

St. Francis Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

spring 1984

NEW FACES

The Board of Directors welcomes Millie Schimelfenyg as its newest member. She and incumbent members Jean Kiehl and Kathy Schwingle were elected during the Jan. 30 meeting of the Society.

Millie was elected to the post formerly held by Terry Duffey. Because of numerous family, church, school and Scout activities, Terry is taking a 'breather' but continues as an interested regular member. Thank you, Terry, for your past participation as a board member and as editor of this newsletter and for your continued support of Society objectives!

Following the annual meeting, the board elected Society officers for 1984. The president is Ron Tessmer; vice president, Fr. Raymond Fetterer; secretary, Kathy Schwingle; treasurer, Marge Symkowski. The Board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in our rooms at Thompson School. You (and your ideas) are welcome to attend the board meetings.

THEY'RE OURS

Speaking of Thompson School, our rooms include a

former classroom which is now used by the Society for storage and a former teacher's lounge which we use as a board meeting room. Both rooms are on the second floor.

So, if you have items to donate, but have wondered just where the Society would safely store them, we now have a place. We will continue to hold general membership meetings at the Community Center.

OH, WHAT A DOLL!

The history of dolls will be the subject when the Memory Lane Doll Club of Milwaukee presents the program during the Society's general membership meeting on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. The histories of all types of dolls, including such 'species' as Barbie dolls, half-dolls and personality dolls, will be discussed. Members are welcome to bring a doll for identification or discussion. Also, the buying of dolls as an investment and the value of doll restoration will be reviewed.

(Are Cabbage Patch dolls now a part of history? Can't you hear it now: "But, Mom, think of the investment value!")

CLICKETY-CLACK, TAKE ME BACK

Our January meeting was trip into the past for those who remember Milwaukee's streetcar system, including the suburbans and interurbans. Jim Roever, president of the Milwaukee Railway and Transit Society, showed slides of

that forerunner of today's bus system. One of the goals of that society, short of the rebirth of a streetcar system, is place historical plaques at points significant to the streetcar/trolley system. One location suggested by Roever is the Lakeside Power Plant.

By the way, the Transit Historical Society accepted its first members last April during our Society's annual "Share and Grow" event.

Thanks, Jim, for the informative show.

THE TRAVELING HISTORY SHOW

Fr. Fetterer, Kathy Schwingle, Holly Schulz, Pat Witz and Nancy Muzia are putting together a historical display of the St. Francis area to include items from our archives (some of which are stored at the St. Francis Seminary library.) The display will be exhibited in the city schools on an informal basis.

SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

This year the "Share and Grow" afternoon of arts and crafts demonstrations will be held Sunday, May 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Call it a special Mother's Day edition. No sales are allowed: the show is held for the pleasure of sharing techniques. (For instance, if you've always wanted to learn to crochet, come and learn that craft.) At past shows, such crafts as ceramics, quilting, tatting, counted cross stitch,

woodburning and knitting were demonstrated.

Word has it there will be a woodcarver at this year's "Share and Grow." If you have a hobby/art/craft you would like to explain or display this year, contact Kathy Schwingle at 744-0873. There's no admission fee: it's an afternoon of comaraderie.

THINK OF IT AS EXERCISE

Every year at this time, we regroup and direct energies to the maintenance of the Lake Protestant Cemetery across from Thompson School. Sometime in April we will plan a clean-up day (usually a Saturday morning late in the month) to mow the grass and pick up the debris of winter. We have the mowers and the gas-powered weed-whacker. What we need are your manpower and your rakes. A definite date for the first clean-up will be announced in the local weekly newspapers. After the initial clean-up, routine mowings are completed in about two hours every two or three weeks, depending on the ever-undependable weather.

Note: if you haven't seen a jack-in-the-pulpit for some time, they can be seen at various spots in the cemetery in the springtime.

FROM AROUND THE STATE

COMMUNITY HISTORIANS IN RESIDENCE: The State Historical Society is once again offering its program titled "Community Historians in Residence Project."

Sponsored by the Office of Local History and funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project is intended to help non-professional historians learn the conceptual, research and writing skills that are needed to produce sound and interesting local history. Grant funds will enable ten people to live in Madison between July 7 and 21. They will attend seminars and conduct research on an aspect of their community's past. Seminar faculty members include midwestern university professors and staff members of the State Historical Society.

CUDAHY LANDMARK: The Milwaukee County Historical Society designated the Cudahy Railroad Depot a Milwaukee County Landmark at the Society's annual meeting in November. The depot is owned and operated by the Cudahy Historical Society which acquired it from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1978. Cudahy society members have spent many hours during the past five years restoring the building room by room. The depot, which stands in its original location, was chosen as a landmark because of its importance to Cudahy's growth as an industrial suburb. It now functions as museum and meeting place for the Cudahy society.

APPLEFEST IN NEW BERLIN: The first festival of what promises to become an annual tradition was a resounding success in New Berlin. The New Berlin Historical Society's Applefest in October featured tours through the society's historic home and carriage house, forty gallons of apple cider freshly

pressed on the spot, and a baked goods, crafts and mum sale. More than five hundred people attended the festivities.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our committee has been established and work has begun on our first display. As you will recall, this was one of our goals set early last year and I'm pleased to see our progress.

The committee has chosen as the subject of our display the events and documents surrounding the chartering of St. Francis as a city. They are attempting to gather as much interesting material as they can and they are asking for help in this area. If you have or if you know someone who has any pictures, documents, letters or other artifacts which will help illustrate this event, please let us hear from you.

I am looking for a few interested members to serve as honorary board members-- interested? Call me at 483-5100.

Our membership continues to grow and this, of course, is very pleasing. We are happy to extend our welcome to our newest members-- Bill and Grace Quirk.

Remeber to ask your friends and neighbors to join our Society. A membership blank is included in this newsletter.

--Ron Tesmer

NO JOSHING

If you have an idea about a name other than 'Newsletter' for this newsletter, let one of the officers know. . . .

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

ANNUAL DUES

(check one)

Individual, \$4 Family, \$5 Sustaining, \$15 Life, \$100
 Corporate, \$100

I would like to be contacted about an active role in the activities of the Society. Check, if yes. _____

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