

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2018

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area

History Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

If museum closed: (920) 833-6064

Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 ThFSS

Fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday Closed: January, February and March

Board of Directors

Bob Bock

Jon Braun

Karen Coonen

Bill Collar

Gail Dean

Janice Eick

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Sue Keyzers

John Koenigs

Karen Kuske

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Annual Meeting May 6th Features Dolley Madison

The annual meeting of the Seymour Community Historical society will be held Saturday, May 5 with a return visit from popular actress Jessica Michna who will portray Dolley Madison. This will be an exceptional program. Circle the date, May 5 at 1:00. Her performance will follow a brief business meeting. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. The program is open to the public.

Dolley Madison – “The Lady Who Saved Washington”

Charming, flamboyant and strong willed, Dolley was tested in the calamity of the War of 1812. Born into a Quaker family, Dolley was raised to be obedient and well behaved. Early in her life she married a man selected by her father. Dolley would soon be strengthened by adversity. Widowed at an early age she would soon be courted by Congressman James Madison. As First Lady, Dolley would become the Grand Dame of Washington.



***Jessica Michna as
Dolley Madison***

Outstanding Program with Jessica Michna

Jessica Michna, recipient of the Presidential Service Center's Distinguished Service Award, 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 fourth appearance in Seymour. Her portrayals of Mary Todd Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt and Helen Keller were exceptional. Be prepared for another outstanding program.

A Message from the Board of Directors

As the historical society prepares for another busy summer season we want to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and members who have generously donated toward the operation of the museum. We have made a number of improvements in the museum including all LED lighting. It was too expensive to install when the building was built, but costs have come down significantly, and our utility bill will reflect the improvement.

In addition to preserving area history and making it available to the public, the Seymour Community Historical Society strives to continue to build our oral history and pictorial archive. In this issue of the Seymour History Bulletin you will find a summary of past museum activities and a exhibits coming up this summer and fall. We have included a copy of our annual report including the society budget. We have been putting in long hour preparing the Sesquicentennial pictorial history book. We have included a description of what the book will contain. Our reliable author, Lynn Koenigs, takes a look back at the year 1931 and how it was portrayed in the Seymour High School newspaper. And of course, all of us are looking forward to warmer weather and Music in the Park. You will find a schedule in this newsletter.

Our members are our most valuable asset. We cannot play a viable role without your support. Please use the form at the end of this publication to make a donation to the society. All gifts to the historical society are used to help meet expenses and for improvements in the museum.

Special Exhibits at the Museum this Spring and Summer

WWI Beyond the Trenches: Stories from the Front May 27 to June 17

Over 122,000 Wisconsin men and women served on land, sea, and in the air during World War I.



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum marks the centennial of the First World War with the opening of a major exhibit featuring an up close and personal look at the Great War through the eyes of Wisconsin veterans. Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin

Veterans Museum are pleased to share their exhibit with museums throughout the state. The Seymour Community Historical society is thrilled to be among the organizations selected to feature the traveling display. Plan to visit the Seymour Community Museum after the Memorial Day program or during the first two weeks in June. Help honor the memory of Seymour area veterans during the celebration of the centennial recognizing the end of World War I.



Vintage Toy Show July 1 to August 19

Toys and Collectibles of all Types from 1900 to the Present

The museum has a large collection of Antique Toys and they will all be on display. Check your attic and storage areas, and help add to this exhibit. You can donate your vintage toys to the museum or arrange to loan them for this fun exhibit. The society has plans to include all of the following: tin wind-up toys, cast iron toys, hamburger toys, die-cast and model cars, robots and space toys, action figures, model kits, farm toys, character toys, Star Wars and sci-fi toys, toy soldiers, dolls, miniatures, comics, games, holiday items and more!



Art Show featuring the Photography of Lamont Kraft Sept. 8 to 24

The photography of Seymour resident Lamont Kraft has been a hit at art shows throughout Wisconsin. The SCHS is pleased to feature his work for two weeks in September. Kraft describes his

work on his website, (naturesedgebykraft.com). "My goal with photography is to project a reflection through my images of a specific moment in time and location. Emphasis in my photography is to get it spot on in the camera using camera features and setting adjustments as well as different lenses. If I don't get it spot on in the camera, I will not use it. Also, nothing is ever added to or subtracted from the image. I will sometimes use a process to even out high contrast scenes to achieve an image of rich color and depth. This is an artistic technique that has become popular with many of my customers.

The SCHS will host a "Meet the Artist Night" Saturday, September 8, from 5:00 to 8:00. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. The program is open to the public.



Samples of Lamont Kraft's photos. Above left: Moraine Lake at sunrise in the Canadian Rockies near Banff, Alberta, is located in an area called the Valley of the Ten Peaks.

Above right: Multnomah Falls is in western Oregon. The iconic bridge accents the dramatic drop from the Columbia Plateau into the Columbia River Basin.

Meet and greet photographer Lamont Kraft on September 8th.

St. Agnes Returns to Seymour

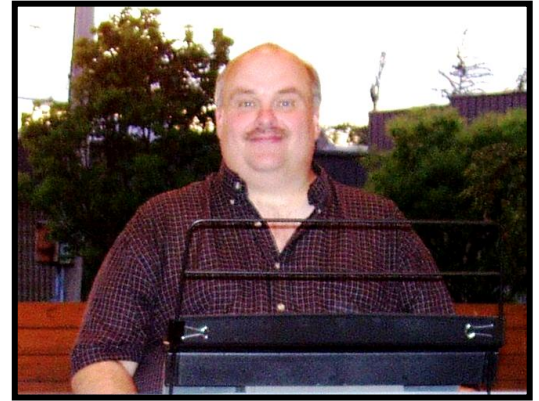
Thanks to the efforts of life-time member Duane Ebert, the statue of St. Agnes that was on the altar of St. John the Baptist Church for almost a century has returned to Seymour. Duane, who is a member of Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral Parish in Green Bay, contacted the SCHS when he heard the statue was being moved. With the remodeling of the cathedral, a number of items that were in the small museum were being phased out. The statue is now in the Seymour Museum in the exhibit showing the sanctuary of the church as it looked in 1960. Ron Nachtwey is building a pedestal that will lift the statue up so it is displayed next to the picture.



Music in the Park - 2018

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.

- June 20 Les James & Family - Seymour's Favorite Son
- June 27 Rocker, Rocker, Rocker - Classic Rock
- July 4 Badgergrass - Dr. James Marker and Partners
Jon and Sarah - two groups to celebrate the 4th
- July 11 Jeff Kahn and Friends - back for their 3rd year
- July 18 TNT Polka - Young Talent Kicking Off Polka Days
- July 25 Rockin' Country - Kevin Krahn, Robyn Wussow
Great Seymour Musicians with a full band!
- Aug. 1 Polka's Greatest Hits Band - Back by popular request
- Aug. 8 Polish All-Stars from Pulaski
- Aug. 15 Tom's Tunes - Variety - Fun Entertainers
- Aug. 22 Larry Wussow, Scott Skodinski and Andy Huettl - Hometown Musicians
- Aug. 29 Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's - Veterans Appreciation Night with the Honor Guard from Post 106. Fireworks will follow the music. All activities will be held at Rock Ledge Park. Bring your chairs and help celebrate 150 years of Seymour History.



Local favorite Les James gets the music started on June 20th.

Sesquicentennial Pictorial History Book

The historical society volunteers who organized and edited the commemorative book are excited about the finished product. It is a hardcover book of 210 pages with over 500 photographs. Many of the pictures are from the archives of the society, while other have been recently donated by area residents. Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way. It certainly was a community effort. The books are expected to be available by the end of June. They will be for sale at the museum for \$30.00. A form at the end of this publication can be used for mail orders.



Filling silo using the latest equipment on the Art Tesch farm north of Seymour, 1915. Courtesy of David Tesch



Marcella Gagnow holding baby Dennis, with Susan Moeller on the left and Mary Schmit, right. Main Street looking south, 1951. Courtesy of Susan Gagnow

Old.....But Interesting: A Look back at 1931

Facts gathered by Lynn E. Koenigs

The year 1931 saw the doubling of unemployment to 16.3%, and everybody realized that the stock market crash of 1929 was having far reaching effects. The US government started making some progress on the mob and a notable success was the conviction of Al Capone on tax fraud charges which got him an 11 year prison sentence in Alcatraz. Many car manufacturers also went out of business as people did not have money to buy new cars.

One of the few successes was the completion of the Empire State Building, and in Las Vegas the small local community made the decision to legalize gambling. Nature even conspired to make things worse by causing a serious drought in the Midwest which in turn made food more expensive and turned some areas into dust bowls.

1931 NEWS FROM SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

(Taken from See-More High Spots-the school newspaper from 1931-various articles from the year).

- The first year business training students are studying about the telegraph and telephone.
- Every Friday is Current Event Day in Citizenship Class. World topics are given and the best ones are put on the bulletin board. This way we have read something besides the comics once a week.
- We juniors are always fighting, first about one thing and then another. Our present gang fight is about the selection of our class rings and design.
- The freshman class is working on the prevention of fires and heating and ventilating buildings. The students were taken into our furnace room and shown how our school is heated.
- The latest fad for the boys is medicated cough



- drops and the girls are introducing a liberal supply of perfume.
- As a result of a recent decision of the high school activity council the preliminary steps are being taken this week. Radio dealers of the city have been invited to submit their set as a test. The final decision will be made by the council after all sets have been tried and compared. The radio will be paid for out of the funds received from the sale of magazines during the past two years.
- On Thursday afternoon, we had the pleasure of listening to five different radios which were on trial in the assembly. Those demonstrated were the Victor, General Electric, Philco, and Majestic. The Philco was chosen by the committee.
- A new Philco radio has been set up and installed in the office. Plans are being made to find some way to hook it up with the Assembly Room and other parts of the building. Various programs will be listened to in the different rooms.
- The freshman class is reading *Treasure Island*. We are all working our gray matter to write a story on some buried treasure. We are determined to write another one on *Mistaken Identity* if we ever get finished with our first one.
- The school has received the first ten volumes of the encyclopedia "The Americana." This is a 1931 revision. The other twenty volumes will follow as soon as they have been published.
- The Prom is only nine days off and every minute it approaches closer. We hope there will be a large attendance and that



everyone will have a good time. Remember the date, May 20, and invite all your neighbors and friends. The admission is \$1.25 and 25 cents for spectators.

- We have just completed a story about a foreigner coming to America. The students also wrote a theme on "What America Means to Me". One of our "cut ups" said that it meant a place to hang her hat and park her gum.

Perhaps because of tough financial times, the class of 1931 did not have a yearbook. The historical society does have a picture on file.

Yes, 1931 was sure interesting!



Seymour High School Class of 1931. The following have been identified. Row 1, left to right: ?, ?, ?, Edith Klahn, ?, ?, ?, Olive Beckman, Marie Schaumberg. Row 2, left to right: Mildred Burmeister, John Tubbs, ?, maybe Ivo Huettl, Rogene Falck, ?, Lucille Stritzel, ?, Lucille Wussow. Row 3, left to right: Roger Rusch, ?, ?, Arthur Koepf, ?, George Wassenberg, ?, ?. Row 4, left to right: Elsmere Conklin, Helen Eisenreich, Frank Piehl, Gladys Krohlow, William Piehl, Jr., Marcella Kailhofer, ?, ?, Robert Wolk and Ruth Barclay.

Seymour Community Historical Society Annual Report for 2017

It was another busy year for the Seymour Community Historical Society as reflected in the following statistical summary. One of the highlights of the winter was the Kids' Christmas. Board member Janice Eick organized a program to purchase and wrap 92 Christmas presents. Assisted by her sisters Joan and Jean, the upstairs of the museum was decorated in a Christmas cartoon theme featuring cartoon characters from popular movies. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus made an appearance to distribute gifts and listen to the requests of the children.

A number of upgrades took place at the museum. Bay Ridge Electric converted the traditional lighting to LED. The new system brightens up the facility while saving money. The adjustable lights will be a great asset when hosting art shows and special exhibits. After forty years in the jewelry business Kathy Cumicek Smits retired. It was thoughtful and generous of her to donate the display cases from the store for use in the museum. Members of the historical society made several trips to the store and

returned to the museum with four beautiful cases. Thank you Kathy. It is impressive how people in the community and others with ties to community continue to support the museum.



Kathy behind one of the cabinets she donated. One of her cabinets contains a permanent display of toys.

Seymour Community Historical Society Membership as of January 1, 2018

Lifetime family members -----	235	Lifetime business members -----	58
Annual family members -----	13	Annual individual members -----	12
Total Membership	318		

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, scouts, class reunions, family gatherings and visiting historical societies.
- Burger Fest was a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the facility. We had 1,442 guests the day of the festival.
- **The total number of visitors to the museum in 2017 was 3,421**

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) has been active.

Our Facebook site (Seymour Community Historical Society) reached a wide variety of 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 2017 to December 2017

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 (85 visitors).

May – Annual meeting with Holly De Ruyter and the movie "Old Fashioned: The Story of Wisconsin Supper Clubs". Steve Krabbe also spoke and supper club hors d'oeuvres were presented by society board member Janice Eick.

Memorial Day program (46 visitors).

June – Music in the Park started. Viet Nam Exhibit (212)

Seymour area native Col. James G. Van Straten presentation (94)

July – Cheesehead movie with producer John Mitchell and Chester Marcol (54)

August – During Burger Fest 1,442 people toured the museum.

Music in the Park concluded. The program was very popular averaging over 300 per concert.

September – One hundred and fifty fourth graders toured the museum.

An art exhibit featuring the quilts of Marge Coonen and photography of Rick Cohler (149).

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

December – Our Kid's Christmas event was a huge success (142)

General Comments

- Music in the Park continues to be a very popular attraction for city residents. The total attendance for the summer was **over 2,500** Raffle and concession income was \$2,800.00.
- 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.

2018 City Budget

Approximately \$16,000 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 2017.

- 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 presented two documentary movies.
- 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 artists.
- 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 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.

2018 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.	900.00	Memory Forest	1,600.00
Music Expenses	800.00	Flowers & Decorations	700.00	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	15,400.00
Display Maintenance	1,000.00			Music Concessions	1,500.00
				Special Events	500.00
Total Expenses - \$35,650.00				Total Income - \$35,450.00	

Goals for 2018

1. Continue to improve on the accomplishments of the previous year.
2. Switch over to all LED lighting. Add more exhibit cases.
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 social and cultural enriching activities.
6. Coordinate an art show featuring local artists and make it available to the public.
8. Advertise the attributes to the museum to encourage visitors from outside the community.
9. Produce a Sesquicentennial Pictorial History hardcover book with over 500 photographs.

Pictures from the Kids' Christmas Program



Santa Claus was popular at the Kids' Christmas hosted by the Seymour Community Museum. Here the jolly old soul is pictured with Kristi, Colton and Briella Vander Zanden.



Joan Conradt and her helpers had numerous activities set up so the children could make Christmas trinkets and ornaments. 1st row: Abby Matuszak 2nd row, L to R: Nya Matuszak, Joan Conradt, and Taylor Matuszak



Kids had the opportunity to be the engineer on the Christmas train.



Mrs. Santa Claus had 92 presents wrapped for the children.



Christmas cookies were a big hit.

Donations Since November 27, 2017

Lowell Hoeft	DePere, WI
Dan and Pam Zak	Seymour, WI
Pat and Mary Klass	Seymour, WI
Jim and Jean Maass	Seymour, WI
Warren and Gloria Maas	Seymour, WI
Bill Vanden Langenberg	Seymour, WI
Jim and Nancy Campbell	Seymour, WI
Glenn and Sharon Dunville	Seymour WI
Kathleen Farr	Indianapolis, IN
Lynn Cartier	Seymour, WI
Dick and Donna Lubinski	Seymour, WI
Clayton and Audrey Ebert	Seymour, WI
Bob and Sue Manzke	Seymour, WI
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI
Oliver Lerum	Seymour, WI
Mike and Sue Keyzers	Seymour, WI
Francis Gerl	Seymour, WI
Ralph Melchert	Seymour, WI
Gail Somodi	Lakewood Ranch, FL
Doloris Kuehne	Seymour, WI
Thomas Staeven	Seymour, WI
Travis Lubinski	Shawano, WI
Family of Wally Beilfuss	Seymour, WI
Duane Ebert	Green Bay, WI
Richard and Ann Piehl	Shorewood, WI
Nancy R. Smith	Gillett, WI
Caroline Storma	Appleton, WI
Dennis Schultz	Hartland, WI
Kenneth Kraft	Medford, WI
Mike and Karen Gonnering	Seymour, WI
Jon and Becky Stellmacher	Appleton, WI
Jon and Jodi Braun	Seymour, WI
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI
Thrivent Financial	Seymour, WI
Thrivent Financial	Seymour, WI
Vivian Tremi	Seymour, WI
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI
John Haase	Memphis, TN

Sesquicentennial Book Order

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Books ordered at \$30.00 each _____ = \$ _____

Shipping and handling \$7.00 for one book = \$ _____

\$10.00 for 2 or more books same address

Total Paid ----- \$ _____

Payable to the Seymour Community Historical Society.
PO Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165

In memory of Walter and Erma, Ray, Bob and Ruth Staeven
 In Memory of Tony and Virginia Lubinski
 In memory of Wally Beilfuss
 In memory of Walter and Florence Schwab Ebert
 In memory of Frank and Eleanor Piehl
 In memory of Walter W. Smith
 In memory of Al Storma
 Lifetime Member
 In memory of Vilas Kraft
 In memory of Vilas Kraft
 In memory of Leroy and Helen Stellmacher
 In memory of Bob Coonen
 In memory of Bob Coonen
 Employee Giving Campaign (Karen Coonen)
 Employee Giving Campaign (Ann Marie Karweick)
 In memory of Bob Coonen and Harold Pingel
 In memory of Bob Coonen
 In memory of Bob Coonen

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE

Return Service Requested

Annual Meeting Featuring Jessica Michna as Dolley Madison, May 5th, 1:00

World War I Exhibit May 26 - June 17 ----- Details inside

Vintage Toy Show - July --- Details inside

Order your Sesquicentennial Pictorial History Book

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 - 2018

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 20 | Les James & Family - Seymour's Favorite Son |
| June 27 | Rocker Rocker Rocker - Classic Rock |
| July 4 | Badgergrass - Dr. James Marker and Partners
Jon and Sarah - two groups to celebrate the 4th |
| July 11 | Jeff Kahn and Friends - back for their 3 rd year |
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| Aug. 29 | Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's at Rock Ledge |

