

Seymour History Bulletin

Special New Museum Edition

A quarterly publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society Inc.

Dedicated to preserving Seymour Area History

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A Message from the Board of Directors of the Seymour Historical Society

After a four year capital campaign, over \$1,000,000.00 in donations, and thousands of hours of volunteer work the new Seymour Community Museum is a reality. Since the dedication and grand opening on July 21, 2012, over 3,000 people have toured the facility. These range from cub scouts and their parents to senior residents of Good Shepherd Services. We have heard many positive comments and truly believe the Museum has something for everyone.

With over 500 people donating toward the project, the building stands as a monument to what the residents of a small city and the surrounding area can accomplish when people work together. We received donations from throughout the United States from people who have ties to the Seymour area. While diverse, our contributors have a common interest in preserving the history and heritage of our community.

A number of us date back to the founding of the historical society in 1975, and recall how we started with the railroad depot and spread the word that we were soliciting donations of items of historical interest. The local people responded and the SCHS now has an impressive collection of items that help tell Seymour's story.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make the museum/learning center a reality.

The Purpose of this Newsletter

We realize that many of our members, especially those out of state, have not had the opportunity to visit the museum. This publication provides the reader with information about the historical society, what the building has to offer, museum policies, future plans, and the opportunity to participate. You will also find a list of our donors and exhibit sponsors. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

A Visit to the Museum

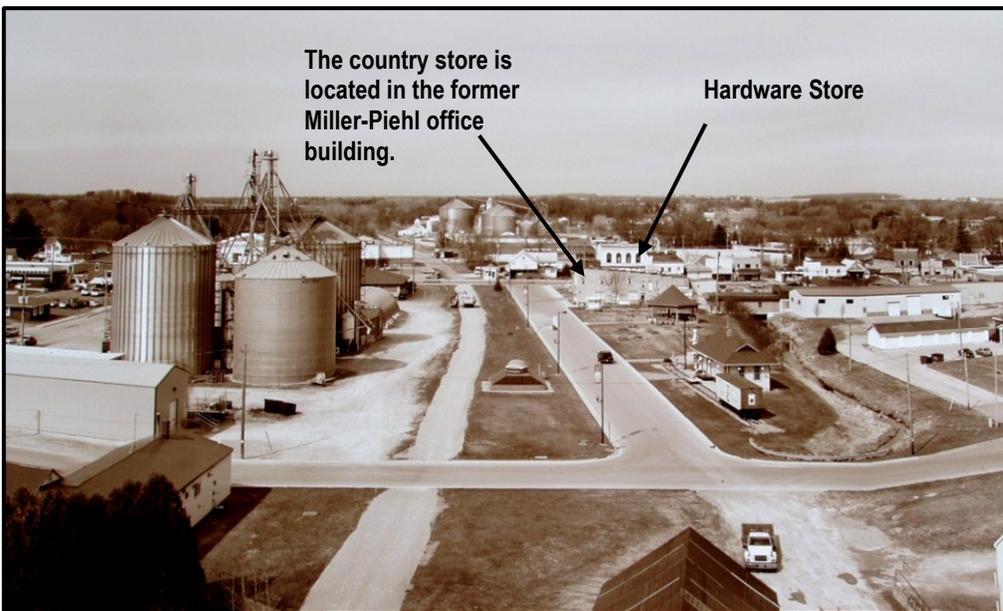
Upon entering the museum the visitor is impressed with the beauty of the welcome desk, majestic cabinets, and strategically placed lighting. To the right of the welcome desk is an illustration of Horatio Seymour and a brief biography. The former Governor of New York was a large land owner in the area and presidential candidate in 1868. When the town was organized, it was logical to name it after him.



Take a seat in one of the original chairs from the Seymour Auditorium. Generations of Seymour area residents sat in these chairs as they viewed traveling variety shows, musical performances, and theatrical productions. Through the genius of Balance Studios, Horatio Seymour is brought to life to greet you and explain the city's heritage. A history of the auditorium/theatre is displayed adjacent to the screen.

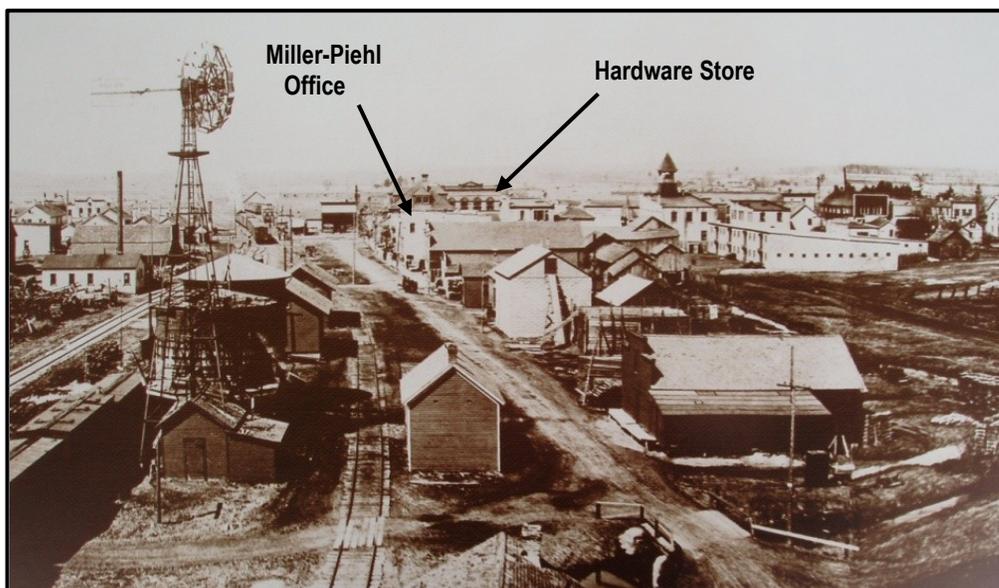
Panoramic Pictures

To the left of the video area notice the large panoramic views of Seymour looking west down Depot Street. The pictures were taken from approximately the same spot 100 years apart. The 1909 picture shows a city of just over 1,000 people with the railroad as the main transportation artery. At one time eight trains a day passed through the city.



One hundred years later, in 2009, with the assistance of the Seymour Fire Department and its aerial truck, the picture at left was taken from about the same spot as the 1909 picture. The railroad is gone, broad paved streets have replaced dirt roads, and the Miller-Piehl office building is now the Seymour Community Historical Society Country Store. Grain processing and storage have taken the place of lumber and coal as the dominant businesses. How many buildings can you locate that are present on both pictures? A number of Main St. businesses can be identified. Notice several houses are found on both pictures.

These pictures show the center portion of the panoramic view.



Looking at the 1909 picture, the Miller-Piehl Company, the site of the present museum, is a busy operation. This picture was taken from the top of the Cargill Grain Elevator located next to the railroad tracks. Depot St. is a hub of activity with the railroad depot the focus. The windmill and water tank were necessary to service the steam locomotives. The large school to the right of the picture was built in 1903 at a cost of \$25,000.00. The photographer actually took three pictures and pieced them together. The picture at left shows the middle view. Countryside Photography did the restoration work.

Countryside Photography and Camera Exhibit



Moving to your left you see the camera display. Of particular interest is a number of "tintype" photos dating back to the late 1800s. The collection also shows the evolution of the camera, including the popular box camera of the 1920s and 30s, and early movie cameras. Looking closely, you will see a number of Kodak "Brownie" cameras, with one dating back to 1904. The "Autographic" camera allowed the user to write on the negative.

Reading the descriptions, a person discovers that at one time pictures were taken on glass negative and often printed as "tintypes." The top shelf displays the Polaroid Camera that was considered revolutionary during the 1950s. The small picture of the museum represents a picture taken with a "Polaroid."

These and other beautiful oak cabinets throughout the museum were built and donated by Seymour craftsman John Nagel. The museum is located in Nagel Park which was donated by John's parents Lee and Pat Nagel.

Boy and Girl Scouts

Scouting in Seymour dates back to 1937 when Mrs. Boyden started a Girl Scout chapter. During the late 1940s a number of area citizens decided there was a need for a central gathering place for the scouts. The "scout house" in Rock Ledge Park was completed in 1953 and has served several generations of Seymour scouts. The numerous patches on display represent awards, chapters, events, and camps. These were often traded among the scouts. The base of the exhibit shows scouting items such as a canteen, cooking utensils, and a *Girl Scout Handbook* from 1953.

Military Display

As you browse the military display keep in mind that all of the uniforms were worn and donated by Seymour residents. A number of early Seymour settlers fought for the Union in the Civil War. Most notable are Peter Tubbs, Seymour's first postmaster, and Erastus Buttles, who built a house at the present intersection of Highway 54 and French Road. The museum is in possession of letters from several Civil War veterans. On display here are excerpts of letters Mr. Tubbs wrote home to his sister from the siege of Vicksburg.

The WWI uniform of Alvin Piehl shows that American "Doughboys" carried gas masks that were necessary because of the use of poison gas by the Germans during fighting on the western front. Also note the document indicating that Arthur H. Otto of Seymour was a survivor of the German torpedo attack on the troop ship *Tuscania*.

The WWII display features an article about Emil Gosse and his experiences during the Battle of the Bulge. It also shows a letter to Dr. Raymond Groendahl's sister from a patient he treated when he was stationed in the South Pacific. Captain Groendahl's decorations and medals are on display. Orville Marnocha's picture and medals reflect his tour of duty in Italy and Greece during World War II. The uniforms conclude with the desert camouflage gear worn by Gary Schaumberg in the Persian Gulf War.

Before you turn the corner, go back to the cabinets behind the reception desk to see more military items. Of particular interest are two rifles used in WWI, several helmets, and an article about Seymour's connection to the liberation of Buchenwald, the infamous German concentration camp. Also see everyday items used by the soldiers such as Zippo lighters, a canteen, and a portable typewriter to send letters home.

For an additional tribute to those who served our country, visit the Veterans Memorial at the corner of Depot and Main Streets.

City Government, Businesses, and School

A fireman's helmet, hose nozzle, and logbook remind us of the commitment made by members of Seymour's volunteer fire department. Seymour Strife Company No. 1 started in 1911 when, after several devastating fires, the city fathers decided to purchase a horse-pulled engine with a hand pump.



Organized in the early 1900s, times have changed a great deal for the Seymour Police Department. Browsing through the city ordinances from the 1920s one can't help but notice that some similar concerns exist today. On display you see a night stick, handcuffs, and a service revolver. For years the police department was located in the city hall with the big bell tower. When the bell rang at 9:00 PM all children were to be off the streets.

The business display shows gifts that were often given away by Seymour merchants. It was customary in the mid-1900s to give out favors during the winter holiday season or to celebrate the New Year. Some objects on exhibit were used by businesses years ago. The cocktail glasses from the Hotel Falck are of special interest.

You will find plates from the Leader Store, Frank Falck's General Merchandise Store, Boyden's Store, and numerous others. Maas' Market offered home delivery of groceries. During the 1940s the city of Seymour had four grocery stores.

In the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, few people traveled to Appleton or Green Bay to purchase an automobile. Almost every model available could be obtained from one of the seven local dealers. This display, sponsored by Gary and Mary Lou Melchert, shows some of the popular autos of the 1950s. The sales ads are from the **Seymour Press** of the same era.

Years ago, one-room country schoolhouses were scattered throughout the area. The model on display represents the typical school building with the adjacent outhouses. Each student had a small slate board on which he or she did their work. One teacher taught all eight grades. Most rural students went to school only through the eighth grade since they were needed to do farm work.

Notice the old lunch buckets, examples of school work, and dance cards.



Glass Tower with Banking Items

As you move past the Operation Desert Storm uniform and go around the corner you see a glass tower filled with objects that relate to the banking business. Of special interest are the **National Bank Notes**. From 1863 to



1935, these notes were issued by banks throughout the country and in U.S. territories. National Bank Notes were similar in overall appearance to most of the **Federal Reserve Notes** that circulated from 1929 through the 1990s, with one important exception: The "title" (name) of the issuing "national bank," as well as the names of the city and state where the bank was located were printed on the notes. Notice "**Seymour**" proudly displayed on the currency. The notes also bore the signatures of that bank's president and cashier. These colorful notes are avidly

studied and collected. Some are examples of rare banks, towns, states and combinations; therefore, they are quite valuable.

The display board presents an article about the 1936 Seymour State Bank robbery. Many local people thought it was Dillinger and his men. Another story from the **Seymour Press** explains how a bank official absconded with \$40,000.00 in 1907. That is the equivalent of over \$400,000.00 in value today!

Seymour 1949 Aerial View

The large picture at the center of the cubical was taken in 1949 by a member of the Seymour Flying Club. To the left you find articles from the **Seymour Press** dating from 1949. Take note of the ad for the foot X-ray machine at Kraft's shoe store to guarantee a perfect fit. A quick review of the news items from 1949 provides an idea of what life was like in the Seymour area during the mid-20th Century. To the right is a brief history of Don's Quality Market the sponsor of this exhibit.

Touch the screen to see an electronic version of the picture with numerous locations featured. Feel free to navigate the kiosk by touching items that are of interest to you. The program includes over 100 Seymour area pictures, fifteen brief interviews with residents, and even a 1930s home movie of downtown.



Reese's Dairy



This reproduction of Reese's Dairy Bar, built by Ron Nachtwey, brings us back to the 1950s and a time of chocolate malts, cherry cokes, and rock and roll. The pictures and items displayed are from the Reese family collection. The daughters of Bill and Lea Reese designed the display, furnished it, and made the three minute video in their memory. The stools, floor and counter are reminiscent of a time when Reese's was a popular destination in downtown Seymour. The large clock in the shape of Wisconsin was a prominent fixture in the restaurant.

Wood burning was popular during 1950s and the covers to the menus were proudly designed and produced by the Reese children. Looking inside the menu one is reminded of the days of 25 cent hamburgers and frosty malts. Press the button to view the video.

Hamburger Charlie

Moving toward the front of the museum you see a touch-screen TV with short video clips from the Travel Channel, Food Channel, and History Channel. To learn more about the history of the hamburger in Seymour, touch the appropriate icon. The videos are 3 to 4 minutes long.

The pictures above the monitor highlight Larry the Cable Guy and his visit to Seymour. The front of the museum is dedicated to Seymour as the Home of the Hamburger. Look around and you will notice a wide variety of hamburger related items and evidence verifying that Seymour is the original Home of the Hamburger.

The dominate feature of the burger display is the life-sized statue of Hamburger Charlie. Notice that Charlie's face lacks color and character. Follow the directions to "Picture Yourself as Hamburger Charlie" and you will see your features on Charlie's face.

The large picture on the wall shows Hamburger Charlie and his crew at the Seymour Fair in 1941. The documents on display prove that Seymour is indeed the original "Home of the Hamburger." Evidence presented includes several newspaper articles, a poem by an employee of Charlie, an interview with a former worker, and several pictures. Look closely and you will see Hamburger Charlie's guitar, his spatula, lucky horseshoe, and his butter pot.



Hamburger Charlie's Kids Corner

Kids of all ages are fascinated with the homemade spinning top game, talking hamburger, and manual typewriter. Children are encouraged to spin the top, type their name, and pull the Fisher-Price toys. The acrylic painting of "Hamburger Charlie" at the first Seymour Fair was painted by Seymour teenager Brooke Schuh. Her work captures the agricultural spirit of the event.

The "Kid's Corner" is sponsored by the Seymour Lions Club. Service organizations have played important roles in the history of Seymour. During the early years the International Order of Odd Fellows was popular. More recently the Lions Club has been very active with community projects. Additional organizations include the Masonic Lodge, Flying Club, Woman's Club, Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus, Jaycees, VFW, American Legion, Home of the Hamburger, Firemen, Seymour Community Historical Society, Model Railroad Club, youth, religious and business groups.

Barber and Beauty Shops

Move to the displays against the wall past the "Burgertime" game and imagine what it was like to sit under the hot and noisy hair dryer. The barber pole reminds us of the days when Mack Miller shared words of wisdom with customers in his local shop. The tools of the trade, barber chair, large mirror, and cash register are from Mack's shop. Before you move to the medical room, examine the fair exhibit in the cubical behind you.

Seymour Fair

The Seymour Fair stated in 1885 as the Seymour Fair and Driving Park Association. In the 1920s it officially became the Outagamie County Fair. For many years horse races and agricultural exhibits were the main attraction.

As time passed the entertainment aspect of the fair continued to grow featuring an extensive midway and nationally known entertainment. The display highlights fair ads, entertainers, a great view of the midway, and novelty items. Remember when you picked a duck and won a bracelet or threw darts to win a teddy bear?

The Medical Office



Seymour has had many outstanding physicians, but Dr. Vernon Hittner stands out. The son of Dr. James Hittner who practiced in Seymour from 1886 to 1917, Dr. Vernon Hittner served the area for 52 years. A closer look will tell you that he developed the "button hole" appendix procedure that revolutionized surgery. He opened the Hittner Clinic in 1944 at the corner of Main and East Wisconsin St. Dr. Groendahl, his associate also pictured here, is highlighted in the military display. Many of the medical items exhibited were used by Dr. Hittner and Dr. Groendahl.

The longest tenure for a dentist in Seymour belongs to Dr. Libby. For 52 years his office was on the second floor of the State Bank building on Main St. Dr. Runge, pictured here, had his office on the second floor of the Miller-Piehl office building which is adjacent to the museum. Looking at the foot powered drill one can't help but be grateful for modern dental equipment.

Funeral Display

The Seymour Community Museum is the home of one of the largest collections of vintage funeral items in northeastern Wisconsin. Sponsored by the Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, many of the objects date back to the 19th century. In the days before sophisticated embalming methods, the cast iron casket with the glass viewing plate enabled the mourner to view the deceased with the lid closed. High above the casket you see a picture of an ornate horse-drawn hearse used in the early 1900s by the Muehl Funeral Home. It was destroyed in a fire. For more details listen to Don Reed describe the incident at the Don's Quality Market 1949 display.

Kuehne History Display and Video Game

The rapid growth of R. Kuehne and Co. is portrayed in the cubical located across from the funeral room. One of the largest livestock shippers in the state, Kuehne's was the center of activity in downtown Seymour. Take note of the large picture of Morrow Street during "Stock Fair Day" when area farmers brought their livestock into town.

If you would like to test your knowledge of Seymour history or learn more about the area and the contributions of R. Kuehne and Co. touch the screen and begin playing the game. There are 20 questions, but you may stop any time. A few of the questions review national and world events, but most pertain directly to Seymour. History lovers with the time and persistence to answer all of the questions will be rewarded with a final percentage score.



Second Floor - The Wedding Scene

Once you have completed the tour of first floor you may take the elevator to the second level or use the stairway to the right of the elevator. As you move toward the impressive wedding scene, you are greeted by the polka music of Seymour's Ray Reis and his band. A picture of Ray and his musicians adorns the wall behind you. The band was very popular in the area during the 1940s and 50s.

The wedding couple of the 1960s is approaching the main altar of St. John's Catholic Church. The communion railing is from the old Methodist Church and the church pew once graced the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour. The stained glass window is from the Muehl mausoleum.

A close look at the Kuehne wedding picture from 1898 and the sober faces gives the impression that everyone was very serious minded. In reality, for the picture to be perfect, the photographer insisted that everyone be motionless for several seconds which led to the serious pose.

Seymour Military Band

In the north stairwell just to the right of the wedding scene you see a large picture of the Seymour Military Band after WWI. Seymour has a rich musical heritage with a tradition of band concerts on the bandstand located on Main Street adjacent to the railroad tracks. All of the band members are identified. Many have relatives living in Seymour today. The musical instruments on display have been donated by area residents. We are looking for additional musical instruments to put on display. Check your attic and basement and consider donating.

One-Horse Open Sleigh

Bundled up against the elements the woman is coming into town in her "cutter" pulled by a horse. It was a convenient and inexpensive method of travel during the winter months. The picture behind the sleigh depicts Seymour in the early 1900s. The hotel that dominated the corner of Depot and Main Streets was razed in the early 1920s. Notice that the sleigh in the picture traveling down Main Street is similar to the one on exhibit. The Lincoln Street picture behind the sleigh shows the abundant snowfall in the early 1900s.



Doll and Toy Display

As you move through the double doors into the large room you will notice a series of glass cases containing dolls, toys, and fun objects from years ago. All of these were collected and donated by people in the area. Which doll do you think is the oldest? Notice the different materials used for the faces. When the composition dolls (glue and sawdust) were introduced in the early 1900s, they were considered more durable than porcelain. Can you match the dolls with the country they represent?

Look for the wind-up Popeye with his birdcages. Can you find Zippo, the traveling monkey? Miniature tea sets were popular with children who dressed up to play house. Can you imagine the time and work that went into building the dollhouse and furniture from the 1920s? Think of all the fun children had playing with them.

Large Pictures

The big pictures above the cases were enlarged from glass-plate negatives found in the attic of a local home. They portray life in Seymour during the early 1900s. The images show Seymour in the horse and buggy days. Notice the dirt streets, wooden sidewalks, and variety of Main Street storefronts. Imagine how difficult it was to travel through the city when the spring thaw turned the dirt roads into a sea of mud. Seymour's first power plant that generated electricity is pictured on the far left. Most city houses and businesses had electricity by 1930. Much of the area rural population did not receive electricity until the 1940s.



A close look at Phinney Graham's store, located on Northeast Main St., tells us that baskets, clothing, patterns, and daily use items were popular. To experience what a typical general store looked like in the early 1900s, visit the recreated store adjacent to the museum.

Edison Phonograph

The Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph cost \$295.00 when it was introduced in 1919, a substantial sum for that time and the equivalent of **\$3,840.00 today**. The C19 model had just been introduced that year and was known as "the Official Laboratory Model." This phonograph, quite deluxe for its time, featured in addition to the diamond stylus, a variable speed turntable, a double spring motor, a 15" internal horn, and a cabinet to hold 72 records.

Nichols Display

As you move around the corner past the Edison Phonograph, the next exhibit is a tall glass case filled with items from the Nichols area. Nichols, a rural community of around 250 people nine miles northwest of Seymour, is typical of the satellite communities that grew up around the city. Dependent on Seymour for larger purchases, and

agricultural items, Nichols area residents joined together to form small town institutions. The purpose of this display is to portray items that reflect the way of life in a small town.

Plat Maps from 1889 and Large Pictures

Copied from the official county plat book and enlarged, these Illustrations provide an excellent reference to the names of early settlers. Notice, even though he was deceased for several years, the estate of Horatio Seymour still owned thousands of acres in northeast corner in the town of Seymour.

The pictures of the general stores in Isaar and Roselawn taken during the early 20th century tell us that roads were unpaved, wood construction was common including boardwalks, and in general most people were living a modest life. The small rural communities usually consisted of a general store, saloon, church, school and cheese factory. The wedding picture of the Simpson house, located on Five Corners Road, is characteristic of a rural wedding. Notice the ladder on the roof which came in handy to deal with the common chimney fires of the era.

Rooms from the 1930s

This display is meant to reflect Seymour area life in the 1930s. At this time some homes had the luxury of electricity while others did not. Consequently, some rooms may have items that show both.

Kitchen and Dining Room

The table is set and you have arrived just in time for dinner. Since you are such a special guest, we are using the formal dinnerware. The wooden high chair with wheels is available if you have the baby along. The beautiful chandelier is an item of pride for the entire family. The ice box dates back to the early 1920s. Ice was cut from local ponds and stored at Huettl's ice house and delivered by horse and wagon

The pride of Mom's kitchen is her new 1920s-vintage Skelgas stove. She has pies in the oven to top off the evening meal. Please stay for dessert. Many modern conveniences are lacking. Water was pumped by hand, hours were spent churning butter, grinding coffee and meat, baking, canning, and preparing meals. Notice her abundant spice cabinet and well-stocked shelves.



Living Room

As you move to the living room notice that the family is relaxing for the evening. The Kent-Atwater radio is tuned to ***Rudy Vallee and his Eight Connecticut Yankees***. The intimate quality of this group made it a radio natural. Pop is smoking his pipe and browsing through the Sears Roebuck Co. catalogue. On the table next to him is a newly acquired stereo-optic viewer that makes the pictures look 3-D. Notice the beautiful "Gone with the Wind" table lamp and floor lamp. A wedding picture adorns one wall while an oval picture frame featuring grandma and grandpa enhances another. The piano can be operated manually or as player piano by inserting music rolls in the compartment above the keyboard.

Adult Bedroom

The first impression of the adult bedroom is that the bed seems small. By today's standards it is, but people weren't as tall years ago, and they slept close together to stay warm. The chamber pot is visible next to the bed. It certainly was more convenient than walking to the outhouse on a cold evening.



Many of the early settlers (1860s and 70s) were New England Yankees who originally came from England and migrated to Seymour. A large influx of German immigrants arrived in the late 1870s and 1880s. The largest concentration settled in the Isaar area. The travel chest, reconditioned by Cliff Fiestadt, contains many of the typical items valued by the new immigrants.

The German greeting was a common adornment in the entrance of area homes. In English it says, "Greeting God, step in and bring luck into our house." The red traditional German Dirndl Dress is typical of the style popular in Bavaria and Austria.

Children's Bedroom

The baby is tucked away in her crib and mother is looking in for a final check. The baptismal dresses and gown were worn by Alma, Elvira, and Raymond Groendahl between 1904 and 1908. Various toys and clothing items adorn the room. A guardian angel picture is on the wall overlooking the child.

Utility Room

This room contains many of the devices that were used prior to the introduction of electricity. You will find a copper washtub, wooden washing machine, scrub boards, and numerous other everyday items. Washing clothes was a labor intensive procedure. Water had to be carried from the pump, the wash tub was agitated by hand, and then the clothes were wrung out and hung on the line.

The black cast iron water heater is wood fired. The New Home Sewing Machine is powered by pumping a foot pedal. In the 19th Century the rebus puzzle, by the sewing machine, was a popular method of advertising. Can you figure it out?



Sports Display

During the first half of the 20th Century, almost every rural town in the area had a baseball team. The farmers worked hard during the week, but Sundays were reserved for church and then baseball. The Isaar uniform with handmade letters reflects the love for America's pastime. It is hard to believe that the small glove in the case was actually used by an adult. It was the era of the two-handed catch when the glove was used to stop the ball prior to it being secured by the bare hand.



Even though girl's competitive sports weren't offered in schools until 1972, Seymour sported a championship softball team in 1949. Several girls on the team were high school students. A check of the news article on display indicates that the games attracted large crowds and were played on a lighted field.

A couple items of particular interest are the football nose protector from the 1920s and the basketball with laces from the state tournament in 1935. On top of the cabinet you see Tony Lubinski's basketball jersey from Seymour's first appearance at the state tournament in 1935.

News articles display the headlines from Seymour High School's first football state championship in 1985 and the first state basketball title in 1997. Seymour's basketball program has received statewide

recognition through numerous state tournament appearances and several state titles during the first decade of the 21st Century.

Image Gallery

The Seymour Community Historical Society has a large number of pictures in its collection. While it is impossible to have all of them on display you may view most of them at the image gallery. The computer near the conference table is for public use and provides access to the online image gallery and search engine. Simply follow the instructions posted at the desk and you have access to thousands of Seymour area photos and articles.

If you wish to search for your family name simply: Left click in the search box, type in your family name and click on "Search." The search engine will find all the images that have the key word in the title or description.

To access these Images from home go to the Seymour Community Historical Society Web site at: www.seymourhistory.org

Seymour Public School

Exit the second floor via the south stairway and view the large picture of the impressive school that served the community for 70 years. Located in the heart of the city on Robbins Street, the building was considered to be one of the finest educational facilities in northern Wisconsin when it was completed in 1903.

Gift Shop

Be sure to stop in the museum gift shop at the conclusion of your tour. Numerous Seymour area souvenirs are available including a large assortment of hamburger related items. T-shirts, caps, blankets, post cards, Hamburger Charlie bobble heads, and Burger Fest buttons are all reminders of your visit. Wooden cheese boxes for sale have been produced in Seymour for over 100 years. Feel free to browse through a variety of books written by local authors about life in the Seymour area. All books are available for purchase.

Our Donors

Prior to leaving the museum, browse the donor board adjacent to the welcome desk. Listed here are the people and businesses, who through their generous donations, helped make the new museum possible. The capital campaign generated close to \$1.2 million to cover the cost of the building and contents. In order to exhibit and store our collection in a professional manner and utilize modern technology, we welcome additional donations.

Membership

Since our mission is to promote and preserve local history, it is the philosophy of the Seymour Community Historical Society to encourage people to become lifetime members. Consequently, the life family membership fee is reasonably priced at \$50.00. A business membership is \$100.00. Life memberships are granted with a donation of \$500.00 or more to the museum sustainability fund. A list of our lifetime members is available at the welcome desk.

Now that you have completed your virtual tour of the museum, make plans for a real visit to the building that you helped make possible. During the winter months the museum is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 or by special appointment. From Memorial Day to Labor Day the facility is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00.



Financial Report

Thanks to the planning skills of our general contractor, Schuh Construction, and the in-kind gifts of sub-contractors, the final cost of the building was slightly below the estimate of \$910,000.00. Fortunately, our capital campaign covered this expense plus an additional \$150,000.00 for exhibits, furniture, computers, etc. An additional \$50,000 has been set aside in a sustainability fund. While all our bills are paid, operating expenses must be paid, new exhibits constructed, and we are continuing to remodel the old museum into an old time country store.

Fund Drive Continues

Consequently, our fund drive continues. All donations up to December 31, 2012 will be applied toward the new building and the improvement of exhibits. Donors of \$100.00 or more will be included on our original donor board displayed near the welcome desk. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize your family, business, or a loved one.

Your Skills Are Valuable To Us



Ron Nachtwey at the Reese exhibit with his granddaughter Autumn.

While it is impossible to recognize everyone who built the exhibits, Ron Nachtwey, who lives south of Black Creek on Co. Hwy. PP has been an invaluable resource. Ron has built eight large partitions, bookshelves, tabletops, a computer stand, repaired a church bench, and is in the process of fabricating four large display boards on wheels. Ron's most challenging project was to construct a mini-lunch counter with stools for the Reese Dairy exhibit.

When asked why he is so eager to help, Ron replied, "I have some skills that you can use, and I enjoy doing the work. It is satisfying to see my work go to a good cause." A conscientious craftsman, Ron has the ability to simplify difficult challenges. He has been a great friend of the historical society. Ron's spirit and enthusiasm for helping the historical society is typical of all our volunteers. Thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

Donor List November 2012

Primary Donor

Carl and Mary Ellen Kuehne

Major Donor - \$100,000 +

John and Mary Green Estate
Harold and Agnes Krahn Estate

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

Don's Quality Market
Home of the Hamburger, Inc.
The Schuh Family

Trailblazer - \$10,000 to \$24,999

Bill and Holly Collar
Bob and Marge Coonen
Community First Credit Union
Countryside Photography
Lubinski, Reed, and Klass S. C.
Ron and Laverne Miller Family
In memory of Mary Miller Yaeger
Harold and Dolores Pingel
Seymour Flying Club
Jon and Becky Stellmacher
Al and Caroline Storma
Weyers Family Foundation

Explorer - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Advertiser Community News, Inc.
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In memory of Claude and Doris Peotter

This list will be finalized for permanent display in January 2013. Check your entry and please call Bill Collar at 920 833-6064 if you have any questions or corrections.

We thank you for your past gifts and gratefully acknowledge future contributions. Our goal is to make the Seymour Community Museum and learning center a destination for travelers in Wisconsin.

In-Kind Donors

The generous support of these in-kind donors helped us build for the future. We wouldn't have been able to erect such an impressive facility without their discounts and special considerations.

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Volunteers Make It Happen

Perhaps you made a financial contribution, donated an item for display, helped build an exhibit, painted some partitions, assisted in moving, mopped the floor, built shelving, worked as a docent, planted flowers, trimmed shrubs, or performed some other task. Volunteers are essential to our success.

Plans are in place to have the museum open five days a week next summer. Many people have signed up to help supervise. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors if you would like to be included.

Exhibit Sponsors

The following major benefactors (\$2,500.00+) made it possible to feature professional quality exhibits. Thank you for your commitment.

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Carl and Mary Ellen Kuehne
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Exhibit

Primary Donor and Seymour Video Game
Historical Society Office
Museum Gift Shop
Seymour 1949 Electronic Exhibit
Hamburger Charlie Exhibit
Horatio Seymour Picture and Biography
Outagamie Co. Fair Kiosk
Seymour Sports Display
1930s Kitchen and Dining Room
1960s Wedding Exhibit
Old Time Photography Display
Large pictures of Main Street
Audio/Visual Equipment for Classroom
Military Exhibit
Panoramic Pictures of Seymour
10' Picture of 1903 School
Real Estate Display
Antique Cameras
One Room School House Exhibit
Bank Pictures and Articles
Glass Tower of Bank Items
History of the Hamburger Display
One Horse Sleigh Exhibit
See-More Theatre
Medical Office
Old Time Wedding Scene
Funeral Display
Display Cabinets and Military Items
1889 Plat Maps and Pictures
1930s Children's Bedroom
Dollhouse and Toy Exhibit
1930s Living Room Display
City Services Exhibit
Kids Corner Fun Activities
1930s Utility Room
Glass Tower of Hamburger Items
Audio/Visual Equipment for Classroom
Edison Phonograph
Reese Dairy Display
Old Time Beauty Shop
Reese Dairy Display
Welcome Desk
Canning Company Display
Vintage Seymour Businesses
10' Picture of the Military Band
Archive Room
Seymour Auto Dealers Exhibit
Reese Dairy Display
Partitions and Wedding Tower
Nichols Area Exhibit
Old Time General Store
Handmade Doll Exhibit
Dolls of the World Display
Fisher-Price Toy Tower
1930s Adult Bedroom
Vintage Railroad Exhibit

Historical Society Activities

It was a busy summer and fall for the Seymour Community Historical Society. The big project was the grand opening of the new museum on July 21. Music in the Park was again very popular, Burger Fest was huge, and a new Halloween program featured the display of 26 Jack O' Lanterns. Plans for this winter include the Memory Forest, Christmas Open House, and expansion of the Image Gallery.

The New Building (A brief chronology)

- 1976** The newly formed Seymour Community Historical Society acquires the Green Bay and Western Railroad Depot. Through the efforts of many volunteers, it is converted to a museum.
 - 1989** Having outgrown the depot, the Miller-Piehl Company office building and adjacent land is acquired through a gift from Lee and Pat Nagel. Area residents donate many items for display.
 - 2001** Society president Rita Gosse and members of the board begin to investigate the possibility of constructing an addition on the Miller-Piehl building.
 - 2003** The building fund receives a considerable boost with a major donation from the John and Mary Green Estate.
 - 2007** An architect/engineer determines that is not practical or cost efficient to add on to the Miller-Piehl building.
 - 2008** A steering committee is formed for the purpose of generating support and planning for a new building.
 - 2008** Schuh Construction, Inc. submits several plans for a new building and determines it is possible to move the commemorative wall to make room for the new structure.
 - 2008** A capital campaign to raise \$1.2 million is launched. The Carl Kuehne family, and Harold and Agnes Krahn Estate make significant pledges to provide impetus to the fund drive.
 - 2011** An anonymous donor pledges matching funds for 90 days up to \$100,000.00. Museum supporters respond enthusiastically and \$200,000.00 is added to the capital campaign.
 - 2011** Ground is broken on August 17, 2011 and plans are made for a 60' x 70' two-story building with an elevator.
 - 2011** Work begins on the foundation in November.
- July 21, 2012 – The new museum and learning center is dedicated.**

Museum Dedication and Grand Opening

Seymour Mayor Judy Schuette cut the ribbon and longtime historical society member Marge Coonen was the first person to enter the new building. The ribbon cutting ceremony followed the official dedication at the gazebo. After



Mayor Schutte opens the door for Marge Coonen

several songs by local band *Starwood*, historical society president, Bill Collar, greeted the sun-drenched crowd of several hundred

Collar introduced members of the steering committee with member Debbie Peterson commenting on their behalf. Peterson emphasized the concepts of leadership, commitment, and vision, as critical elements in the successful capital campaign. She was followed by Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson who congratulated the Seymour community for building such an impressive structure. Nelson, a lifetime member of the historical society, mentioned how much he enjoys music in the park on Wednesday evenings. He then pointed out with the new museum, Outagamie County Fair and Burger Fest, Seymour is the place to be this summer.

Mayor Schuette credited the members of the historical society for their persistence and thanked the audience for their support.

She stated that future generations will benefit from the building and children will have a better understanding of the history of the community.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, society board members provided guided tours of the facility for groups of about twenty. With *Starwood* playing in the gazebo, tours taking place, and the cutting of the celebratory cake, a festive atmosphere prevailed.

Music in the Park



Jim Campbell and Rick Kraupa grilled over 400 burgers for Music in the Park.

It was another successful summer as over 3,000 people enjoyed the eleven concerts in the park. Members of the historical society extend a sincere "Thank you" to Seymour area merchants who make music possible. It takes many volunteers to organize and produce the summer long program. A huge thank you for the members of the historical society who contributed their time, popping popcorn, filling coolers, selling concessions, distributing raffle tickets, organizing the programs, and preparing the site for the performances. Special appreciation is extended to host Mike Keyzers and 50/50 raffle seller Dan Beilfuss.

The society sponsored a corn roast and the Home of the Hamburger provided free hamburgers to over 400 people during the veterans' night tribute. The concession stand and restrooms in the new museum were put to good use.

Burger Fest

People who attended the 24th annual Burger Fest enjoyed the opportunity to visit the new museum. It was a busy place with 1,577 patrons in a five-hour period. Of course, many were interested in the hamburger items and the research about Hamburger Charlie. The "Picture Yourself as Hamburger Charlie" exhibit was extremely popular. Many people also found the programs from the Food Channel and Travel Channel to be of particular interest.



Burger Fest at the museum.

Halloween Activities

The historical society launched a new program this year with a pumpkin carving demonstration, scary stories, cider and snacks. Marge Coonen, the organizer of the event remarked, "We had a good turnout considering it was our first year and the weather was chilly. The kids enjoyed the scary stories told by Colleen Sutherland, and Steve Ashman was a big hit with the pumpkin carving demonstration. We then put all the Jack O' Lanterns on display on Depot Street. They were quite a spectacle when they were all lighted up at night. Next year we will promote more and hold some of the activities inside."



A sample of Steve Ashman's carving.

Memory Forest

The Christmas season is rapidly approaching and the Seymour Community Historical Society will once again sponsor the "Memory Forest." The trees (45) will be up and ready to be decorated by Thanksgiving. To reserve a tree call the historical society secretary, Janice Eick, at Northeastern Roofing (833-6184). The trees are available for a minimum donation of \$35.00. This is an excellent opportunity to remember a loved one, promote your business or organization and make a contribution to the museum. Help light up Depot Street and promote the Christmas spirit. A special "Thank you" to Don and Gail Hoff for donating the trees.



Help light up Depot Street.

Website and Image Gallery

Members of the historical society are busy scanning additional pictures for the historical society Website. To access the site go to (www.seymourhistory.org). When you are on the site click on "Image Gallery." You may browse any of the 14 categories or type a key word in the "Search" box. All back issues of the newsletter and a variety of articles are also available to view.

Seymour Community Historical Society
P. O. Box 237
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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
Wednesday through Sunday

Fall and winter:
1:00 to 4:00 Sunday

Admission:
Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual
- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00
Year Individual - \$5.00 Year Family - \$10.00



Christmas at the Museum

The museum and the Nagel Park area will be decked out for the Christmas Season. With 45-lighted trees and a variety of decorations reflecting holiday cheer, a drive down Depot Street will be a treat for the entire family.

Christmas at the museum will kick off with an open house on Saturday, Dec. 1 and Sunday, Dec. 2. The theme this year is "The Traditions of Christmas." Watch the newspaper for more details. Preliminary plans include trees decorated with vintage ornaments, live holiday music, and toys from years gone by including several electric trains for the kids to operate. Perhaps Santa will even stop by for a visit.

Thank you for your donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

I/We would like to donate \$_____ to the: **Building, Sustainability, or Membership** fund. (Circle one)
Donations to the SCHS are tax deductible as provided by law. The society federal tax exempt number is 39-1235870.
Checks should be made out to the Seymour Community Historical Society and mailed to Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165