



Seymour History Bulletin

A quarterly publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society Inc.

Dedicated to preserving Seymour Area History

June 2010

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Summer Excitement

Welcome to the summer edition of the ***Seymour History Bulletin***. This issue includes an update of the new museum building project, Music in the Park news, an early history of the fair, an article about Seymour's first dentist, and a preview of the art show at the museum on July 16. Look for all these articles and more.

The Seymour Community Historical Society has added 14 new lifetime members since our spring newsletter. Our membership is now at 221. Help us grow by talking with your friends and encourage them to join.

Future Plans

Change is constant at the museum and with the society. The new building will allow us to expand offerings for our membership. One of our board members, Ellen Piehl is a accredited genealogist and has plans to make her services available for those interested in family history. We will have computer stations where members can access ancestry.com and other historical sites. Our Web site ***www.seymourhistory.com*** is growing and plans are underway to add a search engine. We have extensive obituary files at the museum and these will be made more accessible.

We are always interested in obtaining more articles that relate to the history of the area. Some items of particular interest include anything with Seymour advertising, toys, tools and clothing that is in good shape.

Art Show Featuring Giz Herbst

On Friday, July 16, the museum will display the watercolors of longtime Seymour teacher, coach and athletic director Giz Herbst. Giz and his wife Linda have been operating ***Yore Place*** in Egg Harbor, a Door County gallery for the past 25 years. Papa Giz, as he was named by his granddaughter Emma, recently sat down for an interview with Bill Collar.



"Papa" Herbst at work in his Egg Harbor studio.

How long have you been painting? I started working with watercolors in 1975 and got serious about it after I finished the studio in 2002.

What type of painting do you do? My friend, photographer Monte Kraft, refers to me as an "architectural folk artist." I enjoy painting buildings and the backgrounds. Several of my series include lighthouses, farmsteads, and wildflowers. My most recent work is "Covered bridges of Door County."

I didn't realize Door County had covered bridges. Last year we took a trip to Parke County, Indiana. It has 31 covered bridges dating from 1856-1920, of which 11 were built before 1900. The covered bridges fit right into the villages and landscape of Door County as if they were there at the beginning of the development of the county. I said, "Why not bring the charm of the bridges to Door County?"



Giz's view of "New Ephriam" with the covered bridge.

What type of training have you had? I took art classes in high school and have a degree from UW-Stout in Industrial Arts with an emphasis in drafting and design....my mother dabbled in oil painting....my dad was a master craftsman who built ship models for the Navy and Coast Guard, Peterson Ship Builders, and venues such as Sturgeon Bay's Maritime Museum and Madison's Veteran's Museum....

Do you have any favorite artists? I admire the work of Door County artists Charles Peterson, Gerhardt Miller, and Kathy Glasnap. They are very gifted and I have learned a lot through observing how they do things.

How do you feel about exhibiting your work in Seymour? It will be a nice opportunity to see many old friends and show them what I have been doing.

You are Invited
"The Watercolors of Giz Herbst"

Door County's Architectural Folk Artist

Seymour Community Museum

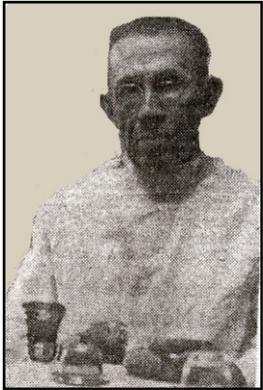
Friday, July 16 5:00-9:00 PM

Come and Meet the Artist.

Wine, Cheese and Snacks will be Served.

SEYMOUR'S FIRST DENTIST

When Dr. George Libby retired in 1951 after serving Seymour area residents for 55 years, both the Green Bay Press-Gazette and Appleton Post-Crescent published an interview with him. The following article includes excerpts from both papers. Dr. Libby's recollections provide an insight into what life was like in the area during the late 1800s and early 1900s.



After his graduation from Northwestern University, Dr. Libby returned to New London to work in the dental office of D. W. Haskell. It was then he made his first trips to Seymour carrying his dental instruments in a grip. A room to serve as an office was reserved for him at the White House Hotel on North Main St. After a few months he opened an office in the Stewart Building on South Main Street. In 1898 he moved his office to the newly opened Falck Hotel (Hotel Seymour). Ten years later he opened an office above the State Bank (Don's parking lot).

First Dentist

Dr. Libby said he was he was the first dentist to serve Seymour and was the only dentist for 20 years. In the early years he drove his team to Bonduel where he had an office in a private home. He also traveled to Marion where his father operated a general store. In six years he only missed two trips. "At times," he says it was 30 below zero, there were no snow plows and I had to gauge the road by the fence posts."

Steamboat Travel

Before railroads were built, Dr. Libby, as a boy, used to go with his family from New London to Oshkosh by steamboat on the Wolf River. He remembers too, the stage that went from Green Bay to Shawano carrying mail and passengers. He speaks of the old military road that went from Green Bay to Superior. It was the practice in those days to use corduroy or logs in swampy places along the road, which made traveling exceedingly tough.

Social Life

In discussing the social life of Seymour during the early days, Dr. Libby says dancing was very popular during the winter months. There were two local dance halls and orchestras were hired from Green Bay, Appleton, and Oshkosh. Traveling German bands played in taverns in communities through which they passed. As soon as word got around that one was in town they were hired for a dance that night and a crowd was rounded up. Costume parties were held and Dr. Libby, possessing a keen sense of humor was the inspiration of more than one merry event.

The Winner Brothers of Wausau traveled about in the early days giving stage shows, he recalls. They produced a different show every night during their stay in a community and they were so popular that everyone turned out. For many years they appeared annually at the Seymour fair. Dr. Libby never missed a fair and in the old days he said it was all horse races and big pumpkins.

Early Seymour

When he first came to Seymour there were no telephones, no paved streets, no waterworks, and no electric lights. All

trips were made by horses or on the train which came through town twice a day on the Green Bay and Lake Pepin Railroad.

He remembers the old fire engine in Seymour called Fire Strife no.1, which was operated by men pumping on either side. Seymour had many fires in the old days and everyone had to help fight them. As he recalls, the largest fires were the old school building, which burned in 1903, the Stewart flour mill, the Munger livery barn, and the Seymour woodenware plant.

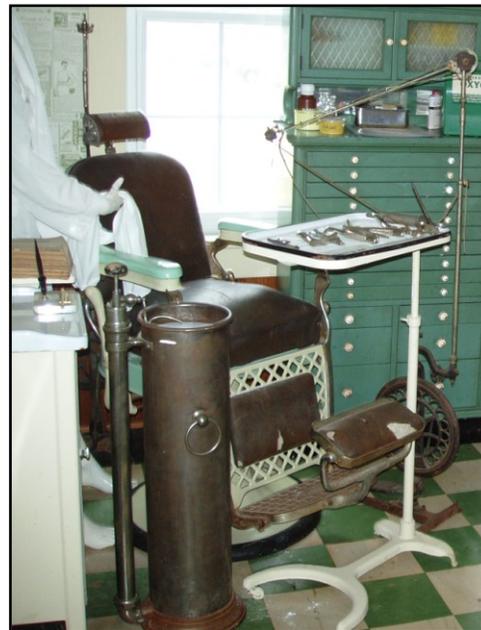
Seymour used to have wooden sidewalks and an old town pump, which was located in front of McCord's drug store. On a warm summer day this old pump was the most popular place in town.

Kerosene Lamps

The village used to be lit by kerosene lamps which were set on posts on street corners. Every evening about dusk they had to be cleaned and lighted. Dr. Libby remembers a young lad named Fred Wolk used to make the rounds on an old white horse which would stop at each lamp while Fred cleaned and lit the wick. When electric lights were first introduced in Seymour the power was turned off at midnight. If a party was in progress around midnight, everyone rushed to get home before the lights went out. For a small fee the lights could be left on for an extra hour and that was often the case according to Dr. Libby.

Dentistry Changed

Dr. Libby said there have been many improvements in

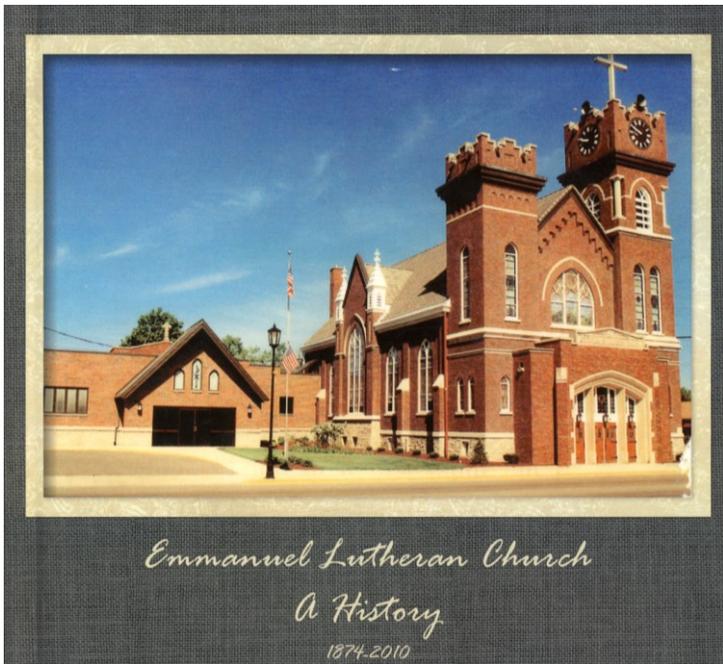


The museum dental office display includes a chair similar to what Dr. Libby used and a foot-powered drill. The historical society also has in its collection the first set of false teeth made by Dr. Libby

dentistry through the years. Instead of the old time drill that had to be pumped by foot, electric motors now do the work. There have been great improvements in dentist's chairs and the coming of x-rays greatly aided in the preservation of teeth. He recalls the first set of artificial dentures he made, which were then called "false teeth," and he remembers the name of the lady for whom they were made. Years ago false teeth were made from rubber, or porcelain.

Time to go Fishing

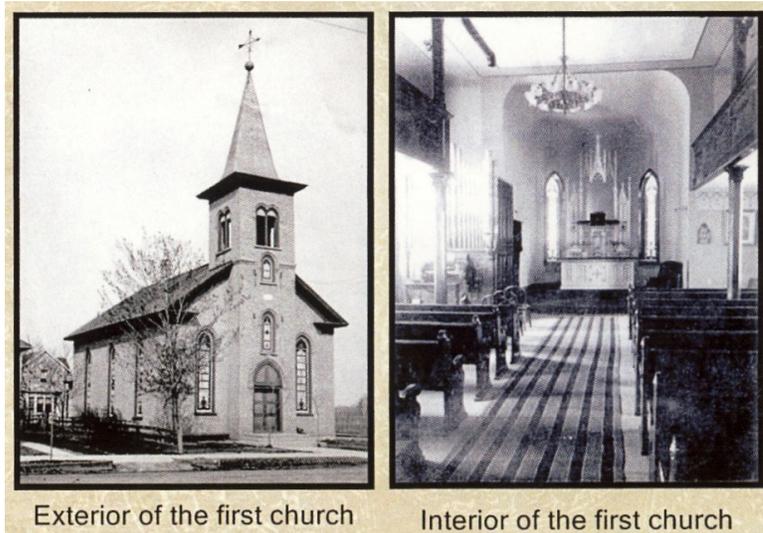
Recently Dr. Libby sold his practice and equipment to Dr. Erdmann, who will continue to practice in the same office in the State Bank building. Dr. Libby loves to fish and for years owned a cottage on Loon Lake. He and Mrs. Libby have one son, Dr. Robert Libby, who is married and lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. When cool weather comes, they hope to spend the winter with their son and his family.



*Emmanuel Lutheran Church
A History
1874-2010*

Recently Deanna De Bruin donated a copy of her new book, **Emmanuel Lutheran Church A History 1874 – 2010**, to the museum. The 40-page book details the history of the church from its inception to present day. Filled with rare photos and a rich historical data, the book is available for your perusal at the museum. A brief excerpt follows:

"In 1878 the congregation built its first church, which seated over 300 people. The property upon which the church and parsonage stood was purchased for \$500.00. Services were conducted in the house which was included in the purchase price. The first house of worship was erected on land where the current church stands, and required great sacrifice from the small group of members, all of whom were relatively poor."



Exterior of the first church

Interior of the first church

Information regarding the purchase of the book or a CD is available from Deanna De Bruin jnddebruin@gmail.com or phone: 920 833-0201.

The Seymour Fair a Spectacular Attraction Since 1885

The summer edition of the **Seymour History Bulletin** would be incomplete without reference to the fair. This poster from the 1925 Post-Crescent describes the popular attractions ranging from horse races to baseball games.

Let's Go--The Great SEYMOUR FAIR

3 Big Days--Aug., 25, 26, 27
2 BIG NIGHTS, AUG. 25, 26

Absolutely the biggest fair ever held in this community. A fair of the people, for the people, by the people in every art, trade and industry.

Three Grand and Glorious Days, 2 Big Spectacular Nights

Horse Pulling Contest Tuesday, August 25

Preliminaries Start at 10 o'clock a. m., Finals Start at 2 o'clock p. m.

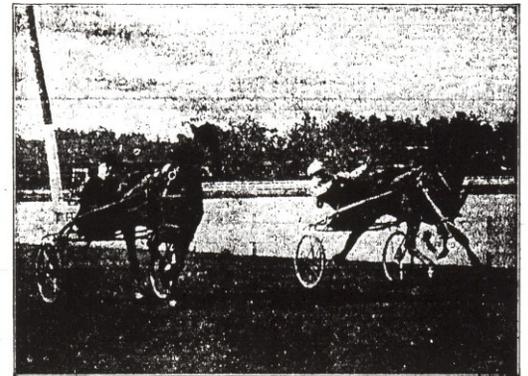
EIGHT FAST HORSE RACES

Increased Purses

Well Arranged Programs

Clean and Spirited Contests

Two Harness Races Daily. Running Races On Last Two Days.



VERY EXCITING ::: MOST THRILLING

| Tuesday August 25th | Wednesday August 26th | Thursday August 27 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2:30 Pace Added Money . \$300.00 | 2:30 Pace Added Money . \$300.00 | 2:15 Pace, Added Money . \$300.00 |
| 2:30 Trot Added Money . 300.00 | 2:10 Trot Added Money . 300.00 | 2:16 Trot, Added Money . 300.00 |
| | Running Race, 1/2 Mile ... 50.00 | Running Race, 1/4 Mile ... 50.00 |

MUSIC-- By the Famous 120th Field Artillery Band of Appleton and The American Legion Band of Green Bay. Plenty of Music all the time.

BASEBALL-- Base Ball Games Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Between the Best and Most Evenly Matched Teams in This Community. Interesting, Entertaining.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Tuesday, August 25, Pulaski vs. Zachow | Wednesday, August 26, Appleton vs. Duck Creek | Thursday, August 27, Anston vs. Seymour |
|---|--|--|

10 Big Free Attractions 10

During the 1920s and 30s on "Appleton Day" at the fair it was customary to form a motorcade and travel to Seymour in a caravan. This article from the August 24, 1925 P-C shows the magnitude of the response.

FORM MOTORCADE HERE TO ATTEND FAIR AT SEYMOUR

Car Owners Asked to Line Up at the Chamber of Commerce at Noon on Wednesday

Every automobilist participating in the caravan to Seymour for Appleton day is requested to be in line by noon so the motorcade can start moving promptly at 12:15. The Artillery Band will head the caravan and must be in Seymour to start its concert at 1:30.

The chamber of commerce still has a quantity of automobile banners, windshield stickers and hatbands that

advertise Appleton with the familiar slogan, "You'll like Appleton," which may be obtained by fair visitors upon request. Some of the stickers call attention to Appleton as a trading center by reminding fair visitors that Appleton is only a 45-minute drive from Seymour.

"Appleton Day" was a huge success. The August 27, 1925 Post-Crescent reported the following.

APPLETON HELPS SWELL CROWD AT SEYMOUR'S FAIR

Estimate 16,000 People in Spacious Fair Grounds

Appleton day at the Seymour fair attracted 1,600 cars to the grounds and 16,000 in paid attendance. Farmers threw down their tools and busy businessmen forsook their counters as they and their families sped away to Seymour for a day's entertainment and swelled the total attendance to a greater number than was ever before recorded. The crowding of the grounds was due in large measure to the Appleton businessmen who had united to boost the fair. A survey of the grandstand convinced the observer that Appleton was deserted and the population had emigrated to Seymour. The vast throng made no mistake, as it was well entertained.

MUSIC IN THE PARK HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

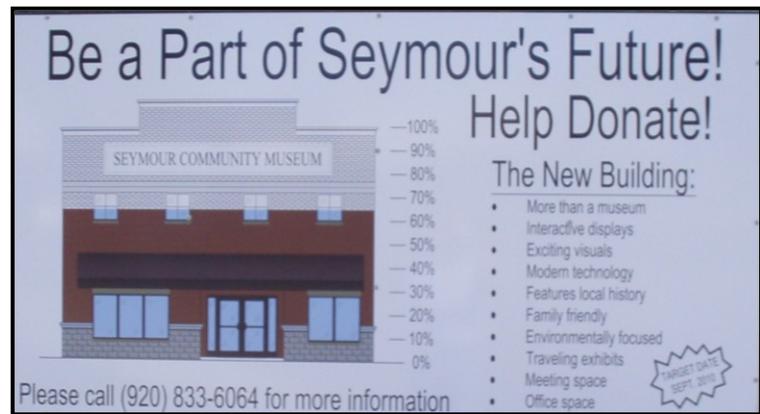
The summer music program organized by the historical society and sponsored by area businesses is off to a great start. The 15 musical groups are scheduled by John and Lynn Koenigs. Bring your lawn chairs and join in the fun.

Remaining Dates

- June 23 Northern Lights with Dale Johnson - Variety
- June 30 Tom's Tunes & Shelly and The Praise Band.
- July 7 Walt Hess and the Rim Shots (Country favorites).
- July 14 The Rite Tones – Toni Huettl & Tony.
- July 21 The New Generation - Seymour's warm up to Pulaski's Polka Days.
- July 28 Starwood - Kevin & Sandy Krahn, Renae, Mark, and Uncle Dan.
- Aug. 4 KNX and The Party Band - Variety – HOTH Kickoff.
- Aug. 11 Big Mark Jirkovic & Band from Denmark. Polka Czech Style.
- Aug. 18 Tom Busch and the Bohemian Bunch – Old time favorites.
- Aug. 25 Veterans' Salute and Corn Roast – Bernie Kroll Band – Roger Hartwig Band and Loren LeBlanc Corn Roast starts at 5:00 PM
- Sept. 1 Tom's Tunes and a variety of guests.

Thank You to our Sponsors and Contributors

Please support the businesses that help make the music program possible. American Family Ins., AXA Financial, Baylake Bank, Chase Bank, Cheezy Jim's Pizza, Community First – Nichols, Coonen Inc. Countryside Photo, Don's Quality Market, DQ Grill and Chill, Edward Jones Investment, First National Bank, Good Shepherd Services Ltd. HOTH, Inc. Huettl Bus, Inc. J J's Auto Clinic, Inc. Ken Bakula - NY Life, Lakeside Foods, Lubinski, Reed, & Klass, M & I Bank, Marcs Trucking & Excavating, Menn Law Firm, Ltd. Performance Pallet Corp. Truyma, Haase, Zahn, Ins. Ver Voort Construction, Condon Oil, Subway, McDonald's, Garrow Oil, Geno's, Hotel Seymour, Doxbee's and Friends of the Muehl Library.



Recently Schuh Construction donated and erected a sign next to the museum indicating the progress on the new building. See the yellow insert for more details on the project.



The doll show at the museum featured the collection of Jean Maass. Pictured is a doll in a Norwegian kick sled. If you would like to display your collection, contact a member of the museum board.

Doll's Exhibited by Jean Maass

Jean's interest in dolls can be traced back to her father and mother, Ed and Tillie Stueflat. They poured and made porcelain dolls which they then dressed and displayed in antique doll buggies. Jean has been collecting dolls for about 20 years. Many of the dolls in her collection are dressed to represent their country of origin.

Jean has a collection of "Mc Memories" dolls. Endorsed by Mc Donald's, the dolls are about 12 inches high and portray scenes from American life. Her complete collection of limited edition Coca-Cola heirloom dolls reflects a step back in history showing turn-of-the-century charm.

She has two dolls made by the world famous German doll artist Hildegard Grunzel, and Rags and Rosie dolls signed by Marie Osmond. Among her favorites is Danielle by Donna RuBert. This unique doll won a blue ribbon at the 1998 Doty Awards Doll of the Year Show.

Thank you Jean for sharing your doll collection with us.

Seymour Historical Society Board of Directors

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