

St. Francis Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST 20th CENTURY RAILROAD CLUB

The great old days of railroading returns during two days in September when the Historical Society will host members of the 20th Century Railroad Club, a group from the Chicago area, who will be visiting St. Francis.

The train, made up of about 20 cars, many of which will be vintage railroad cars will be drawn by an authentic mainline steam locomotive, a classic Berkshire type from the last days of steam railroading.



The train along with approximately 700 passengers will arrive about 12:00 p. m. on Saturday September 22nd and again on Sunday September 23rd. The tour group has requested and received permission to disembark their passengers in the Municipal Park across from the St. Francis City Hall.

The Historical Society has been asked to coordinate the two days event and provide food and drink for the passengers, who will mainly be from the Chicago area. Many of the passengers will board awaiting busses for a tour of the Milwaukee area.

Need-less to say, this should be an exciting weekend. We will need help in providing for this many passengers - if interested call Ron Tessmer at 483-5100.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

We need people to work in the booth at St. Francis Days! The work is easy and there is a lot of fun involved. This year we are operating the "ring coin toss". Call John Heidenreich @ 483-7882, or Ed Wagner @ 744-1619 to sign up for a time to work. Each shift is two hours long and each day of the festival lasts from noon to 10:00 p. m. So - - pick a time to give some time! The dates for the city's celebration are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 31st, September 1st and 2nd.



THE 4th ANNUAL TRIP

Make plans now to join us for a tour of Old World Wisconsin in Eagle. This year the tour will be Sunday September 30th. Call Kathy Schwingle for the departure time (chartered bus) and to reserve you seat.

Old World Wisconsin is a living museum. From every corner of the state have been assembled more than forty buildings originally constructed by the immigrant settlers who flocked to Wisconsin during the nineteenth century to carve out a new state from wilderness. Their homes and farms, churches and business places, schools and community halls reflect the variety of structures and lifestyles they had known in their homelands. All of these buildings, as well as the diverse folkways of their original occupants, are preserved, furnished, and re-created by costumed interpreters at the 576-acre outdoor museum near Eagle in the beautiful Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Wisconsin's important agricultural heritage is preserved from its beginnings in the 1840's through maturity in the 1880's, to its flowering in the early twentieth century. This saga is illustrated by eight farmsteads that range from a one-room Norwegian log cabin of 1841 to a seven-building Finnish farm of 1910-1920. Distinctively German half-timbered architecture predominates on two of the three Germanic farms; traditional log construction conveys and Scandinavian culture at the Danish farm, the two Norwegian farms, and the two Finnish farms.

A crossroads village of the 1870's preserves an important economic and social element of nineteenth-century community life. Artisans and businessmen provided vital services, and lively social activity provided relief from the rigors of dawn-to-dusk farm chores. At the crossroads intersection the imposing three-story Four Mile House - formerly a stagecoach inn, now a rooming house - provides lodging and meals as well as a place for community meetings and the exchange of gossip and news. The blacksmith and wagonmaker's shops provide necessary services; the homes of the blacksmith and of a Swiss carpenter offer glimpses of home life in the village. The town hall and St. Peter's Church signify the important secular and spiritual roles of government and religion.

Visitors to Old World Wisconsin will rediscover their past. Painstakingly restored buildings sit amid fields of grain, neatly fenced pastures, and kitchen gardens. Authentically costumed staff go about their daily chores and the seasonal activities that were so much a part of life a century ago: preparing meals, tending barns and livestock, sowing and cultivating crops, harvesting and storing food crops and forage.

Throughout the year, special events highlight the changing of the seasons. The variety of farm activity is evident on special weekends in May, August, September, and October, highlighted by threshing in September. Midsummer Festival signals the longest day of the year and traditional beginning of summer. Independence Day marks America's birthday with red, white, and blue bunting and patriotic oratory.

Visitors to Old World Wisconsin are invited to view and participate in all of these activities.



OCTOBER FAIR

We are again sponsoring an Arts and Crafts Fair. This year it will be Sunday October 7th, at the Community Center. Call Diane Johnston for more information @ 483-5883.

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

As our primary fund raiser again this year, the Society is conducting a raffle. First prize will be a Bushel of cheer (Brandy, Whiskey, etc.) Second prize is a beautiful hand made quilt and third prize is a \$50 savings bond.

The winners will be selected by drawing tickets at random. This drawing will be held during our November 7th board meeting at Thompson Grade school at 8:00 p m. Everyone is welcome to attend this drawing.

Tickets have been sent to all members, anyone wishing more tickets should contact the raffle chairman, Bob Schwingle at 744-0873.

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Hales Corners Historical Society to host Regional Convention; each society is being asked to put together a display of their current activities, i. e. newsletters, pamphlets books, fund raising techniques, membership drives, signs, public relations, etc.

Milwaukee County Historical Society will be conducting a special fund raising event at the Milwaukee Grain exchange. This event will take the form of an antique show and sale to be held on October 5th, 6th, and 7th at the newly restored and magnificent grain exchange room of the Mackie Building, 225 E. Michigan Street. This year twenty-two dealers including representatives from five east coast states will exhibit during the three day show. The show will open Friday October 5th at 10:00 a. m. and run until 5:00 p m. A \$4.00 admission fee allows a visitor to embark on a trip to view the opulence of years gone but here beautifully restored in this historic Grain Exchange room.

August 26th Thresheree at Stonefield, featuring both steam and gasoline engines.
September 1, 15: Harness show, driving demonstrations, carriage exhibit, black-smithing demonstrations at Villa Louis; rides will be available. September 1, 16: Exhibit at Pendarvis of works by Mineral Point area artists and craftspeople.
September 2. Autumn on the Farm at Stonefield, with wood-making, quilting, and food preservation demonstrations.

WE WELCOME YOU

Our membership committee continues to work throughout the year. We wish to welcome Mrs. Ray Klug, and Mr. Gary TeKampe to our membership.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

September will be a very busy month for our Society starting off with St. Francis Days August 31st, September 1st and 2nd. This year we will be operating a ring toss game as our fund raiser instead of the ice cream booth we tried for the past several years. In addition we will have a display and other things of interest in our booth.

A few weeks after St. Francis Days, on September 22nd and 23rd, we will be host to the 20th Century Railroad Club and it's 1500 guests from Chicago as they bring their excursion to St. Francis for a tour of the Milwaukee area.

The following weekend is our own bus tour to Old World Wisconsin. Old World will be featuring the annual Grain Harvest with special threshing demonstrations and festivities, featuring a 1918 Port Huran Steam Engine, a wooden bodied threshing machine and for comparison, threshing by hand with a flail.