

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2016

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

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Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 TFSS

Fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday

Closed: January, February and March

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Communication from Your Historical Society

Because of increasing production costs and mailing expense, the Seymour History Bulletin has become a twice-yearly publication. Unless the society has your e-mail address, you will receive a printed copy in the spring and fall. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep all our members informed of activities taking place at the museum, additional society news, and to look back at Seymour area history. If you are not receiving an electronic copy and have an e-mail address, please send your e-mail address to pma@billcollar.com and your color copy will arrive via the Internet.



Annual Meeting May 7th Features Helen Keller

The annual meeting of the SCHS will be held Saturday, May 7 at 1:00 in the upstairs meeting room of the museum. Following a brief business meeting, Jessica Michna will present her impersonation of Helen Keller. Back by popular demand, Michna, is remembered for her vibrant portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt at last year's annual meeting.

Helen Keller a Remarkable Woman

Helen Adams Keller was born a healthy child on June 27, 1880, to Captain Arthur H. and Kate Adams Keller of Tusculumbia, Alabama. At the tender age of 19 months, she was stricken with a severe illness which left her blind and deaf. By age 10, Helen had mastered Braille as well as the manual alphabet and even learned to use the typewriter. By the time she was 16, Helen could speak well enough to go to preparatory school and to college. In 1904 she graduated "cum laude" from Radcliffe College. Her teacher, Anne Sullivan, stayed with her through those years, interpreting lectures and class discussions to her. Helen Keller, the little girl, became one of history's remarkable women. She dedicated her life to improving the conditions of the blind and the deaf-blind around the world, lecturing in more than 25 countries on the five major continents.



A Professional Actor

Jessica Michna has become widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies and other historic women as well as her fictitious characters. She has entertained groups throughout America including guests from as far away as New Zealand, Japan and Brazil. Audiences ranging from young children to senior citizens have been equally enthralled. She has appeared before historical societies, schools, libraries, living history museums, senior centers, churches, and has been guest hostess at parties and weddings.

Mrs. Michna's performances are compelling and emotionally enthralling. Audiences laugh along with her humorous anecdotes. They share in her tears as she relates how the horrors of war have impacted families. She has a powerful effect on an audience. Once they have seen one of her characters they can't wait to see the next one.

Back by popular demand, this is Jessica's third appearance in Seymour. Her portrayals of Mary Todd Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt were exceptional. Be prepared for another outstanding program. Her performance is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Special Exhibits at the Museum this Spring and Summer

High School Student Art Show - April 30 and May 1, 1:00 to 4:00

The best of Seymour High School student art will be displayed. This is an excellent opportunity to support the creative efforts of our local high school students. The historical society will serve refreshments for the grand opening on Saturday, April 30 at 1:00 PM.

Veterans Exhibit - Working Warriors: Military Life Beyond Combat - May 14 to June 12



This exhibit is made possible through a loan from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and a financial grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. By viewing the display, the entire family will learn more about Wisconsin military history, the sacrifices of the soldiers, and the contributions of a variety of support personnel. About 75% of military work



is considered non-combat. These roles rarely make the headlines, but are vital to every military operation. Exploring the non-combat roles of military service personnel, including work as barbers, military police, dentists, mechanics, and photographers, this exhibit showcases an often overlooked but highly relatable side of military life. This exhibit is presented in a pop-up banner format.

The museum will be open after the Memorial Day parade and program at the Veterans Memorial. This is a great time to bring the family to the museum. The slide show featuring Seymour area veterans will be showing.

Historical 4-H Display - June 17 to June -26

Over the years the historical society has received a number of donations relating to area 4-H clubs. These pictures, banners, quilts and objects bring back fond memories for anyone who was a 4-H participant. The beginning of what was to become 4-H in Wisconsin was initiated in the fall of 1903. While similar work was beginning in many other states, Wisconsin, due to Ransom Asa Moore's work, was certainly among the leaders. He has thus deservedly become known as the "Father of Wisconsin 4-H," a program which now involves over 150,000 youth, 28,000 volunteer leaders, and over 90 paid staff. The exhibit includes a video following the growth of the 4-H movement and integral role played by Wisconsin volunteers.



The Golden Age of Video Arcade Games - July 1 to July 31

This impressive exhibit gives attendees the opportunity to take a trip back in time and visit an arcade during the height of their popularity. With titles like Pac-Man, Space Invaders, Donkey Kong and

Frogger, the video arcade phenomenon would evolve into a billion dollar industry. By 1982, there were over 24,000 arcades and 1,5 million machines active in North America.

The exhibition is an opportunity to view popular games of that time, as well as many rarities. and a few surprises. The original dedicated machines in this collection will bring back the sights and sounds of the arcades of yesteryear.

Exhibition Features

- In addition to the machines, the exhibit features many other arcade-related items in display cases that showcase how the games and their characters appeared in retail. Some of the items include Christmas ornaments, drinking glasses, records, toys, and trading cards.
- Each arcade machine that is on display also has a description that includes interesting facts about the machine. The description may explain about the game appearing in a TV show or song, new technology that was being implemented, information about the graphic design, or other unique facts.
- Along with the description each game is rated on a 1-10 scale of market demand, rarity. and "Cool rating". These ratings were the result of a survey of a few hundred classic arcade collectors and accurately reflect these statistics.
- A PowerPoint presentation runs on a continuous loop and shows pictures of the video game restoration process. The games are shown on their journey from water-logged and missing parts to show-room ready. There are also pieces of trivia pertaining to video game characters and play.
- A timeline from 1971-1985 that outlines the key innovations made to video games will be displayed.



About the Collector

Bradley Czech is a video arcade collector and enthusiast. Collecting for over 20 years, his passion for the unique hobby of collecting and restoring classic gaming machines has generated one of the largest and most elite collections in the Midwest. With over 200 games in their personal collection, Bradley, along with his wife, Jessica, continues to track down and locate rare and unusual arcade games from the glory days of the video game era.

In his own words...



The games I like to collect are usually from the late 70's to the mid-80's. I'm absolutely drawn to the nostalgia of these games. I just remember playing them as a kid. Today most people have forgotten how BIG the arcade games were back in the day. These are the games that started it all and seeing them and playing them literally brings you back to that time.

I actually started collecting very early on. I purchased my first full-size arcade game when I was 13 years old. I saw an ad in the newspaper for an Asteroids game for sale. I quickly called the number and the deal was struck. I paid \$60.00 for the machine and I remember paying for it with \$56.00 in bills and \$4.00 in quarters. It was all I had at the time. I still own that very same game to this day.

Finding these games today is becoming harder and harder. "Back in the Day" most people had a favorite game they liked to play. Seeing people's faces light up when they actually get a chance to see that game again is

priceless. My hope is that this exhibit will give everyone a chance to remember what it was like and relive some of those old memories.

The historical society is excited about this unique exhibit. We will extend open hours so more families will have the opportunity to visit. The museum hours for July will be from 1:00 to 5:00 Wednesday through Sunday and until 8:00 PM on Friday.

Home of the Hamburger Display - August 6 to August 28

Burger Fest is Saturday, August 13 with balloon ascensions and additional activities also taking place on Friday night August 12. The theme this year is **"Burgerfest 2016"**. The upper level of the museum will be filled with a large collection of hamburger related items. This is a great time to investigate the origin of the hamburger in Seymour. It all started back in 1885 when "Hamburger Charlie" Nagreen first put chopped beef between two pieces of bread and called it a "hamburger."

In addition to the exhibit upstairs hundreds of hamburger objects are on permanent display on first floor. The museum gift shop is stocked with many hamburger items including commemorative coins, bobble heads, magnets and books about the history of the hamburger. Bring the entire family. Much of the museum is interactive and kids of all ages will enjoy participating.

Numerous things ranging from a hamburger telephone to a Bob's Big Boy Statue are on display. Ketchup on the origin of the burger in Seymour and interactively "Picture Yourself as Hamburger Charlie." Visit the gift shop as you relish your visit to Burgertown. Top off your day with a delicious burger in one of Seymour's fine establishments. Admission to the museum is free. For people who wish to donate, the recommended amount is \$2.00 per adult and \$5.00 a family.



Art Show featuring the Creations of Lila Zastrow and Dave Hendrickson - Sept. 10 to 25

The Seymour Community Historical Society is pleased to present the artwork of Seymour area residents Lila Zastrow and Dave Hendrickson. Their impressive work will be on display for two weeks with a special "Meet the Artist Night" on Saturday, September 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Lila and Dave and view their extensive collection that includes unique items crafted from wood. The program is free and open to the public. Members of the historical society will serve refreshments.



Lila Zastrow graduated Magnum Cum Laude with a degree in music from Lawrence University in 1977. After graduation Lila worked with Ron Wall building tracker organs for a period of two years. She went on to apprentice in the field of piano technology with Mike Drost and eventually became a technician for Lawrence University Conservatory as well as having private customers in the Fox Valley. Throughout her life Lila has created art in various media and continues to explore new ideas. She has built two harpsichords and rebuilt more than 60 pianos.

David Hendrickson graduated from U W Madison with a degree in art in 1972. He went into the field of band instrument repair. After meeting Lila, she taught him piano technology and the two went into business together. David has also continued to make art and is building classical guitars and lutes.

Where others might see a stump or log, Lila and Dave see a future piece of furniture or a work of art. The historical society is pleased to present their creations for the public to view. The resourceful couple lives south of Seymour on French Road.



2016 Music in the Park

Music starts at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday evening. In case of rain, the program will be held at Wally's.

John and Lynn Koenigs have put together another outstanding lineup for the summer concerts in the gazebo adjacent to the museum. Bring your lawn chair. Refreshments are available at the museum concession stand.

June 15 - **Irish Jerry** - Native of Ireland - Great Performer

June 22 - **Les James & Family** - Seymour's Favorite Son

June 29 - **Rocker Rocker Rocker** - Classic Rock

July 6 - **Two/Fifths** - Variety-Prodigy of 3 Famous Bands

July 13 - **Blind Date** - Variety-Three Talented Musicians

July 20 - **TNT Polka** - Young Talent Kicking Off Polka Days

July 27 - **Sgt. Bernie Kroll** from Sobieski - Polka

August 3 - **Tom's Tunes** - Variety - Fun Entertainers

August 10 - **The New Generation** - Polka

August 17 - **Hauser's Hot Shots** - Polka

August 24 - **Larry Wussow's Trio**

August 31 - **Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's**

Veteran Appreciation Night - Honor Guard Post 106



New Exhibits at the Museum

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Seymour

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are meticulously detailed, large-scale lithographed, color-keyed street maps. Sanborn Maps helped insurance agents in the late 19th and early 20th centuries determine the degree of fire hazard associated with a particular property. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps typically focus on the business districts within communities. Features include street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, locations of fire hydrants, locations of water and gas mains, and the names of most public buildings, churches and companies.

The maps also document the strength of the local fire department and the presence of fire hazards. Each map provides a detailed assessment of the buildings within a district. Assessments



Large city maps (3' x 6') from 1910 and 1923 are mounted on the wall for visitors to view.

include an outline of each building and outbuilding, the size and number of stories of every building, the location of windows and doors, fire walls, and indications of sprinkler systems. They list the type of construction and the composition of building materials including the framing, flooring, and roofing materials.

The Utility Room is Now Interactive



An interactive iPad has been added to the 1930s utility room on the second floor of the museum. A wide variety of items are on display in the utility room and many visitors have difficulty identifying them. By touching a picture of the object an explanation is displayed on the iPad. Another portion of the device provides the participant with the opportunity to listen to "Granny" describe what it was like to do the laundry during the Depression years.

To help establish the 1930s mood big band music is now playing from the radio in the living room. Your support helps make yearly improvements at the museum possible.

Donors Add Items to the Museum Collection

Thanks to the generosity of area residents, items for display in the museum and general store are increasing and changing. Recently the family of Ray and Ruth Staeven delivered an 1920s era wood cook stove to the historical society. The Estate Heatalator was manufactured by the Estate Stove Company of Hamilton, Ohio. The company manufactured stoves until the plant was closed in 1962.

Tom Staeven recalls that the stove was used for years by his grandparents in their farm home located south of Seymour on County Highway EE. The beautifully preserved, white enamel appliance has found a new home in the 1930s general store. It includes a baking oven, two warming ovens, and a hot water reservoir. Complete with all the accessories, the stove is a great addition to the general store and will be appreciated by many visitors.

If you have a historical object that you would like to see preserved and displayed in the museum, contact a member of the board of directors. Unfortunately, because of limited storage and display space not all objects can be accepted.



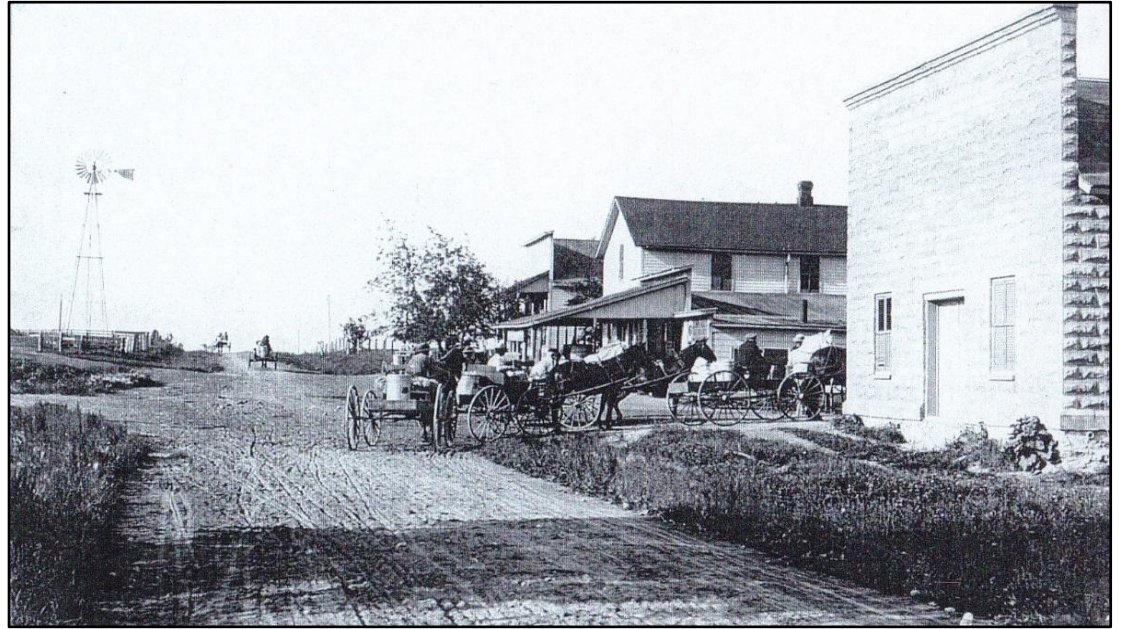
Every Area Has a Secret...Even Cicero!

By Lynn E. Koenigs



I wonder how many people have been curious about where this sign on County Highway VV leads. Some leisurely driver on a Sunday afternoon might say, "Let's check out Cicero." Imagine their surprise when they drive and drive and drive... perhaps even forgetting why they turned onto County X. Nothing remains of Cicero to indicate that anything of importance ever happened there. Younger people might be surprised to learn that Cicero was at one time a busy little place. Springtime meant muddied, wagon-wheel rutted roads used by local farmers making their way to Cicero bringing cans of milk to the cheese factory,

or perhaps stopping for groceries at the general store where they would find the latest information posted notifying the inhabitants of elections, school information, dances and anything else that was of importance for the well-being of the people living near. The store had a pot-bellied stove with benches on each side where customers could sit down and warm up on a chilly day. Imagine the interesting discussions held around that old stove! If



Cicero was also known as Brass's Corner

further "news" was needed, there was a tavern across the road. Today, we see only the Town Hall, which was once Sunny Nook School...the starting point of Cicero. Further on down the road, Immanuel



Town Hall



Sunny Nook school after the addition.



The old church was torn down and a new one was built.

Lutheran Church is the end of Cicero. Houses still remain however, most of the businesses have been torn down or repurposed.

There is one area secret though...one that has remained hidden for years and was only recently uncovered.

Early 1960s...



The Tubbs Farmstead

Each morning as I rode the bus to Seymour High we passed by the secret hidden within the walls of the Tubbs home on Highway X. No one conversed about the secret on the way to school. It was hush-hush...never discussed...even by those who knew!

One day, on my way home from Seymour, I decided to turn on X because I was interested in the progress of the David and Tina Wichman home being built along side of the old Tubbs home. The new house was finished and the

family had recently moved in.

The old Tubbs farmhouse which stood for so many years, on the outskirts of Cicero, was finally being torn down. The slate siding was removed revealing the secret known by the families that had once lived there. Underneath the siding stood a two-story log house! The uncovered structure stood proudly and beautiful in all its glory as it had more than a hundred years before.



Was this the final death and destruction of a home that had housed the first settlers in the area? No, it was not! Fortunately for history, the Wichman family had contacted the company Beam and Board from Green Bay that would take the house down for free if they could have the logs. The house will be sold as a kit to a prospective buyer. Because of building codes and restrictions a new house will first be built and then the log kit will surround the structure making it appear old. Clever! We won't know where or when the old Cicero farmhouse will reappear....but, the old log home will live on.

Football Returns to Seymour High School - 1945

Because of the Depression and financial problems Seymour High School dropped football in 1930. On June 7, 1945 toward the end of World War II, the following article appeared in The Seymour Press.

Football In High School

Throughout our country when fall comes, the high schools begin practicing one of the best loved

sports in America - - football. Of all the sports in which high schools participate, none of them can

match or even come close to the spirit, color, and hard fought competition that football displays.

Football is a sport in which a fellow can relax and enjoy himself when the school day comes to an end. The old proverb "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" holds true in high school too. Sports also occupies one's time and keeps a fellow out of mischief, which so often results when athletics are not provided. Because a scholastic average must be maintained in order to allow boys to compete in football, they will be inspired to work for this eligibility mark. In this way, scholastic standings will be raised.

The spirit and morale created at football games is the most surprising thing ever witnessed. The spectators have so much pep and enthusiasm

throughout the entire game, that the tempo never decreases, but always increases. Upon arrival at the field, you can hear the pep band playing and the cheerleaders yelling. After finding your seats, the game will start in a few minutes. The referees are giving the captains their instructions, the ball is placed, and the game has begun. The thrill of a perfect kickoff proves your team is tops. The game progresses, and in an hour or so is over - - a game that will not easily be forgotten.

Football is a sport for the American boy. Why not have this American sport for the boys of Seymour High School?

High School Student Council Football Committee



Seymour native Bob Wolk returned to Seymour as a science teacher for the 1945 school year. A graduate of UW-La Crosse and a veteran, Wolk took on the task of organizing a high school football team. The first year the team played four games. They beat the Green Bay Central "B" team 18 - 6, lost to Marinette Lourdes 19 - 6, defeated Denmark 43 - 6, and revenging the loss to Lourdes the Indians won 18 - 13. Following is the article from the October 18, 1945 Seymour Press.



Seymour High School Football 1945

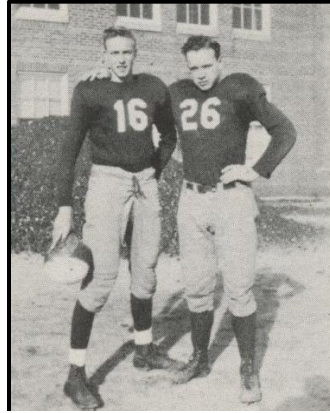
Standing: J. Hittner, R. Huth, N. Leisgang, R. Sears, M. Blohm, E. Woldt, D. Farrell, L. Beyer, L. Leisgang, R. Vandenhoy, L. Van Vuren, L. Maas, W. Wagner, S. Adamski, F. Weishoff, S. Monroe, Coach Wolk
Seated: B. Wiese, R. Piehl, B. Jensen, K. Wiese, J. Klarner, D. Sears, P. King, H. Hill, R. Kailhofer
On floor: F. Burmeister, W. Helein, P. Rollo, G. Gavronski, T. Duffey, D. Bayer, R. Baehler, R. Sigl, J. Zimmer, R. Tubbs
Front: N. Blohm

Marinette Football Team Defeats Seymour 19 to 6

In its first varsity football game in 15 years the Seymour gridders were defeated by Marinette Lourdes at Marinette. The Marinette team struck like lightning and then capitalized on the breaks to turn back the stubborn Seymour team. Quarterback Pete King scored Seymour's lone touchdown on a one-yard buck up the middle. Bob Piehl's extra point kick was blocked to give the hosts a 7-6 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter King tossed a 22-yard touchdown pass to Earl Woldt only to have it called back because of an off side penalty. Lourdes put up two more scores to make the final score 19-6.

Seymour had an advantage in yardage with 122 yards to 107 for Lourdes. Seymour completed 5 of 15 passes for 55 yards and had 3 intercepted.



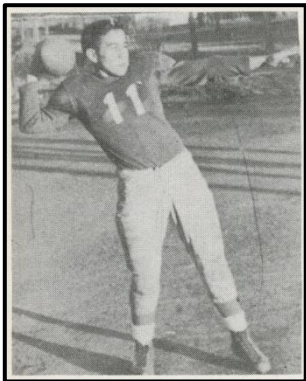
Captains Norm Leisgang (16) and Burton Wiese

The previous week the Seymour eleven defeated Green Bay Central Catholic "B" team 18-6. This Friday afternoon the local team will; play at the Fairgrounds against the Denmark High School team. It so happens that this is also the first year of football in Denmark and the game should be very interesting. It is important to

note that the game will start at 2 o'clock and although there was big crowd of townspeople at the last home game it is hoped that even a larger crowd will turn out for this game.

Fast Seymour Team Defeats Denmark 43-6

Last Friday afternoon Seymour staged one of the finest football games of the season when it



Pete King - QB

defeated Denmark 43-6. In the first quarter Denmark fumbled and a couple plays later Bill Jensen scored a touchdown. Piehl's kick was blocked. The second touchdown was scored when Dave Sears intercepted a pass and Pete King scored for a 12-0

lead.

Seymour scored 3 times in the second period with an 80-yard run by Pete King, a 20 yard jaunt by Bob Piehl, and Norman Leisgang ran 20 yards with a pass from King. The score at the end of the half was 30-6. The Seymour Team still had all its pep in the second half. King intercepted a pass, Harry Hill had a big gain on a reverse, Jensen broke through the middle, and Hill caught a pass from King for a touchdown. Piehl added another running

touchdown in the final quarter and Jensen kicked the extra point.

The starting lineup was Steve Monroe, left end; Sylvan Adamski, left tackle; James Klarner, left guard; Ralph Huth, center; Burton Weise, right tackle; Dave Sears, right guard; Norman Leisgang, right end; Wilmer Wagner, quarterback; Bill Jensen, right halfback; Pete King, left halfback and Bob Piehl at fullback.



Harry Hill - HB

Other Seymour players who saw action were Harry Hill, Earl Woldt, Fred Wieshoff, Ray Sears, Dick Vandenhoy, Bob Kailhofer, Les Van Vuren, Tom Duffey and all the other reserve players got in the game during the second half with K. Wiese, Gavronski and Maas showing good form.

This coming Friday will be the last game of the season for Seymour when they play Lourdes of

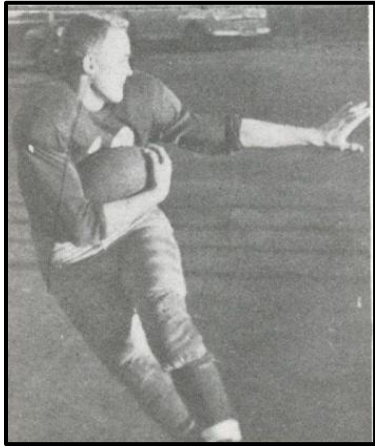
Marinette at the Fairgrounds. They were defeated by Lourdes a couple weeks ago but the Seymour boys are ready for revenge and it should be a very interesting game. Senior boys who will play their

final game are Steve Monroe, Burton Wiese, Norman Leisgang, Wilmer Wagner, Dick Vandenhoy, Lee Van Vuren. Bob Baehler and James Zimmer.

The Seymour gridders did get their revenge against Marinette Lourdes with a 18-13 victory in their final game.

Early Memories of Seymour Football

In doing research about the early years of Seymour football credit is given to former players Warren "Ole" Vander Leest, Tom Duffey and Bob Piehl. Bob Piehl, who played on the 1945 and 46 teams, described Coach Wolk as "tough" but "fair." He credited him with bringing football back to Seymour. "Coach Wolk was a science teacher who just got out of the army and returned to Seymour. Because of the war There wasn't much equipment available, but he knew someone at Pond's Sports Shop in Appleton and he managed to get uniforms for everyone. My senior year (1946) we won 4, lost 2, and tied one. We had good speed, Harry Hill



Bob Piehl - HB

was the conference 100 and 200 yard dash champion and I won the hurdles. We were good outside threats and Bill Jensen was the fullback who often led the blocking or plunged inside. Pete King was a good quarterback. We also had Warren "Ole" Vande Leest who

started the following year (1947).

Our most memorable defeat was a 6-0 loss to Kimberly. It rained and the field was very muddy. It was like playing in a potato patch. That neutralized our speed and we had trouble moving the ball. I remember our last game we tied Pulaski 6 to 6. Of course, we didn't have face masks and one of our linemen got kicked in the mouth. One of his front teeth was hanging by the skin. Coach

Wolk shoved it back in and I don't think he lost it. We had a team banquet at the hotel that night and he had to eat soup."

"Ole" Vande Leest moved to Seymour from Sturgeon Bay his



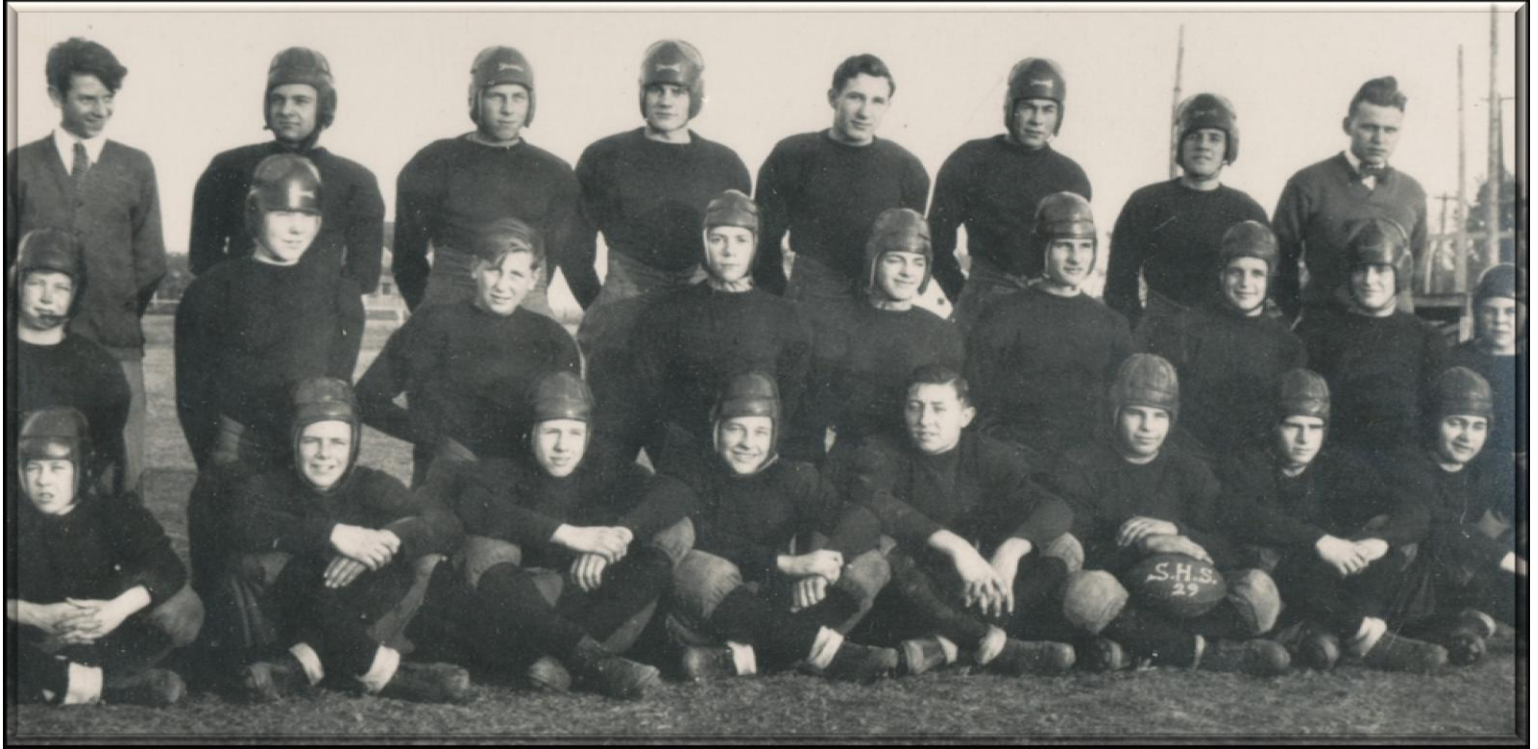
"Ole" Vande Leest - QB

Junior year. When speaking of his adjustment to the new school Vande Leest gave credit to his involvement in sports for helping him make the transition. "The players welcomed me with open arms. They made me feel comfortable. Coach Wolk knew football. I think he learned the game in college and in the army. We often would line up in a straight T and shift to a single wing where the center would snap directly to the runner and the rest of the backs would block. It was a quick shift and we often caught the defense off guard (modern rules say the backs must be set for one full second).

My junior year whenever we needed a big play we ran the 'Fritz Special,' which was a pass over the middle to Fritz Weishoff our big end who was about six feet six. As I look back, I have nothing but good memories about my years at Seymour High School."

Tom Duffey, who disparagingly refers to himself as a "good tackling dummy" recalls that the team would dress at the school on Robbins Street and walk to the fairgrounds for practice. Games were played on Friday afternoons. The team also played Kiel, Bonduel, Chilton and Shawano.

The Seymour High School Football Team in 1929 prior to dropping football for 15 years. Notice, future coach Bob Wolk is in the front row without a helmet.



Back row: Melvin Timmers, Robert Slater, Roger Rusch, Art Koepp, Willis Ness, George Wassenberg, Mack Miller, Coach Walsh **Middle row:** Robert Eisenreich, Bill Thiel, Dan Sherman, John Tubbs, Wayne Hillegas, Earl Eick, Jim Hillegas, Bob Silverwood, Harry Miller **Front row:** James Fitzgerald, Findley Shepard, Alfred Puls, Earl Spaude, Bob Wolk, Fred Engel, Lyman Flynn, Grover Werner

Seymour Community Historical Society Annual Report - 2015

Membership as of Jan. 1, 2016

Lifetime family members -----	248	Lifetime business members -----	62
Annual family members -----	10	Annual individual members -----	13
Total Membership	331		

Museum Use

- The museum was open five days a week 1:00 to 4:00 through September. The building is also open for groups by appointment.
- From October through December, the building is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 and by appointment.
- The museum is closed from January through March. Open by appointment.
- A wide variety of organizations toured the museum. These include the Rock Ledge fourth grade students, senior living residents, local clubs and organizations, class reunions, family gatherings and visiting historical societies.
- Burger Fest was a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the facility. We had 1,292 guests the day of the festival.
- **The total number of visitors to the museum in 2015 was 3,020**

Web Site Use and Telephone Contact

The historical society receives many phone calls and numerous referrals from the city clerk's office relating to people searching for family or historical information.

**During the past year the web site: (seymourhistory.org) received 4,529 hits.
Our Facebook site (Seymour Community Historical Society) was accessed by 4,609 people**

Currently we have over 2,800 pictures in the Image Gallery. All past newsletters and historical articles are in the archive section of the site. The site also includes a virtual tour of the museum and 30 pictures of exhibits.

Museum Activities from January 2015 to December 2015

January - We were busy taking down Christmas decorations, etc. A slow time at the museum.

February – Museum closed. Open by request

March – Busy with new exhibits

April – Preparing for annual meeting and summer opening. Hosted the Regional meeting of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary (35 People).

May – Annual meeting with Jessica Michna playing the role of Eleanor Roosevelt (45).
Memorial Day program (44).

June – Music in the Park started. Military Mascot exhibit (252)

July – Model Auto exhibit (203)

August – During Burger Fest 1,292 people toured the museum.
Music in the Park concluded with the HOTH sponsoring free hamburgers.
The program was very popular averaging over 300 per concert.

September – One hundred and fifty fourth graders toured the museum.
Art exhibit featuring Barbara Gardner Ebeling (191).

October – Haunted General Store six nights (280)

November - The memory forest remains popular with 40 decorated trees.

December – Our Kid's Christmas event was a huge success (195)

General Comments

- Music in the Park continues to be a very popular attraction for city residents. The total attendance for the summer was **over 3,000** Profit from the raffle and concession income was \$3,300.00.
- The gazebo was used regularly throughout the summer. Often when the gazebo is used for community events such as church service and assorted gatherings, the museum is open to provide clean restrooms for the participants.
- The Christmas display around the museum and in Nagel Park included 40 decorated trees. The trees generated \$900.00 for the historical society.
- The SCHS has been getting great assistance from the alternative school students with cleaning and upkeep.

2016 City Budget

A total of \$14,800 is budgeted to cover museum utilities and repairs. The financial support of the city council assists the society in improving exhibits and offering additional programs.

This is what the Seymour Community Historical Society accomplished in 2015

- The SCHS has a reliable team of 15 volunteers who maintain and supervise the museum and general store five days a week during the summer months.
- The gift shop in the museum was upgraded and made more user friendly.
- The SCHS continued to add to its collection of local pictures and artifacts.
- The SCHC brought a professional actor in to perform
- The SCHS opened the museum and general store additional hours to accommodate school groups, organizations, the elderly, and visitors to the community.
- The SCHS made its resources available to others through the Internet.
- The SCHS art exhibit provided area residents with the opportunity to interact with the artist.

- The SCHS provided numerous fun activities for area residents of all ages such as the haunted store and Kids' Christmas.
- The SCHS continued to provide an impressive holiday display on Depot St.
- The SCHS added several new displays to the museum.
- The SCHS cooperated with the local newspaper and other media to provide historical references when requested.
- The SCHS obtained on loan an exhibit from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

2016 Budget for the Seymour Community Museum

Expenses				Income	
Cleaning Supplies	200.00	Bld. Maintenance	2,800.00	Admission Donations	1,000.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	Utilities	14,000.00	Burger Fest	1,000.00
Tax Preparation	750.00	New Displays	5,000.00	Music in the Park	3,000.00
Bands for Music	3,000.00	License and Fees	200.00	50/50 Raffle	2,100.00
Advertising	1,000.00	Web Host & Tech.	700.00	Memory Forest	1,600.00
Music Expenses	800.00	Flowers & Decorations	500.00	Gift Shop	400.00
Special Events	1,000.00	Memorials & Gifts	500.00	Memberships	150.00
Memory Forest	700.00	Postage	300.00	Donations	9,000.00
Newsletters	1,000.00	Miscellaneous	800.00	City of Seymour	14,800.00
Display Maintenance	1,000.00			Music Concessions	1,500.00
				Special Events	500.00
Total Expenses - \$35,050.00				Total Income - \$35,050.00	

Plans for 2016

1. Continue to improve on the accomplishments of the previous year.
2. Add to the interactive technological exhibits to enhance the visitor experience.
3. Feature special changing exhibits from May through November.
4. Work with the Wisconsin State Historical Society and Veterans Museum to bring some of their resources to Seymour.
5. Provide the opportunity for area residents to attend the performance of a professional actor.
6. Coordinate an art show and make it available to the public.
7. Work with the high school to present an art exhibit.

Community Resource

The museum/learning center is a great resource for the community. It not only helps preserve the area heritage, but also is available for use by a wide variety of organizations. Historical society volunteers contribute many hours making the museum facilities available to the public. This requires cleaning, supervision, building exhibits, and keeping the site attractive. We appreciate the financial support from the city council and the cooperation of the city workers. The museum is truly a community project.

Help Support the Historical Society and the Museum

The Seymour Community Museum is a tribute to our members and supporters. Your donations help us maintain an outstanding facility that preserves the heritage of Seymour and the surrounding area. Thank you!

As you can see from our balance sheet, the society requires a minimum of \$9,000 in annual donations to balance the budget. Your help is essential. **To contribute to the historical society, mail**

your donation to P.O. Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165. All workers at the museum are volunteers and 100% of your donation is used to cover the cost of Society and Museum activities. The Seymour Community Historical Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity. Your donation is fully deductible as provided by law. The federal identification number is: 39-1235870.

Lifetime memberships are \$50.00 for a family and \$100.00 for a business. Yearly memberships are \$10.00 per family and \$5.00 per individual.

Donations Since November 2, 2015

Bob and Marge Coonen	Seymour, WI	In memory of Joyce Thyes	Sustainability
Doloris Kuehne	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI	In memory of Emil Gosse	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Emil Gosse	Sustainability
Seymour Firefighters	Seymour, WI		Building Fund
Muehl-Boettcher, Inc.	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Steve Melchert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Thrivent Financial	Employee Giving Campaign (K. Coonen)		Sustainability
Dick and Donna Lubinski	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Lowell Hoeft	DePere., WI		Sustainability
Francis Gerl	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Rich and Ann Piehl	Shorewood, WI		Sustainability
Nancy R. Smith	Gillett, WI		Sustainability
Ron and Laverne Miller Family	Kaukauna, WI	In memory of Mary Miller Yaeger	Sustainability
Ralph Melchert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Jim and Sandy Wrangell	Milwaukee, WI	In Memory of Roy Porter	Sustainability
Nichols Paper Products Co.	Nichols, WI		Sustainability
Jean Melchert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Pam and Dan Zak	Seymour, WI 54165		Sustainability
Clayton and Audrey Ebert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Jim North	Sustainability
Jim and Nancy Campbell	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Glenn and Sharon Dunville	Seymour WI 54165		Sustainability
Mike and Sue Keyzers	Seymour WI		Sustainability
Home of the Hamburger	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI		Sustainability
Margaret Cismoski	Seymour, WI 54165		Building Fund
Bob and Marge Coonen	Seymour, WI	In memory of Alden Moeller	Sustainability

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ (Circle Amt.) \$10.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 Other _____

In memory of (Optional) _____

Mail your donation to P.O. Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165. The Seymour Community Historical Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity. Your donation is fully deductible as provided by law. The federal identification number is: 39-1235870.

Thank you for your support!

Seymour Community Historical Society
P. O. Box 237
Seymour, WI 54165

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Return Service Requested

Annual Meeting Featuring Helen Keller at the Museum on Saturday, May 7th 1:00

Working Warriors Exhibit May 14 to June 12 ----- Details inside

Website: www.seymourhistory.org

E-mail: seymourhistory@centurylink.com

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

If the museum is closed: (920) 833-6064

Museum Hours

Summer:

1:00 to 4:00

Thursday through Sunday

Fall and Winter:

1:00 to 4:00 Sunday

Closed January through March

Open by request anytime

Admission:

Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual

- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00

Year Individual - \$5.00 Year Family - \$10.00

Music in the Park - 2016

- June 15 - **Irish Jerry**-Native of Ireland - Great Performer
- June 22 - **Les James & Family** - Seymour's Favorite Son
- June 29 - **Rocker Rocker Rocker** - Classic Rock
- July 6 - **Two/Fifths** - Variety - Prodigy of 3 Famous Bands
- July 13 - **Blind Date** - Variety - Three Talented Musicians
- July 20 - **TNT Polka** - Young Talent Kicking Off Polka Days
- July 27 - **Sgt. Bernie Kroll** from Sobieski - Polka
- August 3 - **Tom's Tunes**-Variety - Fun Entertainers
- August 10 - **The New Generation** - Polka
- August 17 - **Hauser's Hot Shots** - Polka
- August 24 - **Larry Wussow's Trio**
- August 31 - **Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's**