

## Residents Stir Interest In Recording SM History

4/6/72  
A small but enthusiastic group of persons braved the snow last Wednesday evening to attend a meeting at the library to consider organizing a historical society in South Milwaukee.

They were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rankin, 2215 18th ave., who acted as discussion leaders for the group. Rankin, 34, is a descendant of John Fowle, an early settler of the community.

He said that he and his wife, Penny, feel that something has to be done to preserve the history of South Milwaukee and that they hope to interest others in the project.

After a few words explaining the purpose of the meeting, Rankin introduced Mayor Grobschmidt who expressed his gratification at having such a young couple undertaking action to begin such a group.

"I have long hoped that such an organization would be started," he said. He mentioned that some records kept in the basement of city hall could be made available to the group. He said that he wished for the success of such an organization and that he would work 100 percent with them, giving his time freely.

Mrs. Rankin then addressed the meeting telling about some offers of historical items and records if a his-

torical society would be started.

"Our town has a wonderful history," she said. "We all know of old buildings being destroyed, but there still are oldtimers left who would share their memories with the community. All we need are people willing to help by giving their time."

She said that contact had been made with the state historical society and that they would help, after a committee has been set up.

The date for another organizational meeting was set for April 19.

## 10-26-72 Historical Society Granted Affiliation

The South Milwaukee Historical society Monday was granted affiliation with the state society.

The newly organized group received word Tuesday that the state board of curators of the Wisconsin State Historical society had approved its application.

The local historical society has scheduled a general meeting for Monday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.

Members will be accepted and committees formed at the meeting.

More information may be obtained by contacting Dennis Rankin at 764-4044.

## State Official Meets With Historical Group

8/31/72  
On Aug. 23 William Schereck, supervisor of the Wisconsin State Historical society met with the organizing committee of the South Milwaukee Historical society at the home of acting president Dennis Rankin.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state affiliation of the South Milwaukee group and to learn what problems might arise and how to go about setting up committees and programs.

"You will find that the community will expect more from you than you can deliver at times," Schereck said.

He said that the society is chartered in the public trust, performing a service in their interest, and that the variety of programs that could be offered are limited only by the society's imagination.

"It all boils down to social change," Schereck told the group. "Some areas of the state are stable, there has been no jeopardy of history there. But a metropolitan explosion has ringed Milwaukee county causing a sense of urgency."

People are becoming afraid that the local history of their area will be lost, consequently six new his-

torical groups have filed applications for state affiliation, he said. Among them are Cudahy and South Milwaukee.

The state board of curators will not meet until Oct. 23 to decide on the applications. Until that time there will be no public meeting of the South Milwaukee group, but committees will be formed for bylaws, membership, public relations and accessions.

More information may be had by contacting Dennis Rankin at 764-4044.

## Historical Society To Meet Monday

The South Milwaukee Historical society which last week received approval from the state board of curators to affiliate with the Wisconsin State Historical society, will meet this coming Monday at 7 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.

Persons interested in joining the society may attend. Committees will be formed at this meeting.

11/2/72



# South Milwaukee Historical Society



A MEETING to organize a South Milwaukee Historical society was held last Wednesday in the South Milwaukee public library. Dennis Rankin and his wife, Penny, 2215 18th ave., conducted the meeting which was open to anyone interested in preserving old records and accounts of earlier years. (Staff photo)

4/6/72

## Historical Society

### May Form Here

2/23/72

A meeting to consider organizing a historical society in South Milwaukee will be held at 7 p.m. next Wednesday, March 29, at the South Milwaukee public library.

The meeting has been set up by several persons who hope they can interest others in the project. Open to anyone interested in preserving old records and accounts of times past in the settlement of South Milwaukee, the meeting will be held in the Blue Room.

## Historical Meeting

An organizational meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical Society will be held

Wednesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in the Blue room of the South Milwaukee public library. The public is invited.

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# Historical Society Meets 11/9/72

The South Milwaukee Historical society's first meeting after affiliation with the State Historical society was held last Monday evening.

Several committees were set up. The membership committee will be headed by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Abrahamson, 1618 Manitoba ave.

They will be assisted by Barbara Mueller, Agnes Kalinowski and Don Broskowski.

Mrs. Mary McCarrier, head of a Women's club committee that has chosen to work with the Historical society, will head the cataloguing committee. She and her committee will be assisted by society members, William Domoe, Leota Balestrieri, Dorothy Paul and Darlene Kalinowski.

Dora Lee Szewczuga will be chairman of the research and publications committee. She will be assisted by Louise Bentley.

Plans will be made to conduct oral interviews with longtime residents along with setting up programs to involve community young

people.

Mapping the early property division in South Milwaukee is the special interest of William Blix, 507 Hawthorne ave. He will head a group that will gather information about the original layout and the settings of the city borderlines.

While some information may be obtained from courthouse records, Blix has asked for anyone who has old abstracts or other information to call him weekends at 762-4573. The articles will not be kept, just looked through for information.

Members joining before

Jan. 1, 1973, will become charter members.

Dues are \$3 yearly for individuals, \$5 for a family membership, \$1 for junior members and \$2 for retired persons. Membership information may be obtained by calling the Abrahamsons at 764-0714.

The society's monthly meetings will take place on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be Dec. 4. All meetings are held in the Blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.

More information can be had by calling Dennis Rankin, acting president, at 764-4044.

## Historical Society To Meet Monday

The South Milwaukee Historical society will meet this coming Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the public library.

Persons who wish to join or are interested in the society's activities may attend the meeting.

Membership will be accepted at the meeting. Dues are \$3 yearly for individuals; \$5 for a family membership; \$1 for junior members, and \$2 for retired persons. Persons joining before Jan. 1, 1973, will become charter members.

The society's meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at the library.

More information may be obtained by calling Dennis Rankin, acting president, at 764-4044.

11-30-72



11/9/72

MEMBERS were enrolled in the recently organized South Milwaukee Historical society Monday. Signing in were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Abrahamson, 1618 Manitoba ave., as memberships were sold by (from left) Mrs. Penny Rankin, 2215 18th ave., acting vice president; her husband, Dennis Rankin, acting president, and Mrs. Lillian Dishong, 638 Sycamore ave., secretary and treasurer. (Staff photo)

# SM History Book Highlights Meeting

12/7/72

A book dealing with South Milwaukee's past highlighted a meeting Monday evening of the recently organized South Milwaukee Historical society.

Nearly 70 persons attended the meeting in the South Milwaukee public library.

Mrs. Gertrude Endthoff, special reading instructor for the South Milwaukee school system, discussed "South Milwaukee - Then as Now," a book of South Milwaukee history she wrote in 1954 for use in the local elementary schools. The book was used to teach youngsters local history.

Mrs. Endthoff said she obtained information on the book by interviewing old settlers, visiting historical societies and reading old newspaper clippings. Her pay for the book was, she said, "11 days release time" from her teaching duties.

According to Mrs. Endthoff, 300 copies of the book were originally published for the South Milwaukee school system. Copies can be found in the junior and senior high school libraries, each of the elementary school buildings, with the possible exception of Blakewood school, and in the South Milwaukee public library.

Mrs. Endthoff said she hopes the book can someday be enlarged and brought up to date.

The business meeting consisted of committee reports.

Dennis Rankin, acting president, said that although the group had decided to meet the first Monday of each month, the next meeting would be held on Jan. 8

rather than on New Year's day.

Persons interested in joining the society may attend the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.



## Historians Offer <sup>3-1-73</sup> Contest for Students

The South Milwaukee Historical society will hold its regular meeting Monday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee public library.

The society is sponsoring a contest for all junior and senior high school students to design a logogram for their membership cards and a letterhead for their stationery.

A cash prize will be awarded in each category. The contest will run to March 30.

Entry forms listing the specifications can be obtained at the schools.

## Historians to Meet

The South Milwaukee Historical society will meet Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the public library.

After the regular business meeting a "show and tell" period will be held. Members and friends are invited

to bring something that pertains to South Milwaukee's history.

It could be an old picture, an article of clothing, a family history, a deed of property or anything else of interest.

Refreshments will be served.

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

## Club to Elect

Officers will be elected at the South Milwaukee Historical society meeting this coming Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee public library.

5-31-73

Monday, May 7 - 73

SOUTH MILWAUKEE Historical Society meeting: South Milwaukee Public Library, 7:30 p.m.; election of officers and a program of paintings by Tony Kotchi. Public invited.



AN OLD BATHTUB was bought at the South Milwaukee Historical society rummage sale last Saturday by Mrs. Donna Siepert (left) of Oak Creek. Her neighbor, Sue Larson, tried it out for size while Richard Grobschmidt, 715 Drexel blvd., president of the historical society looked on. Mrs. Siepert plans to have one side cut out of the tub, add cushions and make a sofa for her recreation room.

AUGUST 16, 1973

# Society to Record Memories

Reminiscences of early South Milwaukee days will no longer be lost as elderly residents die.

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society have purchased a tape recorder and have set up a program for oral inter-

views to accumulate and preserve historical details from local sources.

Many colleges and universities have developed oral history programs as well as state and local historical societies. Oral history on a local level can provide the community with historical information not otherwise available.

"Not only are reminiscences by elderly residents important, but also the documenting of sounds and happenings taking place now for future reference," said Dennis Rankin, society presi-

The oral history committee has been working on a system for conducting interviews. They have researched the city's history, discussing topics to be covered and trying to compile a list of interviewees.

Letters are being sent to churches and organizations asking for a history and a list of persons who might be willing to be interviewed. A questionnaire containing a list of subjects and major questions will be submitted to those who

volunteer so they may prepare beforehand.

"The society is interested in collecting information only for research purposes," said Rankin. "Historians are interested in what may be taken for granted but which can be a significant part of human experience."

The committee plans to begin interviews with persons who can discuss happenings from 1900 onward. Persons who have a knowledge of city government, city services such as the police and fire departments or the post office, persons who were active in school work or the business community or persons who can just reminisce about South Milwaukee from the turn of the century can get in touch with the committee by calling 762-2712 or 762-2971.

Persons wishing to donate old city directories, pamphlets about schools, churches or organizational news, old pictures or other historic memorabilia may also call.

## History Slide Show

A slide and sound program, "Milwaukee of the 1880's," will be presented to the South Milwaukee Historical society next Monday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Harry H. Anderson, executive director of the Milwaukee County Historical society, will give the presentation, at the South Milwaukee public library.

11/1/73

News Graphic 10/18/73

## Thanks to all who helped

The South Milwaukee Historical Society wishes to thank all the residents who helped make our paper drive a success, especially the Rev. William Heffron for the use of St. John's playgrounds, the St. John's Boy Scouts who participated and all those who helped publicize the drive.

Dennis Rankin, society president and  
Don Broskowski, chairman

10/18/73 Voice

MONDAY, NOV. 5

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING: South Milwaukee Public Library Blue Room; 7:30 p.m. Harry H. Anderson, executive director of Milwaukee County Historical Society will present a slide and sound program on Milwaukee of the 1880's.

## Historical Society Plans Dinner Meeting

The first annual dinner meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Grant Park club house, formerly the Horace Fowle home, built in 1892. The dinner will replace the regular January meeting.

A hospitality hour at 3:30 p.m. will precede the dinner which will be followed with entertainment. Reservations will be taken until Dec. 15. Further information may be obtained by calling 762-2971 or 762-0675.

12/13/73

## 10-18-73 Thank You Notes

The South Milwaukee Historical society would like to thank the residents of South Milwaukee for their fine support during the society's recent paper drive. Special thanks to Rev. William Heffron, pastor of St. John's parish, and the boy scouts of St. John's.  
Dennis Rankin  
President, South Milwaukee Historical society



8-10+11-'73

AS PART of Maxwell Street Days, the South Milwaukee Historical Society set up a stand and sold all sort of odds and ends. Workers at the stand are, from left to right, Lillian Dishong, Lola Doe, Lynn Rankin, Penny Rankin and Barb Shouten.

### Historical Society to Collect Papers

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society will conduct a city wide paper drive this Saturday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Residents may pile tied bundles of papers at the curb or store untied paper on their porches. Papers may also

be dropped off at a central location, the west side of St. John's church, 800 Marquette. Special pickup may be arranged at 762-1469.

Proceeds of the sale will go for community projects.

10/4/73

### Historical Society 9-20-73 Plans Paper Drive

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society will conduct a city wide paper drive Saturday, October 6 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Residents are asked to pile tied bundles of paper at the curb and to store untied paper on their porch. For special early pickup call 762-7828.

A central location for dropping off papers will be at the west side of St. John's Catholic church, 800 Marquette ave.

Proceeds of the sale will go to further community projects.

## Society records SM history on tape

10/15/73

It's often at the time of a well-known, older citizen's death that people really realize the loss to the community. The loss is especially acute in terms of the knowledge which the elderly person takes into the grave about past events and everyday life in years gone by. It's at that time one can often hear remarks such as 'If only we'd done an interview,' or 'If only someone had written something down.'

Because of a new project begun by members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society, such remarks should be rare in the future. With the recent purchase of a tape recorder, and the setting up of a program for oral interviews, the society hopes to facilitate the accumulation and preservation of historical details from local sources.

Many colleges and universities have developed oral history programs as well as state and local historical societies. Oral history on a local level can provide the community with historical information not otherwise available.

'Not only are reminiscences by elderly residents important, but also the documenting of sounds and happenings taking place now for future references,' said Dennis Rankin, society president. 'Some of the best sources of information will be the present-day active business and civic leaders.'

The oral history committee has been working on a

system for conducting interviews. They have been researching into the history of the city, discussing topics to be covered and trying to compile a list of interviewees.

Letters are being sent to various churches and organizations asking for a history of their organization and a list of persons who might be willing to be interviewed. A questionnaire containing a list of subjects and major questions will be submitted to those who volunteer so they may prepare beforehand.

'The society is interested in collecting information only for research purposes,' said Rankin. 'Historians are interested in what may be taken for granted, but which can be a significant part of human experience.'

The committee plans to begin interviews with persons who can discuss happenings from 1900 onward. Persons who have a knowledge of city government, city services such as the police and fire departments, or the post office, persons who were active in school work or the business community, or persons who can just reminisce about South Milwaukee from the turn of the century can get in touch with the committee by calling 762-2717 or 762-2971.

Anyone having old city directories, pamphlets about schools, churches or organizational news, old pictures or other historic memorabilia wishing to donate them for the use of the historical society may also call the above numbers.

## Historical society elects officers

4/28/73  
New officers and board members were recently elected by the South Milwaukee Historical Society. They are Dennis D. Rankin, president; Richard Grobschmidt, vice president; Penny A. Rankin, secretary and Lillian Dishong, treasurer.

Board directors are William Domoe, Mrs. Robert McCarrier, Donald Broskowski, Mrs. Kenneth Scouten, Mrs. Ronald Mueller, Ronald Abrahamson and Mrs. Eugene Szewczuga, in addition to the officers who are also on the board.

## Historians to Man Maxwell St. Booth

7/19/73  
The South Milwaukee Historical society plans to have a stand at the Maxwell Street day sale, Aug. 10-11. Members have been collecting old furniture, unused household articles and other rum-

mage items.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to further projects of historical interest to the community. Persons with articles to donate may call 764-4044 or 762-4568.

## Historical Society meets Monday

8/2/73  
The South Milwaukee Historical Society will meet next Monday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Public Library. The society will have a stand at the Maxwell Street Sales Day, Aug. 10-11. Proceeds of the sale will help to further projects of historical interest to the community, and donations are both needed and welcome.

## Society to Man Booth During Sale

8/9/73  
The South Milwaukee Historical society will have a booth at the Maxwell Street day sale this Friday and Saturday. Members of the society will man the booth located east of the Drew's store.

Old furniture, household articles and other rummage items will be sold. Persons with articles to donate should bring them to the booth during the sale.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to further projects of historical interest to the community.

## Society to Meet

Mrs. Ada Kent, 90, will be the guest speaker at the South Milwaukee Historical society meeting this coming Monday.

The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee library. Officers elected at the last meeting are: Dennis Rankin, president; Richard Grobschmidt, vice president; Mrs. Dennis Rankin, secretary, and Mrs. Lillian Dishong, treasurer.

6-28-73

## Historians to Meet

8/2/73  
The South Milwaukee Historical Society will meet next Monday, Aug. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the public library.

The society will have a stand at the Maxwell Street Day sales, Aug. 10-11. Proceeds of the sale will go to further projects of historical interest.

## Historical Society

### Attends Convention

8-30-73 8  
Thirteen members of the South Milwaukee Historical society attended the Southeastern Regional convention for affiliated societies of the

State Historical society held at Cedarburg on Saturday, Aug. 25. Society president Dennis Rankin reported on the progress of the South Milwaukee Historical society.

After the meeting the group toured the Pioneer Village, the last covered bridge in Wisconsin and attended the dedication ceremony of the old Cedarburg Woolen Mill, Cedarburg, as a recognized state landmark.

Those attending were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rankin, Mrs. Mary McCarrier, Mr. and Mrs. Don Broskowski, Mrs. Lee Wendt, Mrs. Viola Erbe, Mrs. Lola Doe, who also reported for the Oak Creek Historical society, Mrs. Barbara Mueller, Mrs. Barbara Schouten, Miss Amy Szewczuga, Mrs. Louise Bentley and Mrs. DoraLee Szewczuga.

## Bicentennial Committee to Hold Meeting 10-31-74

The South Milwaukee Bicentennial Committee will hold a town hall meeting Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the city hall council chambers, 921 Monroe Ave.

Featured speakers will be Mayor Chester Grobschmidt and Tom Benson of the Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Benson will discuss state plans for the bicentennial and the role of the community during 1976.

The bicentennial committee recently mailed out letters to every organization in South Milwaukee inviting a representative of the organization to attend the meeting.

In May, the Common Council designated the South Milwaukee Historical Society as the city's official coordinator for the nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

A bicentennial committee comprised of members of the historical society was formed with Richard Grobschmidt as president. At present, there are 10 members in addition to Grobschmidt on the committee. They are Lee Wendt, secretary; Mary Ellen Bloom, Donald Broskowski, Gertrude Endthoff, Harry Jagodzinski, Roz Martinson, Barbara Mueller, Harold Reed, Barbara Schouten and Jan Schumacher.

5-9-74

## Historical Society Chooses Officers

Dennis D. Rankin, 2215 18th ave., has been re-elected to a second term as president of the South Milwaukee Historical society.

Other officers elected at the society's Monday night meeting were George Hook, vice president; Mrs. Penny Rankin, secretary, and Mrs. Lillian Dishong, treasurer.

Elected to three year terms on the board of directors were Mrs. Barbara Mueller and Mrs. Dora Lee Szewczuga.

Remaining on the board are William Domoe, Donald Broskowski and Mrs. Barbara Schouten for two year terms, and Ronald Abrahamson and Mrs. Mary McCarrier for one year terms.

Richard Grobschmidt was appointed to head the society's bicentennial committee.

## Old House Brought to Life

1/74

The old mansion at Grant park was the scene of a gala occasion recently. Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society held their first annual dinner meeting on Jan. 5 in the historic South Milwaukee home, the Horace Fowle residence. It has changed little from the time of its construction in 1893.

"As the nine children of Horace and Ellen Fowle grew up, married and grandchildren arrived, their old home grew too small," said Miss Ruth Howes, a granddaughter of the Fowles, to whom the evening brought back old memories which she shared with those present. In the early 1890's, she said, John Moller designed the home, large enough to accommodate family gatherings.

Young folks played tennis and croquet on the lawns, picnicked on the beach, danced in the living room and courted in the parlor. Among the many happy occasions held there were four weddings, one of them that of Miss Howes' mother.

The home was never without guests, she recalled. One time an entire baseball team was put up at the home when they became stranded without transportation.

The home was built on the site of a log house in which Horace Fowle was born. He was the first white male child born in Oak Creek, as South Milwaukee was then known. John Fowle, his father, had come to the area in 1835 to stake his claim along the

lake.

Members of the society were able to look over the many rooms of the house and to visualize how it once was. Some even braved the cold and visited the turret porch for a magnificent view of the lake and park.

Changes in the home were pointed out by Miss Howes and also by Edgar Fowle, a grandson of the Horace Fowles. He said he spent many happy days romping on the beach as Grandpa Fowle built a huge bonfire and teasing his grandmother by playing on a raised platform beneath the stairway in the living room.

The platform is no longer there, but it was used by musicians when the Fowles entertained. Some accounts place it on the opposite side of the room in an alcove, but Miss Howes said that the alcove was a latter addition.

At the ages of 79 and 75, Horace and Ellen Fowle were content to be relieved of the care of such a large place. Miss Howes said all were glad to have it become county property and open to everyone.

For the dinner the home had been decorated with garlands of holly over the mantle and twined around the oaken balusters. Pine cone wreaths were hung and poinsettia sprays graced the tables. After dinner guests joined in singing old songs and dancing in the huge firelit living room.

"An Evening in History" had become an evening of nostalgia!

## Historical Society elects officers 5/16/74

The South Milwaukee Historical Society has elected new officers for the 1974-75 year.

They are Dennis Rankin, re elected to a second term as president; George Hook, vice president; Mrs. Penny Rankin, secretary and Mrs. Lillian Dishong, treasurer.

Elected to three-year terms on the board of directors were Mrs. Barbara Mueller and Mrs. Dora Lee Szewczuga.

Remaining on the board are William Domoe, Donald Broskowski and Mrs. Barbara Schouten for two-year terms and Ron Abrahamson and Mrs. Mary McCarrier for one-year terms.

Richard Grobschmidt was appointed to head the society's bicentennial committee.



**BARB MUELLER** of the South Milwaukee Historical Society (center) supervised volunteer efforts as the society collected newspapers Saturday.

10/18/73



**LOADING PAPER BINS** last Saturday at St. John's school playground, 800 Marquette ave., were members of the South Milwaukee Historical society, Don Broskowski (left), 725 Clark ave., and Ronald Abrahamson, 1618 Manitoba ave. Proceeds from the paper drive will be used for community projects.

(Staff Photo)

voice

10/18/73

## Sing-a-long and dance planned 5/30/74

The South Milwaukee Historical Society invites everyone 18 years and older to join the fun of a good old-fashioned Cracker Barrel Sing-Along at the Admar Golden Note, 1804 15th Ave., South Milwaukee. The fund-raising event is set for Sunday, June 2 from 5:30 until 10:30 p.m.

The Sweet Adeline Champion singers, the 5-foot-4 Quartet will be on hand for entertainment along with the banjo and bass duet of DeBlaey and Ross and organist Lynn Rankin.

Reservations at \$4 per single admission and \$7.50 for couples will include refreshments. Send checks to the South Milwaukee Historical Society, 2215 18th Ave., South Milwaukee. For more information, call 764-4044.

## Sing-Along and Dance This Sunday 5/30/74

The South Milwaukee Historical society's fund raising Crackerbarrel Sing-Along and Dance will be held this Sunday from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Admar Golden Note, 1804 15th ave., South Milwaukee.

Entertainment will include the DeBlaey and Ross bongo and bass duet, South Milwaukee's Lynn Rankin at the organ and the Five

Foot Four Sweet Adelines quartet of Racine.

Tickets at \$4 for singles and \$7.50 per couple may be obtained from the South Milwaukee Historical society, 2215 18th ave., South Milwaukee 53172, or by calling 764-4044. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

The admission includes beer and snacks. The event is open to persons 18 and over.



6/6/74

--photo by Kent Peterson  
**ORGANIZERS AND participants** in the South Milwaukee Historical Society Sing-a-long at Admar Golden Note last week included (front row, from left) Arline Barsamian, member of the society's History Committee; Ruth Howes, board member; George Hook, vice president and Penny Rankin, secretary. In the second row President Dennis Rankin is surrounded by members of the 5-foot-4 Quartet. They are (from left) Phyllis Schmidt, Agnes Knudsen, Rankin, Joyce Kilsdonk and Mickey Konieczek. The banjo and bass duet of DeBlaey and Ross are standing behind the group.

## Historical Society thanks businesses

Through the efforts of many businesses and individuals, the South Milwaukee Historical Society Cracker Barrel Sing-A-Long was a great success, according to Mrs. Dennis Rankin, secretary of the society. She and her husband, who is president of the group, wish to thank all those for helping to make it a success. They include Richard Platek of the Pabst Brewery, Adolph Tylicki of Admar Golden Note, Lawrence Klipfel, Cindy Rietzi, Mary Starszak, Mr. and Mrs. George Klipfel and Mr. and Mrs. Felix Fabinski.

Other groups responsible for its success include South Milwaukee Kohl's, A & P and National Food Stores, Jewel Food Store in Cudahy, Dick's Foodliner, Sunrise Liquor and McDonald's of South Milwaukee.

6-6-74

# Historical Society to Head Bicentennial Celebrations

5/23/74

The South Milwaukee Historical society has been named the city's official coordinator for the nation's bicentennial celebration.

Approval was given by the common council following a request by Richard Grobschmidt, 715 Drexel blvd., chairman of the society's bicentennial committee. Grobschmidt told the council the society would attempt to both originate activities and coordinate city-wide events planned by other organizations.

A tentative plan by the society for the celebration, he said, included an educational program explaining the reasons for the American revolution. Another, he said, would hopefully rekindle an interest in local history.

To do this, he said, the society has agreed to update and republish a book about South Milwaukee. The book, "South Milwaukee Then and Now" written by Mrs. Gertrude Endthoff for her third grade students at Rawson school several years ago, will be republished in time for the celebration, he said.

Another consideration, he said, included the staging of a pageant,

"Through the Years," first presented at the city's centennial celebration in 1934, and a festival honoring South Milwaukee's first settler to be called Elihu Higgins

day.

Other members of the bicentennial committee included Mrs. Eugene Szewczuga, Mrs. Lee Wendt, and Donald Broskowski.

## Society to Meet

5/24/74

The South Milwaukee Historical society will meet this coming Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.

The meeting is open to guests.

# Society will coordinate Bicentennial

5/23/74

The South Milwaukee Historical Society has been officially named to coordinate South Milwaukee's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.

Richard Grobschmidt, head of the society's Bicentennial Committee, appeared before the Common Council at its meeting Thursday night to explain exactly what the group hoped to accomplish during the year of the nation's 200th birthday.

Among the projects would be a donation of several back issues of the **South Milwaukee Voice Journal** to the South Milwaukee Public Library, the publication of some little known facts about the city's history and the presentation of special programs, such as a play done in 1934 entitled 'South Milwaukee through the Years.'

One of the little known facts which Grobschmidt mentioned

was that South Milwaukee's second mayor was impeached, which drew laughs and joking cries of 'Watch it, Chet!' from some council members. The jokes were directed at South Milwaukee Mayor Chester W. Grobschmidt, who is Richard Grobschmidt's father.

The chairman of the committee added that the group could coordinate activities with the National and State Bicentennial commissions and could possibly apply for funding of lasting programs, such as historical markers in the city. The committee wants to make lasting donations to the city rather than merely plan a celebration, he said.

Formal recognition came to the group Tuesday night in the form of a resolution which passed the council unanimously. The council members also asked that the committee keep them informed of planned activities.

## Attend Convention

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society attended the metropolitan regional convention for affiliated societies of the state historical society at West Allis last Saturday.

Bicentennial committee chairman Richard Grobschmidt reported on the progress of the South Milwaukee Historical society during the past year.

Those who attended were Grobschmidt and the Mmes: Lee Wendt, Jacquie Granec, Lola Doe, Barbara Schouten, Mary McCarrier and Barbara Mueller.

The South Milwaukee society is scheduled to host the 1975 convention.

8/29/74

## Outdoor Art-Craft Fair Sunday

The fifth annual South Milwaukee Art and Craft fair will be held this Sunday on the grounds of South Milwaukee high school, 1001 15th ave., beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

In the event of rain the free event will be held inside the school.

Approximately 75 artists from surrounding areas will have a variety of artwork and crafts for sale. Entries will include paintings, handcrafted wooden ware,

candles, photography, macrame, lapidary, sculpture, leather craft, stitchery and textiles, pottery and ceramics.

The South Milwaukee public library will sponsor a "books by the pound" sale where used library books can be bought at a price according to weight.

Homemade bakery will be sold by the South Milwaukee Historical society. The South Milwaukee Junior Miss organization will sell sandwiches and soda.

8/74

SOUTH MILWAUKEE Historical Society meeting: South Milwaukee Public Library, 7:30 p.m., rescheduled due to Labor Day.

9/5/74

## Historians to Meet

The September meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society will be held this coming Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the city library. The meeting is open to guests.

9/5/74

## Donations Sought by Historians

The South Milwaukee Historical society is seeking large picture frames in which to preserve artifacts under glass.

10/12/74

They also are in need of a wardrobe closet and cedar chest to store articles of wearing apparel donated to the society.

Persons who would like to donate the needed items or those who may have artifacts they wish to donate may contact Mrs. Jacquie Granec, 762-7955.

## Society Looks for Frames

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is seeking large picture frames in which to preserve artifacts under glass.

They are also in need of a wardrobe closet and cedar chest to store articles of wearing apparel donated to the society.

Persons who would like to donate the needed items or those who may have artifacts they wish to donate may contact Mrs. Jacquie Granec at 762-7955.

10-17-74

## Plans for '76 Speaker's Topic

The bicentennial committee of the South Milwaukee Historical society will have a town hall meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the city hall council chambers.

Featured speaker will be Tom Benson of the Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial commission. Benson will discuss the state's plans for the bicentennial and the roles communities will be playing.

Citizens and organizations interested in bicentennial planning are urged by the historical society to attend the meeting.

11/74

## Historical Society

A slide program on coaches and coach houses will be presented Monday at a meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society.

William Domoe, a member of the society, will give the presentation at the South Milwaukee public library. The program will be preceded by a meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. Both are open to guests.

11-2-74

## Society to Meet

The South Milwaukee Historical society will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee library.

Persons interested in joining the society or in learning more about it are encouraged to attend the meeting.

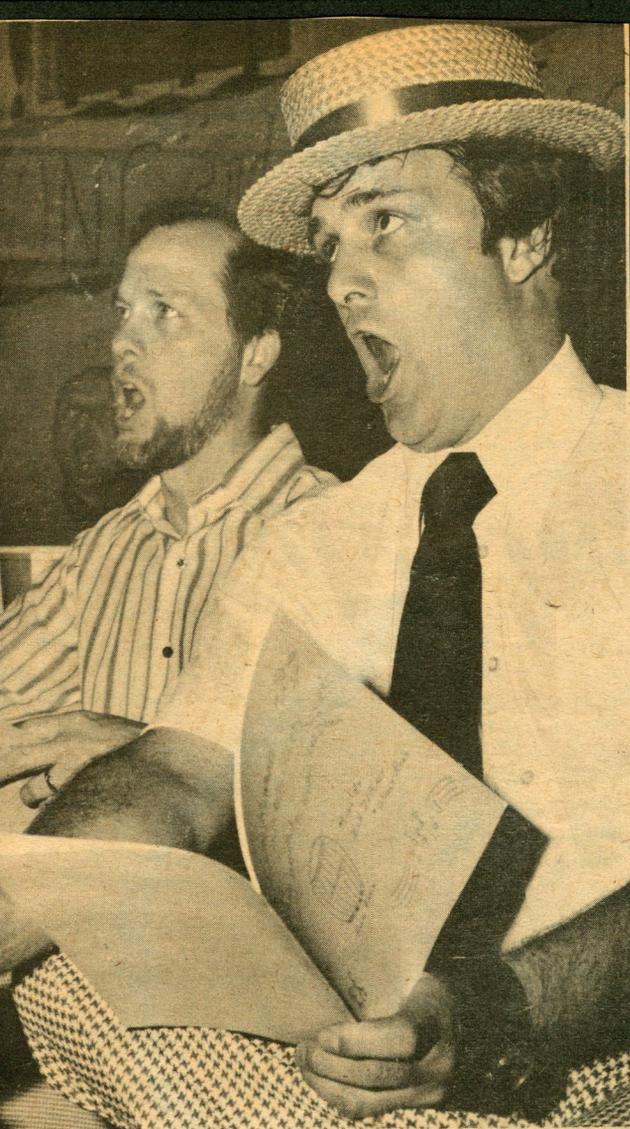
11/30/74

## Booth at Fair

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society will have a booth at a housewares fair Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. at the Admar Golden Note, 1804 15th ave.

Household artifacts from the society's collection will be displayed. Information about the society can be obtained at the booth.

Fresh plants also will be sold at the booth.



6/74

--photo by Kent Peterson

**WITH VOICES RAISED IN HARMONY** the South Milwaukee Historical Society entertained the many people at its Cracker Barrel Sing-a-long last week. Donald Engelbert (left), 802 Marion Ave., South Milwaukee, and Dennis Rankin, club president, 2215 18th Ave., South Milwaukee, helped lead the crowd in song.

## Attend Convention

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society attended the metropolitan regional convention for affiliated societies of the state historical society held in West Allis last Saturday.

Bicentennial committee chairman Richard Grobschmidt reported on the progress of the South Milwaukee Historical Society during the past year.

After a business meeting, luncheon and program meeting the group toured the West Allis Historical Society Museum and the Honey Creek Cemetery.

Those who attended were Richard Grobschmidt and the Mmes: Lee Wendt, Jacquie Granec, Lola Doe, Barbara Schouten, Mary McCarrier and Barbara Mueller.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is scheduled to host the 1975 convention.

8/74

## Historical Society At Maxwell Days

August 8, 1974

The South Milwaukee Historical Society will have a white elephant booth at the Maxwell Street Days this Friday and Saturday.

Furniture, household items, toys and other rummage items will be sold. The booth will be located at 10th and Milwaukee avenues.

A green thumb plant booth will have a variety of fresh green plants. Lemonade will also be sold.

Members will have a fresh bakery booth at Sunday's Arts and Crafts Fair beginning at 9 a.m.

Proceeds from the sales will be used towards community projects.

## Sponsor White Elephant Booth

The South Milwaukee Historical society will have a white elephant booth at the Maxwell Street day sales next Friday and Saturday, Aug. 9 and 10.

Members have been collecting old furniture, new and used household articles and other rummage

items. No clothing will be accepted.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to further projects of historical interest to the community.

Donations can be brought to 919 Madison ave., or call 764-2315.

## Area Historians To Hold Conclave

Franklin field house, 1964 S. 86th st., West Allis, will be the scene of the 1974 convention of the metropolitan region of the Wisconsin Council for Local History next Saturday, Aug. 24.

Representatives of 12 historical societies in Milwaukee county affiliated with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin will participate in the event starting at 9 a.m.

Among the speakers will be representatives of the Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial commission, the Old World Wisconsin project and the state societies' ethnic outdoor museum being developed near Eagle.

Those from area historical societies who will attend include Mrs. Earl Kittelson, Brown Deer; Miss Delores Tichkowski, Cudahy; Mrs. Vivian Guzniczak, Franklin; Mrs. Esther Fischer, Greenfield; Mrs. Bette Arey, Hales Corners; LeRoy Meyer, Oak Creek, and Dennis Rankin, South Milwaukee.

## Society to Open Rummage Booth

The South Milwaukee Historical society will have a white elephant booth this Friday and Saturday during Maxwell Street days.

Their booth will be located at 10th and Milwaukee aves., east of Drew's Discount store. Furniture, household items, toys and other rummage items will be sold.

There will also be a green thumb plant booth with a variety of fresh green plants and a lemonade stand. Members will also have a fresh bakery booth at Sunday's Arts and Crafts fair at the South Milwaukee high school grounds.

Proceeds from the sales will be used to further projects of historical interest to the community.

## Old Fashions to Be Topic

"Fashion History in the Age of Elegance," is the title of a slide program which will be presented at a meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society, Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee li-

brary. James Conway of the Milwaukee County Historical society will present the program. The meeting has been designated guest night and is open to the public.

4/2/75



5/14/75

FOUNDING PRESIDENT of the South Milwaukee Historical society, Dennis Rankin (right), 2215 18th ave., was honored as he ended his two year term last Monday. Plaques were presented by Mrs. Caroline Kotowicz (left) and Mayor Chester Grobschmidt as Mrs. Penny Rankin looked on. (Staff photo)

## Society's Founders Honored at Meeting

Dennis and Penny Rankin, founders of the South Milwaukee historical society were honored with a plaque at the society's meeting last week.

Mayor Chester Grobschmidt, a member of the society, presented the plaque on its behalf.

The Rankins, who founded the society in 1972, were commended for "their hard work in realizing their dream of the establishment of a historical society and museum for the community of South Milwaukee."

Rankin served two years as charter president. Mrs. Rankin

served one year as vice president and one year as secretary.

William G. Domoe, 527 Badger ave., was elected president of the South Milwaukee Historical society, to succeed Rankin.

Other officers elected at the society's meeting were Ronald Abrahamson, vice president; Barbara Schouten, secretary, and Lillian Dishong, treasurer. Elected to three year terms on the board of directors were Richard Grobschmidt and Mary McCarrier.

Remaining on the board are Dora Lee Szewczuga, Barbara Mueller and Donald Broskowski.

1974

# Land Being Sought for Museum

The president of the South Milwaukee Historical society has requested the city's help in finding land on which to place a donated turn-of-the-century home intended for use as a historical museum.

Dennis Rankin, 2215 18th ave., told the common council last Thursday the society received the offer from the owners of a typical South Milwaukee home built in the late 1800's.

Rankin said the society is "looking for cooperation

and help in finding a piece of property to place this house on, preferably something that lends itself to the aesthetics of the community."

Rankin also said that in addition to city land, other possibilities include Milwaukee county park commission and the Chicago and North Western Railroad Co. land.

Referring to the old train depot on Milwaukee ave., Rankin said many society

members feel the location a good one, but railroad officials are not too enthusiastic, pointing out the possibility of derailments and increased liability for the company.

A hearing on the society's request before the Milwaukee county park commission has been scheduled in the future. To appear before that group on behalf of the society will be 24th District County Board Supervisor Donald Kennedy.

## Show to Feature Styles of 1890

The historical societies of Oak Creek, Franklin and South Milwaukee will have a joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Oak Creek city library, 8620 S. Howell ave.

Featured will be a slide show, "Fashion History in the Age of Elegance," presented by the Milwaukee County Historical society. It will be of women's fashions from 1890 to 1910--the gilded age of the Gibson girl.

## '76 Panel to Meet

The South Milwaukee American Revolution bicentennial committee will meet Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the South Milwaukee public library.

Persons with suggestions, ideas or questions concerning the bicentennial may attend the meeting or contact Richard Grobschmidt, committee chairman, 762-8460, or Lee Wendt, secretary, 762-2971.

1-25-75

## Society to Meet

The South Milwaukee Historical society will meet Monday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room of the South Milwaukee public library.

Featured will be a slide show of downtown Milwaukee of the 1880's, presented by James Conway of the Milwaukee County Historical society.

FRIDAY,

1/31/75

## Historical Society meeting Monday

1/30/75

The South Milwaukee Historical Society will welcome members of the Milwaukee County Historical Society at its next meeting, Monday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The county officials will present slides depicting downtown Milwaukee in the 1880's.

The public is invited to this free show in the South Milwaukee Public Library Blue Room.

## Historical fashion show

'Fashion History in the Age of Elegance,' a slide program, will be presented at a meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society, Monday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Milwaukee library.

James Conway of the Milwaukee County Historical society will present the program.

The meeting has been designated guest night and is open to the public.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

4/75

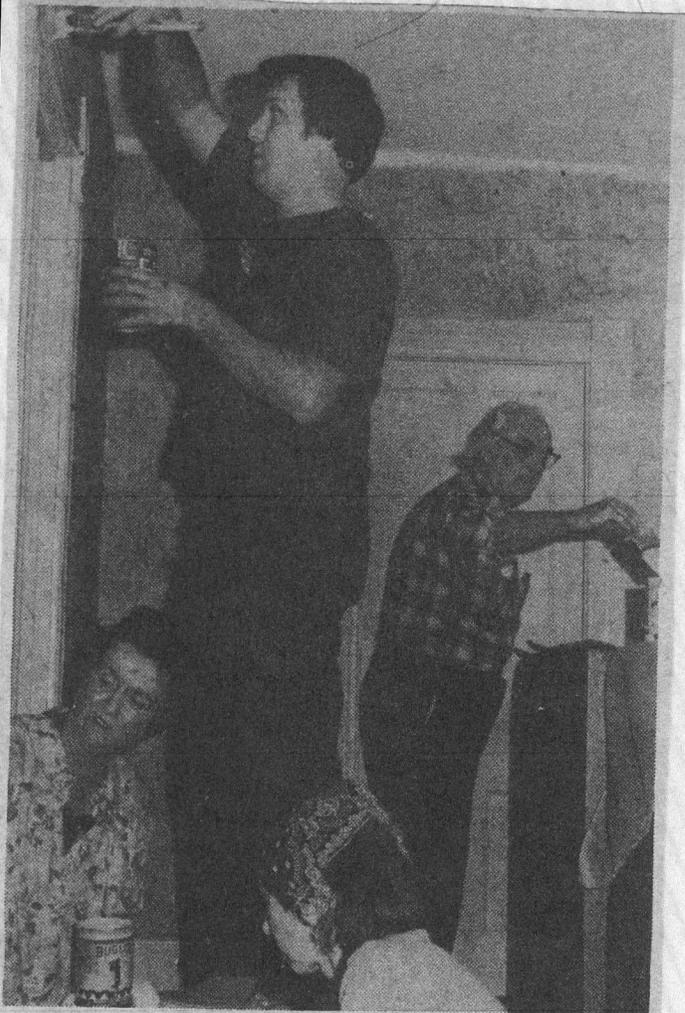
## Orient film

Films of the Orient taken during Christmas and New Years holidays will be shown to members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Milwaukee library.

Mrs. Annette Kerlin will present the program which is open to the public.

2-27-75

Bride winners



**PAINTING PARTY** at the home of the South Milwaukee Historical Society, 717 Milwaukee Ave., on Jan. 15 found volunteers painting and decorating the interior of the society home. Painting a doorway are Dennis Rankin, on ladder and his wife, Penny, below, both founders of the society; with Mrs. Caroline Kotowicz in center painting door jamb and her husband in background.

## Sell US Flags

11/26/75

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical society will be selling Betsy Ross, 1776 Bennington and 50 star American flags and flag kits at the 7-Mile fair at the Red Carpet Expo center Saturday and Sunday.

Flags and flag kits may also be ordered by calling 762-9534 or 762-1998.

## Society to Meet

The South Milwaukee historical society will meet Monday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the South Milwaukee public library.

## Historical Society has dance

The South Milwaukee Historical Society recently held their third annual dinner dance at Bucyrus-Erie Clubhouse.

There were approximately 120 guests.

President of the society is Bill Domoe. Chairman of the dinner dance was Jacquie Granec. Committee members included Kitty Betovsky, Barbara Schouten, Jan Schumacher and Mr. and Mr. Ray Thibadeau.

2/7/76



Two members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society, right, Lynn Rankin, and, left, Mrs. Harold Kerlin, both of South Milwaukee, sold flags for the Bicentennial at the Home State Bank, South Milwaukee last week. The women wore 1776 costumes they sewed themselves. (Photo by Karl Dragailovich)

## SM history book now available

The past and current history of South Milwaukee can be found in a new book written by Mrs. Gertrude Endthoff and is called "South Milwaukee... Then to Now."

Copies of the book which sells for \$7.50 are available at the Journal Printing Co., 921 Milwaukee Ave., and at the Home State Bank, 1001 Marquette Ave., both in South Milwaukee.

Books will also be available at the June 7 meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical Society which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the common council chambers, 921 Monroe Ave.

Mrs. Endthoff, the author, is a reading specialist for the South Milwaukee Elementary Schools and is a member of the historical society. The book is a project of the society.



**HISTORICAL ROOM** at the home of the South Milwaukee Historical Society, 717 Milwaukee Ave., was unveiled at an open house and sale Sept. 24. The room is filled with memorabilia of yesteryear in South Milwaukee including an old table, crib, books, lamps and a pump organ. Getting a look at the

room are, from left, Mrs. Dora Leeszewczuga, Gertrude Endthoff, author of *South Milwaukee Then to Now*; Mrs. Lois Schreiter, historical society president; George Hook playing organ and Mrs. Caroline Kotowicz.

## Display Open Saturday

The South Milwaukee Historical society will open a one room display at its home at 717 Milwaukee ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday when it holds a rummage and plant sale there.

an old pump organ, a 100 year old cradle, a platform rocker, marble-top table and other historical artifacts.

Proceeds from the sale will go into a general fund to be used in further restoring the home.

The room is furnished with **Want Ads Get the Job Done**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1977

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The South Milwaukee Historical Society will meet Monday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room of the South Milwaukee Public Library. A program entitled 'Just the Beginning,' which highlights some of Wisconsin's national first's, will be presented by a representative of the Wisconsin Telephone Co. The public is invited.

9/12/77



**HISTORICAL OFFICERS** of the South Milwaukee Historical Society taking office recently for their second term are, from left, Lois Schreiter, president; DoraLee Szewczuga, vice president; George Hook, treasurer; Gertrude Endthoff,

Johnson, Otto Kuppert and Mrs. George Hook. The society meets monthly in the Blue Room of the South Milwaukee Public Library and, throughout the summer, is having Sunday afternoon open house at the society home, 717 Milwaukee Ave.

9/28/77

### Speaker's Topic Antique Dolls

A program on antique dolls will highlight a meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical society at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, in the public library blue room.

Ginny Rogowski of Oak Creek will display some of her dolls and tell their history.

Mrs. Rogowski has been collecting dolls since 1967. Portions of her collection were displayed at the library on several occasions.

Her presentation will be followed by a social hour and a brief meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

### Historical sale

9/22/77

A plant sale will be conducted by the South Milwaukee Historical Society on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the historical society home, 717 Milwaukee Ave.

There will also be a display consisting of one room, which is furnished with an old pump organ, a 100-year-old cradle, a peat form rocker, marble top table and other historical artifacts.

Proceeds from the sale will go into a fund to be used in further restoration of the home.

### Sale to Benefit Museum

Produce, plants and patches will be featured at the Muskego Historical Society's Annual Autumn sale at the old town hall, S7732 Pioneer dr., Muskego, Saturday and Sunday.

The sale also will offer crafts, home canned and baked goods, rummage items and a chance to get rid of old papers.

Bicentennial embroidered patches will be available to buy as collector's items and the last chance to enter a jingle contest for a hand pieced and tied quilt will be that weekend. Doors will

be open both days from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At a grocery sack sale an hour before closing, shoppers may pack everything they can into a grocery sack for \$1. Plants will include both houseplants and perennials.

Persons may bring old newspapers to the town hall either day, or call Charles Damaske, 679-0838, for paper pickup.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to further develop the Muskego museum in the town hall's lower level.



PIONEER RESIDENT Agnes Reingans, left, is presented a copy of 'South Milwaukee, Then To Now' by author Gertrude Endthoff as part of community's salute to 32 early settlers who have lived in South Milwaukee since 1900 or before.

When MRS. AGNES LOFY REINGANS of 608 N. Chicago Ave. was honored earlier this month at a dinner for 32 residents who had lived in South Milwaukee since 1900 or before three of her children and two grandchildren from far corners of the United States were there to watch. There was her son, Gerald, and his wife, Maurine, of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; a daughter Germaine Wynn, and her husband, Leonard, of Jasper, Ala.; and another daughter, Grace Wagner, of Detroit, Mich., with her son, Herbert, and granddaughter, Carlene, with her husband, Dr. Richard Foster.

### History slide show

All teachers in the South Milwaukee school system are being invited to the next meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical Society to preview a slide presentation of historical places in the city.

The slide program has been put together in recent months by Rick Grobschmidt, a high school teacher, and Mrs. Lola Doe, who took the slides. The 20-minute to one-half hour program shows all existing sites of historical interest in South Milwaukee plus old photographs of buildings and scenes as they existed long ago. The slide program is for children of all ages.

The meeting at which the slide program will be unveiled will be Monday, Nov. 7, in the Blue Room of the library at 7:30 p.m.

10/20/77

MAR 16 1978



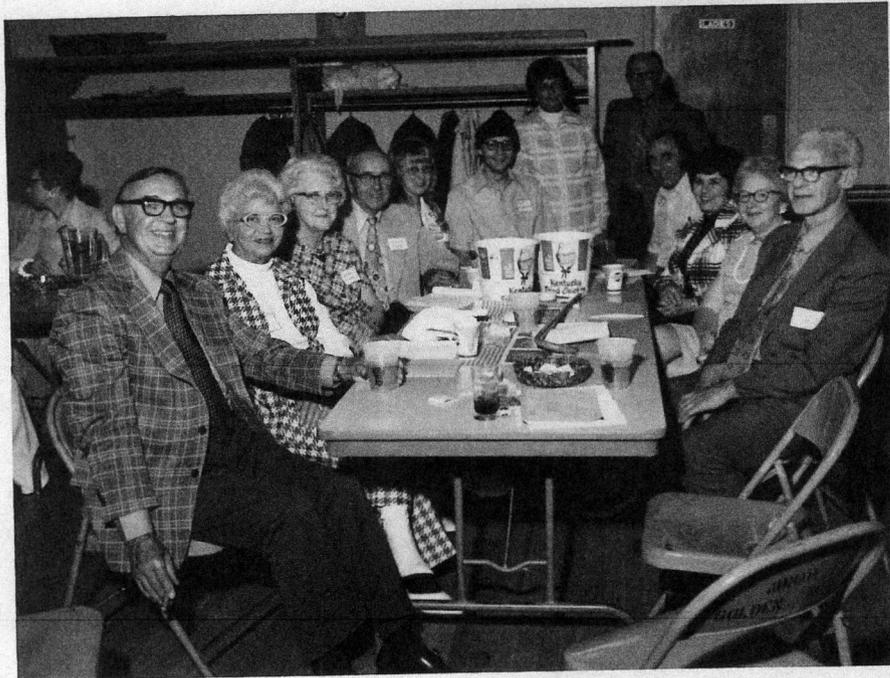
**FIFTH BIRTHDAY** of the South Milwaukee Historical Society was celebrated March 6 with the cutting of a birthday cake by four of the group's founders. They are, from left, George Hook, Ann Slaaen, Dennis Rankin and Gertrude Endthoff.

NOV 16 1978



**SPINNING JENNY** is Ginny Jenkins and her daughter, Anne, 6, who demonstrate the fine art of spinning for members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society at their

November meeting. The mother and daughter won first place in this summer's South Milwaukee Arts and Crafts Fair held at South Milwaukee High School.





**YESTERYEAR'S CHARM** was on display last Saturday at the South Milwaukee Historical society house at 717 Milwaukee ave. Discussing some of the articles donated to the society which were on exhibit were Gertrude Endthoff (left), 1520 Menomonee ave., society secretary, and Lois Schreiter, 104 Brookdale dr., society presi- (Staff photo)

OCT 12 1978



**PLANTING SHRUBS** around the South Milwaukee Historical Society Home at 717 Milwaukee Ave. are, from left, George Hook, Rick Grobschmidt and Harvey Johnson. The new evergreens replaced some older bushes and were planted as part of a continuing beautification project at the society's own historical showcase.



1978

**DINNER-DANCE** sponsored by the South Milwaukee Historical Society brought out members and guests to the Grant Park Club House for an evening of entertainment and friendship. Enjoying the atmosphere of the club house, which dates from the 1890s,

are, from left, Steve Schreiter, Mrs. Lois Schreiter, president of the South Milwaukee Historical Society; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Langenwaller, special guest; Rick Tangen, chairman of the dinner-dance; and Mrs. Jan Tangen.--(Photo by Jim Lyons)

1978

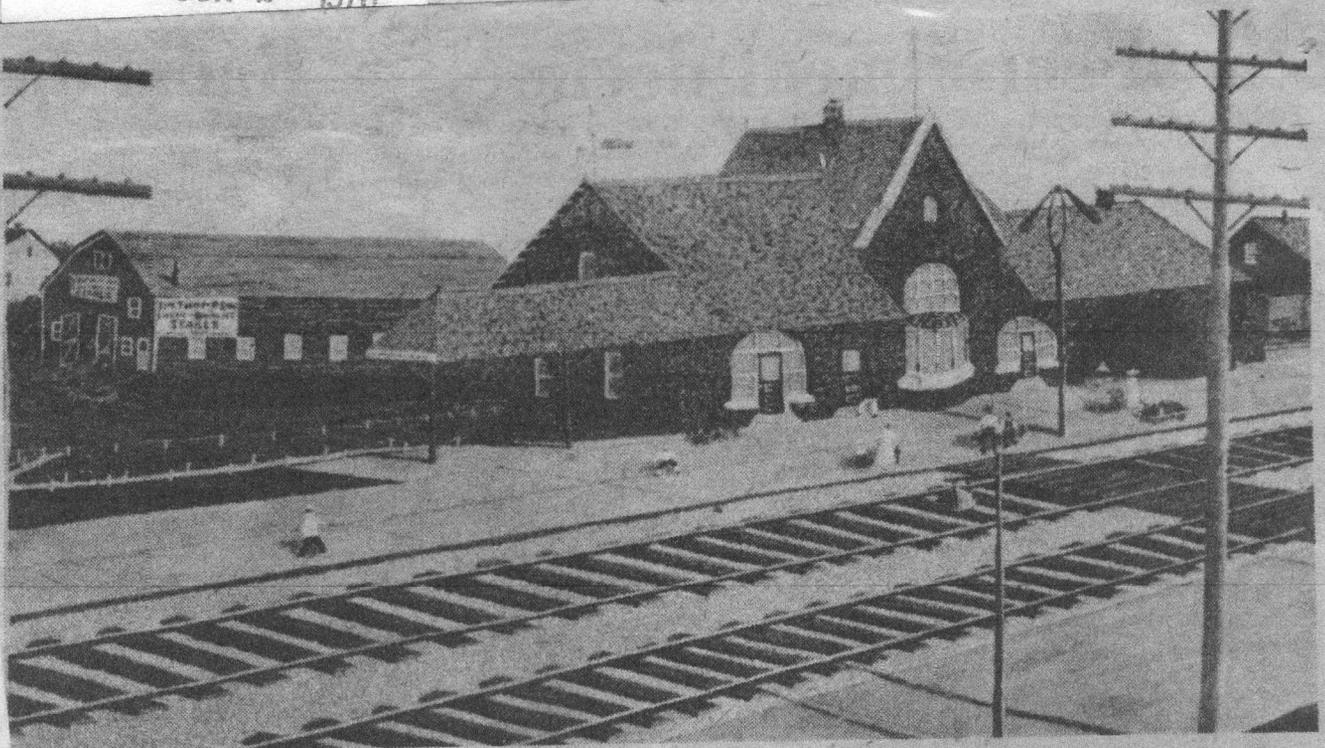


**DEPRESSION VOICES** come alive with the musical narration of Jerry Johnson, standing, who conducted a program entitled 'Voices From the Depression' March 5 at Rawson Ballroom sponsored by the South Milwaukee Historical Society. The program attended by 64 persons featured music, voices and scenes



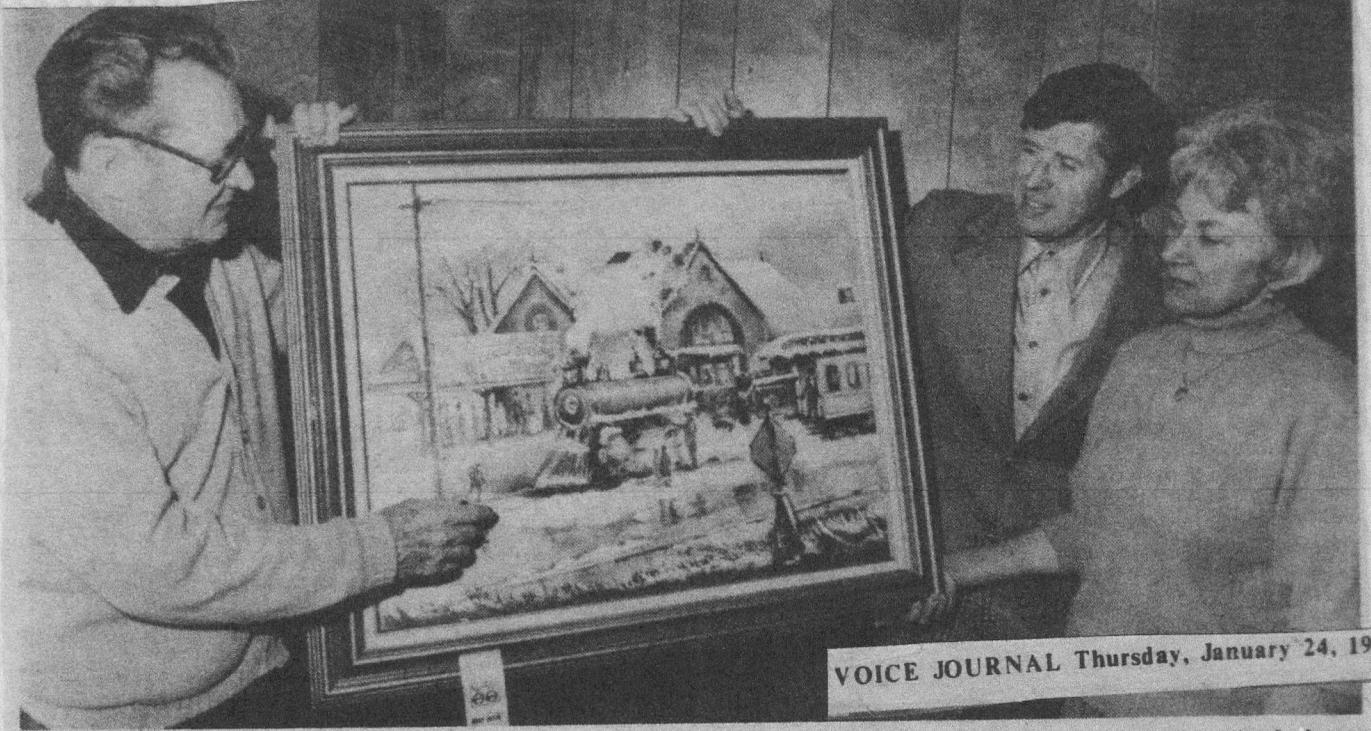
AN ANNUAL RUMMAGE and plant sale sponsored by the South Milwaukee Historical society will be repeated Saturday at the society's museum, 1717 Milwaukee ave. Dora Lee Szewczuga (left), 610 Lakeview ave., sale chairman, and Gertrude Endthoff, 1520 Menomonee ave., looked over some of the new items donated for this week's sale. (Staff photo)

JUN 22 1978



OLD DEPOT serving South Milwaukee as it looked in its heyday is recaptured in oil by Tony Kotchi of Oak Creek, whose hobby is painting historic sites of the city, either from memory, old pictures or the actual building. The South

Milwaukee Historical Society has won the support of the state Historical Society to have the 1893 building declared a landmark and is awaiting a decision from the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.



VOICE JOURNAL Thursday, January 24, 1980

**DEPOT PAINTING** by James L. Nolan, left, of West Allis commissioned by his son, dentist Dr. Robert Nolan with offices at 921 Madison Ave. will shortly be turned over to the South Milwaukee Historical Society, represented by President Dora Lee Szewzuga, right. The painting attempts to show how the

Chicago and North Western railroad station looked on opening day Dec. 27, 1893. The depot is now part of the National Register of Historic Places and is soon to be taken over by Benkowski Builders of South Milwaukee for conversion to offices.

## New painting of old depot

1/17/80

An oil painting by James L. Nolan of West Allis, which is on view in the office of dentist Dr. Robert Nolan at 921 Madison Ave., recalls days of glory for the South Milwaukee railroad station.

"I tried to capture the station as it may have looked on grand opening day Dec. 27, 1893," Nolan said. The artist is Dr. Nolan's father and retired from an administrative position with the Chicago Park system. The senior Nolan is a graduate of the Chicago Art Institute and has received many awards for his paintings. He specializes in nostalgic scenes, including streetcars and steam engines.

The new Nolan painting depicts a brand new North Western railroad steam engine with its velvet-covered Pullman car seats. Ladies in colorful and frilly formal dress add to the festive occasion.

No passenger trains have stopped at the depot since 1960, nor has freight been unloaded there in recent years. In 1979 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The depot was designed by Chicago Architect Charles Sumner Frost, who also designed the old North Western depot in Milwaukee.

## SOCIETY TO HOLD SALE

A rummage sale will be held at the South Milwaukee Historical Society Home, 717 Milwaukee Ave., on Saturday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Funds from the sale will be used to purchase siding for the exterior of the society's headquarters. Anyone with plants, usable household items or older interesting items they wish to contribute should bring them to the society home by 9 a.m. the day of the sale.

5/22/80

2/7/80



**STREETS OF OLD SOUTH MILWAUKEE** was the theme for the annual dinner of the South Milwaukee Historical Society last Saturday at the Bucyrus Club. Lois Schreiter (left), 104 Brookdale Drive, society past president, and Dora Lee Szewczuga, 610 Lakeview Ave., president, presented a certificate of appreciation to Bill Fischer, who accepted on behalf of Edwin Benkowski, the new owner of the South Milwaukee depot. (Staff photo)

## Plant, rummage sale to benefit society

5/2/80

A plant and rummage sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, at the South Milwaukee Historical Society house, 717 Milwaukee Ave.

The house also will be open for tours that day.

The society is still in need of donations of furniture for the house, especially living room furnishings.

Recent donations have included handmade dresser scarves and bed coverings from the Millard family which

dates back to the 1860s, embroidered baby shoes, a telegrapher's key that was used at the railroad depot and a collection of Civil War letters and letters written by the Rawson family members in the late 1860s and early '70s.

The society also is in need of filing cabinets for archival materials.

Anyone with items to donate can contact the society president Dora Lee Szewczuga, 762-7828.



**OPEN HOUSE** hours are every Sunday from now to the end of summer at the South Milwaukee Historical Society home, 717 Milwaukee Ave. from 2 to 4 p.m. Among those hosting visitors on a recent Sunday afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Broskowski, seated in chair, and Gertrude Endthoff, seated on steps, author of "South Milwaukee — Then

To Now," a historical perspective of the community. No prior arrangements are required for a tour of the society's home. Visitors will also want to see the new yellow siding put on the building through the cooperation of the city and historical society members.



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

7/17/80



**LADDERS** lined the front of the South Milwaukee Historical Society building as new narrow siding in gold and brown was applied. Society members raised enough money through donations for the upper trim and the society matched \$2,000 in city funds to pay for the siding.

## Gibson Girl replicas 9/18/80

Annette Kerlin and Lynn Rankin were the Gibson Girl-costumed ladies who sat on the front porch of the South Milwaukee Historical Society museum at 722 Milwaukee Ave. on the last day of a summertime series of Sunday open houses at the museum. It was an added touch of historical authenticity for visitors.

From now on, visits to the museum can be arranged by appointment only, except on special occasions. The costumes worn by Kerlin and Rankin were from their own collections and later pleased the residents of several nursing homes which the pair visited after their duty on the museum's front porch.



## Funds for historians go to side building

A \$2,000 city contribution to the South Milwaukee Historical Society will be used to help defray the cost of siding its building.

Dora Lee Szewczuga, society president, last week told the Common Council the society planned to cover the wood structure at 717 Milwaukee Ave. with aluminum siding. She said examination of the exterior showed painting existing siding would not

be feasible and asked the council if it objected to the funds being used to partially defray the anticipated \$6,447 costs.

Alderman Richard Kuzminski told society representatives funds to help preserve the building had been provided in the city's 1980 budget. Applying siding, he said, would still be classified as renovation, adding the committee would have no objection.

5/8/80

5/28/80

## Historical Society asks use change

By Sandra Koehler  
For the Post

The South Milwaukee Historical Society May 1 requested that the Common Council allow it to use \$2,000 already budgeted for repainting the society's house at 717 Milwaukee Ave. for aluminum siding instead.

Society President Doralee Szewczuga said the building, bought in 1974, was in bad condition, the wood was dried out and there was no insulation. The house is used by the group for meetings and stores historical collections and displays.

The cost for the siding, including trim, was estimated at \$6,447. Szewczuga said the group could work on the house in sections when funds were available.

The cost for only the siding, excluding the trim, is \$4,060, she said. With the \$2,900 the group already has in its account and the \$2,000 budgeted by South Milwaukee for repair, the cost of the new siding would be covered.

South Milwaukee Common Council Finance Committee Chairman Richard Kuzminski said he had no arguments with the society's proposal as long as the budgeted funds were used for preservation and maintenance of the building. The rest of the council agreed.

Council President Mary Nelson said the siding would be a more permanent improvement than the re-painting.

## Plant, rummage sale

The South Milwaukee Historical Society will have a plant and rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at its house, 717 Milwaukee Ave.

The house will also be open for tours that day.

Donations of plants and rummage items are being sought by the society. Anyone with items to donate can contact society president Dora Lee Szewczuga, 762-7628.

5/29/80



## Historical society plans open house

Assorted memorabilia will be on display when the South Milwaukee Historical Society holds open house at its home, 717 Milwaukee Ave., on Sunday, June 22, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Society members will be on hand to answer questions. A fact sheet will be available to provide information about the

society and the home.

The society plans to hold no meetings over the summer, but will resume them in the fall.

A major project for the society during the summer will be the finishing of the exterior of the home with aluminum siding. A financial appeal is being made to all members, friends and supporters of the society for help in this project.

Tax-deductible gifts to the society will go to help to complete the siding work. A goal of \$7,500 has been set to finance the siding work. Contributions can be sent to Treasurer Laura Hook, 703 Minnesota Ave., South Milwaukee, Wis. 53172.

6/19/80

6/19/80



**FUNDS RAISED** through a plant and rummage sale will be used by the South Milwaukee Historical Society towards the cost of putting aluminum siding on its building. Free tours of the museum are offered on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. (Staff photo)

## Speaker to relive revolutionary days

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society will hear a program about the American Revolution at their next meeting on Monday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the library of South Milwaukee High School.

Presenting the program will be Clayton Tollefson of Oak

Creek, a member of the commander in chief's guard of the Northwest Territorial Alliance. He will appear in authentic 1776 military dress to tell about the uniform, military life and history of the period.

The Northwest Territorial Alliance is a group that stresses authenticity when staging re-enactments of encampments and battles of the American Revolution.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, which is open to all persons interested in helping to preserve the history of South Milwaukee.

## Historical meeting on colonial group

Clayton Tollefson of Oak Creek, a member of the Commander in Chief's Guard of the Northwest Territorial Alliance, will be guest speaker at the Monday, Sept. 8 meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical Society.

Tollefson will appear in authentic Revolutionary War uniform and give information about the group which participates in re-enactments of the Revolutionary War.

The meeting, which is open to guests, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Senior High School library.

Museum re-siding nears end

# Historical society hears report

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society and their guests heard a brief report Sept. 8 on the aluminum re-siding of the group's museum at 717 Milwaukee Ave.

Society President DoraLee Szewczuga reported the siding project is almost complete but still lacks doors and window trim, downspouts, gutters, aluminum windows and

aluminum doors. About \$2,500 is needed, she said, to complete the exterior work, with downspouts and gutters being the most urgent needs.

"I want to thank all those who contributed so generously to the building fund," Szewczuga said.

She also gave credit to volunteers who staffed the museum during the summer on Sundays. These included Anne Monson, Otto Kuppert, Laura and George Hook, Gert Endthoff, Ruth Lewis, Lois Schreiter and Harvey Johnson.

Clayton Tollefson of Oak Creek was the September program participant. He is a member of the Commander in Chief's Guard of the Northwest Territorial Alliance. The group participates in re-enactments of Revolutionary War episodes and studies that period of the nation's history.

Other officers of the society this year include Endthoff, Lewis and Laura Hook, vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. Information about the society and its meetings is available by calling Szewczuga at 762-7828.

Otto Kuppert

Oct. 16, 1980



**CUDAHY HISTORICAL** Society sponsorship Oct. 11 of a southeast district gathering of local historical societies was highly successful, attracting participants from about 15 surrounding communities. Among them were, from left, Lissa Orlandini of Cudahy, Teresa Daniels, a former Cudahy resident who lives in Bay View, and Otto J. Kuppert of South Milwaukee.

## Presentation slated <sup>10/30/80</sup>

An American Flag that has flown over the nation's capitol will be presented to the South Milwaukee Historical Society at its Monday, Nov. 3, meeting.

Susan Koehler, president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary 3742 of South Milwaukee, will make the presentation.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the South Milwaukee High School library. It is open to the public.

## Hobby show at library

Friends of the South Milwaukee Library, will sponsor an exhibit of hobbies and crafts in the Blue Room on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Exhibitors include El and Pat Roth, leaded glass; Jean Domoe, water colors; Tom Patin, ceramics, Amby Arheleger, home computers; Lee Medrow, lapidary; David Weaver, coin collection; David Blake, Jack Tertadian and Tim Morisse, radio controlled models; Dora Lee Szewczuga, local history; and Beverly Blake, Marty Kroff, Sue Schmit and Carol Kutney, needlecraft.

2/18/81

## Slide show

A color slide show entitled, "Historical South Milwaukee," will highlight a meeting of the Greendale Historical Society. The special program will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 6705 Northway, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23. It is open to the public.

Rick Grobschmidt, a South Milwaukee High School teacher, will give the program. South Milwaukee was settled in the 1830s and is the site of a Milwaukee County Landmark, the Grant Park Clubhouse, which was erected in 1892 as a private home. It was transferred to the park commission in 1919 and still retains much of its original Victorian decor.

Greendale 2/18/81

## Gold bug hunted

Dr. Irving Merrill of California visited the South Milwaukee Historical Society museum recently in search of information he needed to complete a book for publication.

Merrill sought information on three South Milwaukee men who accompanied his grandfather, Julius Caesar Merrill on a trip in 1864. His grandfather traveled from Oak Creek to St. Joseph, Mo., and along the Oregon Trail to Idaho in search of gold.

South Milwaukeeans on the trip were Charles Carey and Henry and Stephen J. Durbin. One of the society's members is a descendant of the Durbin family.

Persons with information about the family may contact the South Milwaukee Historical Society.

## City gold seekers to be book's subject <sup>1/15/81</sup>

Four South Milwaukee men who traveled by covered wagon along the famous Oregon Trail in search of gold will be part of a book currently being prepared for publication.

Several months ago, Irving Merrill of California visited the South Milwaukee Historical Society seeking information to complete a project he is working on.

Merrill, who is related to the Fink family of South Milwaukee, is seeking information about three men who accompanied his grandfather, J.C. (Julius Caesar) Merrill, on a trip from South Milwaukee (then called Oak Creek) to Chicago; on to St. Joseph, Miss.; and then, by covered wagon, along the Oregon Trail to Idaho in 1864 in search of gold.

J.C. kept a journal of the trip and Merrill is papering it for publication. He is seeking information to find out

what happened to the men after their journey.

Those on the trip with J.C. were Charles Carey and Henry and Stephen Durbin.

The Carey family is mentioned in letters from the Civil War period that were donated to the society last year.

From them, society members were able to show the Carey's moved to Iowa in the late 1860s. They also were able to put Merrill in touch with one of the society members who is a descendant of the Durbin family.

In addition to information about the three men, Merrill is also seeking information about Cynthia Wood, who married J.C. in 1869. She was a relative of Appolonia Wood Fowle, who was married to Henry Fowle.

Anyone with information about the families should contact Historical Society President Dora Lee Szewczuga, 762-7828.



## Open house <sup>12/11/80</sup> for society

South Milwaukee's Junior Miss Laurie Fieber will be hostess at an open house Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Historical Society, 717 Milwaukee Ave.

Betty Tschohl, a member of the society, will play Christmas carols and other music on an antique pump organ.

The museum has been decorated for the holidays and members of the society will be on hand to conduct tours and explain artifacts. They will also gift wrap copies of "South Milwaukee—Then to Now" and packets of note paper depicting South Milwaukee scenes that will be on sale.

"South Milwaukee—Then to Now" is the history of South Milwaukee from the beginning of its settlement in 1835 to 1976. The book was written by South Milwaukee teacher Gertrude Endthoff. It costs \$7.50.

Refreshments will be served.



AUG 31 1978

## History society wins landmark role for depot

South Milwaukee's 1893 depot has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Notice was received late last week by Lois Schreiter, president of the South Milwaukee Historical Society, that the depot was officially entered on the national registry Aug. 3 by the Secretary of the Interior.

Listing on the national registry means the depot is entitled to national preservation status, qualifies for matching restoration funds and may not be disposed of for a commercial purpose.

'It's great! Oh boy, do I feel good,' an excited Mrs. Schreiter said upon learning of the listing. 'We've sure worked hard for this.'

Since late last year she and other members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society prepared elaborate documentation that was formally presented to the Wisconsin Historical Society in January. When the depot was approved by the state society, a request was forwarded to Washington, D.C. for listing in the national register. Mrs. Schreiter said at the time she and other members had spent more than \$100 and in excess of 400 hours in trying to win landmark status for the depot.

Still to be resolved, Mrs. Schreiter said, is what the state's new Transportation Commission will decide about the Chicago and North Western railroad's plea to abandon service at the South Milwaukee depot and consolidate operations in Oak Creek. Two hearings on the closing were held in 1977. At that time the railroad said it would sell the property to the Bucyrus-Erie Co. for use as a parking lot.

The South Milwaukee depot was built in 1893 at a cost of \$15,000. It is one of 11 in the state designed by Chicago architect Charles Sumner Frost. He also designed the Newberry Library in Chicago, Chicago City Hall, the Chicago Opera House and depots in both Chicago and Milwaukee.

Mrs. Schreiter said the next step for the Historical Society would be to form a Depot Committee. This will probably be done at the group's Sept. 11 meeting. She did not know if the society would apply for a federal grant to restore the depot, attempt some type of campaign to refurbish it or develop alternate plans. She said a reply she received from the railroad said it, too, was waiting to hear from the Transportation Commission about the building's future. 'Remember,' Mrs. Schreiter said. 'We don't own the depot yet. The railroad does.'







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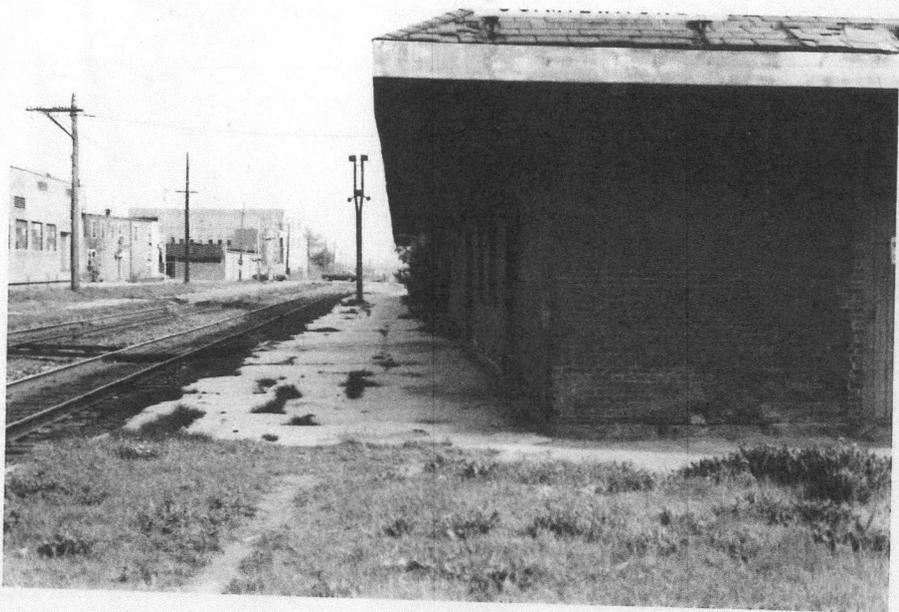
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SEP 7 1978

## Mayor hails landmark depot

Landmark status accorded the South Milwaukee depot last month by official listing in the National Registry of Historic Places is a significant step, says Mayor Chester Grobschmidt.

Following the mid-August announcement that the 1893 depot is now considered a national landmark, the mayor met with officers of the Historical Society. 'I offered them the services of my office in getting through to agencies and people they might not otherwise be able to contact,' the mayor said.

He said this offer was made because of the society's interest in purchasing the depot from the Chicago and North Western Railroad and restoring it. Some or all of this will have to be done with federal

grants which are available for these purposes.

Members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society will meet to form a Depot Committee and determine what should be done to preserve the decaying building. It was designed by Charles Sumner Frost, a noted Chicago architect who also designed Chicago City Hall, the Chicago opera house and other Chicago landmarks.



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AUG 31 1978  
So. Milwaukee  
News-Graphic

# Depot Makes List Of Historic Places

The 84 year old South Milwaukee depot has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Notification of the entry came in a letter from the State Historical society to South Milwaukee Historical society president Lois Schreiter.

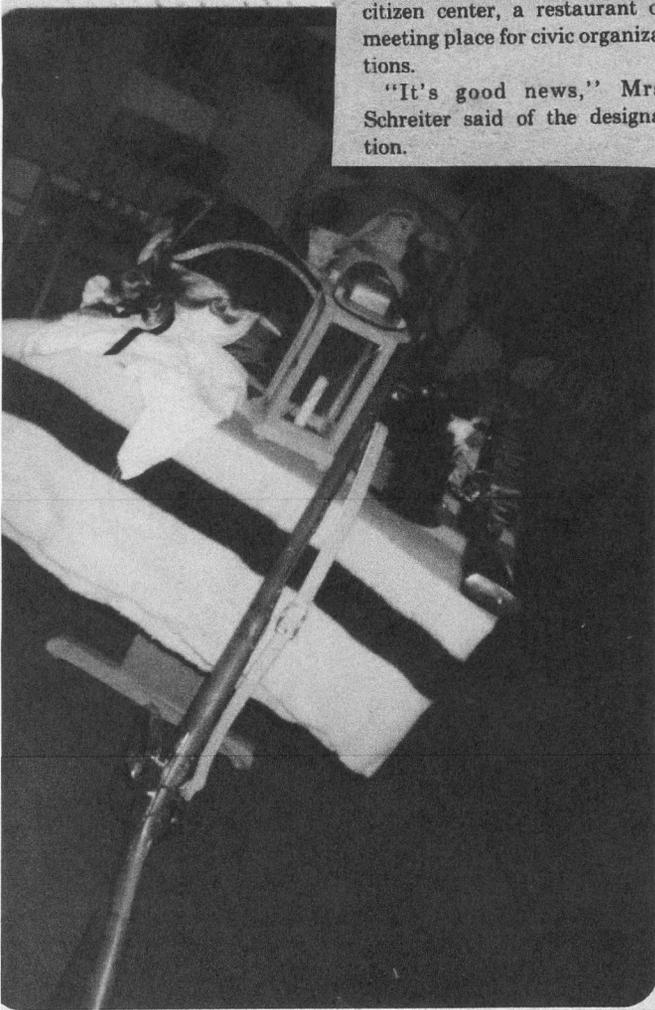
The designation is a victory for the local historical society which has been attempting to save the depot for several years. The society at one time attempted to purchase the depot for museum purposes from its owner, the Chicago and North Western Railroad Co., but was turned down. The reason given was the structure was too close to the tracks, making it unsafe for public use.

In 1977, the railroad company petitioned the Public Service commission for permission to abandon the depot and tear it down. Bucyrus-Erie Co. expressed interest in buying the land from the railroad and razing the depot for use as a parking lot.

Historical society members led by Mrs. Schreiter and vice president Dora Lee Szewczuga began extensive efforts to save the depot. The society wished to preserve the depot because it was one of 11 in Wisconsin designed by noted Chicago architect Charles Sumner Frost.

Today, the depot, built in 1893 at a cost of \$15,000, is in an advanced state of disrepair. The society plans to apply for federal funds to restore the structure. Mrs. Schreiter feels the depot could be converted into shops, a possible senior citizen center, a restaurant or meeting place for civic organizations.

"It's good news," Mrs. Schreiter said of the designation.



# Lawson airplane talk planned

South Milwaukee Historical Society members will hold their annual dinner on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Bucyrus Employees Club, 1120 Monroe Ave.

A special feature of the program will be George Hardie, an aviation historian, who will share pictures and information he has gathered over the past 40 years about the Lawson airliner, which was built in South Milwaukee in 1920-1921. The plane crashed on its maiden flight on May 8, 1921, near Ninth and Blake avenues.

Persons planning to attend the dinner are asked to bring along any souvenirs of the airliner they may have.

Reservations for the dinner can be made by contacting Laura Hook at 762-0635. The site of this year's dinner will allow more participants than last year.

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**HISTORICAL MODEL** of huge three-engine airliner built in South Milwaukee by the Lawson Airline Co. which crashed on Mother's Day, 1921, is viewed by members attending the South Milwaukee Historical Society dinner Jan. 31 at the Bucyrus Employees Club. They are, from left,

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stewart, Vice President Gertrude Endthoff, President Doralee Szewczuga and Bernard Meka. Mrs. Szewczuga's son, Bruce, constructed model of plane with a 120-foot wingspan capable of carrying 24 passengers and two pilots.



*—Photo courtesy of Milwaukee County Historical Society*

Spectators gathered around the Lawson airliner after it crashed on its first flight in South Milwaukee on May 8, 1921

# End of flight: A lot went down with airliner in South Milwaukee in 1921

By Virginia Davidson  
of The Journal Staff

**South Milwaukee** — Frank Caveney of South Milwaukee vividly recalls Sunday afternoon May 8, 1921, when he saw a giant plane crash, just missing a house.

Newspaper reports of the crash of the Lawson airliner in South Milwaukee just seconds after it took off on its first flight called it "the largest commercial airliner crash in history."

In 1981, 60 years later, an aircraft with

a 124-foot wingspan and 34-passenger capacity hardly qualifies as a "giant plane." But to George Hardie, an aviation historian, and to South Milwaukeeans like Caveney, the "daredevils of flight" as they were called, the Lawson airliner was in fact a giant.

Caveney's father and most of his neighbors in South Milwaukee owned stock in the firm that built the plane, Lawson Aircraft Corp., headed by Alfred Lawson.

Last week Hardie retold the story of South Milwaukee's first aircraft, a ma-

chine that earned a place in history even though it barely got off the ground. He spoke at the South Milwaukee Historical Society annual dinner.

The brand new Lawson airplane lost its bout that day in 1921 with an elm tree and a telephone pole. The Lawson Aircraft Corp. likewise crashed, going bankrupt soon afterward. There were a few bruised hopes and some angry stockholders, but neither Lawson nor others aboard the plane suffered even a scratch.

"It was the stockholders who really

caused the plane to crash," said Caveney, 68, of 617 Elm Ave. "Lawson and his people insisted for three weeks in a row that they shouldn't take off because the wind was blowing from the wrong direction.

"Back then, stockholders didn't know wind had anything to do with it. They thought they were being duped by Lawson," he said.

They might have made it anyway, Caveney said, except for a telephone wire

Turn to Airliner, Page 6

## Airliner

# Plane went down, took dreams with it

From Page 1

and an elm tree near the home of James Hughes, 915 Blake St. Lawson had wanted the tree cut down a month earlier, but it remained.

The plane left the ground and flew for almost two blocks but failed to clear the telephone wire. It veered into the tree and landed on its nose, missing the Hughes home. The plane never reached its destination of Dayton, Ohio, and never was rebuilt.

The airplane's creator is as much of a curiosity as the plane itself. A sign along I-94 south of Milwaukee that reads "University of Lawsonomy" is the only visible reminder of Alfred Lawson, founder of the religious movement called "Lawsonomy." There is no actual university, only the sign.

Lawson, besides building airplanes, was a philosopher-scientist-educator who claimed he would "out-Einstein Einstein" with his scientific discoveries. He often described himself as "the best-educated man in the world."

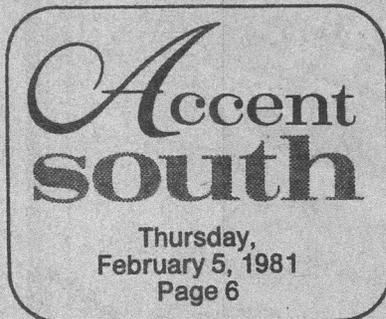
For years the university existed with only a secretary, a caretaker and an instructor. There were no students.

Lawson defined Lawsonomy as a system that "introduces penetration and zig-

zag and swirl movement with the key to perpetual law." Skeptics who tried to pin him down to specifics invariably were disappointed, but one practice of Lawsonomists was to dunk their heads in a tub of cold water twice a day.

In 1917, Alfred Lawson was living in Green Bay. He had been hired to design and build airplanes for the Army in World War I, but the war ended before production could begin.

In 1919 he built what historian Hardie called the world's biggest plane designed as a commercial airliner. The 16-passenger plane completed a 2,000-mile round trip to Washington via New York. In Washington, Lawson received the first federal air mail contract.



Milwaukee businessmen persuaded him to move to Milwaukee, where he set up the Lawson Aircraft Corp. in a warehouse at 9th and Menomonee Aves. in South Milwaukee.

Lawson dreamed up a 34-passenger, double-decker airplane with showers, sleeping berths, three 420-horsepower engines and a 68-foot cabin. He paid for it by selling \$1 shares of stock.

About a dozen people brought their original stock certificates to the Historical Society dinner last week. They say they're still waiting for the 10% return on investment that Lawson had promised.

Learn

## LAWSONOMY PRINCIPLES

University of Lawsonomy

4529 Hwy. 41  
Sturtevant, WI 53177

### \* PHYSICS CLASS

First Wednesday of  
each month at 8 p.m.

\*  
Meetings held on the  
last Sunday of each month  
at Noon

\*  
Founded by:

**ALFRED LAWSON**

of South Milwaukee

## HISTORIAL MEETING

2/26/81  
Show and Tell will be the featured event at the meeting of the South Milwaukee Historical Society on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Society home at 717 Milwaukee Ave. Those attending are asked to bring an item of historical interest.

