



South Milwaukee Historical Society

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Steve Schreiter
Don Bulley
Mark Draeger
Sandy Swartz

717 Milwaukee Ave, South Milwaukee, WI

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Museum
Please join us to learn more about South Milwaukee's history.

The Museum is open on the first Thursday of the month from 1pm to 3pm
and on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to 3pm.

You may also call 414-762-6214 for questions or to arrange for a private tour.



From The President's Pen—July 2023

Your Board of Directors hopes you are enjoying your summer! The weather has been "near" perfect, especially for our Garden Tour. Many garden fans saw some of the best gardens in South Milwaukee. We also saw many new visitors who stopped here at the Museum before and after their tour. They saw our yard and the new displays in the Museum, many for the first time.

Our "open house" Saturdays were also a huge success as were the Canopy Class History Talks in May and June. The talk by Steve Schreiter on the Wingfoot homes was outstanding! We look forward to seeing more visitors for the July 15 talk on "Early Radio in South Milwaukee" and the last talk on the role of Bucyrus Erie in the war effort during WWII on August 5.

We are almost finished updating the bylaws, looking forward to completing them by the end of July. We also are working on projects to "spruce up" the house, i.e. getting a new door for the rear entrance and repainting the back hall. We are slowly getting improvements the house really needs. We will be working on getting a phone dedicated to the museum.

We received a new supply of pamphlets for our guests that explain the history and growth of our city. Come in and check them out! We also were blessed by a grant from The Bucyrus Foundation to improve our website and make it more professional. We thank the Foundation so so much for the help.

Remember that Heritage Days are coming this month along with Lion Fest, the Big parade, etc. We look forward to seeing you, hopefully, during the rest of the summer. Please stay safe and come see us soon.

God Bless

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



I was playing hooky from work a couple Fridays ago and on a whim stopped at a rummage sale in South Milwaukee. I didn't find any 'treasures' for myself but on the way out I commented to the woman running the sale that I had never seen a stand mixer like the one they had in a box on the floor. Turned out the mixer was from Sally's Candy Cupboard. Sally's was located at 911 Milwaukee Ave from the 1950s to 1972. Sally & Casey Kietlinski, the owners of Sally's Candy Cupboard, were the great aunt & uncle of the seller, Denise Heise. She ended up donating the mixer to the Society! The next day, board member Mark Draeger decided to go check them out too and had a fun visit. When Denise finishes going thru the rest of the things she

has from the store she and Mark plan to get together so she can share stories of her time working at Sally's and donate more items to the Society. Watch for Mark's article in a future newsletter. We've already cleared a space on the kitchen counter and started working on a display of our new treasures.


On a recent visit to the museum, Mike Rudolf shared a memory from his childhood. Even though they lived in St. Francis his father did his banking at the old Home State Bank in SM because they offered free checking. Sometimes Mike would come with him on Friday morning when he cashed his pay check and they'd go to Sally's afterwards for 25 cent chocolate chip ice cream in a waffle cone. Do you have a fond memory of Sally's? We'd love to hear it and maybe include it in the newsletter with Mark's article.



Sue Ziarek

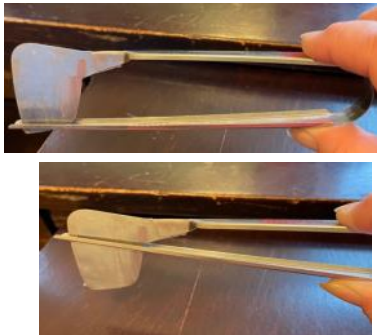
We had some interesting guesses but unfortunately we still don't know.

What is it???



One of the items at the museum is pictured above. We have no idea what it is! Do you???

What is *this* ???



Here's another item from the museum that we can't figure out! Any guesses??

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

Upcoming Saturdays
10am—3pm
July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21

Visitors to the museum get a coupon for \$5 admission to the Bucyrus Museum good thru the end of October.

Hope to see you there!

Canopy Class/History Talks Recap

“Canopy Class” was a name created several years ago to describe short historical lectures presented during the summer under a pop up canopy on the Museum grounds. Previous topics have ranged from birds of the Mill Pond to the Lawson Airplane.

The Society’s first Canopy Talk of 2023 was held April 15. The canopy was set up in the back yard where presenter Lisa Foyer set out her soap making paraphernalia. She began by tracing soap making from its earliest ingredients, animal fat and wood ash lye, to the modern cold process, hot process and “melt and pour” process. She shared soap making anecdotes involving Messrs. Proctor and Gamble and the famous Ivory floating soap. Her presentation was peppered with personal experiences preparing her homemade soap for craft sales. Each attendee received a bag containing several bars of soap.

Our second event was held off-site on April 29. Society Vice-president Lois Schreiter invited visitors to her backyard gardens to check out over 1000 daffodils. Unfortunately it was wet!! Showers and cool weather greeted visitors but the cooler weather meant the daffodils were just about perfect and the magnolias, while a few days past their prime, still held their white blossoms. There were 13 visitors including a couple from West Allis and we collected \$55 in donations for the South Milwaukee Historical Society.



On May 13, Rose Flores shared the history of “Loretta’s Field”. Driving south on 15th Ave between Drexel Ave and Forest Hill Ave, west of the baseball field is a wooded area referred to as Loretta’s Field. It’s named for Loretta Handel. Her husband Victor & his brother Alfred started a business called Wisconsin Crane Services on Forest Hill Ave in 1940. The business only lasted a couple of years but their homes on Forest Hill Ave are still there. In the 1960s the city wanted part of their land to build Blakewood School. Victor sold his portion of the land but Loretta legally donated their parcel so the land would remain a green space for 99 years. Since the 1970s the area has been used as an outdoor classroom. Students enjoy nature walks learning about the flowers & trees, birds & bugs & critters. They even learned to tap maple trees and make syrup that the PTO served at a pancake breakfast!



Our latest history talk was on July 1. Steve Schreiter told a packed house all about Wingfoot Housing from the origins of the name to their installation in South Milwaukee. Wingfoots were temporary housing for returning WWII veterans. The SM site was located where the current high school is from approximately 1948 to the mid 1950s. One of the visitors was John Slusar who has done extensive research on the Wingfoot Houses in our area. John shared some additional information and pictures with us.



On July 15 Mark Draeger will be talking about the History of Radio in South Milwaukee. And the final talk will be a presentation by Bob Jelinek, director of the BE Museum.

Hope you can join us!

Canopy Class History Talk

10:30am to 11:30am at the museum

July 15—South Milwaukee Radio History

August 5—Bucyrus Erie-The Factory Changes Gears for War

Join us at the museum for this brief talk held under the canopy in the backyard-weather permitting! Talks will move indoors in bad weather and the museum will be open to tour for an hour after the talk.

Approximately 250 people attended this year's Garden Tour featuring four South Milwaukee hidden gem gardens. There were artisans nestled among the gardens, great raffle prizes, the Bayside Mobile Greenhouse, even a violinist at one of the gardens. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the tour a success. The homeowners who graciously shared their gardens, the volunteers who staffed the gardens, the people and businesses who donated raffle prizes and Mari's Flower Shop for selling tickets. And of course everyone who attended and bought raffle tickets. The Garden Tour is the largest fundraiser for the Historical Society and the Garden Club.



Hope to see you again next year!!

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 Lois Schreiter at 414-762-5214

Available at the museum

South Milwaukee Then to Now
By Gert Endthoff — \$10.00

Images of America, South Milwaukee
By Nels Monson & Dean S. Marlow, Jr. — \$20.00

Letters to Mettie – A Collection of Letters from Four Civil War Soldiers to Marietta Rawson — \$7.50

Growing Up Polish In South Milwaukee
By Carol Wagner DeMarco — \$15.00

City of South Milwaukee Christmas Ornaments \$7.00/each

★★★
★ **Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grant** ★
★ The South Milwaukee Historical Society is the ★
★ proud recipient of a Civic Grant funded by the ★
★ Bucyrus Foundation. We received a check in the ★
★ amount of \$4,500 to be used to develop a new ★
★ website and for an Ancestry.com subscription. ★
★ We hope to begin work on the website within ★
★ the next month. The Ancestry.com subscription ★
★ will be available for genealogical research at the ★
★ museum as soon as it is up and running. ★
★★★

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



South Milwaukee Historical Society

Please help us celebrate our 50th year!

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Bucyrus Club & Event Center—1893 Ballroom

1919 12th Avenue in South Milwaukee

Cash bar at 5:00pm, Dinner at 6:00pm Program to follow.

\$25 per person includes a garden salad, rolls & butter, bourbon glazed chicken with homemade mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. The BE Museum will be open free of charge from 5pm-6pm for anyone who would like to check it out. Following dinner will be a program by Bob Jelinek **“Bucyrus & South Milwaukee—Early Growth Together”**

You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is welcome!

Fill out the form below and mail it with your check by September 12 .

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

YES, I want to attend the celebration!

Attending _____ @ \$25 each \$ _____ enclosed

Name(s)

***PLEASE
print
clearly!***

Contact number: _____

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.”

Join us at our Annual Dinner on September 28th for Bob Jelinek's presentation

