



Seymour History Bulletin

A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society Inc.

Dedicated to preserving Seymour Area History

March 2009

Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064 Marge Coonen, Co-editor - 833-2656
Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Newsletter

The ***Seymour History Bulletin*** is the official publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society. The purpose of the periodical is to keep interested parties informed about the activities of the society and events promoted by the organization. This edition features events coming up this spring and summer.

Look for the newsletter in your mailbox three to four times a year. We plan to include a variety of topics with an emphasis on local history. If you have something appropriate to offer, please contact either Bill Collar (833-6064) or Marge Coonen (833-2656).

A Message from the President

Bill Collar

A sincere "thank you" to everyone who participated in the Christmas open house and bake sale. The theme "The 12 Days of Christmas" was presented through the creative work of Janice Eick and Lois Dalke. Depot Street was full of Christmas cheer as holiday lights graced 40 trees donated by Don Hoff, DDS. The memory forest provided people with an opportunity to remember their loved ones during the holiday season. The society appreciates the efforts everyone put in to decorate the trees and financially support the project.

Circle **April 20** and **April 29** on your calendar. This year's program at the annual meeting on April 20 features an interview with a German WWII prisoner of war who was held in Wisconsin. On the 29th an actress portraying Mary Todd Lincoln will appear at the library.

Certainly, everyone will enjoy Marge Coonen's article about the history of the Seymour Women's Club. The organization, celebrating their 75th year, has played an integral role in the growth of the city. Don Reed's vivid reflection on life in Seymour prior to WWII, portrays the city as a business hub during a challenging era. This issue provides an update on the new museum building project. Details about the program and other historical society activities can be found on the Web site: (www.seymourhistory.org).

SCHS Board Members

The Seymour Community Historical Society has a maximum of 12 board members, each elected for a three-year term. The present board includes:

Bill Collar - president, Lois Dalke - vice president, Janice Eick - secretary, Marge Coonen - treasurer, Dan Beilfuss, June Boettcher, Bob Coonen, Mike Keyzers, T.J. Landwehr, Lucille Miller, Roberta Mory, and Dan Brice/Curt Jefson.

Each Bulletin will include a brief sketch of a board member or two. This edition includes an interview with Roberta Mory who has been a life-long resident of Seymour.

Annual Meeting

April 20

The annual meeting of the Seymour Community Historical society will be held on Monday evening, April 20th. Interested parties are invited to gather at the Muehl Public Library at 6:30 PM. Three Board members, Dan Beilfuss, June Boettcher and Bob Coonen, have their three-year term expiring in April.

If you are interested in being considered for the Board, contact a committee member, either Mike Keyzers (833-2731) or Lois Dalke (833-2855).

Following a brief meeting and the approval of new Board members, a program will follow about German prisoners of war held in Wisconsin during WWII. Seymour High School seniors Dennis Schneider, John VandeHeuvel, and Tyler Friestrom, will show their interview with a German prisoner held in southern Wisconsin. Seymour Historical Society member, Ralph Melchert will be present to answer questions and comment on his family's relationship with a prisoner who worked on their farm. This will be an exciting topic. Bring a friend and join in the discussion.

Meet the Board Member

Roberta Mory

A life-long resident of Seymour, Roberta and her husband Robert, raised six children. Believing in the value of community service (Robert was fire Chief in Seymour for 17 years) Roberta is in the middle of her second three-year term on the Board. She is a volunteer for the Salvation Army and is active with the United Methodist Church.

Your favorite exhibit in the museum?

Roberta: I like the room displays on the second floor of the building and enjoy keeping them historically accurate.

Greatest reward being on the museum board?

Roberta: The reason I joined the Board was to help with the building project. We need more room for storage and display.

Your favorite historical site in Wisconsin?

Roberta: Old World Wisconsin at Eagle is a special place. Every year I visit the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. I am a bird watcher and like their bird art.



1920's Living Room

The United States?

Roberta: The Cyclorama Civil War painting in Atlanta is fantastic. I liked the Alaskan museums and a number of national wildlife refuges.

The World?

Roberta: The railroad museum at Cranbrook, Alberta and the King Museum in Ontario stand out.

Hobbies?

Roberta: I used to do quite a bit of camping and now mostly Knitting, weaving, quilting, sewing, cooking and baking.

Favorite movies?

Roberta: **The African Queen** with Humphrey Bogart and **Gone With the Wind** starring Clark Gable are my favorites. I also like any old westerns and John Wayne movies.

Mary Todd Lincoln Visits Seymour

April 29

On Wednesday, April 29, at 7:00, Mrs. Lincoln will appear at the Muehl Public Library. She will be portrayed by Racine actress Jessica Michna. Mrs. Michna depicts Mrs. Lincoln as an

unsettled spirit following the assassination of her husband. She witnessed the death of the President, lost three of her sons, and suffered estrangement from her eldest. She recalls the days of her youth in the genteel society of Lexington, Kentucky, her marriage to the gangly young lawyer, and eventually her rise to become first lady.

Your Seymour Community Historical Society and the Friends of the Muehl Public Library team up to sponsor the program. It will take place in

the library meeting room at no charge to the public. This is an excellent opportunity to help celebrate Lincoln's 200th birthday.



Join the Board of Directors

Since the terms of three members expire in April, you are invited to apply for nomination to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Please keep in mind that nominees should be willing to devote time and effort on behalf of the society.

Major activities of the SCHS include maintaining the community museum, organizing music in the park, sponsoring a winter bake sale and open house, the memory forest, and caring for the flowers around the museum. More details are available on the society Web site: (www.seymourhistory.org).

The nominating committee will consider the applicant's interests and experiences and make a final recommendation to the membership at the annual meeting in April. Please send a short resume for yourself or others to: SCHS Nominating Committee, P. O. Box 327, Seymour, WI 54165, or contact committee members Lois Dalke or Mike Keyzers. Nomination deadline is April 10, 2009.

Museum to Open May 24

The summer season for the museum will begin on Sunday, May 24. The building will be open every Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Different hours

for group tours or individual research can be arranged by contacting a member of the Museum board. Help is needed to supervise the building during the Sunday hours. Any members who are willing to contribute a Sunday afternoon to assist with monitoring the facility should call a Board member or contact the museum staff through the historical society Web site: (www.seymourhistory.org).

Cleaning Day at the Museum

During April and May members of the Historical Society are busy planting flowers, trimming up the grounds and cleaning the museum inside and out. All assistance is greatly appreciated. To assist in any area, contact a member of the Board of Directors, and the details will be worked out. Two days will be set aside for cleaning. Janice Eick (833-6184) will coordinate the inside cleaning, and Bill Collar (833-6064) will direct the outside crew. Help is needed. For more details, give Janice or Bill a call.

If you possess special skills (carpenter, mason, electronics, etc.) and would enjoy contributing your expertise toward society projects, please contact a Board member. Another way to express your interest in helping is to go to the Web site, (www.seymourhistory.org), and click on "About SCHS," then click on "Volunteer Opportunities."

Oral History

The Seymour Community Historical Society is presently conducting interviews with a number of area residents. People who have been interviewed include Don and Frieda Feurig, Roy Puls, Don Reed, and Roberta Mory. The purpose is to gather information that may be used in future displays at the museum and in the newsletter. If you have been a long-time Seymour resident, and would like to help preserve local history, give Bill Collar a call at 833-6064.



Do you remember the spiral fire escape on the old school on Robbins Street?

Don Reed recalled that students liked to throw stones in the steel cylinder and make noise to disturb classes. Roberta Mory mentioned that she was afraid of the spiral and was glad she never had to experience it. The following article was in the Times-Press of October 6, 1927 describing the installation and operation of the "large steel pipe six feet in diameter."

The New Fire Escape

The new fire escape is being installed on the Seymour school. It is a large steel pipe about six feet in diameter, has a screw like inwards built of steel and waxed. It would be a hard matter to ascend in it, but you have a merry-go-round and swift come down sliding on the seat of your pants. As you get to the bottom the door opens as your feet strike it, always sure to land safely on your feet on the ground. It is capable of unloading the kids and school maa'ms in case of fire as rapidly as it is to unload an automatic gun.

10/6/27

History of Seymour Baseball

The first reference to high school baseball is found in the May 11, 1899 Seymour Press.

Base Ball

The Green Bay West side base ball team has challenged the Seymour High School Nine and will play a game in Seymour tomorrow afternoon. Wonder if they are any better at playing ball than they are at speaking! (*This is a reference to a declamatory contest that took place the previous week when the Seymour speakers defeated Green Bay in a hotly debated contest.*)

Seymour's players are as follows: Catcher Earl Boyden; pitcher, Charles Armstrong; substitute, Anton Huettl; first base, Mike Huettl; second base, Wm. Beck; third base, Walter Steward; right fielder, Gilbert Booth; left fielder, Anton Anderson; center fielder, Roy Mullet.

The May 18, 1899 issue of the Press reported that the Seymour team won the game by a nine to eight score. The reporter made sure the reader understood "the game stood one to nine in favor of Seymour until the sixth inning. But it will be noticed that Green Bay had nine innings and Seymour only eight. Had they played their ninth inning Seymour might have made a few more runs." Apparently, the hard feelings generated by the speaking contest healed, as after the game "the two clubs took supper at the Hotel Falck."

Amateur Teams

Reference is made to several amateur teams playing in Seymour including the "Pig Tails" and the "Maroons." A cigar produced in Seymour around the turn of the century was named "Pig Tail", and the museum has on display a cigar box with a picture of the "Maroon" baseball team. It seems the cigar business sponsored the teams. During this era, every small town had a ball team and Seymour had several.

Seymour Wins Three Games

"This city has several base ball teams, three of them played Sunday, and all won games as follows: The Pig Tail giants went to Bonduel and won by a score of 25 to 7.

The high school team played the Rose Lawns at the fairgrounds. Score 20 to 11 in favor of Seymour.

The "Brownies," a team composed of little fellows, went to Black Creek and defeated the Sheep Heads, much larger than themselves, by a score of 23 to 4. Had it been necessary Seymour could have furnished two or three more nines."

Seymour Press 6/29/1899



Baseball Memories and Other Stories

Do you read the "This Old Seymour page" in the *Seymour Times-Press*? If you do, you notice that the pictures and information come from the archives of the Seymour Museum. You can help preserve history by writing out some of your recollections and mailing your memories in the enclosed addressed envelope. In the future, we would like to feature Seymour Baseball. Perhaps you have some pictures or information that will contribute to the story. We are also interested talking with veterans and others who have the ability to recall local history.



Pictured above is Seymour's Championship team in the 1937 Northern Land O' Lakes League. Members of the Seymour club are: standing left to right, Bill Row manager, Evan Vande Walle, Phil Palmer, Swen Bowman, Willie Ness, Russell Krake, Smiley Nicodem. Lower row, left to right, Joe Hammen, Arnold Kelly, Roy Puls, Harvey Hartjes, Ralph Puls, Joe Gertz, Bernard Vander Bloemen, and Jimmy Row, mascot.

Roy Puls indicated this was an exceptional team and they were very competitive during the 1930's. They had many hard fought games with Black Creek, Nichols, Bonduel and other area teams. Roy's interview will be in the next issue.

Display Your Collection at the Museum

The museum staff plans to do some major renovating of displays for this summer. We will be working at the museum during much of April and May. We are also interested in lining up the rotating guest displays for the summer. If you have a collection that you are willing to share, or would like to help build displays, contact a member of the museum board.

Send Us Your E-mail Address

The Historical Society is compiling a database with the e-mail addresses of all members. Eventually you will receive an electronic copy of the newsletter and historical society news. We are also planning to add more local history information, helpful links, and genealogy assistance to our Web site.

To convey your e-mail address to the SCHS, go to the society Web site (www.seymourhistory.org) and click on "Contact," complete the form and send it.



Maas' Market offered home delivery

Don Reed Recalls the 1930's

Recently Don Reed drew a map of Seymour as he recalled it from 1938. This was during the Depression and three years prior to Pearl Harbor. In discussing the map with Don, his ability to identify all businesses and comment on each was very impressive. This was a time prior to many people shopping in Green Bay and Appleton, and Seymour businesses met the needs of most everyone. Eventually, based on Don's recollections, a three dimensional model will be made and displayed in the museum.

Don had many other recollections about life in Seymour during the 1930's.

- Many people had water wells with hand pumps.
- Most toilets were two-hole back yard sheds.
- Many people had a garden and fruit trees.
- Cook stoves were usually wood or kerosene.
- The front porch was a popular spot to visit and relax.
- Movies at the Seymour Theater were 10 cents.
- Tom Mix, Roy Rogers, and Gene Autry were popular.
- Wednesday night the H. S. band put on a concert.
- Doc Finkel's German Band also entertained.
- On Sunday, church in the AM and baseball in the PM.
- Baseball was played at the fairgrounds.
- Empty lots were the sites of neighborhood ball games.
- Kids played in neighboring woods.
- Hide and seek was popular.
- A lighted skating rink was in what is now Don's Pk. lot.
- Sulky horse races at the fair drew huge crowds.
- Kids went swimming in stone quarries and creeks.
- All 12 grades were in one building on Robbins St.
- Basketball games were played in the movie theater.
- Seats were removed and replaced after each game.
- A new gym and addition was built in the late 1930's.
- Football was played at the fairgrounds.
- We walked a mile to school and home for lunch.
- School was mandatory through the 8th grade.
- If you were naughty, you sat facing the wall.
- Rural H.S. students were driven in, or roomed in town.
- Seymour had 4 Implement dealers and 5 grocery stores.
- The Hotel Seymour has always been a gathering place.
- Ten kids in the family and we all had part time jobs.
- College was too expensive for most people.
- The fair was a big hit, featuring popular entertainment.

Continued Page 5

MAAS MARKET

PHONE 111 SEYMOUR, WIS.

FOR YOUR HARVEST FOODS, SEE US!

We are open evenings during the Harvest and Silo Filling Seasons

SPECIALS FOR WEEK OF AUG. 1 to 7

Meat Department	Grocery Section
Round BEEF STEAK Lb. 20c	Wire Mesh FLY SWATTERS 2 for ----- 9c
BEEF ROASTS ---- Lb. 15c	FLOUR -- 24½ lb. bag 88c
CHOPPED BEEF --Lb. 12½c	Silk Finish 49 lb. bag \$1.75
BEEF LIVER ----- Lb. 10c	FLOUR --24½ lb. bag \$1.00
SIRLOIN STEAK ---Lb. 22c	Mothers Best 49 lb. bag \$2.00
PORK SHLD. STEAK lb. 22c	
PORK SHLD. ROAST lb. 19c (Round Bone)	Canning Supplies
SUMMER SAUSAGE A Good Keeper --- Lb. 23c	FRUIT JARS --Qts. 77c doz. (either Kerr or Zinc Covers)
BACON, half or whole slab Lb. ----- 32c	Fruit Jar Rubbers _3 Doz. 13c
SMOKED PICNICS --Lb. 20c (8 to 10 lb. average)	SURE-JELL -----2 for 25c
BACON SQUARES--Lb. 20c	COFFEE, Hills Bros. 2 Lb. Can ----- 55c
SALT PORK ----- Lb. 17c	Peaberry COFFEE, Fancy 3 Lbs. for ----- 55c
Home Made Ring	- MAAS LEADER
BOLOGNA ----- Lb. 15c	Japan Green Tea --½ lb. 20c
Pure LARD ---- 8 Lbs. \$1.00	PORK & BEANS Van Camps 16 Oz. ----- 4 for 19c
Special Lot	WORLD'S BEST SOAP 6 Giant Bars ----- 25c
Joannes BRAN FLAKES	BLOCK SALT ----- 37c
Kelloggs RICE KRISPIES	
Kelloggs PEP	
Post BRAN FLAKES	
2 for 15c	

Seymour Press July 30, 1936

\$1.00 in 1936 had the same buying power as \$15.00 today.

Example: Chopped beef at \$.12 lb. equals \$1.80 today.

Bacon at \$.32 equals \$4.70 today.



The Hotel Seymour has always been a popular gathering spot. This post WWII photo, provided by Don Reed, shows a number of local service men and friends congregating at the hotel bar. At the bar front row: Mac Miller, Don Reed, Vernon Beyer, Jerry Reed, Claud Peotter, John Gavronski, Keith VanVuren, Babe Seidl, Eli Seidl. Back row: Bill Beyer, Leroy Pasch, Miriam VanVuren, Tom Reed, Dorothy Seidl, Robert Miller, Vilas Kraft. Behind the bar: Ray Elsen, Ted Kunis, Art Wolk, and Bud Thompson.

Don Reed Recalls, continued

Don Reed has witnessed many changes in the community and cited a major one being the transition from a farming town to a bedroom neighborhood with residents working in Green Bay and Appleton. He remembers the years when the city had four implement dealers, a creamery, and there was a cheese factory every few miles. Kuehne Bros. was a prominent shipper of livestock and produce, two large lumber companies, and a bustling downtown business district added to the attractions of the city. Baseball was the favorite pastime, the theater offered a variety of movies and performances, band concerts were great diversions, and fair drew huge crowds during the late summer. The Seymour fairgrounds racetrack had a reputation for hosting very competitive sulky horse races.

He recalls during the Great Depression of the 30's, to save money, his father had the electric lights removed from the house. Everyone in the family had a part-time job, and all the neighbors had a garden in the backyard often selling surplus vegetables to the canning factory. With five automobile dealers in the city, it was easy to shop locally for a new car. During WWII many area residents served their country including Don and his five brothers. The Hotel Seymour was the main gathering place and a popular dining establishment.

Don got his start in the grocery business "candling eggs." Farmers would trade eggs for groceries. Don worked for 13 years a meat cutter at the Economy Store on North Main St. He learned the meat cutting business from Clarence Hallada. In 1960 he purchased the grocery store on the corner of Factory and Main St. Eventually, with the help of investors, he

constructed a 66 x 110 ft metal building. The building has been added to four times. When the Seymour Bakery closed on Main St. Don purchased the equipment and added a bakery to the store. Parking was a problem and within several years the remainder of the buildings were purchased.

Reflecting on the history of what is now the parking lot, Don recalled that in the 1930's the Muehl Furniture store dominated the corner of W. Wisconsin and Main St. For many years the Lotter Machine Shop was just west of Muehl's. Operated by Joe and Vic Lotter, the men had a reputation for being able to fix anything. Later the building was purchased by Coonen's and the Lotter's worked for them. The Seymour Press was located next to machine shop. After a fire it moved to the corner of S. Main and W. Factory. A frozen food locker and liquor store completed the buildings on W. Wisconsin St. Eventually all were purchased to provide parking for Don's.



Lotter Brothers during the early years of the automobile.

Thank You for your Membership and Support of the Museum and SCHS.

Lifetime Membership

Family (\$50.00)

Behrendt, George and Audrey
Blahnik Barb J.
Blohm, Leland and Betty
Boettcher, June
Brinkman, Dennis and Nancy
Brown, Don and Mary
Collar, Bill and Holly
Coonen, Bob and Marge
Coonen, Mark and Karen
Cumicek, John and Adrienne
Dalke, Lois
Diermeier, Tim
Ebert, Clayton and Audrey
Ebert, Duane
Eick, Roger and Janice
Feurig, Don and Frieda
Freund, Ralph
Ginocchio, Frances
Gosse, Emil
Gosse, Mary
Hanseter, Russ and Donna
Heinke, Dr. Marilyn
Herbst, Gaylord and Linda
Ibe, Carl and Betty
Jenkins, Charlie
Kailhofer, Letty
Keyzers, Mike and Sue
Kielar, Shirley
Klass, Pat and Mary
Kneisler, Ralph and Arlene
Koenigs, John and Lynn
Kraft, LaMont and Sandy
Krueger, Otto
Kuehne, Carl and Mary Ellen
Kuehne, Doloris
Lerum, Adeline and Ollie
Lom, Joe and Mary
Lubinski, Dick and Donna
Lubinski, Vernon and Evelyn
Maass, Warren and Gloria
Mahlk, Jill and John
McLester III, Lee G.
Melchert, Adela
Melchert, Gary and Mary Lou
Melchert, Ralph
Piper, Janice
Puls, Roy
Raymakers, Don and Del
Reed, Don and Dorothy
Roloff, Jean
Schuh, Pudge and Cassie
Schuler, Susan and Willard
Seidl, Marilyn
Seidl, Ron and Pat
Swett, Keith and Jean
Tech, Harold and Thelma
Thiel, Bill and Lori

Lifetime Membership

Family (\$50.00)

Timmins, Elizabeth
Zahn, Bill and Joyce
Zak, Dr. Dan and Pam

Lifetime Membership

Business (\$100.00)

American Family Insurance
Baylake Bank
Chase Bank
Cheezy Jim's Pizza
Community 1st – Nichols
Community Insurance Center
Coonen Inc.
Countryside Photographers
Don's Quality Market
Edward Jones Investments
First National Bank
Kailhofer's Greenhouse
Ken Bakula - NY Life
Heinke, Dr. Marilyn
Home of the Hamburger
Huettl Bus, Inc.
Lakeside Foods
Lubinski, Reed, & Klass
M & I Bank
Marcks Trucking & Excavating
Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home
Performance Pallet Corp
Pierre Law Office
Truymen-Haase Insurance

Family - Year

(\$10.00)

Amerson, Pat and Lori
Beilfuss, Dan and Ruth
Jeske, Arlene and Robert
Keyzers, Mike and Sue
Larkin, Stan and Mary
Maass, Jim and Jean
Sherman, Vyonne
Sherman, Scott and Cindy
Tubbs, Bill and Gloria
Wilken, Bob and Judy
Wussow, Doris

Individual – Year (\$5.00)

Banker, John	Koeppel, Alice
Boerst, Lucille	Miller, Lucille
Clausen, Deloris	Mory, Roberta
Duffy, Ellen Piehl	Nelson, Tom
Du Four, Diane	Raether, June
Freemore, Marion	Sprangers, Carol
Hein, Joann	Ziebell, Majorie
Kimball, Joan	

Rita Gosse Memorial

The memorial for long-time president Rita Gosse will be completed this spring with the placement of a brass plaque. Several members of the historical society, led by Bob Coonen and Roy Porter, donated their time and skill to build a brick walkway and install a fountain. Pat Seidl contributed her expertise to direct planting flowers to supplement those previously donated several years ago. The landscaped wall, brick path, fountain, and additional flowers, really dress up the west side of the museum. Pictures are available on the SCHS Web site: (www.seymourhistory.org)

A large number of people donated to the Rita Gosse Memorial. The total sum came to \$4,185.00. This was used to beautify the west side of the museum including landscaping, a walkway, fountain, additional flowers, and a plaque. We appreciate your generosity in preserving Rita's legacy.

Membership

Annual memberships expire on Memorial Day. We appreciate you keeping up to date. More people and businesses are committing to a lifetime membership. This simplifies record keeping and assists the society in mailing our newsletter.

Each newsletter includes an addressed envelope suitable for sending historical recollections, articles for the newsletter, memberships, general comments, or donations to the building fund. Even though these are difficult economic times, the society remains committed to the new museum project, and providing our membership with a variety of activities. Your support makes it all possible.

Music in the Park

Spring is coming and Music in the Park is just a couple months away. The SCHS will organize, and area merchants will again sponsor, music on Wed. evenings starting May 27th. If you would like to be a new sponsor for 2009, please contact Bill Collar.



"Starwood" is a popular band during the summer.

New Museum Building Fund

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation or a pledge toward the new museum. Our fund is moving toward the \$700,000.00 figure. With our goal at 1.1 million plus additional operating expenses, we have a considerable challenge. Because of the present economic situation, a number of potential donors have asked to wait until conditions improve. Keeping that in mind, we continue to receive support, but realize patience is paramount. Our objective remains firm, to build a multi-use facility that will be an asset for the community for generations.

Recently we received several generous donations including the transfer of stock to the building fund. The SCHS is a 501 (C-3) tax-exempt organization. Our members are all volunteers who are committed to promoting a better understanding of the role of the society. Projects include advocacy for historical preservation, educational outreach, entertainment, beautification, publication of a newsletter, operation of a museum, and serving as a historical resource for the community.

If you, your group or organization, would like to view a multi-media presentation explaining the museum plans, give Bill Collar a call at (920) 833-6064. Facts about sponsorships and naming rights are explained in detail. The following list includes everyone who has contributed toward the building project. If your name has been omitted, or if you would like to increase your donation or make a pledge, please contact a member of the steering committee. Steering Committee members: Jim Campbell, Bill Collar, John Cumicek, Tom Duffey, Carl Kuehne, Don Hoff, DDS, Debbie Peterson, Perry Pierre, Harold Pingel, Pudge Schuh, and Elizabeth Timmins.

Primary Donor

Carl and Mary Ellen Kuehne

Major Donor (\$100,000.00+)

John and Mary Green Estate
Harold and Agnes Krahn Estate

Governor's Club (\$50,000- \$99,999)

Senator's Club (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Home of the Hamburger

Trailblazer (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Seymour Flying Club
Northeastern Roofing

Explorer (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Roy Puls
Muehl – Boettcher Funeral Home

Pioneer (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Countryside Photographers

Settler (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Don and Dorothy Reed
Vernon and Evelyn Lubinski
Harold and Doloris Pingel
Marvin and Lois Dalke
Tom and Ann Duffey
Harold and Thelma Tech

Settler Con't (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Ralph Melchert
Bob and Marge Coonen
Bill and Holly Collar
Don Hoff DDS

Scout (\$500.00 - \$999.00)

Jean Rohloff
Oraletta Kailhofer
Ralph and Arlene Kneisler
Pudge and Cassie Schuh
Joan Kimball
Lakeside Foods
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert
Frances Ginocchio
Robert Gosse

Donations between \$100.00 and \$499.00

\$250.00 - Scott Marcks Trucking and Excavating
\$250.00 – Truymen – Haase Insurance
\$150.00 – Pat and Mary Klass
\$100.00 – Clayton and Audrey Ebert
\$100.00 – Charles Lehrhaupt
\$100.00 - Good Shepherd Services
\$100.00 – Adela Melchert

Additional Donors to the Building Fund

Baenen, Paul and Diane	Ludvigson, Eric and Sue
Behrendt, George and Audrey	Maass, Dave and Mary
Cumicek, John and Adrienne	Maass, Warren and Gloria
Ciesielczyk, Dianne and Bob	Seidl, Marilyn
Duffy, Ellen Piehl	Seymour Rescue Squad
Freemore, Marion	Sprangers, Carol
Herbst, Giz and Linda	Steward, Dorothy
Kimball, William	

All donors of \$500.00 and up will be recognized by having their names listed on a plaque in the entryway. Donors over \$2,500.00 will have the opportunity to sponsor a picture, display, or room. Details will be worked out at the time of the contribution. Additional information about the building plans are on the society Web site: (www.seymourhistory.org).

We do our best to keep accurate records. If for some reason you are not listed, or if an error has been made, please contact either, Bill Collar – 833-6064 or Marge Coonen – 833-2656.

Reminders

- Use the enclosed envelope to send articles, recollections, dues, donations, or any general communication.
- We are looking for community-minded people to serve on our Board of Directors. We meet eight times a year.
- We are compiling information about county league baseball. Do you have any stories to share?
- Our Web site is growing – www.seymourhistory.org
- Look for the next history bulletin this summer. Would you like to write an article or be interviewed? Call 833-6064

Woman's Club 75th Anniversary Party

The 75th Anniversary Party of the Seymour Woman's Club will be held on March 28, 2009 at Crystal Springs Golf Course. John and Lynn Koenig and their KNX Party Band will provide music for dancing and listening. The celebration will be held from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

In addition, that evening, the club's annual scholarship raffle will be held. Leslie Hanseter, General Chairperson, has announced that serving on the Raffle Committee and collecting prizes for the event are Mary Kuhn, Mary Wettstein, Elizabeth Timmins, Delores Pingel, Mavis Bronson, Deloris Clausen, Melissa Estreen., Lori Schumacher, Nancy Krahn and Mary Cheslock. The drawing for this year's winners will be held at 9:30 P.M.

The cost of the tickets for the dance is \$10.00 in advance, or \$15.00 at the door. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from club members or at Muehl Public Library, Don's Market, and Coonen Inc. Proceeds from the event will be used for the Woman's Club Scholarships.

History of the Seymour Woman's Club

By
Marge Coonen

It promotes a lot of pride, when a woman's club can survive three quarters of a century in a city of just over 3,000 people. That's our Seymour Woman's Club, which will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary with a party on March 28,



Seymour City Hall

2009. The club was born during one of the blackest depression periods this country has ever known. On February 9, 1934, the first meeting of the group, which was called the Library Reading Club, was held in the Seymour Public Library. It 1934 the library was located on the second floor of the Old City Hall on Main St. Mrs. Ray Miller was the first president. Mrs. E. T Hawkins held the office of vice-president; Mrs. R. T. Jones was secretary and Mrs. Wm. Beck, treasurer. There were 27 charter members.

Club Motto

The club motto was, "Ambition has no rest." Their flower was the tea rose and the colors were green and ivory. Initial dues were one dollar a year, with an admission fee of 50 cents. The club met twice a month on Friday afternoons at 2:30 and had a 5 cent penalty for tardiness. The club started as a study group and the members presented all programs. They gave book reviews, travel talks, studied artists, poets, opera, Shakespeare, famous men and women, and other interesting subjects.

In 1936, the club became known as the Seymour Federated Woman's Club. Its aim was "Fellowship, Literary

Improvement and Social Service." A new constitution and by-laws were adopted. Meetings were scheduled for every second and fourth Monday of each month at 8:00 P. M. Members still contributed to the programs, but it was felt that outside speakers would give the club a lift. Among the early speakers was the late Senator Joseph Mc McCarthy, who had just returned from overseas and was on medical leave, and Judge Keller from the Outagamie Courthouse. In 1950 the group began meeting on just the second Monday of the month. The club's scrap book, shows that in the early years many meetings were held in private homes. There were also outings held at cottages at Loon Lake.

Activities

Since slacks were not worn in the 30's, pictures show everyone is dressed up in nylons, heels, and their best dress.



Members of the Woman's Club wrote and edited the Seymour Centennial Book. Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Ivan Dunbar, Mrs. Ernest Schuster, Mrs. Maynard Sherman, Mrs. Donald Reed, and Mrs. Robert Coonen.

Most meetings were concluded with refreshments being served and a member would preside at the tea table. When Seymour celebrated its centennial in 1968. the Woman's Club again became involved and entered a float in the parade, which attracted 40,000 people to Seymour. They worked on the Seymour Centennial Booklet, which traced Seymour history from 1857 to 1968, and they were the hostesses of a Centennial Tea that was held in the new Municipal Building. The tea was for the community and visiting dignitaries, among them, the then Lt. Gov. Jack Olson. The women dressed up for the occasion in lovely gowns and hats that had a 1868 look. Delicious bars and cookies, made by members, were served. The past president of the club presided at the tea table.

Social Service

Through the years the club has lived up to its aim, "Social Service" by contributing to many causes such as the Red Cross, cancer drives, War Chest Fund, Community Chest, nursing scholarships, gifts to veteran's hospitals, sponsoring girls for Badger State, and even back in the late 30's giving \$5.00 to the high school music department for chorus robes. At Christmas time, boxes of clothing, toys, fruit and candy were distributed to needy families. In the "war" years, as

many as 20 big boxes of clothing and Christmas items were delivered a few days before Christmas. Old toys were collected, painted, and put in good repair. Dolls were mended and redressed, and members of the Woman's Club spent a happier Christmas knowing that they had done some good in the community. As time went on, and everyone got a job, there was no longer a need for help of this kind so it was discontinued. Today the club still gives fruit baskets or plants at Thanksgiving to the shut-ins and aged of our community.

Christmas Contest

In December of 1941, the Woman's Club and city council sponsored an exterior Christmas decorating contest. Many homes were decorated and beautifully lighted for the holiday season. Even the city water tower was decorated with a wreath. The judges of the contest felt that Seymour was the best-decorated town in the Fox Valley. Then WWII came, and put a stop to the contest. To raise money for its activities the club held pastry sales, auctions, white elephant sales, a traveling basket, and even engaged in selling vanilla. As larger donations were given away, the club took on bigger projects; the dances, hobby shows in the 40's, a harvest luncheon in the 80's, style shows, and the Christmas walk.



Style shows were often held at the auditorium.

On October 23, 1939, the group had its first style Show at the high school auditorium (site of our present day police station). Fashions of the 30's were modeled along with dresses dating back to the Civil War. Even snowstorms could not keep the audience home when the Woman's Club was presenting a style show. In March 11, 1963, a crowd of four hundred came out during a heavy snowstorm to see a touch of spring as they witnessed the "Spring Dreams" style show. It was held at the Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The fashion shows, with styles coming from Kahnt's, Miller's Dept. Store, Sally B's, jewelry from Cumiceks, and hairstyles done by local beauty Salons, continued until 1990. The last show was held on November 12, with clothing coming from "Ritzy Rags" and "Ben Franklin". Since then, with members' children or grandchildren as the models, they have put on Easter parades, and more recently, Halloween parades, for the residents at Good Shepherd.

Scholarships

At the May banquet in 1961 the club announced the winners of the first Senior Girl Scholarship. The winners were Gay Kollath and Janice Reinke. Each girl was presented with \$25.00. The following February, the club voted to give one \$75.00 scholarship for any girl at the Seymour Union High School who wish to go to college. By 1981, the club was offering two \$200.00 scholarships for any Seymour High

School senior who would be attending college or technical school. Today, the Woman's Club offers four \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors.

In the 1960's a group of civic-minded people in Seymour had the idea to look into the construction of a man-made lake. The Woman's Club became involved in the project and as a result, sponsored their first dance. It was a charity ball held on Monday, December 17, 1962 at the Hotel Seymour. Carl Knopp's three-



In 1955 Jean Melchert passed the gavel to president, Edna Sherman.

piece combo from Waupaca provided the music. It was a community project and a total of \$362.00 was presented to the City Council and deposited in an account titled "Seymour Community Pool Fund". The Seymour Lake and Lake Park, located north of the city, opened in June 1966, with construction beginning the summer of 1965.

Dances and Raising Funds

Many dances followed. One was a Mardi-Gras dance and then on February 9, 1973, the first of many "Sweetheart Balls" was held. The Woman's Club introduced a cabaret style dance to the community. They were held in the basement of the Municipal Building. The Ray Reis Band and Duane Wussow's Allegros provided the music for these parties. The last "Sweetheart's Ball" was held February 9, 1983. It was the 50th Anniversary Party of the club. The "Roaring 20's", a local talent show, was held February 16, 1963. The club organized it, and various civic groups and individual organizations from the community joined the Woman's Club to put on a delightful show. Admission was 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Col. Caboose from WBAY-TV appeared with his puppets as the highlight of the show. Over 800 people attended the popular performance. \$400.00 was raised and the proceeds were for the Special Education Room of Seymour Elementary School, which was taught by Hilda Koepp. At that time, Seymour had the privilege of having one of the four Special Education rooms in Outagamie County.



The 1984 style show had a new twist with vocal music by Sandy and Barry Kailhofer.

Additional proceeds from the dances were used to provide funds for various service projects, among them were the Senior Girl Scholarship, The baby-sitting clinic, Trees for Tomorrow, Helen Mears Art Contest for 8th graders, New Hope Nursery, the foreign exchange student program, and

Youth for Understanding.

Educational Projects

From January 7, 1975 to April 9, 1988, the group sponsored a baby-sitting clinic for boys and girls from age 11 to 15. The Ladies were always interested in encouraging the young people of the community in art. While they were affiliated with Wisconsin Federated Woman's Club, they contributed to the Helen Mears Art Contest and the Penny Art Fund. The Woman's Club Art Contest has been going since 1984 when junior high school students were encouraged to enter. In 1986, they took part in the Wisconsin Youth Art Month, and sponsored an art contest in the 5th and 6th grades in the area. Over two hundred students from Rock Ledge, Black Creek, Nichols, and St John's took part. Today the contest is held for middle school students in both Black Creek and Seymour. Professional artists are judges, and the artwork is on display at both local libraries during the month of March in Seymour, and April in Black Creek.

Home of the Hamburger

When the Home of the Hamburger celebration came to Seymour in 1988, The Woman's Club helped serve the 2,000-pound burger to a crowd of over 14,000 people. Since then they have helped each year with the advance button sale, by delivering and collecting the buttons from Seymour area businesses.

Outstanding Citizens

Ten members of the club have been honored at Seymour's Outstanding Citizens. They are, Celia Schuster (1974), Gladys Stern (1983), Leone Du Four (1990), Pam Zak (1993), Jean Melchert (1995), Letty Kailhofer (1998), Jean Rohloff (1999), Agnes Kahn (2002), Dorothy Reed (2003), and Marge Coonen (2008).

In the 75 years of the club's existence there have been many officers who all deserve a great deal of credit for making the Seymour Woman's Club a success. Mrs. Ray Miller served as the first president from 1934 to 1936. Other presidents have been:

Club Presidents

Mrs. Wm Uecke 1936-1938	Dolores Pingel 1974-1976
Mrs. Roger Jones 1938-1939	Dorothy Reed 1976-1978
Mrs. Frank Longrie 1939-1940	Letty Kailhofer 1978-1982
Mrs. Everett Mc Bain 1940-1941	Thelma Tech 1982-1983
Mrs. Harrison Smith 1941-1942	Judy Rottier 1983-1984
Mrs. Ernest Schuster 1942-1943	Shirley Doersch 1984-1985
Mrs. Chester Bliss 1943-1944	Sandy Ebert 1985-1986
Mrs. Joseph Lotter 1944-1946	Kathy Cumicek 1986-1987
Mrs. Stewart Droeger 1946-47	Carolyn Hechel 1987-1988
Mrs. Anton Jenquin 1947-1949	Kathy Cumicek 1988-1989
Mrs. Lincoln Neider 1949 1950	Mary Kuhn 1989-1990
Mrs. Ted Nickoden 1950-1952	Katie Swanson 1990-1991
Mrs. Forest Huth 1952-1954	Kris Peters 1991-1992
Mrs. Carl Melchert 1954-1955	Debbie Peterson 1992-1994
Mrs. Maynard Sherman 1955-57	Marge Coonen 1994- 1995
Mrs. Carl Tickler 1957-1960	Janet Olson 1995-1996
Mrs. Ray Gulbrand 1960-1962	Karen Keune 1996-1997
Mrs. Robert Wolk 1962-1963	Dorothy Reed 1997-2001
Mrs. James Schuette 1963-64	Catherine Kollath 2001-03
Mrs. Florian Rohloff 1964-66	Thelma Tech 2003-2006
Mrs. Elmer Gosse 1966-1968	Mary Wright 2006-2007
Mrs. George Cisler 1968-1972	Marge Coonen 2007-2008
Mrs. Don Hoff 1972-1974	Mary Cheslock 2008



Woman's Club entertainment November, 1970

The Woman's Club is committed to its original motto, "Ambition has no rest." The organization continues to contribute toward improving the quality of life in our community. If you would like to become a member of a service organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of many, speak with any Woman's Club member.

Coming Events

March 28, Saturday – 7:00-11:00 Seymour Woman's Club 75th Anniversary Party at Crystal Springs – Dinner followed by a dance featuring the **"KNX Party Band."** Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door.

April 20, Monday – 6:30 PM Muehl Public Library Seymour Historical Society Annual Meeting – The public is invited. The program will focus on German WWII prisoners held in Wisconsin. Prisoners from camps at Hortonville and Appleton worked on farms in the Seymour area. Come and participate in the discussion.

April 25, Saturday - 11:30 AM Nichols Historical Dinner at the Whistle Inn in Nichols – Tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door. Dinner will be followed by a program about the Great Depression.

April 29, Wednesday – 7:00 PM Muehl Public Library Mary Todd Lincoln portrayal – This program is jointly sponsored by the Historical Society and Friends of the Library. It is free and open to the public.

May 27, Wednesday – 6:30 PM Depot St. Opening night for Music in the Park – Music will be presented by the Seymour Community Historical Society every Wed. night all summer until September.

May 24, Sunday, – 1:00 Depot St. The first day the museum will be open for the summer. Bring the family to see the new exhibits on display at the museum. Summer hours are 1:00–5:00 on Sundays or by special arrangement.

- **Have you checked out the front window basket display at the museum? How many baskets can you identify?**



Complete and mail in the enclosed envelope or e-mail to
bicollar@aol.com

Seymour History Survey

Use this form and any additional sheets to describe an event or recollection from Seymour area history. The historical society will use your information to write articles for the Seymour History Bulletin and for display at the museum. By completing this form you are granting permission for the SCHS to print the information. Thank you for your assistance.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Topic: _____

Would you like to be contacted for an oral history interview? Circle one: Yes No

Should we contact you about pictures or items to display at the museum? Yes No

In your description please consider answering the questions Who or What? When? Where? Why? and How?

For example: This spring we are gathering more information regarding amateur baseball in the area. Let's say you played for the Seymour team in the 1950's. A few questions to answer: Who was on the team? Who managed? Sponsored? Umpired? Fans? Opposing team? Memorable players? ----- When did you play? ---Where did you play? Location? Position? Other teams in the league? ----- Why was local baseball popular? Why did you play? Why did you enjoy the game? Why did the league stop? ----- How did you learn the game? Travel? Socialize? Include any humorous stories or major events.



Board of Directors: Dan Beilfuss, June Boettcher, Bill Collar, Bob Coonen, Marge, Coonen, Lois Dalke, Janice Eick, Mike Keyzers, T.J. Landwehr, Lucille Miller, and Roberta Mory.

March 17, 2009

Greetings from the Seymour Community Historical Society:

We hope you find this issue of the **Seymour History Bulletin** informative and reflective of events in Seymour's past. Thank you for your support of the historical society. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Simply complete the form below, include a check for your dues, and mail both in the enclosed addressed envelope.

The benefits of membership include the following.

- Future mailings of the *Seymour History Bulletin*.
- A tour of our newly renovated museum.
- The opportunity to support activities organized by the historical society.

These include:

- Music in the Park
- Christmas display and memory forest
- Educational programs emphasizing local history
- Open house and bake sale
- Performers and speakers brought to you by the society
- Temporary exhibits on display at the museum
- Access to museum files for research

Your support helps make all of our activities possible. For more information, access our Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Seymour Community Historical Society Membership Form

Annual membership is from Memorial Day to Memorial Day - Mail to: PO Box 237, Seymour, WI 54165

Use the enclosed envelope

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____ **Business:** _____

Membership: Check your class of membership.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| _____ Lifetime (\$50.00)
Individual or family | _____ Family 1 Yr. (\$10.00)
Immediate family | _____ Lifetime Business (\$100.00)
Your business will be listed as a member |
| _____ Sustaining (\$25.00)
Includes indiv. or family and a gift | _____ Individual 1 Yr. (\$5.00)
One person | _____ Business 1 Yr. (\$20.00)
Your business will be listed as a member |

_____ I am a lifetime member and wish to contribute \$_____ to the general operating fund.

_____ Please contact me about donating to the new museum building fund.

Thank you for your support of the Seymour Community Historical Society