

St. Francis Historical Society

Newsletter

Spring * 1988

4235 South Nicholson Avenue
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53207
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Interviews of Those "In The Know"

Board member Chris Barney has undertaken a project for which the Society has been looking for a chairperson: the interviewing of area residents who can provide an insight into the early history of St. Francis and the old Town of Lake.

Chris is enthusiastic about the project, but could use some help. He needs people who would be willing to conduct some of the taped interviews or to transcribe the tapes. As he said, "Even on a limited basis, any help would take some of the burden off." He has a list of more than 25 names provided by the board and also has his own list of interview prospects. If you would like to volunteer to help Chris with this interesting project, call President Kathy Schwingle at 744-0873 and she will give your name and phone number to Chris.

Members Entertained

Members and their guests enjoyed a colorful performance by the Czech Moravian Dance Group during the April 25 general membership meeting of the Society. The ethnic dance group has performed both locally and in other states and has appeared at the Milwaukee Folk Fair.



Displays A Popular Feature

The Society is continuing to provide displays of historical value in the glass-enclosed cases at the St. Francis Public Library. During April, the display focused on Coca-Cola memorabilia loaned to the Society by Earl Peters of Coca-Cola Collectors, Greenfield. All of the displays have been attractively arranged by Marge and Ron Tessmer.

A recent display featured the history of a popular local event. Here's what Ron and Marge wrote about the display:

"After having received some very nice comments on our 'Christmas' display, our first attempt at displaying at the library, we were very encouraged and eager to present our second display: 'Miss St. Francis-- From a Beauty Pageant to a Scholarship Program.

"The first Miss St. Francis Pageant was held September 5, 1965, at Willow Glen School. The Pageant was called 'Beauty Pageant' whereas today it is titled 'Miss St. Francis Scholarship Pageant', a preliminary Miss America Pageant.

"The first queen for St. Francis was Antoinette Grabske. She was awarded \$100 of which she donated 1/2 to St. John's School for the Deaf, a crown (to be passed on) and a banner. The queen was judged on beauty, poise and personality.

"Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Wichgers were the pageant directors which was sponsored by the St. Francis Association of Commerce. A Jr. Miss St. Francis was also crowned for the first four years. The first was 6 year old Nancy King of St. Francis.

"The second annual pageant was held August 25, 1966 and had moved to the High School and was the site of the local pageants until Saturday, July 26, 1969, when Pio Nono, or

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Thomas More as it is called now, became the new location and is still being used today. The pageant became affiliated with the Miss Wisconsin Pageant and an official Miss America preliminary in 1968 several months after Judy Korpak was selected as queen. Out of the 22 queens, two received the title of second runner-up to Miss Wisconsin: Judy Korpak in 1968 and Susan Schroetner in 1969. Three contestants were selected as 'Top Ten'-- Cheryl Maslowski in 1980, Mary George in 1982 and CoryAnn St. Marie in 1986. In 1985, Mary Kay Anderson was crowned Miss Wisconsin."

The current library display features music boxes on loan from Leone Morbeck of Bay View. The next display will feature Society items which illustrate a Memorial Day theme.



You're Welcome At Board Meetings

The Society's board meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend the meetings which are held in the Society's rooms on the second level of Thompson School. Enter the school through the rear entrance.

No Joshing!

. . . notes from Lois Neubauer

(The editor gave her this heading as a play on "Nojoshing" which is what early Indian settlers called this area. It's OK, Lois, you can change the title to one of your choosing! - mh)

St. Francis has Kinnickinnic Avenue. "Kinnickinnic" was the Indian word for a mixture of leaves and willow bark which the Indians smoked.

St. Francis is a part of Milwaukee County. "Milwaukee" had many variations to its name: Millioki, Miesitgan, Mel Warik, Milwacky, Mahnawaukee Seepe, which means "Gathering Place By The River", and, Meeleewaugee, which means "Stinking River".




No Experience Required

The Society has a "job" opening for someone who is a regular newspaper reader. We need someone who will clip articles from the Journal, Sentinel and, especially, from the Reminder-Enterprise that are of value to the Society. For example, stories to be clipped and saved would include those about the history of the seminary, about the razing of the Lakeside Power Plant, about the preservation of the Seminary Woods, about anything that has historical flavor of the St. Francis and old Town of Lake area.

Kathy Schwingle at 744-0873 is the person to call if you are interested in the job.

Cataloging A Detailed Process

 Laura Staats and Adele Lenz are the chairpersons of the committee which has been working to accurately identify the many items in the Society's collection. The goal is to have everything coded and descriptions entered into a journal prior to the summer months when the Society must move to new quarters.

The cataloging of items is a detailed process, as Laura Staats describes in the following paragraphs.

The cataloging process consists of the following 5 steps:

1. Taking physical inventory of all articles, grouping them as follows: a., artifacts (museum objects)--furniture, clothing, tools, utensils, art objects, etc; b., library material-- books, newspapers, magazines, etc.; c., manuscripts and documents-- letters, diaries, business and personal records, maps, etc.; d., photographic material-- photographs, prints, portraits, paintings, drawings, etc. Physical inventory consists of attaching a temporary inventory number to each item and completing an inventory information sheet for it within each group.

2. Sort the inventory sheets chronologically in terms of the date of acquisition. Then, enter each item in the appropriate group journal, assigning each item a permanent accession inventory number (called the "catalog number").

3. Permanently affix the catalog numbers to all objects.

4. Prepare a 3x5 card catalog for each group of articles from the inventory information sheets and the

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journal entries (called the "subject" card catalog).

5. (Optional) Prepare a separate card file listing donations contributed by a given donor (called the "donor" card catalog).

To date, we have assigned and attached 237 temporary inventory numbers to the "artifacts" group. Of these 237 items, we have 128 fully completed inventory information sheets and approximately 60 sheets for which we were able to obtain complete information.

Those inventory sheets that are fully complete will be used to make the journal entries for the artifacts journal. When the journal entries are complete, permanent catalog numbers can be affixed to the items.



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