

St. Francis Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1987

4235 South Nicholson Avenue
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53207
(414) 481-2300



ANOTHER SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

The 10th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the Historical Society will be held Sunday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. A wide variety of items will be available for sale: wreaths, dolls, wooden shelves and toys, doll clothes, afghans, pillows, yard ornaments, ceramics and much, much more!

The Society will again have a bake sale during the fair. If you would like to donate cookies, brownies or other baked goods, please bring them to the Community Center on the 8th between 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Admission to the fair is free. Sandwiches, coffee and soda will be available. Please plan to attend!!



SOCIETY REPRESENTED AT TWO CONVENTIONS

The Metropolitan Region Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, of which our Society is a member, was held Sept. 26. The host was the Bay View Historical Society.

The historic Avalon Theatre was the site of the convention and tours of the 1920 building were offered. Dale Kuntz, movie historian and president of Milwaukee Film Classics, talked about movie stars of the 1930s and '40s. A concert was also performed on the Avalon's magnificent pipe organ. In the afternoon, there was a slide show about "Historic Bay View" at the South Shore pavilion.

The Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History was held Oct. 16 and 17 and highlighted the state's ethnic history.

The convention began with behind-the-scenes tours of Old World Wisconsin on Friday. The convention reconvened Saturday at the State Historical Society where programs were presented about researching ethnic history. Further information was available at the local history resource center.



DONATIONS FROM A NEW MEMBER

Chris Barney has donated a recent color photo enlargement of the Lakeside Power Plant to our Society. He has offered several other items relating to St. Francis and the old Town of Lake which the Society may copy, including a 1930 map of Milwaukee County.

"TURKEY SHOOT" ANOTHER SUCCESS

More than 5,000 games of Turkey Shoot, according to treasurer Marge Symkowski's calculations, were played when the Historical Society sponsored the game during St. Francis Days. At 25 cents per game and minus booth rental and other expenses, the Society realized a healthy profit from the fundraising event.

Pat Witz and Laura Staats were the chairpersons of the game booth.

CRUISIN' ON THE "STAR"

A special event sponsored by the Historical Society on Aug. 2 was a cruise of the Milwaukee harbor. About 25 members and their guests boarded the "Star of Milwaukee" for the afternoon dinner cruise.

The outing was coordinated by Diane Johnston, chairman of our Tours Committee.



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The Historical Society sponsored a successful used book sale during the Aug. 9 grand opening of the St. Francis Public Library. Books that were not sold are being stored on shelves in the unfinished area of the Library's basement. (A date for the next used book sale will be announced in the local media.)

FALL TOUR AT OLD WORLD

It was a beautiful day Sept. 27 when 30 members and their guests toured Old World Wisconsin. Fall colors were predominantly green, but the tour of the ethnic settlement was as interesting as ever. (The trip to Old World is an annual one, as long as enough people sign up for the excursion.)

By the way, the Historical Society's Board is always interested in new ideas for group outings. If you have a suggestion, call Diane Johnston at 483-5883. Also, let Diane know if you would be interested in a group trip to Dearborn, MI to see Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. That trip is a "maybe" for next spring!



PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

Laura Staats, chairperson, and a group of four volunteers began working on Sept. 19 on cataloging the many items collected by the Society. Items were tagged and their descriptions recorded.

There is much more work to be done. If you would like to help with the cataloging, call Laura at 481-9849, evenings, to volunteer.

STREETS OF YESTERYEAR

The Milwaukee County Historical Society has many programs available for community education. One of the slide presentations, "Downtown Milwaukee of the 1880s" was shown during the June 29 general meeting of our Society. The interesting program was narrated by Harry Anderson of the County Historical Society.

CHAD DID A GREAT JOB

Chad Stier of Oak Creek is an Eagle Scout candidate. He decided to work on improving the Lake Protestant Cemetery for his Eagle project. His letter to the Society is reprinted below and describes the jobs he completed in the cemetery.



Dear Chief Schwingle and Historical Society members:

I am writing this letter for three reasons:

- 1. To inform the Historical Society that my Boy Scout Eagle project in the Lake Protestant Cemetery is now completed.*
- 2. To describe, and show, what tasks I and my crew of helpers accomplished.*
- 3. Simply to thank you.*

As mentioned above, my Eagle project is finally complete in the cemetery. I started back on February 11, 1986 by looking over the cemetery to see if there were any jobs that I could undertake that would improve or upgrade the cemetery in some way. I found that there were, indeed, many things that could be done. Several months elapsed in which time I formulated ideas, sought advice, obtained the necessary permissions, attended numerous City Council and Historical Society meetings, and the like. The actual labor of my ultimate two-year long project finally commenced on August 17, 1986. For the rest of that summer and again in the summer of '87, we removed thirty-nine stumps by digging and chopping them out. Their sizes ranged from a small of 2" in diameter up through 45" measured at ground level with the average size being about 17" to 20" accross. This stump removal phase of my project was completed on June 7, 1987. My emphasis then switched to completely rebuilding the Norwich Avenue steps leading up into the cemetery. Again more letters and meetings were necessary in order to make another idea workable. On August 11, 1987, new materials were purchased and on August 18, the actual work began on installing the new steps. As the photos enclosed will bear me out, we removed five steps and installed eight new ones. A sturdy railing was erected where none was there before and a concrete approach was poured at the base. Sod was then layed. Finally, on August 30, 1987, our endeavors paid off as the stepaphase of this project was completely finished. If I might say so myself, the finished product turned out quite well.

We (myself, fellow Boy Scouts, Adult leaders from my Troop), have enjoyed the numerous Sundays of these past two summers working in the Lake Cemetery toward my two goals of stumps removal and steps reconstruction. I have found it especially rewarding that the St. Francis Historical Society, especially Chief Robert Schwingle, cooperated with my efforts by offering guidance and advice for me to accomplish the goals that I set out to do. As other boys in my Boy Scout troop become of age and are anticipating doing their forthcoming Eagle projects, of which some of them may very well be in this same cemetery, I trust that the Historical Society members will again be receptive to their ideas as you were toward mine.

Again I say thank you, and remain

Respectfully in Scouting,

Chad C. Stier

Eagle Scout Candidate, Troop 303

St. Augustines Church, Milwaukee

NEWSLETTER
St. Francis Historical Society
4235 S. Nicholson Ave.
St. Francis, WI 53207



ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CENTER
3476 E. HOWARD AVE.

