



# Seymour History Bulletin

A quarterly publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society Inc.

**Great news about the new museum project – see page 2**

March 2011

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Web site: [www.seymourhistory.org](http://www.seymourhistory.org)

## Spring is Here

Welcome to the spring edition of the *Seymour History Bulletin*. This issue provides the reader with a description of the May 1 vintage fashion show, great news about the building project, and an interview with 101 year-old Doris Dean Boyden. The reader will enjoy articles about turn of the century travel conditions and city issues. We are pleased to announce the Music in the Park concert series will continue this summer. Please contact us if you prefer an electronic copy of the *Seymour History Bulletin*. ([bicollar@aol.com](mailto:bicollar@aol.com))

## Stylin' with the Party Band

### 1910-1970: Sixty years of Seymour Fashion and Music at Doxbee's

You are invited to a fun filled evening featuring the styles and music from sixty years of Seymour history. After enjoying a delicious country style meal you will be treated to a fashion show and musical revue featuring Seymour High School students as models and the always entertaining, Party Band providing music from each decade. The authentic vintage fashions are from the collection of the Seymour Community Historical Society. Period photos from museum files will accompany the styles and music.

**THE LEADER STORE**  
We Sell Michigan Avenue Brand Dress Goods  
LEDERER BROS. & CO. CHICAGO  
Carries a full line of Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes Hats, Caps, Fancy Goods, Etc.  
Special Discount on all ready-made wearing apparel during Fair week.  
While attending the Fair come and see what splendid values we are offering. Telephone 126 3  
**J. D. WERBELOWSKY, PROP. SEYMOUR**

Tickets to the May 1<sup>st</sup> event can be purchased at Don's Market, Muehl Public Library, or from any historical society board member. Your cost for this evening of food, fun, and fashions is only \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door. All profits will be donated to the building fund for the new museum. Doors will open at 4:00 PM with a country style dinner featuring chicken and tenderloin tips being served at 5:00. The program will begin immediately following dinner and is expected to conclude by 7:15 PM. This is a great opportunity to support the historical society and enjoy an evening of educational entertainment.

**CIRCLE SKIRTS**  
Sizes 9 - 15  
**SALE PRICE**  
**\$2.98**  
**MILLER'S DEPT. STORE**

## See models display:

- Swimming suits from the early 1900's
- A national prize winning flapper dress made in 1927 by a SHS student.
- Going to church clothes from the 1930's.
- WWI and WWII uniforms.
- A wool suit made in 1950 by Seymour tailor Paul Kuehne.
- Fun clothing from the 1950's and 60's and much, much more.

## Hear the Party Band and others:

- Play the greatest hits from 1910 to 1969.
- Play the music you danced to at the Pine Castle
- Share humor from the era.
- Relate facts about Seymour history.
- Update us on the new museum project.

We are looking for a great turnout at Doxbee's to help the society celebrate 60 years of history. It will be a tasty meal with a fun program. Your participation will help make the evening a success. Everybody loves the Party Band. John, Lynn and the band have been working on songs that will bring back many fond memories. Please find the time to join us.

**The Party Band**  
**YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE**  
including: IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE NOW, THE LAST LETTER, MY BLUE HEAVEN, EDNA BARRON KERRYDOCK MOON, THERE'S A NEW HOOP OVER MY SHOULDER, COLUMBUS STOCKING KNITS - IN THE PINK.

## Stylin' with the Party Band 1910-1960

**What: A vintage fashion show with live models, music, and slide presentation.**  
**When: Sunday, May 1 - from 5:00 to 7:15 PM**  
**Where: Doxbee's: Country style chicken and tenderloin tips.**  
**Why: A Fundraiser for the new museum.**  
**How: High school students will model clothing from the historical society's collection accompanied with music.**  
**Cost: \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 at the door.**

# Exciting News About the Building Project

Patrons, who wish to remain anonymous, have **offered to match all funds, up to \$100,000.00**, donated to the building project prior to June 1, 2011. This is an excellent opportunity to bring the building fund to the point where we can break ground this summer. All donations are appreciated! Help spread the word to others.

About 80% of the money for the new museum has been raised. Your assistance is needed to complete the project. The information on the insert of this newsletter answers the most commonly asked questions. Phone (920) 833-6064 for more details on how you can help preserve your family's heritage by sponsoring part of the building or an exhibit.

## Naming Opportunities

Perhaps you want to remember your family, a loved one, or leave a gift for future generations. Many opportunities exist to sponsor a picture, an exhibit, a room, or display. Please review the enclosed sheet or call for more details. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed as a supporter. All gifts of \$100.00 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the entryway.

## What Can You do to Help

The first thing *you can do is become a member of the Seymour Community Historical Society*. Since you probably are already a member, help spread the word and encourage others to join. There are many benefits to membership, but most of all, it provides a person with the opportunity to support the museum and stay informed on society activities. The quarterly newsletter communicates the activities of the society and presents local history topics and interviews. Through your membership, you help provide Music in the Park, new exhibits, and educational programs.

## Lifetime Membership

In 1979, when the society received perpetual status, 40 people were listed as members. Since then, membership has grown to over 220. A lifetime family membership in the historical society is available for \$50.00. This figure was established to make lifetime status within reach of everyone. Lifetime business memberships can be obtained for \$100.00. If a lifetime membership isn't for you, consider joining for a year (\$5.00 individual, \$10.00 family). The society is grateful to members who continue to donate to the general fund to help cover operating costs. In order to join, simply complete the enclosed form and mail it to the society.

## Electronic History Bulletin

Your historical society is looking to become more efficient in communicating with our members. Printing and mailing costs for this publication consume funds that can be used for the building project. We realize that not everyone has the Internet and some people prefer a paper copy, however many people favor an electronic copy. If you prefer an electronic copy (in color) send us your e-mail and we will make sure you receive a pdf copy via e-mail. You may contact the editors at ([bicollar@aol.com](mailto:bicollar@aol.com)). We have the e-mail addresses of the following people: Blahnik Barb, Brashaw Brian and Susan, Campbell Jim and Nancy, Cumicek John and Adrienne, Dorosz Steve and Darla, Duffy Ellen Piehl, Duffey Tom and Ann, Eick Roger and Janice, Eisenreich Bobbi Jo & Ted, Farr Kathleen and Dean, Forcey John and Dawn,

Gosse, Dr. Richard and Karen, Herbst Giz and Linda, Hesprich Kevin and Sue, Hodgen Ken, Hoff Dr. Don and Gail, Kelley Tom, Kenton Carol Piper, Kraft LaMont and Sandy, Kuehne Carl & Mary Ellen, Landwehr T.J., Manzke Bob and Susan, Marnocjha Greg and Kim, Melchert Ralph, Nimmer Lee, Palubicki Jim and Laurie, Performance Pallet, Peterson Randy and Debbie, Pingel Harold and Dolores, Schneider Dennis, Schuh Pudge and Cassie, Schuster Ronald, Sievert Anne and Rottier Ken and Judy, Timmins, Elizabeth. Unless you request a paper copy, all future Seymour History Bulletins will be sent via e-mail.

## Doris Dean Boyden



**Doris Dean Boyden  
H. S. Grad. - 1927**

***Seymour Community Historical Society member Gail Dean has visited Doris Dean Boyden at the King Veteran's Home on several occasions. Most likely, the oldest surviving native of Seymour, Doris shared a number of her recollections with Gail.***

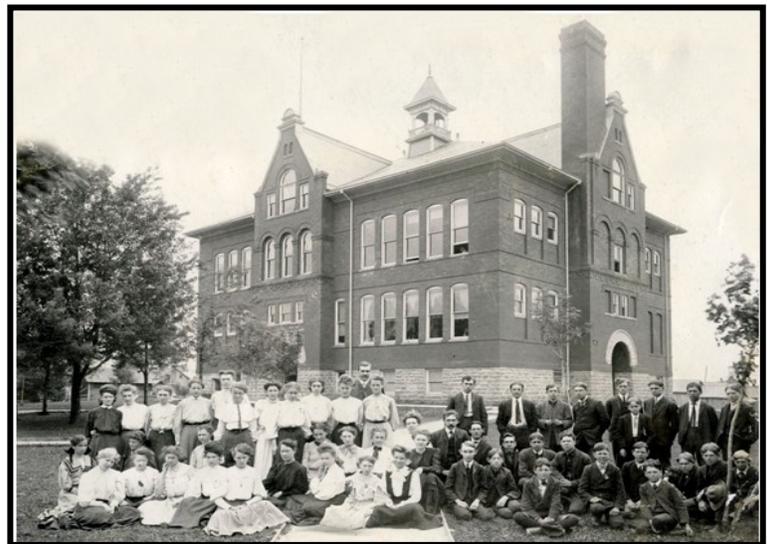
Doris Dean Boyden was born in Seymour Wis. on August 14, 1909. The house she was born in is still standing at 219 Mill Street. Doris turned 101 on August 14, 2010, and other than poor sight, she is in good health. She married Elbridge Boyden in 1955.

### Father City Clerk

Her grandfather owned Dean Hardware located on Main Street. Her father owned a grocery store, which he later sold to Ed Pasch. Eventually it was demolished to make room for what is now Chase Bank. Bert Dean (Doris's father) was the city clerk for 30 years. He worked primarily with Mayor James Veitch, (1926-1934) and Mayor Chris Groendahl, (1934-1950).

### The Prom

Doris has many fond memories of living in Seymour including getting a home cooked meal at Mrs. Armstrong's boarding house for 25 cents. She remembers going to the high school prom with Fenton Muehl when she was a freshmen. Mr. Muehl came over to her house and asked her mother if Doris would go to the prom with him. Her mother told him he would have to ask Doris. Her mother made her dress. It was satin. The next year her mother died.



### High School Years

She remembers attending the three-story K-12 school located on Robbins Street. The all brick building was the pride of the community when it opened in 1903 with a construction

cost of \$25,000.00. Most students either walked or rode their bikes to school. There was no bus transportation. Even though a small gym existed in the building, Doris remembers basketball games being played in the theater on the corner. The team would remove the seats and reinstall them after the game. One traumatic recollection involved fooling around with other girls in the stairwell and breaking a window. George Droeger, from the hardware store, was on the school board. He repaired the window and made sure the girls paid the \$5.00 cost.

### **Business College**

After graduating from high school in 1927, Doris attended Actual Business College in Appleton, and graduated May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1928. When asked about the Great Depression of the 1930s, she didn't recall much since her father sent her to California to live with relatives.

### **Life in Seymour**

Doris didn't get married until later in life. Her husband Eldridge, along with John Bunkelman, owned and operated the hardware store in Seymour for 30 years, retiring in 1958. They lived in the Hittner Apartments on South Main Street. Art and Flora Boyden operated a general merchandise store across from city hall. At times she helped there and recalled how people would gather around the wood stove, tell stories and catch up on the latest community news. She was president of the American Legion Auxiliary from 1964-1966 and worked at the food stand at the fair every year. She had a vague recollection of Hamburger Charlie selling hamburgers. She belonged to the Eastern Star and her husband was a Mason. It was a popular organization that met in the Odd Fellows Hall located on the corner of South Main and West Wisconsin Street. Since many roads were not paved, people often took the train when traveling to Green Bay or Appleton.

### **Now at King**

Doris worked for GTE for 13 years, then at Don's for a couple of years. After that she moved to Green Bay where she lived with her husband from 1973 until his death in 1983. From there she moved to the veteran's home in King where she still resides. Her husband, Elbridge, was a WWI veteran and a Commander of the American Legion Post in Seymour.

***The next three articles from the early 1900's point out that whether traveling by horse and buggy, automobile, bicycle or on foot, a person risked injury. Imagine what it was like when a slow moving buggy was passed by an automobile travelling 15 – 20 miles per hour. As the picture shows, Main Street was dirt and in the spring mud was a major problem.***

## **Osborn Farmer has Close Call**

### **Nearly Loses His Life in Runaway at Seymour**

Frank Kretsch Thrown Under Vehicle and Has three Others Piled on top of Him – Badly Injured

***Appleton Post 11/24/1904***

Frank Kretsch of the town of Osborn is in critical condition as the result of a runaway at Seymour. While driving through the principal street a runaway team overtook him and caused his team to run away. The two teams startled two others that were tied to hitching posts.

The four teams dashed down the street at the utmost speed. Kretsch was the only person in the vehicles. His team

finally got the lead and after going some distance ran into an obstruction.

The driver was thrown under the demolished wagon. The other vehicles were on him in an instant, landing in a heap. Assistance soon arrived and Mr. Kretsch was finally rescued. He was unconscious and so remained for some time. A physician was summoned, who has hopes of his recovery.

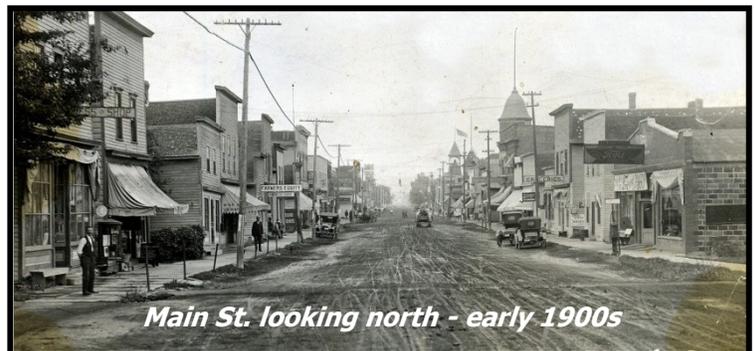
## **Automobile Accident**

***Seymour Press 07/07/1904***

Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Uecke, of Cumberland, Wis., are visiting relatives and friends here. They came part of the way in their automobile and by train part of the way on account of the bad roads in Clark County.

On the fourth while Mr. and Mrs. Uecke and Herbert McMullen were riding at the rate of fifteen miles an hour on Pearl Street, the front axle of the automobile broke, throwing all out except Mr. Uecke, landing them a distance of about twenty-five feet.

The chances are that the three who were thrown out would have been going yet if they had not landed sooner. No one was injured beyond a few scratches, but the automobile was considerably damaged and was taken to Lotter Brothers shop where it is being repaired.



*Main St. looking north - early 1900s*

## **Dangerous Crossing**

***Seymour Press 01/01/1900***

Those who ride in buggies or bicycles or in any vehicle should always remember that in crossing the street or highway the person on foot has the right of the way. The law says so, and if you injure a pedestrian by careless riding or driving you are responsible. No one is required to run across the street to keep out of the way of vehicles.



## **Music in the Park**

Music in the Park will start Wednesday evening, June 1 at 6:30 with Les James entertaining. As usual, Les will have great tunes and a few guests. Music will continue on Wednesday's all summer at the Gazebo in Nagel Park. Wally's is the backup site in the event of bad weather. Please leave the parking spaces closest to the gazebo for those who need to stay in their car. We thank our sponsors, workers, and those who donate to the raffle. A complete schedule of all the bands will be printed in the **Advertiser/Community News**.

## **Future Articles and Interviews**

Do you have a Seymour area history topic that you would like to see us research and publish in the next **History Bulletin**, or would you like to be interviewed? If so, contact either Marge Coonen or Bill Collar.

## Seymour History Web site

All Past articles and much more can be found on the society Web site ([www.seymourhistory.org](http://www.seymourhistory.org)). Last year we had over 1,700 hits on our site. To access the news articles, click on "News."

*The articles on this page are from the **Seymour Press** over 110 years ago. Even though the population of the city was just under 1,000, and many modern conveniences were lacking, it is remarkable how many of today's concerns were evident then.*

### Fix up Your Sidewalks

Seymour Press 4/27/99

There are a lot of miserable poor sidewalks in this city that must be repaired or rebuilt. It is not pleasant for the street commissioner or city marshal to give people notice to fix their walks and it is not pleasant for you to receive a notice, but if they are in poor shape, the notice will be given just the same. The best way is for each property holder to keep their walks in shape so that the officers will not be compelled to look after the walks. If a person is injured on a poor walk, the city is responsible for damages. Fix up your walks before you receive notice to do it.

### This Interests You

Seymour Press June 8, 1899

Do you like your town? If so, you will help to support its business institutions. Do you have any concern for its future? If so, you will encourage every movement looking to the upbuilding of the town. Would you like to see it grow and prosper and extend its trade and influence? If so, you will speak a good word for the town and the people at every opportunity. You will lend assistance to its industries and patronize them.



Seymour Main St. looking south

### Trim Your Trees

Seymour Press July 13, 1899

In many parts of the city shade trees overhang the sidewalks so as to interfere with public traffic. There is a city ordinance prohibiting this and the owners of those trees should be made to trim them to proper height.

### Town Killers

Seymour Press 02/08/1900

Town Killers are classified into branches as follows: First, those who go out of town to do their shopping; second, those who are opposed to improvements; third, those who prefer a quiet town to one of push and enterprise; fourth, those who

imagine they own the town; fifth, those who deride public spirited men; sixth, those who oppose every movement that does not originate with them; seventh, those who oppose every movement that does not appear to benefit them; eighth, those who seek to injure the credit or reputation of individuals.

### Loon Lake Club Organized

Seymour Press 02/08/1900

Loon Lake met and organized a club and named it "Loon Lake Outing Club," and the name of the camp is "Camp All-awhile. Officers were elected as follows: W. B. Comee, president; George Falck, vice-president; H. J. VanVuren secretary and treasurer. The club will endeavor to have the state plant a lot of young fish in the lake.

### The Business Man's Burden

Seymour Press 02/08/1900

Probably one of the worst burdens the business man is requested to put up with is the numerous calls from people having something that he does not want. There is scarcely a day but what he has a subscription paper shoved under his nose, or something equally as bad. Then comes the faker to pull his leg, and then the raffle ticket shark and so on.

If the business man informs these parties that he doesn't care to invest or donate, or that he can't afford to, he is usually set down for a stingy chump, when he really can't afford it, but the bore has no sympathy and usually sticks to his victim until he gets him. The only remedy we know of to escape this menace is to meet the parties and if they have something you don't want, is to say a great big NO! and say it as if it was meant. That's what we do and it works all right.

Seymour has been overrun with these things for some time and it is high time for a halt. Many people imagine that the business men are overloaded with money. This is a sad mistake, as we positively know that the majority of Seymour business men have hard work to make both ends meet.

## The Arrival of Warm Weather

*Created an Unusual Demand for Summer Wearing Apparel.*

<p>Many lines are broken now and as there is only 12 more buying days before the "Glorious Fourth" you should not delay your purchases longer.</p> <p>We are offering many Bargains in Summer Wash Goods. Ready Made Waists, Summer Suits, Children's Dresses, Boys' Wash Suits and in every other line of Summer Apparel.</p> <p>Lingerie Waists for Mid-Summer Wear.—A great variety of Styles—the materials are all of fine quality. Full length or half sleeve. Prices 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$2.98.</p> <p>10c YARD.</p> <p>Beige Cloth—A new Summer Dress Goods, double width, comes in all the latest shades, formerly sold at 15c. Our price now 10c.</p>	<p>These are only a few of the many offers we have.</p> <p>Also wish to say we are Headquarters for Fourth of July Goods</p> <p>Fire works of every description, flags, novelty trimmings, balloons, etc.</p> <p>New Stock Just Arrived.</p>	<p>Summer Wash Suits.</p> <p>Dainty White, tan or blue Wash Suits, fashioned in the latest styles neatly trimmed, exceptionally good values at</p> <p><b>\$1.75.</b></p> <p><b>\$2.25.</b></p> <p><b>\$2.75.</b></p> <p><b>\$4.50.</b></p> 
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## W. D. BOYDEN.

Opposite City Hall, Seymour, Wisconsin.

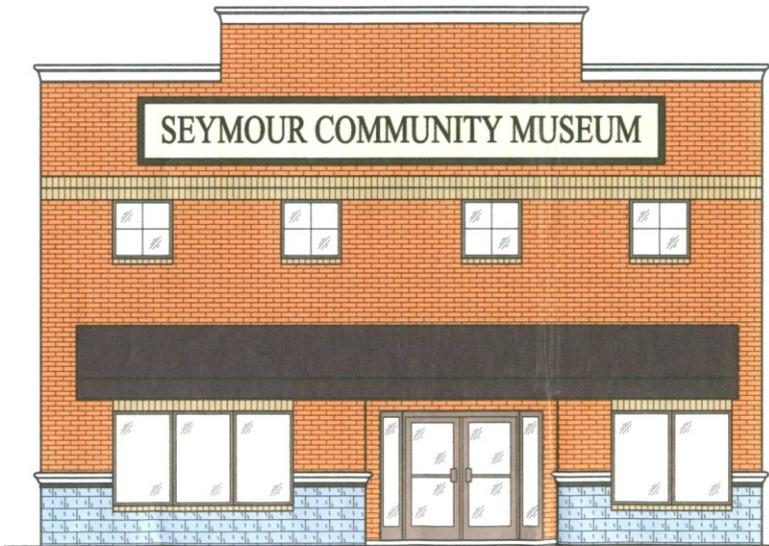
### The Crows Win

Seymour Press 02/08/1900

Yesterday while Perry Winters was shooting at crows with a Winchester rifle, the barrel of the gun exploded, blowing the gun all to pieces. Mr. Winters was not hurt, only being scratched in the face and hands. The crows still live.

# Help make it happen! Match the \$100,000 Challenge!

## What are the benefits?



- A real “gem” for downtown Seymour
- Help preserve Seymour area history
- Bring more visitors into the city
- Naming rights available for rooms and exhibits
- Office and storage space for the Hist. society
- Office space for the Home of the Hamburger
- Interactive displays featuring Seymour history
- Youth activities and meeting space
- Indoor restrooms for Nagel Park
- A concession area open to Nagel Park
- Internet access for historical research
- Genealogy resources and advice available
- Picture accessible to the public
- A gift shop featuring Seymour related items
- Back issues of the ***Seymour Press*** on file

## How You Can Help

**Donate \$100,000** to become a **Major Donor** and earn naming rights to a large room. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$50,000 - \$99,999** to join the **Governor’s Club** and naming rights to an office or room. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$25,000 - \$49,999** to join the **Senator’s Club** and earn naming rights to a large display area or an introductory video. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$10,000 - \$24,999** to become a **Trailblazer** and sponsor a smaller display area. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$5,000 - \$9,999** to become an **Explorer** and sponsor a large picture or exhibit. Your name or family name will be prominently displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$2,500 - \$4,999** to become a **Pioneer** and sponsor a smaller picture or display case. Your name or family name will be boldly displayed on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$1,000 - \$2,499** to become a **Settler** and your **name** listed in bold on the welcome plaque.

**Donate \$500.00 - \$999** to become a **Scout** and your **name** listed in print on the welcome plaque

**Donate \$100.00 - \$499** and your name will be listed under **Additional Donors** on the plaque.

Many of you have contributed toward the building fund in the past. We thank you! Perhaps you can do more to help us reach the challenge goal by June 1. If you would like to verify what you have donated previously, go to the Web site ([www.seymourhistory.org](http://www.seymourhistory.org)) and click on “News” and scroll down to “Contributors”. Another method is to contact the historical society treasurer, Marge Coonen, Phone: 833-2656.

**Would you like to advertise your business?** What a great opportunity to have your business on display by sponsoring an exhibit or having it featured every time the creative introductory video narrated by Horatio Seymour is played. Check with the historical society for additional advertising and promotional opportunities.

**Refer to the reverse side for a donation form and membership form.**

## New Museum Campaign ----- Pledge/Donation Form

*For a detailed description of the building plan access the society Web site or call (920) 833-6064*

I/we wish to support the new museum project in the following manner:

\_\_\_\_\_ A tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ A pledged contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year over \_\_\_\_\_ years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me to discuss the nature of my gift.

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This contribution is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

This contribution is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PO Box 237, Seymour, WI

## Most Common Questions

### 1. Why do we need a new museum in Seymour?

The projected building will be a cultural, educational, and community center. It will contain a multi-purpose room that will serve as a classroom, meeting room, or display area. The present museum is too crowded. It lacks appropriate exhibit area, does not accommodate visiting groups, and fails to meet present building code requirements. With the new trail, and growing interest in Seymour's role in the origin of the hamburger, more visitors will frequent the Depot St. area.

### 2. What will the new building cost? How much money has been pledged?

As designed, 60' x 70' and two floors, the cost of the brick building will be between \$800,000.00 and \$850,000.00. The final figure depends on how sophisticated the exhibits are, and varying construction costs. Providing we match the \$100,000.00 challenge grant, we plan to build this summer.

### 3. Who will operate the building?

The Seymour Historical Society will operate the building with volunteer help.

### 4. How often will the museum be open?

The plan is afternoons, Wednesday through Sunday during the summer and limited winter hours. It will also be available for special functions and educational activities

## Seymour Community Historical Society Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues: Check your class of membership. Consider a gift membership for a friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime (\$50.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family 1 Yr. (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Business (\$100.00)  
Individual or family Immediate family

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual 1 Yr. (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Business 1 Yr. (\$20.00)  
Includes Indiv. or family One person

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member and wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the museum operating fund.

Mail to: PO Box 237, Seymour, WI