

*St. Francis Historical Society*  
4235 South Nicholson Avenue  
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235

November 2001

Dear Member:

This is the first edition of the St. Francis Historical Society Newsletter. It will be published six times per year, and will include excerpts of interviews from our Oral History Project.

We're happy to report that the 50th Anniversary Oral History book was published this summer. It has received many positive reviews.

Why not consider giving a gift of St. Francis history for Christmas? The books are available for purchase at St. Francis Public Library. If you wish to have a book mailed to you, the cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Make your checks payable to St. Francis Historical Society and send to Lois Neubauer, 4029 South Lipton Avenue, St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235.

The Milwaukee County Historical Society contacted us and offered to underwrite the production of eight posters depicting elements of Town of Lake and St. Francis history. We provided the text and photographs and they produced the posters. The posters are now making the rounds of schools in St. Francis. For a week they were at St. Francis Bank. These posters will eventually be on display at the Milwaukee County Historical Society. If you know of any business or organization that would like to display these posters, please contact James Goodwin at 762-7805.

Board of Directors  
St. Francis Historical Society

# ST. FRANCIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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*This report by Lilly Stelmaszewski is part of our Oral History Project. She grew up in the "Lupo House", which is now the headquarters of the St. Francis Historical Society. Lilly and her husband, Chuck, now live in Florida.*

When we moved to St. Francis(Town of Lake) in July of 1940, there were very few houses on Packard Avenue near our house. There was a house next door where the Stephen Miller family lived. It was like a small farm. They had chickens, pigs, horses and a garden. There was Kucik's house on Packard. They had cows. Next door was Vretnars old house. There were also one or two very old farm houses across Packard Avenue from our house. Later on there was a trailer park where Greene Park is now. I also remember Barnes gas station on the corner where Packard Avenue and Lake Drive meet.

Our house was on a hill. On the south side at the bottom of the hill there was a creek with a small bridge where my brother and I crossed the creek to go to St. Fredericks school. Sometimes the creek overflowed in winter and froze and we would ice skate there. Of course, everyone remembers "Bessies Hill" where we went sledding.

Our big entertainment was going to the Majestic or the Cudahy theaters, and going to Tompkins for a sundae or a malt after the movie.

## Coming events:

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 6:00P.M. at Madecki's Restaurant on St. Francis Ave. Entrees available are chicken, steak, shrimp and fish. Please indicate your choice to Jim Goodwin at 762-7805 before November 30, 2001. See you there!!!

The St. Francis Library is sponsoring an "Old Fashioned Christmas" on Sunday December 9th, 2001 from 1:00 to 4:00 at the library. There will be an Art and Antique sale (silent auction).