRANT PARK—BY GERTRUDE MOE ENDTHOFF REPRINTED FROM "SOUTH MILWAUKEE THEN TO NOW"

GRANT PARK

The first land acquired for the county park system was bought in the year 1910. The first land purchased was only a portion of what is now Grant Park. It was intended that the first park in the county should be named for President Woodrow Wilson. Members of the park board didn't agree to this, so later, by a vote of the board, it was changed to Grant Park as we know it today.

Grant Park is located in South Milwaukee with a shoreline of about two miles. It runs along the bluff of Lake Michigan. There are 210,327 acres in Grant Park. This land was acquired from 1910 to 1924. There are many picnic areas, as well as play areas for private picnics. The lagoon in the park was a good place for swans to live all summer. There are many trails and opportunities for nature walks. A bridal path was, at one time, maintained through the park.

At one time Grant Park was the scene of band concert completion for the Spectacle of Music. Tents were put up as sleeping places for the extra contestants.

The baton twirling contests were held in the park. The large pavilions are aids for picnickers. Local tennis tournaments are held each summer on the fine courts. The wooded areas afford an excellent refuge for birds.

A nursery and greenhouse is maintained in one section of the park. Many thousands of plants are raised for use in other county parks and in flower plots in boulevards about the city.

THE RAVINE

There is a lovely trail in Grant Park which starts from parking station one. A rustic wooden bridge with the caption "Enter this wild wood and view the haunts of nature" over the arch beckons you to cross it. As you pass through the arch you are in a lovelier and prettier world. The woods are deep and wild. The footpaths lead through various parts of the woods. White and yellow birch can be seen. Many of the plants and trees are marked with

signs to help you identify them. If you would like to see skink cabbage or crocus or spring beauties, this is the place they can be found. In early spring you can see a wide assortment of spring flowers. If you are quiet, you may see many birds that you don't see in your back yards. You can find May apples, jack-in-the-pulpits, and wild parsnips. After climbing stairs, following paths, and crossing several bridges, you arrive at the lake shore.

The ravine is lovely and cool in summer. In autumn the yellows, reds, greens and browns of trees preparing for winter, is a beautiful sight. Winter finds the bridges and branches edged in diamond ice crystals or deep in soft white snow, while the tiny stream trickles and gurgles as it rolls along to the lake.

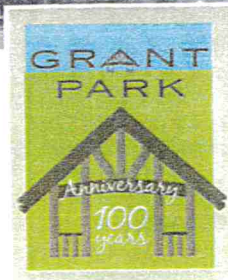
GRANT PARK GOLF COURSE

The Grant park Golf course is located in South Milwaukee on the shores of Lake Michigan north of Hawthorne Avenue. The golf course contains one hundred fifty acres of land. The land was acquired from 1910 to 1924. There is a fine eighteen hole course. The clubhouse was originally the home of Horace Fowle who was the second white child born in Oak Creek. The clubhouse is an example of fine architecture and its interior finishings show the elegance and culture of the day in which it was built. Below the bluff bordering the lake shore is a sand beach, fine for swimming. There is a large parking and picnic area. Also there is a fine bat house.

A home for Girl Scouts was located on Hawthorne Avenue called Hawthorne House.

The golf course was opened in 1919.

During 1935-1941m the Public Works CCC group built jetties and concrete piers out into the lake to reduce erosion and to hold the sand on the beach.



1910-2010



YOUR **PASSPORT**
TO FUN AT GRANT PARK
Celebrating 100 Years
JULY 18, 2010

www.southmilwaukee.org/grantpark100th

As part of the celebration the South Milwaukee Historical Society will be serving cake and ice cream at the Clubhouse from noon-3:00pm.

TIDS AND BITS

Our condolences to the family and friends of Ferdinand (Fred) Brutvan on the death of his wife, Bernette, March 29th. The Brutvans were long time members of the Historical Society.

The Wisconsin Historical Society Southeast Regional meeting on August 21 will be hosted by the New Berlin Historical Society at the Old Fire Station Historical Park, 19885 W National Ave. Registration Fee is \$14 and should be sent to Don Herman, 5575 Mayberry Lane, New Berlin, WI 53146. The day's agenda begins at 8:30 am and features a workshop on effective membership programs and a roundtable discussion of current projects and issues in the Southeast Region. A ham dinner will be served in the fire station along with a viewing of the video *Antique Apples* by Outdoor Wisconsin. History of the Prospect Hill Settlement and the Weston Orchard will be discussed in addition to how the orchard became listed on the National Historic Register and became a unique city park. For a detailed agenda visit the Wisconsin Historical Society website or contact Don Herman at 262-679-1783.

Congratulations to this years scholarship winner Kurt Gilane from the South Milwaukee Senior High School. Kurt plans to study athletic training at UW-Oshkosh.

Tour the Mitchell Gallery of Flight at General Mitchell International Airport. Jim Rothschadl has offered to take us on a personal tour of the gallery. Anyone interested in carpooling to the Airport should meet at the Historical Society Museum at 9 am Saturday August 14. There is no cost for the tour and anyone parking in the structure will receive a 'get out free' token from the museum! If you prefer to meet up at the airport you can contact Jim at (414) 766-1633 for directions. *Everyone* is welcome!

Historical Society T-shirts are for sale at the low price of \$10. We are not stocking them but will have them printed on request. Shirts are available in S-M-L-XL-2XL & 3XL and are red with a white logo. Place your order by stopping at any of our events listed on the back. An order form will be added to the website in the near future.

The 2010 Christmas Ornaments have arrived. In honor of it's 100th birthday, this year's ornament features Grant Park. We have a limited supply available at the museum for \$12 each. We also have 2007, 2008 & 2009 ornaments available for \$10.

The Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please contact sunshine chairperson Barbara Mueller at 762-2712. Be sure to leave a detailed message or number where she can reach you.

2010 Historical Society Garden Tour

Saturday June 26, Rain or Shine!

Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$10 the day of the tour, and can be purchased at Parkway Floral or M&I Bank or by contacting Lois Schreiter at 762-5214.

This is your chance to peek into the secret gardens of 8 South Milwaukee homes.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Historical Society Museum the day of the tour.

Historical Society membership form: 2010

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Type: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society and mail to Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters by email and write the address below

Email Address: _____

Dues:
Single—\$10.00;
Family—\$15.00;
Individual Life—\$100;
Business—\$25

Due to the increased cost of postage & printing, we can no longer send newsletters to members who are not current with their dues. Don't let this be your last issue! Fill out the membership form and mail it in TODAY!!

COMING EVENTS

Just a reminder that our monthly meetings are now held at the South Milwaukee Pubic Library. We'd like to invite ALL our members to attend. As an added incentive, we'll be serving refreshments.

Jun 26 Garden Tour Fund Raiser
10am to 3pm, contact Lois Schreiter at 762-5214 for ticket information

JUL 18 Grant Park Birthday Celebration
Cake & Ice Cream at the Clubhouse Noon to 3 pm
Additional activities all day long!

JUL 22 Evening on the Ave from 4pm to 9pm

AUG 14 ~~14~~ ²¹ **Mitchell Gallery of Flight Tour**
Meet at the Historical Society Museum by 9AM
Due to a last minute schedule conflict this has been moved to Aug 21. Date inside is wrong

Sept 13 Pot Luck Dinner
5:30 PM at the First Congregational Church, bring a dish to pass

Board/Membership Meetings: July 14 and August 9, 6:00PM at the Library
Museum Open: July 1, August 5 and September 2 from 1-3PM

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MR & MRS STEPHEN SCHREITER
104 BROOKDALE DR
SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI 53172



SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
717 MILWAUKEE AV
SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI 53172



106. Follow the Oak Leaf Trail around Milwaukee County

Things to Remember:

It is a violation of the law to:

throw stones at the birds.

collect feathers or nests.

pick wild flowers in the park.

The flowers are for everyone to view and enjoy.

Do not feed the ducks and geese for sanitation and health reasons.

Be safe and stay on regular trails when going up and down bluffs.

Always leave the park looking better than when you arrived.

Grant Park History: (South Lake Dr. South of College Av.)

The land was purchased by John Fowle and sons in 1834 from the U.S. Govt. and sold to Milwaukee County in 1910. The golf club house was Alfred Fowle's home. The park was first named Wilson Park, for the President, and later changed by the park board. It is located in the City of South Milwaukee and has two miles of shoreline. The 210.327 acres include picnic areas, tennis courts, play areas, beach, lagoon and nature trails. In the days of the Yellowstone Trail, (A trail across America from Boston to Seattle, marked with yellow stones, 1913-30) the park had a camp grounds, a resident swan, greenhouse and nursery where thousands of plants were raised for use in other county parks and boulevards in Milwaukee. Fred Wulff, the park's planner, lived in the park with his family. His house is still there and is known as the Scout House. He later developed the County Nursery on S. 51st Street and Puetz. Grant Park is the second largest county park and is known for having the most wild flowers. Mr. Wulff planted at least one of every variety of tree that grew in the North Temperate Zone. The park has the highest bluffs on the western side of Lake Michigan. The Seven Bridges foot trail leads down into a Ravine which follows Eb's Creek, named after Ebenezer Dibley, who farmed the north end of the park. Come, enter the "wild wood and haunts of nature" for they beckon you.

100 ideas compiled with help from Steve Schreiter, Jerry Potter and Jan Schumacher. Thanks to Alexis Gassenhuber for the idea.

Edited by Katherine Leffel

Lois Schreiter, VP, South Milwaukee Historical Society

100th Birthday of Grant Park 2010

100 Things to do in the Park



1. Drive through the park
2. Walk on the beach
3. Throw stones in the water
4. Look for drift wood
5. Find fossils in rocks on the beach
6. Observe the shapes of the clouds
7. Watch the stars
8. Watch the waves/tides
9. Build a sand castle
10. Look for cliff swallows
11. Walk on the Seven Bridges Trail
12. Learn the names of all the wild flowers
13. Take photos of all the wild flowers
14. Take photos of whatever you think is beautiful
15. Write a poem about the park
16. Write a song about something in the park
17. Ride the bike trail
18. Play golf on the golf course
19. Listen to a concert in the park
20. Enjoy a fish fry in the park
21. Sit and commune with nature
22. Play soccer
23. Write a story about something you did in the park
24. Listen for owls
25. Weed out garlic mustard
26. Help the Park People with a project
27. Buy something in the pro store
28. Make a donation to the parks for continued park maintenance
29. Pick up trash in the park
30. Pick grape leaves (before July 4th) and make sarma
31. Meditate on the beauty of nature

32. Help to make a labyrinth
33. Find and name all the trees that grow in the north temperate zone
34. Sit and read park history
35. Grant Park is the highest site on the western side of Lake Michigan; find the marker in the park
36. Walk/run/jog on the bike trail
37. Dance in the park
38. Fish in the pond or creek
39. Watch a soccer game
40. Catch a salmon in Oak Creek
41. Watch the ducks and geese in the mill pond
42. Hike along the creek
43. Watch the water go over the Mill Pond dam
44. Help on a clean up the park day
45. Count the many shades of green you see
46. Read a book in the park
47. Bird watch—how many different kinds of birds do you see?
48. Paint a picture of the park
49. Sit on the beach and watch the sunrise
50. Take photos of the park and make a calendar or scrapbook
51. Have a cook out
52. Buy take out and have a picnic
53. Look for deer in the park
54. Sing in the park
55. Get a suntan/sunbathe
56. Float a boat down Oak Creek
57. Float a boat in Lake Michigan
58. Splash in the water
59. Go for a swim
60. Roller skate in the park
61. Rent a jet ski
62. Use a metal detector to hunt treasure
63. Look for the ripply rock (3-4 feet high)
64. Sit on a natural park bench
65. Winter bird watch
66. Look for Hawks nests in the winter (sticks only in the nest)
67. Snow shoe in the park
68. Cross country ski through the park
69. Locate Indian mounds in the park
70. Fly a kite
71. Have a family reunion
72. Spend an evening in the Scout House
73. Visit Willoway for a tour
74. Ice skate on the mill pond
75. Make a leaf rubbing
76. Collect colorful leaves
77. Play tennis
78. Hit a baseball
79. Enjoy the use of the playground equipment
80. Screen for crayfish in the creek
81. Play hockey on the frozen pond
82. Fish off the rocks by the Lake
83. Walk across the bridge on Oak Creek
84. Look for turtles
85. Go to Mass in the park on Easter
86. Look for wild onions and garlic in the spring
87. Look for deer antlers
88. Hunt for acorns
89. Look for different kinds of mushrooms
90. Walk in the rain
91. Hunt for pinecones
92. Take a nap
93. Practice your golf in the park
94. Walk barefoot in the grass
95. Count the sail boats on the Lake
96. Go geocaching in the park
100. Play horseshoes
101. Learn to mimic a bird song
102. Launch your kayak on the beach
103. Wash off your feet at the beach house
104. Weed out honeysuckle and buckthorn shrubs
105. Look for Skunk Cabbage and Marsh Marigolds in spring

