

# St. Francis Historical Society

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

\*\*\*\*\*NEWSLETTER\*\*\*\*\*

Spring, 1983

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## DEUTES PROGRAM

The following is taken from President Reagan's proclamation, "Tricentennial Anniversary Year of German Settlement in America".

"On October 6, 1683, a group of thirteen Mennonite families coming from the city of Krefeld, now in Federal Republic of Germany, founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, today a suburb of Philadelphia. Since then, more than seven million German immigrants have entered the United States and made extraordinary human, economic, political, social, and cultural contributions to the growth and success of our great country.

Today there are more than sixty million Americans of German descent, a number about equal to the total population of Federal Republic of Germany. More Americans claim German ancestry than any other nationality".

At our General Membership meeting on Monday March 28, Dr. Juergen Eichhoff, Professor of German at the University of Wisconsin, brought this topic closer to home by describing German immigration to Wisconsin.

A few of the facts revealed at the meeting were that of all the states in the nation, Wisconsin had the highest percentage of Germans and their descendants among it's total population by the time mass immigration ended late in the 19th century. In 1890, more Wisconsin residents were born in Germany than all other foreign countries combined.

## SHARE AND GROW

On April 10, your Society once again offered it's Share and Grow program.

Volunteers share their skills and hobbies free of charge. Professional sales are not allowed. The Arts and Crafts program in the fall provides for that.

Nearly 300 people came during the day to view and ask questions of the fourteen demonstrators.

Candle wicking, chair caning, chair weaving, porcelain doll painting, electrified trains exhibit, quilting, tatting, needlework, doll making, pillow making, and calligraphy provided spectators with quite a variety.

If you missed this event, join us next year. Do you have something to share that would help others grow?

Thanks to purchasers of refreshments and to the St. Francis Lions for use of the Community Center.

#### TOUR OF ST. FRANCIS SEMINARY GROUNDS

Once again Fr. Raymond Fetterer has provided us with a fine tour of points of interest in St. Francis Seminary.

The group of about twenty-five people met on May 23 at Henni Hall. They viewed the inspiring chapel and improvements in the South wing of the building. The old kitchen area has been turned into a recreation area.

At this point, the group split. Some elected to browse in the Library and others went to Heiss Hall and its chapel and museum.

Refreshments re-united the group at Henni Hall for a pleasant ending.

#### 1983 ANNUAL MEETING OF STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WI

The annual meeting will take place this year in Janesville. The Ramada Inn will be the site on June 16-18.

The annual meeting is a combination of business meetings, tours, programs, speakers and awards.

#### A SAMPLING OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| May 7      | Circus World Museum at Baraboo opens.   |
| June 15    | Season opens at Madeline Island Historical Museum in Lake Superior.                       |
| July 16-17 | Steamboat Days at Prairie In Chien and a pageant performed on the grounds of Villa Louis. |
| Aug. 27-28 | Woodcarving at Pendavois in Mineral Point.  |
| Sept. 4    | Chop cabbage for sauerkraut and squeeze apples for cider at Stonefield at Cassville.      |
| Oct 8-9    | Gather the bounty of fields and gardens at Old Wade House in Greenbush.                   |

Order a complete calendar from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

## OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

One of the sites owned and operated by the State Historical Society is right in our own "backyard". Old World Wisconsin is located outside of Eagle in the southern Kettle Moraine Forest.

This year in addition to it's regular attraction there is a major exhibit called "Six Generations Here: A Family Remembers".

The exhibit presents the history of the William and Wilhelmina Krueger family, who immigrated from Pomerania to Dodge County in 1851. Photographs, letters, albums, diaries, family possessions bring the family to life.

The quality of the exhibit is of such high caliber that it will go on a national tour after leaving Old World in October.

## RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be available soon for the November drawing.

First prize is a hand made quilt  
Second prize is a bushel of cheer  
Third prize is a bushel of food  
Plus other prizes.

## LOOKING AHEAD

4th of July parade - Look for your Society riding in an old time fire engine.

St. Francis Days - Visit our ice cream booth in Memorial Park September 2-4, 3600 block of E. Lunham Ave. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth

Sunday, Sept. 25 - Tour of Old World Wisconsin

Sunday, Oct. 2 - Arts and crafts fair, St. Francis Community Center 12 noon to 4 pm

Monday, Nov. 28 - General Membership Meeting

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our special "Hats off" thank you to Kathy Schwingle and Diane Johnston and the entire Show and Grow committee for an outstanding project. This program continues to grow each year and has developed into an outstanding community project.

Special Thanks to Father Fetterer and everyone from the Major Seminary for their time in conducting our tour of the St. Francis Major Seminary. We had approximately 25

members and guests, if you weren't able to be there you missed a good one.

We are about 20 members short of having all our members paid up - if you have not paid your 1983 dues please take a minute to send them in. We welcome Rev. Ken Augustin, Sophie Koscielak, Rose Inason, and Shirley Dressnandt as new members to our Society. Enclosed is a new member application how about presenting the opportunity to join our Society to at least one friend.

I am looking for a chairman and possibly board members, if you have interest and would like to become more involved in our Society give me a call at 483-5100 and we will talk about it. Your call will not commit you - but it's the only way I have of knowing your interests. You can be assured, I'll not ask you for more than you are willing to give.

We have a few projects coming up that will require man power and cooperation: first - our annual raffle ticket will be available by the 4th of July - ( the drawing will be held in November). We are asking everyone to buy or sell some tickets. Second, St. Francis Days - we will again be selling ice cream from our booth - your help is needed here also.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES

Individual	\$ 4.00
Family	\$ 5.00
Sustaining	\$ 15.00
Life	\$100.00
Corporation	\$100.00

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

MAIL TO: Ron Tessmer  
2036 E. Fernwood Ave. OR  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Bob Schwingle  
3429 E. Van Beck Ave.  
St. Francis, WI 53207

## MEMORIES OF ST. FRANCIS

Bob Schwingle, Chief of the St. Francis Fire Dept. and life-long St. Francis resident.

Bob has many pleasant memories of growing up in St. Francis during the mid thirties and forties.

Places to play were abundant. The woods at the west end of Greene Park was a favorite. It was here that he and his pals would go to and camp for the day, bringing food, cooking and eating it. Use of such an ideal setting did not come easy because sometimes the boys from Cudahy were there and felt it was their woods. Skirmishes were common. Whoever had the most boys usually enjoyed the woods.

Bob recalls Grabske's gravel pit at what is now Waterford and Canfield avenues. How fortunate for the kids when a spring was hit and the pit filled up so that they could ice skate during the winter.

Bob remembers Lipton avenue being rough cut into Cudahy during the Depression, the swampy area at Lipton and Denton, the steel mill at the east end of Crawford avenue, the huge coal piles from Kinnickinnic to Lake Drive. He remembers walking from Van Beck avenue on paths through fields and coming out on Packard and Lunham.

Little by little the subdivisions filled in the swamps and gravel pits, leveled the fields and cut the apple orchards, but the memories are vivid of a happy and simple time.