

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2017
Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

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Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 ThFSS

Fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday

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Annual Meeting May 13th Features Wisconsin Supper Clubs

The annual meeting of the SCHS will be held Saturday, May 13 at 1:00 in the upstairs meeting room of the museum. Following a brief business meeting, Holly De Ruyter, the Director, Editor, and Producer of "Old Fashioned: The Story of Wisconsin Supper Clubs." will present her documentary.

Outstanding Program with Supper Club Hors d'oeuvres

By attending this program you will enjoy a nostalgic look at a Midwestern institution where fruit garnished drinks, plentiful comfort food, and family atmosphere reign supreme. Chicago filmmaker De Ruyter traveled throughout Wisconsin to portray an affectionate look at the still-thriving supper club. The Wisconsin-bred phenomenon historically ushered in an era of dining out that catered to the whole family, and made unaccompanied ladies welcome at the bar. These unique mom-and-pop restaurants beckon patrons with décor ranging from hunting cabin folksy to sport themes with pictures of your favorite stars gracing the walls. The typical supper club serves up a varied menu with fish fries, steaks and prime rib specials leading the way.



Visit over 40 Wisconsin Supper Clubs

De Ruyter started the project thinking "Old Fashioned" would be a short film. Using borrowed equipment, loads of volunteer hours and reduced rates from industry professionals, the final cut is 51 minutes and includes interviews with staff and customers at supper clubs from Green Bay and Rhinelander to Rice Lake and Madison and points in-between. In all, more than 40 locations across Wisconsin are credited at the end of the film.



Holly De Ruyter

Krabbe's Kountry Klub is a Focus of the Movie

"Old Fashioned" is a blend of voices including Wisconsin historians, supper club owners and diners. As the film's scope grew, De Ruyter said she needed something to tie it together. That's when she discovered Krabbe's Kountry Klub and owners Steve and Cheri Krabbe. With over 30 years in the business, the affable couple proved to be a great asset to the film. Their establishment has all the makings of a classic supper club from the large oval bar and the salad bar to classic menu choices. Most importantly, it had that feeling De Ruyter sought to capture.

"It was crazy the sense of community at this place," she said. "The people that came here knew each other and were talking to each other, even though they maybe didn't know each other outside the supper club, they were still connected and friends through the supper club."



The Program is Open to the Public at No Charge

To learn more about Wisconsin supper clubs and view the documentary, attend the annual meeting of the Seymour Community Historical Society. Past supper club owner Janice Eick has prepared a wide variety of Hors d'oeuvres donated by Don's Quality Market. Before and after the film Holly and Steve will answer questions from the audience

Special Exhibits at the Museum this Spring and Summer

Wisconsin Remembers - A tribute to Vietnam Veterans May 20 to June 25



Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum are pleased to share Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name - a traveling exhibit that features a photo for each of the 1,161 Wisconsinites officially listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit also includes additional photos for names that are listed on The Highground Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Neillsville, WI. Wisconsin Remembers is a tribute to lost life and lost potential.

Photos Gathered for Eight Years

The photos were collected by volunteers from throughout Wisconsin over the past eight years. Friends and family of those who were killed in Vietnam submitted photos, but so did students, teachers and others who simply wanted to put a face to the names listed on the Wall in Washington, D.C. The images they found will help tell the story of the men and women who are listed on the Wall as part of a new Education Center the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is building on the National Mall. Wisconsin was just the fifth state in the nation to find a photo for every resident listed on the Wall.



Tom Mueller of Seymour



The Seymour Community Museum is one of the first to host this traveling exhibit. Tom Mueller, of Seymour is one of the many soldiers honored. Tom learned that one of his friends was lying injured in enemy territory. He did not hesitate to volunteer to try and evacuate his friend. While he provided cover by rushing the enemy position and attacking with his machine gun, other members of the squad were able to rescue the wounded man. During this heroic effort, Sgt. Tom Mueller died. An enemy bullet took his life on the jungle floor in Vietnam. He had been scheduled to come home in April. Sgt. Tom Mueller received two bronze stars for bravery including a Bronze Star (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) for his heroism that day. An exhibit honoring Sgt. Mueller is on permanent display in the Seymour Community Museum.

Vietnam Speaker, Jim Van Straten - June 17 at 1:00

Colonel Van Straten was born in Appleton, Wisconsin. He is the oldest of seven children born to Glen and Caroline Van Straten of Black Creek, WI. After graduating from Seymour High School in 1951 he attended and graduated from St Norbert College with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1955. He was also designated a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program and offered a commission in the Regular Army. He entered the Army Medical Department in 1955 and served over 30 years, achieving the grade of colonel in the Medical Service Corps. Under the sponsorship of the U.S. Army, he earned a Masters Degree in Education from Incarnate Word College and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin.



Vietnam Experience

Colonel Van Straten's military career included positions of significant responsibility in allied health education, medical operations and training, personnel management, medical policy formation and health care administration. During the period from July 1966 to July 1967 he served as the Senior Medical Advisor to the South Vietnamese Army in the First Corps Tactical Zone of South Vietnam. In this capacity, he advised the Vietnamese Corps Surgeon on all administrative and logistical aspects of providing medical support to the South Vietnamese Army. He also served in a liaison capacity, coordinating actions between South Vietnamese medical units and American medical units operating in the First Corps Tactical Zone.

The Book

A ***Different Face of War*** is a riveting account of one American officer in the Medical Service Corps during the early years of the Vietnam War. Assigned as the senior medical advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in I Corps, an area close to the DMZ, James G. Van Straten traveled extensively and interacted with military officers and non-commissioned officers, peasant-class farmers, Buddhist monks, shopkeepers, scribes, physicians, nurses, the mentally ill, and even political operatives.

He sent his wife daily letters from July 1966 through June 1967, describing in impressive detail his experiences, and those letters became the primary source for his memoir. The author describes with great clarity and poignancy the anguish among the survivors when an American cargo plane in bad weather lands short of the Da Nang Air Base runway on Christmas Eve and crashes into a Vietnamese coastal village, killing more than 100 people and destroying their village; the heart-wrenching pleadings of a teenage girl that her shrapnel-ravaged leg not be amputated; and the anger of an American helicopter pilot who made repeated trips into a hot landing zone to evacuate the wounded, only to have the Vietnamese insist that the dead be given a higher priority.

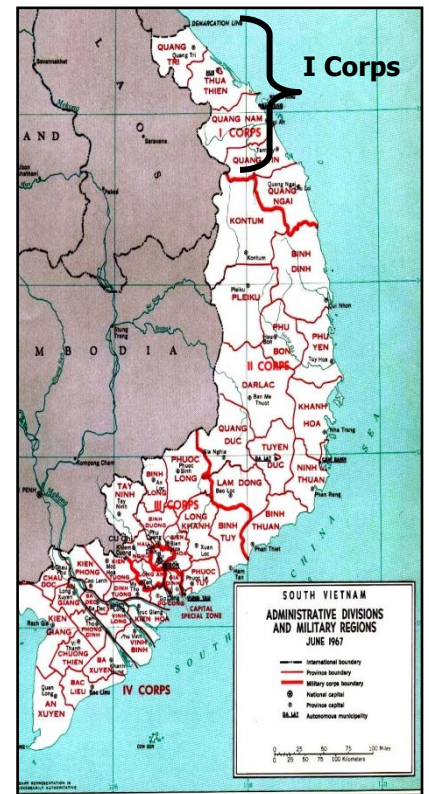
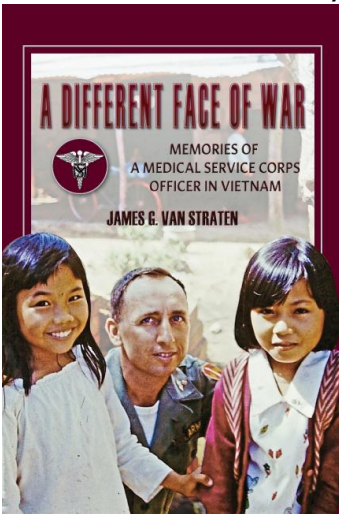
Under the supervision of Maj. Pham Viet Tu, the head doctor of Da Nang's Duy Tan

hospital, Van Straten constantly traveled across I Corps. The United States provided much of the material medical support, and Van Straten performed many minor miracles to ensure that its delivery was timely and in adequate quantity for Vietnamese soldiers and civilians. He faced the endless task of suppressing rampant outbreaks of tuberculosis, bubonic plague, malaria, cholera, rubella (measles), lice, dysentery, and diarrhea.

He also supervised movements of the wounded. Sometimes hospitals had to admit double the number of patients they could handle. During his time in Vietnam, I Corps suffered more casualties than the rest of the country combined. He helped to sort the wounded from the dead and the Americans from the Vietnamese.

In his ten-year Army career before the war, Van Straten had never been assigned to a hospital of any type. "The number of civilian casualties produced by the war was appallingly high," he writes. "As a younger man, I had so wanted to become a physician, but exposure to trauma of that magnitude convinced me that I was not equipped to handle it. Sometimes I got mildly depressed. I was encountering heart-rending trauma almost on a daily basis."

Editors comments: The book is a great read. It provides an insight into the cultural conflict between the Americans and Vietnamese. Col. Van Straten describes in vivid detail the magnitude of the challenge facing the United States. The book is a must read for anyone who lived during this era and seeks a greater understanding. Books will be available to purchase at the presentation. Members of the historical society board are thrilled that Col. Van Straten has volunteered to share his story with us.



Art Show featuring the Quilts of Marge Coonen and the Photography of Rick Cohler - Sept. 9 to 24

The Seymour Community Historical Society is pleased to present the quilts of Seymour resident Marge Coonen and the photography of former editor of the Advertiser/Community News Rick Cohler. Their impressive work will be on display for two weeks with a special "Meet the Artist Night" on Saturday, September 9 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to talk with Marge and Rick and view their impressive creations. The program is free and open to the public. Members of the historical society will serve refreshments.



Marge Coonen was introduced to quilting by Karen Koebe in the early 1980s when she was teaching classes. Marge started with a log cabin design and made about a dozen that she gave as gifts. After retiring in 1999 Marge took a class from Lois Wolfe in Green Bay and eventually made over 100 quilts. She has many favorites, but is particularly proud of her pumpkin quilt with a variety of pumpkins representing the holidays. Marge, a former member of the historical society board of directors, meets monthly with her quilting group and is still producing quilts. She will have over a dozen quilts on display.



Rick Cohler has been a familiar face in Seymour for many years. As editor of the Times/Press and Advertiser/Community News he was often seen at many events with a camera in his hand. An avid traveler and bicyclist, Rick has a great appreciation for nature and that has become the focus of his photography. He will display his favorite photos featuring scenes from nature and everyday life.

Rick says he has two goals in his photography; one is to give the viewer a feeling of "being there" and the second and equal goal is to try to create an image which could also be a life-like painting of the scene. God's creation and man's creations through His gift of talents are his favorite subjects.

The SCHS is always in search of local talent for the September art show. This year we are pleased to display the works of Marge and Rick. Marge is a longtime member of the historical society and was instrumental in indexing the archive materials. She also served as treasurer for many years including keeping all the books during the building of the new museum.



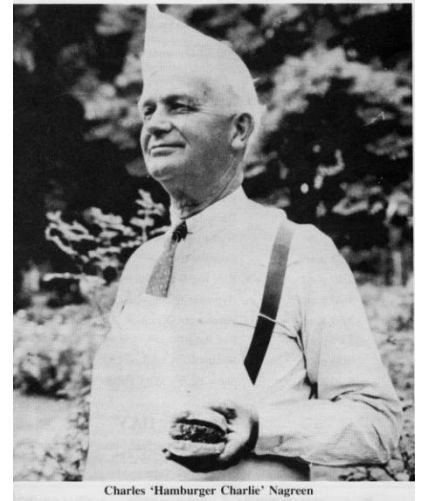
As editor of the local paper Rick Cohler was a great friend of the museum. He included many articles about Seymour area history and was always available for a photo shoot for a special exhibit. We hope to see you at the museum on Sept. 9 to enjoy art, a dessert, glass of wine and conversation.

Home of the Hamburger Display - August 9 to August 27

Burger Fest is Saturday, August 12 with balloon ascensions and additional activities also taking place on Friday night August 11. The theme this year is **"Burgerfest 2017"**. 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.



Charles 'Hamburger Charlie' Nagreen

2017 Music in the Park

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

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| June 21 | Les James & Family - Seymour's Favorite Son |
| June 28 | Rocker Rocker Rocker - Classic Rock |
| July 5 | KNX Party Band/Jon and Sarah/Kevin Krahn |
| July 12 | Blind Date-Variety - Three Talented Musicians |
| July 19 | TNT Polka - Young Talent Kicking Off Polka Days |
| July 26 | Sgt. Bernie Kroll from Sobieski - Polka |
| Aug. 2 | Tom's Tunes - Variety-Fun Entertainers |
| Aug. 9 | The New Generation - Polka |
| Aug. 16 | Hauser's Hot Shots - Polka |
| Aug. 23 | Larry Wussow's The Reason Why - Larry, Andy and Scott |
| Aug. 30 | Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's - Veteran Appreciation Night Honor Guard Post 106 |



Tom's Tunes Singing Your Favorite Hits.

New Exhibit at the Museum

1911 Aeroplane Simulation

Perhaps the most unusual performance in the Seymour Fair's 130 year history took place in 1911 when a "aeroplane" took off and landed in front of the grandstand. Since this was only eight years after the Wright brothers inaugural flight, it generated much interest in Seymour and the surrounding area. A

large ad in the **Seymour Press** stated, "This is no bluff" and assured fairgoers it was an actual "Air Ship" that would fly over the fairgrounds.

The ad listed the terms of agreement between the Seymour Fair Association and the International Aviation Association of Chicago.

"Actual flights will be made on Friday and Saturday Sept. 29 and 30 by an experienced aviator representing The International Aviation Association of Chicago. This is no bluff. The Fair Association has entered into a contract, which, in short is as follows: "If a successful flight is made each day the aviation association is to receive \$900.00. If only one flight is made \$550.00. In case of very bad weather so that no flight can be made the Aviation association is to receive \$200.00. The Aviation association guarantees the flights to be of at least five minutes duration and of such merit that they will please the Fair Association's patrons."

The aeroplane machines and flights are the biggest and most wonderful attractions ever invented. The flights are guaranteed to be made unless the weather is very bad. The machine will be on exhibition at the fair where it can be examined. The flights are to be made between 2 and 5 o'clock p.m."

Most likely, the intrepid pilot was 21 year old Beckwith Havens who was touring county fairs in Wisconsin during this time. He was taught to fly by pioneer Glenn Curtiss and was a member of the Curtiss Exhibition Team.

Editors note: A \$10,000.00 donation from Kwik Trip helped launch the idea for this interactive exhibit. Through the creative genius of Balance Studios a computer simulation has been built to enable museum visitors to take off and land the aeroplane in front of a depiction of the 1911 grandstand. This is fun for "kids" of all ages.



Fond Memories of Hats

By Lynn E. Koenigs

Lynn is a retired teacher, author, and active volunteer with the SCHS. Her books about local history are in sale in the museum gift shop.

Hats...

Somedays I wish...that for a few hours...I could travel back to the late 1950s and revisit Sybil's Hat Shop in Appleton. I was there only once as a youngster, but the memory is still vivid in my mind. There were at least twenty customers trying on hats preparing for the Easter season. Several women were sitting at the mirrored vanities scrutinizing themselves while holding a hand-mirror gazing at their reflection trying to decide if that was the perfect bonnet for



Lynn 1948

them and the price was within their budget. There was such commotion and movement. The air was filled with energy that only a new hat purchase could create.

One year, in the late 1950s my mother purchased a new black hat which looked a like a man's top hat only with a veil. She set her hair the night before with bobby-pins to look her finest when she donned her new Easter hat. She was a little disappointed, however, when she sat in the pew and looked around. There were seven other women with similar hats, all black. I believe that she was quite taken aback and worse yet, she now had to wear that hat for many Sundays to come just like the other gals who probably felt a little let down, too.

A Little Hat History

In fashion terms, hats were a very noticeable accessory because the onlookers' attention was first drawn to the face. A hat was one of the most noticeable fashion items one could wear. The old saying goes 'if you want to get noticed and get ahead, then get a hat'.

Hats were once made at home. Eventually milliners made them at shops and they became an art form using ribbons, plumes and even stuffed birds. Did you know that plumes have always been a status symbol and a sign of economic stability?



Black Creek Beauties Mabel (Sassman) Kitzinger and sister, Nora (Sassman) Brandt. c. Early 1900s. (Hat pins could be as long as 18 inches.)

campaign without a hat.

During the Great War of 1914 to 1918 and Second World War from 1939-45, hats became more practical as people had to literally drop everything and rush to air raid shelters. The use of ornaments, flowers, and plumes were dropped. It was considered unpatriotic to be too fancy.

As the years have passed, hats have slowly lost favor even for weddings and worship. The 1960s saw hairdos such as the beehive and upsweeps that made hats difficult to wear. Even the Catholic Church said that head cover was no longer required.

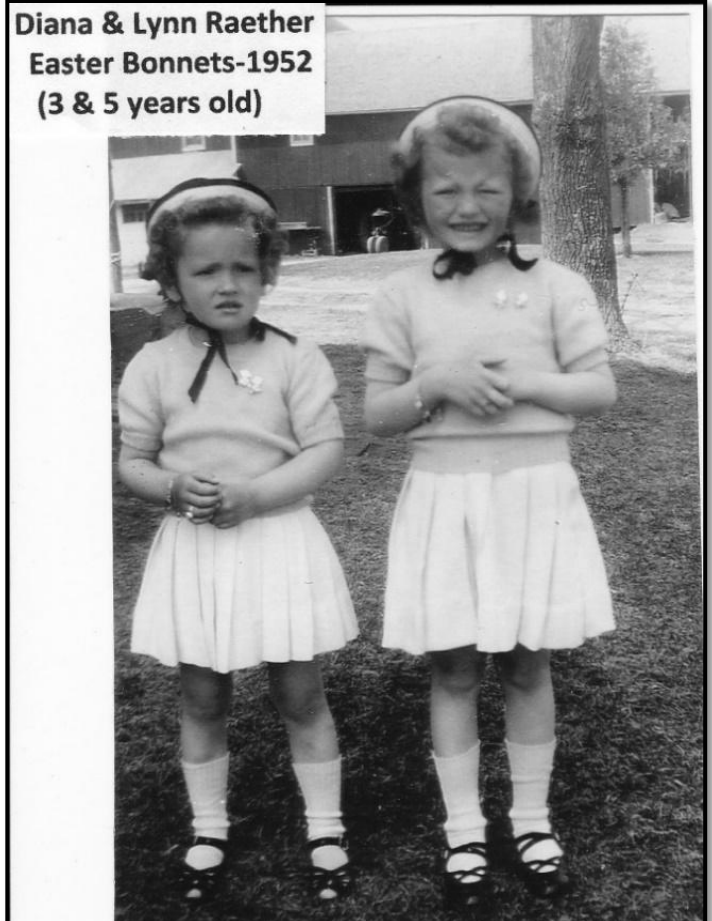
In the 1900s etiquette and formality articles suggested that it was a disgraceful act to venture out of the house without a hat or a pair of gloves, even if it was just going to the mailbox a short distance away.

It really didn't matter if you were rich or poor, old or a child, whatever the status a hat was worn, only beggars went bareheaded. Even militant suffragettes did not



Bonduel Beauties June (Beilfuss) Raether, Minnie Beilfuss and Lou (Beilfuss) Radloff (c. World War II)

Hats are still worn today, but in a functional way. We know that heat is lost through the head so winter hats during inclement weather like fleece, knit, or fur are still worn. If a person doesn't like to wear hats, a hoodie which is built into a garment is used.



**Diana & Lynn Raether
Easter Bonnets-1952
(3 & 5 years old)**

It is unlikely that the hats will ever die as an accessory as they offer far too much potential for drawing attention to the face. Some hats advertise the company name bringing in large revenue. Hats will be with us for a long time.

Men Wore Hats, Too



The fedora's popularity started in the mid-1920s which is why it is often associated with Prohibition and gangsters. In the 1940s and 1950s movie films popularized the fedora hats even more and its popularity lasted until late the 1950s when informal clothing become more widespread.

Actor and Singer, Frank Sinatra

Visit the Country Store at the Seymour Museum and look at the large hat collection. Can you place the era for each hat? Do you wish you could try one on? Come to the museum and snap a picture while wearing one.

Hat joke from 1947

First Criminal-So, you are back in jail again. How did the police spot you in the woman's clothing that you were wearing?

Second Criminal-I passed a millinery shop without looking in the window.



Hats from the Country Store



Vilas Kraft Reminisces about WWII and the Shoe Store



Recently this writer had a delightful visit with Vilas and Vernice Kraft. Much of the article is about the Kraft Shoe Store that operated for 37 years (1940-1977) on Main Street in Seymour. Also of interest is his military service

(1942-45) in the navy during World War II.

"My father was in the shoe and harness business. He came from Czechoslovakia and got a job at a meat packing plant in Hoboken New Jersey. He heard there was a better paying job in St. Paul so he and his cousin hitchhiked to the Twin Cities and got a job in a meat packing plant. My mother was born and raised in Dorchester just north of Abbotsford.

Vernice and I have been married for 71 years. I guess I found the right one! We met at my father's funeral, she was there with my sister, Gladys. I will be 95 and Vernice is 97, she robbed the cradle! Gladys is originally from Isaar. Her

maiden name was Snell. When we met I was going to school at Superior State and she was teaching school in Seymour.

My dad tried farming which was a tough life and then he started a butcher shop in Milan, Wisconsin which is near Abbotsford. He was doing all right then it burned down. He heard there was a shoe repair shop for sale in Neillsville and the owner said he would train my dad in shoe repair and fixing harnesses, so my dad brought him out.

Move to Seymour

There got to be three or four shoe stores in Abbotsford and dad wanted to go where he would be the only shoe business in town. He heard about a shop for sale in Milltown, Wisconsin (North of New Richmond) and purchased the store there. It was a big mistake, the town was too small and couldn't support our family. Then he heard about a store available in Seymour. I remember him saying more that once that he couldn't believe how much money there was in Seymour. There were some prosperous farms and many city residents were working in the paper mills in Green Bay and Appleton and bringing home good money. We moved in 1940, the year I graduated from Milltown High School.

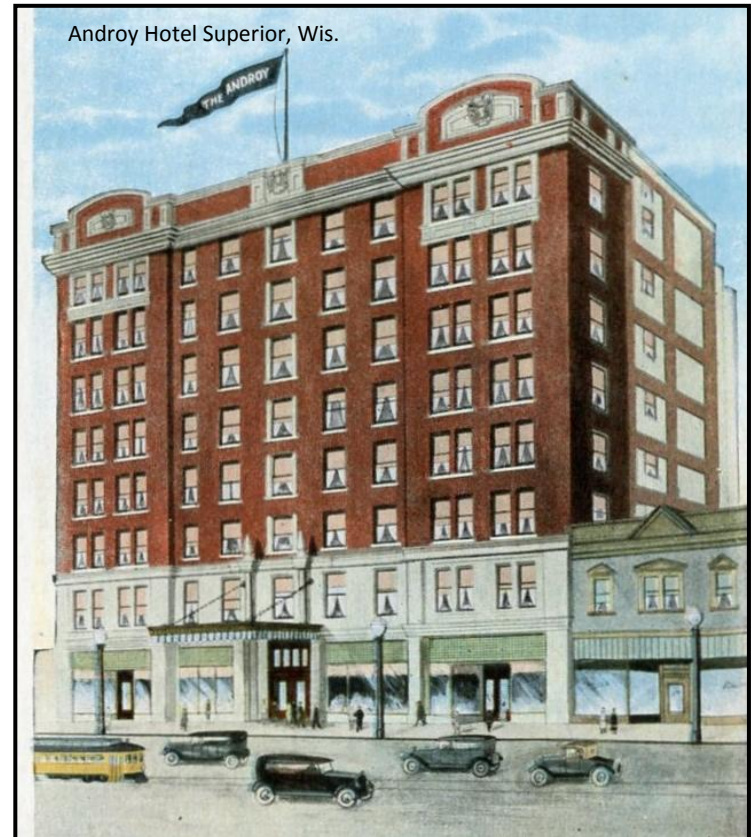
College Days

My brother Lloyd was four years younger and Ken was in between. I wanted to go to college but didn't have any money. I got a job working for a farmer during threshing time. I worked 10 days and made \$20.00. One day a letter came in the mail from Ted Warett, he was the football coach at Superior State and he said that if I was interested in coming up there and playing football he would arrange that if I worked for two hours a day at the Androy Hotel he would guarantee me two meals a day. He also knew a family where I could stay. I could sleep in a bedroom in the basement. The next day I was on my way hitchhiking to Superior. The coach I had at Milltown had taken a job at Spooner. I got as far as Spooner that day and I looked up my old coach, John Nevers. He had a cousin who played for the Chicago Bears. It was late in the day and he came down to the restaurant where I was and asked me if I had eaten. I said no and he bought me a meal. He asked if I was going to stay overnight. I said no that I was planning to

head to Superior yet tonight. So he bought me a ticket on the bus. What a nice thing to do.

Football at Superior

I stayed that night in the bus station and the next day I went to the college. The coach gave me some equipment and said I could try out for the team. Things went pretty good and I ended up



being the quarterback and I lettered and got a nice jacket with a big "S" on it. When I came home at Christmas I wore that jacket and walked around as proud as a peacock. In fact, my brother Ken liked it so much, when I went off to service he wanted to know if he could wear it.

That summer I came home and worked at the canning factory for 20 cents an hour. Mr. Selmer told me that if I stayed on he would raise my pay to 25 cents an hour. That sounded like big money for the time and I told my folks that I wasn't going to go back to college. My dad had other plans and insisted that I return to Superior. I went back and started football practice before the beginning of school. Within a short time I received a telegram from my mother informing me that my dad died of a heart attack and I should come home. He was only 49 years old. It was a terrible shock and I broke down and cried like a baby. I told the coach that I had to go home because of my dad's

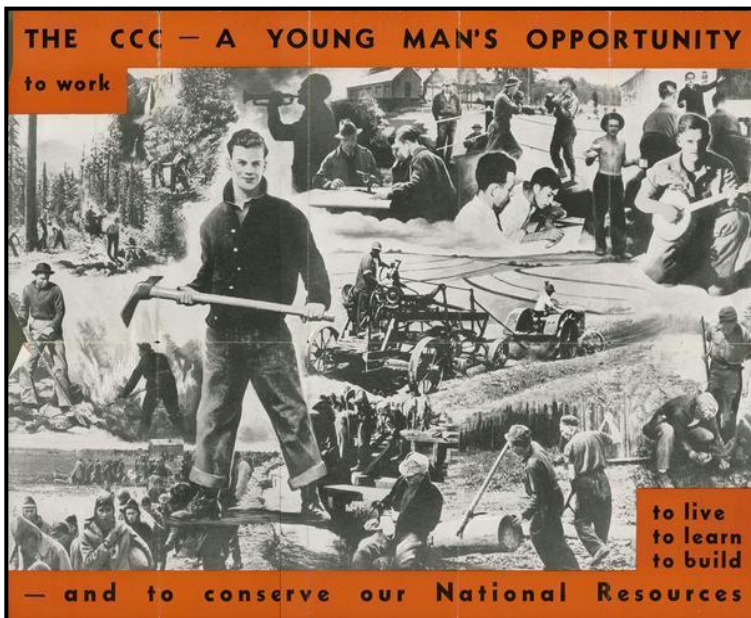
death. He encouraged me to return back to school and that he wanted me on the team. I had plans to become a lawyer.

Tragedy at Home

One morning my dad wasn't feeling very well so my mother encouraged him to stay in bed and she would open the store. She came home at noon and he still wasn't feeling very well, but wanted to go to the store. Mother said it wasn't a busy day and she could handle it, he should stay in bed. My brother Lloyd came home from school and looked in and dad was sleeping but he didn't check closely on him. My brother Ken came home later and found him dead in the bed.

Learned the Craft from His Father

I remember my father was such a hard worker and he was always interested learning. The first thing he would do in the morning was read the paper. Often he would ask me the meaning of a word or how to pronounce a difficult word. He taught me everything I knew about making shoes and shoe repair. When he had the store in



Neillsville there were a couple Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the area and he sold and repaired shoes for them. He even taught me how to make orthotics and custom built shoes. Even in grade school, when other kids would go out to play I would often be helping my father repairing shoes.

I got home and my mother couldn't manage the store alone. Our finances weren't very good, so I stayed home and helped run the store. After about a year in the store our county got into WWII and I said to my mother I should enlist and then

my two younger brothers wouldn't have to go in service. She thought it over for awhile and agreed that I should join the Navy. But what I thought wouldn't be true because both of them were drafted.

In the Navy

In the navy I was training to be a torpedo man on a destroyer in the Aleutians where we were hunting Japanese submarines. After several months the torpedo officer came to me and said I think you would qualify for the V-12 program that the navy is promoting. They were just starting the program where they take men from the fleet and train them to be officers.



It was similar to taking ROTC men from college and making them officers. He asked me if I would like to take the test to see if I qualify. I said why not? I passed the test and he told me that I would be leaving on a plane in the morning. I was stationed on Adak Island."

Editor's comment: *As the United States entered World War II in the early 1940s, American colleges and universities were facing declining enrollment as men who would have normally gone to college were either drafted or volunteered for service. At the same time the U.S. Navy was in need of commissioned officers to meet the demands of the Second World War. The Navy V-12 program was created to generate a large number of officers as well as to offset the dropping enrollment at colleges. Backed by the federal government, the program paid tuition to participating colleges and universities for college courses that were taught to qualified candidates. Eligible candidates included naval enlisted personnel who were recommended by their commanding officers and high school seniors who passed a qualifying exam. The Navy V-12 Program officially began on July 1, 1943. Vilas*

considered himself fortunate to be chosen to participate in the program.

Off to Notre Dame

"I flew back to Asbury Park, New Jersey where I passed more tests and they sent me on a train to the University of Notre Dame for more training. I was there for three semesters and then the navy decided to cancel the V-12 program. They decided to only take ROTC officers. Those in the V-12 program could take a physical test to move into



Navy men watching football practice at Notre Dame.

the ROTC program. I couldn't pass my vision test, so they sent me to the Great Lakes Camp just outside of Chicago.

I liked it very much at Notre Dame. We took regular classes that were difficult, but I was always a good student and didn't have too much trouble doing the work. While I was there Vernice moved to South Bend and got a job at the Bendix plant doing defense work. The priests were very kind to me even though I wasn't Catholic. When my brother Ken was killed in action two priests came to my door and said let's take a walk and they told me the bad news. We must have walked for at least an hour and they said the right things.

After a couple days a Great Lakes I was on a train headed for San Francisco where I reported to the barracks on Market Street. My job was to stand watch at military complex where secret information from the Pacific was being processed and sent to Washington.

Married in San Francisco

I told my commanding officer that I would like to know how long I would be stationed there on guard duty. He said that all my records weren't in

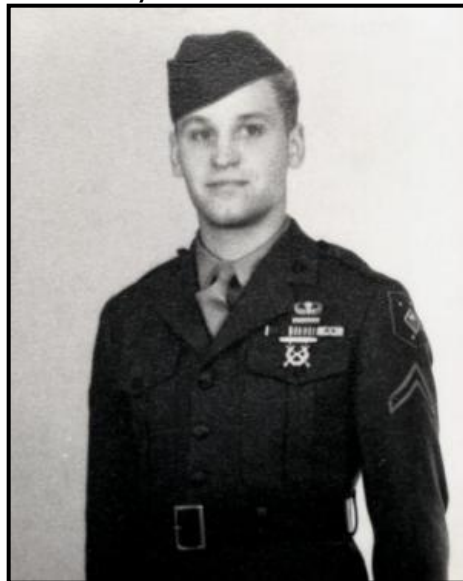
and I would probably be in San Francisco for some time. When I got back to the barracks I called Vernice and told her to come out and we could get married. She was 24 years old and had already purchased a wedding ring. I was thrilled to see her and we got a minister and his secretary, they were the only two at our wedding, and we were married.

Shipped to the Philippines

The next day I asked her to stay at the hotel while I returned to the barracks and changed clothes. When I got there one of the men said where are you going? I replied my wife is at the hotel. He said you better check the bulletin board. I was quarantined and was directed to prepare to be shipped out to the Philippines. I called my wife at the hotel and advised her to go back to Seymour. I was in the Philippines when the war ended.

Brother Killed at Iwo Jima

My brother Ken was killed on Iwo Jima. We



Ken Kraft

always wrote back and forth and hoped that we would meet each other in the Pacific, but we never did. He was first wounded when on patrol at Bougainville in New Guinea. There were some Marines missing and they previously agreed that they would respond to a code name. When the fellows missing didn't answer, Ken went looking for him. He got shot but wasn't captured. He rehabilitated and the Marines sent him home for 20 days. They then sent him to Hawaii where they trained for the invasion at Iwo Jima. Two fellows who were with him on Iwo Jima said the three of them were engaged in a terrible day of fighting and were thankful they survived. Ken then stood up in the foxhole and a Japanese sniper shot him. I was in the Philippines at the time and Lloyd was also in service, but he didn't get sent overseas.

End of the War

When the war ended we were preparing for a land invasion of Japan. That would have taken hundreds of thousands of American lives. Everyone was thrilled that our country dropped the bombs and the war ended."

Vernice commented that while Vilas was overseas she was teaching school in the Seymour area. She taught all grades and worked at a number of schools including Chicago Corners, Cicero and Black Creek. They were all one room schools. Overall she taught 42 years with 28 of the years at Black Creek. Vilas never came home from overseas until the end of the war. She wrote often, but his letters were heavily censored and she never knew exactly where he was.

"I came home from service and there wasn't much housing available so we temporarily moved in with my mother in an upstairs apartment. Mother ran the shoe business during the war and now I intended to help her. Dr. Sieb purchased the building where the shoe store was and I went to him and asked if we could continue to rent from him. He mentioned that he purchased the building for a friend of his who was going to open a sporting goods store. He said we could run our shoe business out of the back of the store. I spoke with mother and we decided that wouldn't work so we built the building on Main Street where the cell phone business is now located. Kroner's Tavern was right next door and they owned the lot. We purchased it in 1946 for \$2,500.00 and constructed the building that is there today. It cost around \$25,000.00.

My brother Lloyd and I ran the store. Money was tight and he worked in the paper mill for extra income and worked in the store during his free time. We developed a good business and had a reputation for a quality product. We owed a lot of



money on the store and of course the bank wanted their money before we could give it all back to them. But we did find someone who took our mortgage and it all worked out. In about 1949 we purchased an X-ray machine for



Vilas (Boots) and Lloyd (Gabby) Kraft. fitting shoes. It was considered revolutionary at the time. We thought it was a good business decision. We were the only store in the area with that technology. It cost us \$500.00 which was a lot of money back then. It was quite easy to fit shoes with it. Then one day we got a notice that it was outlawed. We had to discontinue using it and it had to be moved completely out of the building. We moved to my garage and eventually dismantled it. The government said it caused cancer, but I don't think it was ever proven. Today I meet some of the older people and they remember being fitted for shoes with the X-ray machine.

We opened the store at 7:00 in the morning and on Friday night we were at the store until 10:00 at night. We had our regular customers and some parents even sent their kids in alone. They knew we would help them pick out the right shoes. In those days we had charge accounts and most people paid their bills regularly. If they didn't it was Vernice's job to follow up and contact them. Things were tough at first, I remember my father's first cash register was a cupcake tray and we put the paper money underneath.

Enjoyed Meeting People

While most of our customers were from the

Seymour area, we also attracted people from Green Bay. In fact Fort Howard required safety shoes with the steel toe and would pay half the cost. I gave the workers a discount to keep that business. We handled Red Wing shoes and they were very popular with the farmers. Huettl

shoes. We managed to survive. During the 1940s, 50s and into the 60s most area people shopped locally. On Friday nights the city was so crowded you couldn't find a parking spot on Main Street.

YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY NEEDS X-RAY SHOE FITTING!

The magic eye of our X-Ray machine tells you if your shoes fit you. Perhaps you have no trouble in fitting your feet . . . but do you know if your shoes fit? or do you order by number and take a chance? At this store you see, before you buy, how shoes fit. That's the modern way to fit shoes. It takes but one misfit . . . to start foot troubles . . . with our X-Ray equipment . . . at no extra cost— you and I can see the exact size and shape YOUR foot needs.

Come in at your earliest convenience, take advantage of the only correct way to buy shoes. Your feet may need correction. Bring the children. Don't take a chance ordering shoes by number or depending on the measuring stick.

★ X-Ray Shoe Fitting, a priceless service, at no cost . . . assures every member of the family a perfect fitting.

Insist on X-Ray Fitting for Foot Health

KRAFT'S Shoe Store

Kraft's Shoe Store ad from 1949 promoting the X-Ray machine for proper shoe fitting.

Trucking delivered the shoes. I believe they picked them up in Green Bay. We enjoyed meeting many different people, most everyone was easy to deal with. It was difficult to keep up with women's fashions because they were always changing and the heel height varied so much. Some shoes we never sold.

There were two other stores that sold shoes in Seymour. Billy Miller had a clothing store and Dick Khant a department store and they both sold

This week the Seymour Press brings back "Meet Your Merchant" after several weeks' absence, and present to the readers Lloyd (Gabby) and Vilas (Boots) Kraft, owners of the Kraft Shoe Store here in Seymour. The boys came from Neilsville with their parents in 1940. Vilas graduated from Milltown High school and Lloyd from Seymour High. Vilas attended Superior State Teachers College and Notre Dame. The business was owned by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kraft, and the two boys took over after their return from service in 1946. Both boys are married, Lloyd having a daughter and Vilas, a son. Both are members of the American Legion, and Vilas is a member of the Board of Directors of the Seymour Communities Association. Lloyd spent 15 months in the Army and Vilas spent 37 months in the Navy. Both boys are outstanding athletes. The writer asked the boys what they thought about the new park and playground on High street, and both stated that after things are ironed out it will be as worthwhile a project as the city has ever undertaken for the youth, as well as the people as a whole of the community.

Again this week the Seymour Press with great pleasure presents to you two more of Seymour's outstanding merchants, Lloyd and Vilas Kraft of Kraft's Shoe Store. See-More Photo by Sarrfe

In 1949 The Seymour Press featured the Krafts in the "Meet your Merchant" section.

Counting my dad's year and a half, we were in business for 37 years. I believe we sold the business in 1977. It seemed to be the best thing to do at the time. We purchased some property on the lake in Cecil and I spent a lot of time making improvements. Vernice taught for about 7 more years. The people in Seymour were very good to us.

During the 1960's I was a boy scout leader and enjoyed working with young people. When I was a youth I enjoyed scouting and felt it was something I could do to contribute to the community. One of my specialties was woodworking and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing my knowledge." **Editor's comment:** *Vilas has donated a number of custom made unique kerchief slides that are on display at the museum. He made them as samples for the scouts.*

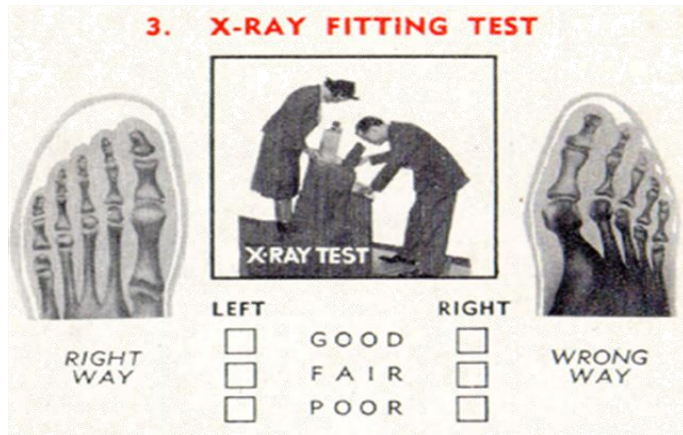
Former customers have fond memories of Kraft's Shoe store. Vernon Blohm comments, "They not only sold excellent

shoes, if you needed something special Vilas would make it for you. He knew his business and was an excellent repairman. The store was a gathering place for older fellows in town. They had a number of extra chairs set out and people would stop in to chat and discuss world events." Karen Kuske remembers that some families would send their kids in to get shoes without a parent

because they knew Boots and Gabby would take good care of them and sell them what they needed. "They were good for our community and ran a great business." Judy Schuette recalls "Our whole family purchased shoes at Kraft's. They had a great selection and sold a quality product. They also had a shoe repair business, something that is hard to find today."

New Technology: X-Ray Shoe Fitting

Do you remember going to the shoe store trying on a new pair of shoes and then looking through the new x-ray machine to make sure they were a good fit? This writer recalls being amazed and having the salesperson, mom and dad and sisters and brothers all looking at the x-ray to see the perfect fit. In the previous article Vilas Kraft recalls the machine being banned by the government. He mentioned that in the late 50s the device had to be removed from the shop. They stored it at home in the garage and eventually dismantled it. This was during the cancer scare of the 1950s about the same time as the big cranberry cancer scare in Wisconsin. Perhaps the following photos will bring back memories for our senior readers.



The wooden cabinets, possibly first built by a Clarence Karrer in Milwaukee in 1924, had the x-ray source in the base, and it would fire upwards through your foot and shoe. Due to a lack of any kind of shielding, it wouldn't stop there: the radiation would shoot right up into your body, clearly a perilous occurrence. Milwaukee became one of the first cities in the nation to regulate the operation and location of the machines, and in 1957 Pennsylvania became the first state to outlaw their use. By 1960, 34 states had banned the machines.

Vilas Kraft's WWII Secret

When speaking with Vilas Kraft he mentioned that he could have been on the television program ***I've Got A Secret*** and that he would have stumped the panel. In November 1943, Vilas was serving on the destroyer ***USS William D. Porter*** as a torpedo specialist. His job was to adjust the gyroscope setting to determine the route the torpedo would take to sink an enemy ship. Being a

new ship, the "Willie Dee," as the William D. Porter was nicknamed, was assigned the mission of being part of a four ship convoy to escort the battleship ***IOWA*** that was carrying President Franklin Roosevelt and other top level officials of the government and military to conferences in Cairo and Teheran. At Cairo, FDR was to meet with Chinese President Chiang Kai-shek and British Prime

Minister Winston Churchill and at Teheran with Churchill and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union.



Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at Teheran

Sailing from Norfolk, Virginia, the "Willie D. got off to a shaky start when a depth charge accidentally slipped loose and detonated causing the convoy to go into an anti-submarine alert. Sometime later a huge wave hit the ship and washed a man overboard. Vilas related that his shipmates were shaken up and much salt water disturbed the ship's electrical system.



The USS William D. Porter

The ***IOWA*** and her escorts were just east of Bermuda when the President and his guests wanted to see how the big ship could defend herself against air attack, so the ***IOWA*** launched a number of weather balloons to use as anti-aircraft targets. Wanting to get in on the display of firepower, the ***Porter*** also opened fire on the balloons. The mistake that could have changed the course of history took place when the Captain of the "Willie D." decided to simulate the firing of torpedoes. Vilas mentioned there was confusion in the torpedo

area when they heard: "Fire one," "Fire two," and finally, "Fire three." There was no "Fire four." The sequence was interrupted by a woosh - the sound made by a successful armed and launched torpedo.

Primers or small explosive charges were installed during actual combat and removed during practice. Someone forgot to remove the primer from torpedo tube number three and a live torpedo was headed toward the Iowa and the President of the United States about 6,000 yards away. Fortunately, the ***IOWA*** was a new battleship and once alerted by the captain of the ***Porter***, it began evasive maneuvers. Within moments of the warning, a thunderous explosion occurred behind the ***IOWA*** as the wash from the ship caused the torpedo to explode.

Captain Walter and the entire crew of the ***William D. Porter*** were placed under arrest and



The Battleship USS IOWA

forced to turn back to Bermuda. Vilas Kraft and all the torpedo men were called to testify before an investigating panel. Vilas said it was a very scary experience, "I was called in to testify before some of the top brass. It was intimidating, they eventually narrowed it down and a torpedo man took full responsibility. He admitted that he forgot to disarm the torpedo, it was human error."

Captain Walter and several former ***William D. Porter*** officers and sailors eventually found themselves on shore assignments, and the person responsible was sentenced to prison. President Roosevelt intervened, and asked that no punishment be given out as the near disaster had been an "accident." That was Vilas Kraft's "secret." The story was never made public until after the ship's crew had a reunion in 1958.

SCHS Lifetime Membership as of 4/01/2017 (\$50.00)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Anschutz, James and Cathy | 61. Hanseter, Russ | 121. Lorenz, Diana | 182. Schaumberg, Carl and Diane |
| 2. Adams. Timm and Sally | 62. Hein, Joann | 122. Lubinski, Dick and Donna | 183. Schellinger, Tim |
| 3. Bakula, Ken | 63. Heinke, Dr. Marilyn | 123. Lubinski, Evelyn | 184. Schmit, Lee and Betty |
| 4. Banker, John | 64. Heidt, Jean | 124. Lubinski, Travis | 185. Schmidt, Leo |
| 5. Barclay, Janet | 65. Hendrickson, Dave | 125. Maass, Dave and Mary | 186. Schmidt, Paul and Cathy (Piehl) |
| 6. Bartz, Allan and Mary Claire | 66. Hermolin, Joe | 126. Maass, Jim and Jean | 187. Schneider, Dennis |
| 7. Battisti, Bob and Jo Ann | 67. Herbst, Gaylord and Linda | 127. Maass, Warren and Gloria | 188. Schneider, Randy & Nancy |
| 8. Bauer, Dave | 68. Hesprich, Kevin and Sue | 128. Machachek, Ed and Jo | 189. Schroeder-Puzen, Carol A. |
| 9. Beifuss, Dan and Ruth | 69. Hodgden, Ken and Mary | 129. Mahlik, Jill and John | 190. Schuh, Pudge and Cassi |
| 10. Blahnik Barb J. | 70. Hoefft, Lowell | 130. Manzke, Bob and Susan | 191. Schuh, Kurt and Kris |
| 11. Blohm, Leland and Betty | 71. Hoff, Dr. Don and Gail | 131. Marcks, Donald | 192. Schuster, Ronald and Mary |
| 12. Bock, Bob | 72. Holz, Nancy | 132. Marcks, Emerson and Mariann | 193. Seidl, Ron and Pat |
| 13. Boettcher, June | 73. Holzer, Vera | 133. Marnocha, Greg and Kim | 194. Severson, Judy |
| 14. Borremans, Todd and Joan | 74. Howlett, George | 134. Mayer, Susan Miller | 195. Severson, Winton |
| 15. Buntrock, Rick and Bonnie | 75. Huettl, Bernie | 135. McBain, Roland "Bud" | 196. Sherman, Joyce |
| 16. Brashaw, Brian and Susan | 76. Huettl, Jennie | 136. McClone, Bear and Carla | 197. Shuler, Susan and Harvey |
| 17. Braun, Jon and Jodi | 77. Huettl, Mike Family | 137. McLester III, Lee G. | 198. Sievert, Staci and Steve Zahn |
| 18. Brinkman, Dennis & Nancy | 78. Huettl-Samson, Ann | 138. McMaster, Susan | 199. Sigl, Janet |
| 19. Brownson, Thomas and Mavis | 79. Hunt, Stephen and Betty | 139. Melchert, Gary & Mary Lou | 200. Smith Nancy R. |
| 20. Burke, Shirley | 80. Huth, Ralph and Mary | 140. Melchert, Ralph | 201. Smith, Guy and Karen |
| 21. Burmeister, Brad | 81. Ibe, Betty | 141. Melchert, Robert and Marian | 202. Somodi, Gail |
| 22. Busch, Arlyn and Julie | 82. Johnson, Evalyn | 142. Melchert, Steve | 203. Sprader, Phyllis |
| 23. Buttles, Kevin and Cherry | 83. Kabat, Reverend Bob | 143. Menor, Marilyn | 204. Springstroh, Arlin and Janet |
| 24. Campbell, Jim and Nancy | 84. Kagerbauer, Dirk and Debbie | 144. Miller, Lucille | 205. Staley, Ruth and Elwyn |
| 25. Carlson, Dr. Jim and Sue | 85. Kailhofer, Letty | 145. Miller, Mitch | 206. Stellmacher, Chuck & Deb |
| 26. Chernick Family Foundation | 86. Kelly, Tom | 146. Miller, Ron and Laverne | 207. Stellmacher, Jon & Rebecca |
| 27. Collar, Bill and Holly | 87. Kemp, Steve | 147. Moeller, Gary and Betsy | 208. Steltz, John and Desiree |
| 28. Coonen, Bob and Marge | 88. Kemp, Vernon and Mary | 148. Montgomery, Jan Reese | 209. Storma, Caroline |
| 29. Coonen, Mark and Karen | 89. Kenton, Carol Piper | 149. Muenster, James and Ginger | 210. Swett, Keith and Jean |
| 30. Coonen, Scott and Anita | 90. Keyzers, Mike and Sue | 150. Murphy, Jon and Lucy | 211. Tech, Harold and Thelma |
| 31. Coonen, Stephen and Brigitte | 91. Kielar, Shirley | 151. Nachtwey, Ron and Sharon | 212. Tesch, David |
| 32. Court, Robert and Debra | 92. Kimball, Joan | 152. Natchek, Sally Miller | 213. Thiel, Bill and Lori |
| 33. Cumicek, John and Adrienne | 93. Kimberling, Diane and Ron | 153. Nelson, Tom | 214. Timmins, Elizabeth |
| 34. Dalke, Lois | 94. Klass, Pat and Mary | 154. Nimmer, Lee | 215. Tremli, Brian |
| 35. Dean, Gail | 95. Kline Joseph J. | 155. Norelius, Janice | 216. Tremli, Ronald E. |
| 36. DeBruin Eric and Trisha | 96. Kneisler, Ralph and Arlene | 156. Novak, Gary and Linda | 217. Tubbs, Gloria |
| 37. Diermeier, Tim | 97. Koenigs, John and Lynn | 157. Palubicki, Jim and Laurie | 218. Truymen, Mark and Debbie |
| 38. Dorosz, Steve and Darla | 98. Krabbe, Steve and Cheri | 158. Peotter, Donald and Ann | 219. Upp, Berl and Laurie |
| 39. Duffey, Tom and Ann | 99. Kraft, Dr. Tony DDS | 159. Peterson, Randy and Debbie | 220. Van Boxtel, Dan and Teri |
| 40. Dyer, Jon C. | 100. Kraft, LaMont and Sandy | 160. Piehl Ellen | 221. VandeLeest, Warren & Florence |
| 41. Ebert, Clayton and Audrey | 101. Kraft, Esther | 161. Piehl, Michael and Adriane | 222. Vanden Heuvel, Bud & Audrey |
| 42. Ebert, Duane | 102. Kraft, Marlene | 162. Piehl, Richard and Ann | 223. Ver Voort, Glen and Sarah |
| 43. Eick, Bob and Janis | 103. Kraft, Tony and Becky | 163. Pierre, Perry and Carol | 224. Ver Voort, Scott and Angela |
| 44. Eick, Janice | 104. Kraft, Vilas and Vernice | 164. Pingel, Harold and Dolores | 225. Voight, Jack |
| 45. Eisenreich, Bobbi Jo & Ted | 105. Kropp, Doris | 165. Piper, Janice | 226. Volkman, Dale and Karen |
| 46. Farr, Kathleen and Dean | 106. Krahn, Kevan and Sandy | 166. Porter, Nancy | 227. Wagner, Al and Sally |
| 47. Feurig, Don | 107. Krueger, Kenneth | 167. Puls, Mike and Linda | 228. Wendt, Byron and Bonnie |
| 48. Forcey, John and Dawn | 108. Krull, Pat and Cathy | 168. Raether, June | 229. Wettstein, Bob and Mary |
| 49. Freund, Ralph | 109. Kuehne, Carl & Mary Ellen | 169. Raymakers, Don and Del | 230. Weyers Family Foundation, Inc. |
| 50. Frost, Charles and Louise | 110. Kuehne, Doloris | 170. Reed, Don | 231. Weyers, Ron and Colleen |
| 51. Gardner, Marge | 111. Kuene, Steve and Karen | 171. Reed, Jeff and Karen | 232. Wilken, Judy |
| 52. Gillis, Jim and Jeannie | 112. Kunstman, Tom | 172. Reed, Randy and Ann | 233. Woods, Jim |
| 53. Goeben, Samantha | 113. Kurczek, John and Kay | 173. Reese, Shaun | 234. Wulterkens, Jean Hackel |
| 54. Gonnering, Mike and Karen | 114. Landwehr, T.J. | 174. Rettman, Larry and Janice | 235. Yaeger, Bruce Family |
| 55. Gosda, Al and Carol | 115. Lardinois, Terry and Patti | 175. Robinson, Shirley | 236. Zahn, Bill and Joyce |
| 56. Gosse, Dr. Richard & Karen | 116. Laske, Terry | 176. Rohloff, Jean | 237. Zahn, Donna |
| 57. Gosse, Mary | 117. Lerum, Ollie and Adeline | 177. Ross, Pete and Peggy | 238. Zahn, Mark and Renee |
| 58. Greuel, Mary and Deny | 118. Loasching, Bill and Jackie | 178. Rottier, Ken and Judy | 239. Zak, Dr. Dan and Pam |
| 59. Grimm, Paul and Deanna | 119. Lom, Joe and Mary | 179. Rydzewski, Rob and Cathy | 240. Zastrow, Lila |
| 60. Hallada, Karen | 120. Lorenz, Ed & Marilyn Seidl-Lorenz | 180. Sager, Dennis and Bobbi | |
| | | 181. Sass, Gary and Jane | |

Lifetime Business Membership \$100.00

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Advertiser Comm. News | 12. Community Insurance Cent. | 23. J J's Auto Clinic | 34. Marcks Trucking & Ex. | 45. Seymour Beverage |
| 2. American Family Ins. | 13. Coonen Inc. | 24. Kailhofer's Greenhouse | 35. Muehl-Boettcher Funeral | 46. Seymour Chiropractic S.C. |
| 3. Auto Plaza | 14. Countryside Photographers | 25. Ken Bakula - NY Life | 36. Nichols Volunteer Fireme | 47. Seymour Vol. Firefighters |
| 4. Balance Studios | 15. Cumicek Jewelers | 26. Krabbe's Kountry Klub | 37. Nichols Paper Products | 48. Sey. HealthMart Pharmacy |
| 5. BMO Harris Bank | 16. Dairy Queen/Grill and Chill | 27. Kwik Trip | 38. Nicolet Bank | 49. Seymour Lions Club |
| 6. Catholic Financial Life | 17. Don's Quality Market | 28. Home of the Hamburger | 39. Northeastern Roofing | 50. Seymour Woman's Club |
| 7. CenturyLink | 18. Edward Jones Investments | 29. Huettl Bus, Inc. | 40. Orion Labels, LLC | 51. Schuh Construction |
| 8. Chase Bank | 19. Family Insurance Center | 30. Kohl's Depart. Stores | 41. Osborn Roofing | 52. Tesch Implement |
| 9. Circle E Equestrian, LLC | 20. First National Bank | 31. Isaar Trailriders | 42. Performance Pallet Corp | 53. Thrivent Financial |
| 10. CK Holdings, Ltd. | 21. General Dentistry of Sey. | 32. Lakeside Foods | 43. Menn Law Office | 54. Tom's Tunes |
| 11. Community 1st - Nichols | 22. Good Shep. Services LTD | 33. Lubinski, Reed, & Klass | 44. Seymour Basketball Assc | 55. Truymen, Haase, Zahn, Ins. |

Seymour Community Historical Society Annual Report for 2017

Membership as of Jan. 1, 2017

Lifetime family members -----	238	Lifetime business members -----	55
Annual family members -----	10	Annual individual members -----	12
Total Membership	315		

Museum Use

- The museum was open four 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, home school 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 1,440 guests the day of the festival.
- **The total number of visitors to the museum in 2016 was 3,613**

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 5,128 hits.

Our Facebook site (Seymour Community Historical Society) reached 17,727 people

Currently we have over 3,000 pictures in our 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 thirty pictures of the various exhibits.

Museum Activities from January 2016 to December 2016

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. High School Senior Students Art Show (115).

May – Annual meeting with Jessica Michna in the role of Helen Keller (54). Memorial Day program (26).

June – Music in the Park started. Working Warriors exhibit (212)

July – Golden Age of Video Arcade Games exhibit (761)

August – During Burger Fest 1,440 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 Dave Hendrickson and Lila Zastrow (121).

October – Haunted General Store five nights (295)

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

December – Our Kid's Christmas event was a huge success (176)

This is what the Seymour Community Historical Society accomplished in 2016.

- The SCHS has a reliable team of 15 volunteers who maintain and supervise the museum and general store four days a week during the summer months.
- The SCHS continued to add to its collection of local pictures and artifacts.

- The SCHS and museum serve as a resource for people doing research.
- 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 high school senior art show was a cooperative effort between the school and museum.
- 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.
- With assistance from the city the annex to the general store was remodeled.

Seymour Community Historical Society 2017 Budget

Expenses

Income

Cleaning Supplies	\$200.00	R & M Displays	\$1,000.00	Admission Donations	\$1,200.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	R & M Buildings	2,800.00	Burger Fest	1,000.00
Tax Preparations	750.00	Utilities	13,000.00	Music in the Park Sponsors	3,500.00
Bands Music in Park	3,300.00	New Displays	5,000.00	50 / 50 Income	2,500.00
Advertising	2,000.00	License and Fees	200.00	MIP Concessions	1,200.00
Newsletters	1,000.00	Contract Services	700.00	Memory Forest	1,600.00
MIP Expenses(Concessoins, etc)	800.00	Flowers/Exterior Dec.	500.00	Special Events	\$1,000.00
Gift Shop Merchandise	500.00	Memorials and Gifts	700.00	Gift Shop	700.00
Special Events	1,000.00	Postage	400.00	Memberships	150.00
Memory Forest Exp	800.00	Miscellaneous	1,000.00	Donations	9,000.00
				City of Seymour	14,800.00
Total 2017 Expenses	\$36,650.00	Total 2017 Income	\$36,650.00		

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.

Donations Since November 23, 2016

Dan and Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
George Howlett	Seymour, WI In memory of Helen Howlett	Sustainability
Kohl's Depart. Stores Inc.	Community Relations - AIA	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI In memory of Dorothy Reed	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI In memory of Dorothy Reed	Sustainability
Clayton and Audrey Ebert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Lowell Hoeft	DePere, WI	Sustainability
Ed and Marilyn Seidl-Lorenz	Blk Creek, WI In memory of Tom Seidl and Ruth Lorernz	Sustainability
Michael and Adriane Piehl	Dunedin, Florida	Life membership
Ollie and Pudge Lerum	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Timm and Sally Adams	Eden Prairie, MN	Life membership
Shirley Burke	Green Bay, WI In memory of Tom and Jerry Burke	Sustainability
Roland "Bud" McBain	Pickerel WI	Sustainability
Shirley Kielar	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Nancy R. Smith	Gillett, WI	Sustainability
Francis Gerl	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Nichols Paper Products Co.	Nichols, WI	Building fund
Thomas Staeven	Seymour, WI In memory of Ray, Bob and Ruth Staeven	Sustainability
Richard and Ann Piehl	Shorewood, WI In memory of Frank and Eleanor Piehl	Building Fund
Vilas and Vernice Kraft	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Janice Norelius	Thornton, CO	Sustainability
Harold and Thelma Tech	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
John Wurtzel	Payson, AZ	Sustainability
General Dentistry of Seymour	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Duane Ebert	Green Bay, WI memory of Walter & Florence Schwab Ebert	Sustainability
David and Margaret Schuh	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Jean Melchert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Warren and Florence Vande Leest	DePere, WI	Sustainability
Doris Kropp	Hobart, WI In Memory of Gary Kropp	Sustainability
Warren and Gloria Maas	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Anonymous		Sustainability
David Hendrickson & Lila Zastrow	Seymour, WI	Life Membership
Debra G. Robinson	Appleton, WI	Sustainability
Ralph Melchert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI	Sustainability
Seymour Firefighters	Seymour, WI	Building Fund
Glenn and Sharon Dunville	Seymour, WI	Sustainability
Ronald and Sharon Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI	Sustainability
Jim and Cathy Anschutz	Grand Chute, WI	Life Membership
Thrivent Financial	Appleton, WI Employee Giving Campaign (D. Robinson)	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 Old Fashion Supper Clubs, May 13th 1:00

Vietnam Veterans Tribute May 27 - June 23 ----- Details inside

Vietnam Speaker - Colonel Jim Van Straten - June 17 --- 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 2017

June 21 Les James & Family

June 28 Rocker, Rocker, Rocker

July 5 KNX Party Band

July 12 Blind Date - Variety

July 19 TNT Polka-Young Talent

July 26 Sgt. Bernie Kroll - Polka

Aug. 2 Tom's Tunes - Variety

Aug. 9 The New Generation - Polka

Aug. 16 Hauser's Hot Shots - Polka

Aug. 23 Larry Wussow's The Reason Why

Aug. 30 Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's