



South Milwaukee Historical Society

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717 Milwaukee Ave, South Milwaukee, WI

Meetings are held the second Monday in even numbered months at the Museum. Please join us to learn more about South Milwaukee's history.

The Museum is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to 3pm. You may also call 414-520-1285 for questions or to arrange for a private tour.

From The President's Pen—January, 2025

Greetings friends of the South Milwaukee Historical Society! In my last report (October 2024) I shared with you our financial situation caused by several unexpected expenses. Since then we have received a number of generous donations from members and supporters. We have also had several volunteers step up to help at the museum. Our sincere thanks to all of you stepping up to help us.

We also want to extend our thanks to former vice president Sandy Swartz. Sandy resigned at the end of 2024 when she moved to Michigan. Please join us in welcoming Janet Rodman who took over the Vice Presidency. Janet is bringing a new energy to the board and has already come up with some great ideas. We look forward to working with her for many years!

Your board is dedicated to making sure that this museum will continue to honor and preserve South Milwaukee's proud past for future generations. It is a continuous journey, but we have the help of so many. We could not do all this without that help!

Richard Thinnes – President

Preserving our Proud Past since 1972

Founders: Dennis Rankin, Penny Rankin

Initial Directors: George Hook, Mary McCarrier, Bruce Rayeske, Dora Lee Szewczuga, William Domoe, Lilia Dishong, Chester Grobschmidt



The 15th Annual Holiday Tea,

sponsored jointly by the Historical Society and Friends of the Mill Pond was held at the Grant Park Clubhouse on Saturday 12/7. Volunteers spent days getting everything ready; decorating the clubhouse, putting together raffle prizes, washing dishes & polishing the silver, setting the tables as well as baking cookies for the tea and bake sale.



Thanks to Addison Hooligan for her help with food prep and serving on Saturday. A special thank you to Casey Zanger who came on Saturday to help haul everything back up to the second floor and recruited his buddy Logan Kirby to come help as well.



It was a LOT of work but the 77 people who attended had a wonderful time! But we need some younger volunteers to help us keep this event, that has become a much loved tradition, going.

**A HUGE THANK YOU
to everyone who
worked so hard!**



For those of you who couldn't get to the Bucyrus Event Center over the holidays here's a picture of the Christmas display the Society created.



Here's a glimpse of our new siding and trim! it's looking pretty sharp but there are a few issues that still need to be

addressed. The biggest issue is that they broke the doorbell that we finally got working after years of failed attempts.

We're working with the contractor, BCI Exteriors, to remedy that as quickly as possible.

The Little Green Truck With The Flashing Blue Light

Growing up in South Milwaukee I can recall so many things that defined our small city, things we took for granted day to day.

But one thing I'll never forget is that drab, olive green truck with the flashing blue light on top, slowly but very carefully ambling it's way through the streets of town. It's driver almost seemingly intent on noticing *SOMETHING!*

I vividly recall seeing this vehicle rounding the corner of our street one sunny Saturday. Dad was mowing the front lawn. As a small child I was doing my best to stay out of his way but I grew excited when I realized that the little truck was headed towards our house. Sure thing. It stopped at the front of our driveway. The driver, a paunchy, kindly-looking man with a moustache, popped out from inside and beckoned to my dad to come over to the rear of the vehicle.

Oh boy! It was the DOG CATCHER!! And, as had occurred before, he'd come over to entice my dad to adopt another one of his finds. This time it was a rare beautiful Kerry Blue Terrier. "Here's a fine dog for you and your son" the man barked. Well sorry to say, dad was nonplused and therefore didn't bite (pun intended). I was of course heartbroken.

Seemingly unfazed, back into the truck went both man and beast on his way to find yet another prospect for the captured one. If he couldn't find the quadruped a home, next stop was the city yard where there was a small corrugated metal shed that had about a dozen cages inside. Marked "animal shelter", this served as a sort of "holding tank" for both canines and felines (the dog catcher was impartial) until the vagrants were transferred to the County Humane Society. But our own dog catcher always tried his best to find a forever home before turning over his incarcerated charges.

What became of the dog catcher? His duties were curtailed then eliminated in 1965 when all animal control activities were transferred to the county level. And the little drab olive green truck with the flashing blue light was consigned to history. But it's driver? He went on to serve his beloved city in other ways (more on that in another newsletter!)

How would I know? Simple. He was my uncle!

I give you ***"The Dog Catcher of South Milwaukee" — Mr. Edward Broskowski***

Submitted by Dave Broskowski

Everybody recognizes the iconic main bridge on the Seven Bridges trail in Grant Park... But did you ever wonder where the phrase that is carved on the arch of the bridge came from? It is from a poem written by American poet, William Cullen Bryant [1794-1878]. The poem is entitled “Inscription for the Entrance to a Wood” and is printed below.

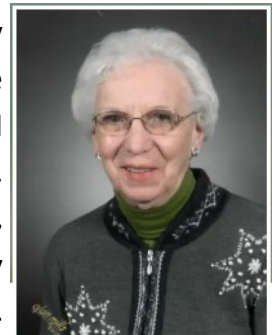
Inscription for the Entrance to a Wood

Stranger, if thou hast learned a truth which needs
No school of long experience, that the world
Is full of guilt and misery, and hast seen
Enough of all its sorrows, crimes, and cares,
To tire thee of it, enter this wild wood
And view the haunts of Nature. The calm shade
Shall bring a kindred calm, and the sweet breeze
That makes the green leaves dance, shall waft a balm
To thy sick heart. Thou wilt find nothing here
Of all that pained thee in the haunts of men
And made thee loathe thy life. The primal curse
Fell, it is true, upon the unsinning earth,
But not in vengeance. God hath yoked to guilt
Her pale tormentor, misery. Hence, these shades
Are still the abodes of gladness; the thick roof
Of green and stirring branches is alive
And musical with birds, that sing and sport
In wantonness of spirit; while below
The squirrel, with raised paws and form erect,
Chirps merrily. Throngs of insects in the shade
Try their thin wings and dance in the warm beam
That waked them into life. Even the green trees
Partake the deep contentment; as they bend
To the soft winds, the sun from the blue sky
Looks in and sheds a blessing on the scene.
Scarce less the cleft-born wild-flower seems to enjoy
Existence, than the winged plunderer
That sucks its sweets. The massy rocks themselves,
And the old and ponderous trunks of prostrate trees
That lead from knoll to knoll a causey rude
Or bridge the sunken brook, and their dark roots,
With all their earth upon them, twisting high,
Breathe fixed tranquility. The rivulet
Sends forth glad sounds, and tripping o'er its bed
Of pebbly sands, or leaping down the rocks,
Seems, with continuous laughter, to rejoice
In its own being. Softly tread the marge,
Lest from her midway perch thou scare the wren
That dips her bill in water. The cool wind,
That stirs the stream in play, shall come to thee,
Like one that loves thee nor will let thee pass
Ungreeted, and shall give its light embrace.

~ William Cullen Bryant [1794-1878]



We were saddened by the passing of long time life member and personal friend, Connie U'Ren. Connie's friendship, support and generosity will be greatly missed.



SENIORS CAN AVOID TAXES ON RMDs BY DONATING THEM TO QUALIFIED NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS.

DONATIONS ARE 100% DEDUCTIBLE
UP TO \$100,000
(\$200,000 FILING JOINTLY).
(IRA custodians must arrange for transfer of funds.)
For detailed information,
google: “IRS RMD QCD”

The South Milwaukee Historical Society
is an all-volunteer 501 C(3) Corporation.
PROUD PAST, PROMISING FUTURE

TIDS & BITS

Have you renewed your membership yet?



South Milwaukee Historical Society

There's still time to renew your membership for 2025 but if we don't receive your dues by the Spring newsletter we'll have no choice but to remove you from the membership list. *Don't let this be your last newsletter!!*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____

I would be willing to receive the newsletter electronically.

Individual: \$15.00 - Annual

Family: \$20.00 - Annual

Business: \$25.00 - Annual

Individual Lifetime: \$125.00

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Please send completed form and check to:

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee WI 53172

Thank you for supporting your local Historical Society!

Reminder to New Members...

Your membership comes with one hour of free genealogy research. Contact Steve Schreiter at 414-762-5214 for details.

**Come on in...
we're open!**

Upcoming Saturdays
10am—3pm

February 15

March 15

April 19

Weather permitting!

Visitors to the museum receive a coupon for \$5 admission to the Bucyrus Museum

Hope to see you there!

Tours

The Museum is available for tours to Scout Groups, Civic Organizations and School Groups.

It is also available to individuals for research or tours. For more information or to arrange a tour, please call 414-520-1285

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the electronic newsletter. So far it's a big success! If you'd like to give it a try let us know. You can call or text 414-520-1285 or email us at Southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com You can always go back to a paper copy if you decide you prefer that.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is a 501.c.3 organization whose mission is "to preserve, honor and promote South Milwaukee's rich history for generations to come."



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