

# Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2015  
**Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History** Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

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

**Museum Phone:** (920) 833-9835

If museum closed: (920) 833-6064

**Summer hours:** 1:00 – 4:00 WTFSS

**Fall and winter:** 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday

Closed: January, February and March

## Board of Directors

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## Communication from Your Historical Society

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



## Annual Meeting May 9th

The annual meeting of the SCHS will be held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> in the upstairs meeting room of the museum. Following a brief business meeting Jessica Michna will present her impersonation of Eleanor Roosevelt.

As World War II ended, America experienced the loss of its stalwart leader, President Franklin Roosevelt. After 13 years as First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt hoped to retire and perhaps write her memoirs. By 1948, the world had changed dramatically and so had Eleanor.

Michna shares with the audience Roosevelt's tragedies and triumphs. Born into the opulent wealth of America's "Golden Age", she would grow from the shy, homely orphan into a confident, driven woman. Strengthened by personal tragedy, she would emerge as a champion of civil rights, author and stateswoman. Roosevelt is best summed up by President Harry S. Truman, who dubbed her "The First Lady of the World."

Originally from Pennsylvania, Michna developed a love of American history at an early age. Her love of theater was encouraged by an older brother. During her high school years she appeared in various productions and designed and constructed costumes. Michna was offered a scholarship to the Goodman School of Theater in Chicago.

After several years in the healthcare field, Michna decided to return to her two great loves, history and the theater. The result was the birth of "First Impressions." After almost two years of research, script writing, costume construction and endless rehearsals, Mary Todd Lincoln was ready for her public. Audiences loved Mary, but wanted more. In 2005, Eleanor Roosevelt made her debut.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.



## Special Exhibits at the Museum this Summer

May 17 to June 14 --- Fur, Feathers and Fidelity – Military Mascots



This exhibit is made possible through a loan from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and a financial grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. By viewing the display, the entire family will learn more about Wisconsin military history, the sacrifices of the soldiers, and the contributions of a variety of military mascots. Perhaps Wisconsin's most famous mascot is

"Old Abe" the war eagle that led the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment into battle during the Civil War.

### A Brief History of "Old Abe" the War Eagle

In 1861, an American Indian named Ahgamahwegezhiq -- or Chief Sky -- a member of the Flambeau band of the Chippewa tribe, cut down a tree in an attempt to capture two American Bald Eagles in their nest. Chief Sky later traded the surviving eaglet to Daniel McCann of Eagle Point, Wisconsin for a bushel of corn. After many unsuccessful attempts to rid himself of the bird, McCann eventually sold the eagle for \$2.50 to Capt. John E. Perkins, commanding officer of a militia company called the "Eau Claire Badgers." Part of the money was, reluctantly, given by local tavern-keeper S. M. Jeffers.



In light of their newly acquired mascot, the unit renamed themselves the "Eau Claire Eagle." Perkins' unit entered federal service and was re-designated as Company C, 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Eau Claire Eagles' mascot was adopted by the new 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment that was quickly nicknamed the "Eagle Regiment." After much deliberation, the mascot was named "Old Abe," in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. During its time awaiting muster into Federal service at Camp Randall, the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment purchased a special, shield-shaped perch on which to carry their mascot.

The 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment spent its entire military service in what was then known as the Western Theater of the American Civil War comprising: Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. "Old Abe" was present during all of the 8th Wisconsin's battles and was carried into combat by a sergeant on a special perch alongside the 8th Wisconsin's National and Regimental colors.

During "Old Abe's" service, the 8th Wisconsin participated in many battles, expeditions, and pursuits of Confederate forces. Among these were the battles of: Iuka, Corinth, Island Number 10, Big Black, Champion's Hill, the Red River and Meridian expeditions, and the Battle of Nashville. "Old Abe" was there every step of the way. The 8th Wisconsin's most famous fight came in June of 1863, when the regiment participated in a futile frontal assault along Vicksburg's Graveyard Road. "Old Abe" and his regiment, then

part of Mower's Brigade, failed to penetrate the center of the Confederate fortifications near a 90-degree bend in the Confederate defensive positions known as Stockade Redan. Their enlistments having expired, the men of the 8th Wisconsin were mustered out of federal service in late 1864. The 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment was no more. On Sept. 26th, 1864, a contingent of 70 8th Wisconsin veterans marched "Old Abe" to the state and presented him to Governor James Lewis.

"Old Abe" was donated to the people of Wisconsin by the loving comrades alongside whom he had fought for four years. The Wisconsin War Eagle's post-war life was punctuated by frequent nation-wide travel in support of veteran reunions, patriotic gatherings, Soldier relief benefits, and special exhibitions during which he achieved a rock star-like status. In 1876, "Old Abe" again toured the country as part of America's Centennial Exposition. "Old Abe" lived out the remainder of his life in an aviary in the Capitol building. In 1881, a fire broke out in a paint and solvent storage area near "Old Abe's" aviary. A month later the famous Wisconsin War Eagle, weakened by fumes, died in the arms of his handler, George Gilles. Many newspapers and Veterans groups wondered aloud "what would become of this famous, flesh and blood war relic?" Upon his death, "Old Abe" was preserved and exhibited in the Capitol building's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall until a fire destroyed the display in 1904. Sadly, only a few of "Old Abe's" feathers survive, carefully preserved by the Wisconsin Veterans' Museum in Madison.



Today, large sculptures of "Old Abe" stand atop the Wisconsin monument at Vicksburg, Mississippi and atop the entrance to old Camp Randall, now the main entrance to the University of Wisconsin's football stadium. Since 1865, Wisconsin-based J. I. Case farm implement company has used "Old Abe" as part of their corporate logo. "Old Abe" also serves as the mascot of several Wisconsin high schools. Since 1921, "Old Abe's" head, in profile, has served as the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). A large-scale diorama of the 8th Wisconsin's Color Guard, complete with "Old Abe," is on exhibit in the atrium of the division headquarters building at Fort Campbell.



## June 21 to July 26 --- Gary Melchert's Model Car Collection

In 1948 at the young age of ten, Gary Melchert received his first model car as a Christmas present. It was quite a sophisticated model for the era. Powered by a "D" cell battery, the 1948 Hudson police car could be driven straight or the wheels could be turned to make it go in circles. Gary was the envy of the neighborhood with a toy car with headlights, a flashing red light and a police siren. Decals on the windows portrayed police officers on patrol.



Little did Gary realize that his collection would eventually grow to over 150 model cars and 300 semi-trucks. Since his father, Walter, owned a Buick and Hudson dealership in Seymour for over 50 years,

Gary spent much of his time at the dealership eventually becoming a salesman and then owner until he sold the business in 1998.



**Gary Melchert**

Gary has kept a logbook on his collection listing all the models, when they were purchased, where he obtained them, and the purchase price. Many of the 1/18<sup>th</sup> scale models have doors, trunks, and hoods that open. They are detailed showing engine parts, steering wheels that turn, and detachable convertible tops. Many of the models were purchased in stores, in auctions, or at flea markets. Since his father sold International Harvester trucks, he also got interested in semis and has a variety of trailers advertising an assortment of businesses.

With a keen interest in local history, Gary also collects milk bottles. Not to be outdone, Gary's spouse, Marylou collects peddle cars, trucks, tractors and model tractors. The Melchert's are great supporters of the museum, sponsoring an automobile display and contributing a variety of items. On Wednesday evenings in the summer they can be found enjoying the concert at "Music in the Park."

Much of Gary's extensive collection will be on display in the upper level of the museum throughout the month of July. Stop in and see how many of the cars you can identify.

## August 2 to August 30 ---- Home of the Hamburger Display

Burger Fest is Saturday, August 8 with balloon ascensions and additional activities also taking place on Friday night August 7. The theme this year is "Charlie and His Hamburger Factory." 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 items 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. 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

## Saturday, September 12 to Sunday, September 27 - Art Exhibit

This show features the drawings and paintings of Seymour graduate Barbara Gardner Ebeling.

The Seymour Community Historical Society is pleased to present the paintings of Seymour native Barbara Gardner Ebeling. Her drawings and paintings will be on display for two weeks with a special "Meet the Artist Night" on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Barbara and view her extensive collection that includes drawings and paintings of flowers, landscapes and scenic places she has visited.

The program is free and open to the public. Paintings will be available for purchase. Members of the historical society will serve refreshments.

## More about the Artist ([barbara-ebeling.fineartamerica.com](http://barbara-ebeling.fineartamerica.com))



**Barbara Ebeling**

I am new to drawing and painting although it was something I loved as a kid. In high school I took one art class my senior year under Miss Barbara Olson. She suggested that I consider taking an art major in college. My father had other ideas! As a result, this love was put aside until I was nearing retirement. I began taking a few drawing, colored pencil and watercolor classes at Chicago's Morton Arboretum.

I am finally getting a chance to do what I really love to do...draw and paint! Flowers and gardens have always been a love of mine even as a kid as I pulled weeds in my mother's Wisconsin flower garden. Today, I try to fill our townhouse entryway, lakeshore and our house with flowers. When my husband and I travel, it is always the gardens that we end up visiting first. Photography is a second love of mine and many of these become the subjects of my drawings and paintings. I am looking forward to displaying my drawings and paintings at the museum and sharing my creations with relatives, friends, and area residents.



**Norweigan Boathouse Reflections**

*On visiting Molde, Norway last summer, I came across this boathouse scene...the reflections were incredible, I could not resist painting the setting.*



**Feeding Time**

*Living on Lake Walloon in Plainfield, Illinois allows us to observe native wild swans up close as they raise their families*

## 2015 Music in the Park

Music starts at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday evening.

In case of rain, the music will be held at Wally's Seymour Bowl.

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

June 17 **Les James and Family** – Seymour's own - Singing all your favorite hits.

June 24 **Rocker, Rocker, Rocker** – Tunes from the golden era of Rock and Roll.

July 1 **Starwood** - featuring local talent Kevan Sandy, Mark & Renae - performing just for you.

July 8 **Sarah and the Husband** – A wee bit of Irish along with the Irish Dance Troupe.

- July 15 **TNT** – A young talented group from Pulaski-kicking off Polka Days in Burgertown.
- July 22 **Hauser's Hot Shots** – A nationally acclaimed polka recording group.
- July 29 **The Sugar Bush Boys** – Seasoned musicians playing the Oom-pah-pah sounds.
- August 5 **New Generation** – A Fun band with a pedigree - under the Hamburger Tent.
- August 12 **Tom's Tunes** – A great selection of music with many surprises.
- August 19 **Larry, Scott, and Andy** - Talented hometown variety at its best.
- August 26 **Sgt. Bernie Kroll and the Polish Platoon** all the way from Sobieski. It's Veteran's recognition night with the honor guard from American Legion Post 106.

## New Military Exhibit



***Roland "Bud"  
McBain***

One of the goals of the museum board of directors is to add new exhibits yearly and to improve on existing displays. The military area has been enhanced by the addition of interviews with three Seymour area World War II veterans. The audio-visual programs feature the recollections of Roland "Bud" McBain, Don Feurig and Colonel George Doersch. The program will be running in the upstairs exhibition area after the Memorial Day ceremony. Listening to the experiences of these three men makes one realize the sacrifice they made to serve their country in WWII.

McBain, a 1942 Seymour High School graduate, relates his experiences as a news correspondent in Europe. Of particular interest are the photographs he took while reporting the news via Radio Luxembourg. McBain visited concentration camps Dachau and Buchenwald shortly after they were liberated and toured Hitler's underground bunker.



***Don Feurig***

Don Feurig, a 1939 Seymour High School graduate, had the unique opportunity to join the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) the forerunner of today's Central Intelligence Agency. He relates how Bill Donovan created the organization under the auspices of President Roosevelt. Feurig describes being shipped to Washington D. C. and taking over the Congressional Country Club as the first headquarters for the group. He continues to narrate about his work on the west coast and how a Japanese prisoner held in the U. S. made broadcasts that were sent back to Japan.



***Colonel George  
Doersch***

Colonel George A. Doersch, a 1939 graduate of Seymour High School, is credited with the destruction of 10½ German aircraft in World War II. Colonel Doersch flew about 150 missions in Europe in P-47s and P-51s. In his narrative, Doersch relates how he survived a crash landing in Germany, and how he managed to return to his base in England after his electrical system malfunctioned over France. Among the honors he earned are the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, and an Air Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters. Colonel Doersch received the Croix de Guerre from the president of France, Charles De Gaulle, in 1945.

Col. Doersch retired from the Air Force in 1967 and went to work for Hughes Aircraft in California. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

All veterans are encouraged to bring a picture of themselves in uniform to the museum. The museum staff will scan the picture and return it. Your military picture will then be added to the museum's video display that will be available to view during November. Currently there are about 170 pictures in the collection.

## Chuck Miller Recalls Working with Mack



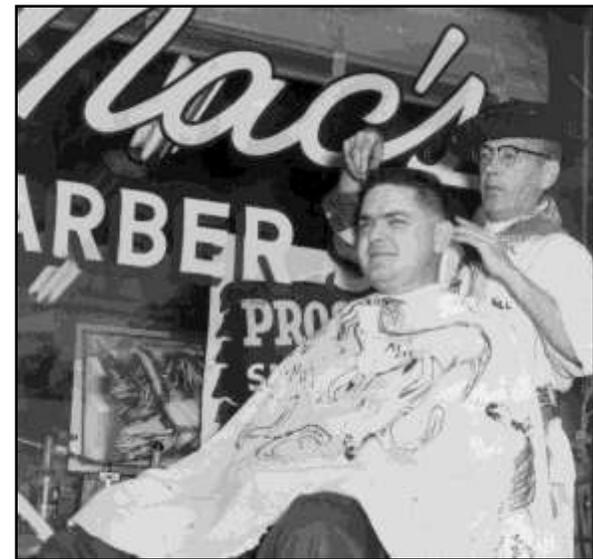
**Chuck Miller**

I am the middle son of Rogene and Mack Miller. My dad was a barber in Seymour for 52 years. He slowly got into the business as a high school student hauling hot water for Saturday night shaves. He worked as an apprentice for the barbershop he was hauling water for several years, then he purchased a business on Main Street from Al Wussow and started Mac's Barbershop. I graduated from barber school in June of 1965 and I worked full time with him until 1973 and then I got a different job. I worked with him part time until his retirement. Prior to my working with him he had several other barbers in apprenticeship and journeyman programs.

His shop was located on Main Street next to where the present day Krabbe Reader is.

When the First National Bank , which was located in the bottom floor of the Hittner Building had to relocate, they brought up property on Main Street. They brought out the barbershop and relocated us behind the Hittner Building in the old Huettl's office building until a small building behind the clinic could be remodeled for us. At that time he changed the name of the shop to the Silver Dollar Barbershop.

We were located there until his retirement. When I started cutting hair with him, haircuts cost \$1.25 and shaves were a dollar. We averaged 20 to 25 haircuts a day unless it was raining out, then we got busy because the farmers couldn't get on the fields.



**Mack Miller cutting Donald Liesch's hair during prospector days in Seymour.**

The shop consisted of two chairs with Mac having the one by the door. His shop was a mini-museum and from time to time he had an aquarium where he had live snakes, a baby alligator, a horned toad, lizards and whatever else he could come up with. One time a pine snake laid eggs and with the heat coming in the front window, the eggs hatched and we had to get rid of a number of baby snakes.

He also collected coins and stamps. Because of his collecting, he worked with the boy scouts and helped a number of scouts earn merit badges. He was a veteran of the navy serving during World War II. He was a member of the American legion and a past commander. He belonged to another patriotic organization called the 40 et 8. He was a member of the Seymour Lions Club. In 1968 when Seymour had their centennial, he was the parade chairman and we had one of the biggest parades this area had ever seen. Because

of that when we had the country's bicentennial in 1976 he also was the parade chairman. In his shop, not everybody came in and got haircuts, it was a meeting place for people. He had the newspapers delivered daily. He had the Wall Street Journal delivered once a week and several businessmen would stop in to talk over the stock market, Al Storma used to stop in just about every day to see if there was any real estate he could list.

Eventually if there was a death in the area a memorial dealer would stop in and ask him who to contact for memorials. There were a lot of stories ---- One that caught my attention --- years ago the funeral homes weren't trained in grooming people. As Mack was cutting hair a person's muscles contracted causing him to sit up. I guess that was the last time he ever did that.

## She Helped Preserve Seymour History

After forty years of service, Lois Dalke has stepped down as a member of the Board of Directors of the Seymour Community Historical Society. Reminiscing about the early years of the historical society, Lois recalled that Tom Duffey had the idea to do something special to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States.



**Lois Dalke –  
Retiring after 40  
years.**

A notice appeared in the local paper for all interested parties to attend a meeting at the high school. Lois recollected that Duffey, Bill Collar, Rita Gosse, Chuck Kimball and Eleanor Piehl were among those who attended. Subsequent meetings were held at the municipal building. Since the railroad depot was available for purchase the group decided to meet with representatives from the Green Bay and Western and eventually obtained the depot for a price of \$1.00. Lois related that she originally got involved because she felt there was a need to preserve Seymour history and with the Bicentennial coming up there was a great

deal of community interest in doing something.

On December 3, 1975, the Seymour Community Historical Society, Inc. was granted a charter by the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Officers included Tom Duffey, president, Bill Collar, Vice-president, Rita Gosse, treasurer, and Lois Dalke, secretary. Members of the society went to work converting the railroad depot into a museum in time for the Bicentennial celebration on July 4, 1976. Lois recalled that Gladys Stern, Eleanor Piehl, Lowell Vietch, Norman Miller, Frank Piehl, and Pam Rucinski joined the previously mentioned people in the effort. A call went out for artifacts and there was an overwhelming response from area residents. Many of these same items are on display in the present museum.

Lois remembers that the community pulled together to get the depot ready. The entire



***The early years of the historical society. Lois Dalke, Pam Rucinski, Bill Collar and Tom Duffey are pictured with a cigar store Indian carved by Marvin Dalke.***

building had to be cleaned and painted. She made curtains and helped build displays.

Several items that stand out in Lois' mind are the moving of the depot, acquiring the Miller-Piehl building, constructing the gazebo, and of course the new museum. "When the railroad was sold we were ordered to either move the depot (museum) or it would be torn down because it was on railroad property. That is when the community really pulled together to move the depot and save it. About the same time, the Miller-Piehl building became available and the museum moved into that building. Lee and Pat Nagel were generous in donating the building and the Depot Street land for Nagel Park. It was a major project to move from the depot to the Miller-Piehl building. We carried many things and did a lot of cleaning. We didn't use the upstairs at first and then made the different rooms up there. I remember building walls and putting up wallpaper. Lawrence Ganzel was a big help. I especially remember dressing the windows and the mannequins that didn't want to cooperate. Some people said it wouldn't last, but we made it work."

When asked to state her greatest satisfaction after forty years on the board, Lois cited the great community support to make it all happen. "It was a real joy to work with Rita Gosse, Edna Sherman, Pam Rucinski, Gladys Stern, Eleanor Piehl, Marge Zibell, Lucille Miller, Roberta Mory, Luanne James, Marge Coonen, Janice Eick and so many others." She recalled some of the more popular programs such as the huge quilt show, heritage day, Christmas programs, corn roast, street dance, music in the park, memory forest, vintage fashion show, weaving and knitting crafts, military displays and most of all activities for kids such as pumpkin carving and making Christmas ornaments. "The new museum is wonderful. It is all paid for because of the support of so many area residents and those with ties to the community."



***Seymour Historical Society Meeting at Rita Gosse's during the early 1980's. L to R: Rita Gosse, Eleanor Piehl, Maynard Sherman, Lois Dalke, Gladys Stern and Edna Sherman.***

Lois, a past "Seymour Outstanding Citizen" recipient, is a lifetime member of Chaminade, the woman's chorus based in Appleton, the Salvation Army for 36 years, and HCE - University of Wisconsin Extension Home and Community Education for 59 years. She is currently singing with the Chantelles, a women's chorus in Green Bay, is a member of WREA, and the Seymour Madhatter Red Hats Club.

When asked for concluding remarks Lois cited family support and the rewards of being a volunteer. "Most of all I have to give credit to my husband Marv. He supported me in all my activities and of course, he carved many items for the museum including the cigar store Indian, Hamburger Charlie, and numerous hamburgers. The greatest reward in volunteering is doing things for others that you know will last. It is very gratifying to help out. Being a member of the board has been an exciting educational journey. Now it is time for someone else to take over."

Forty years ago this spring, two senior athletes were bringing statewide recognition to Seymour High School and the track and field program. Bill Patza and Jeff Braun had registered the best long jump and shot put in the state. They went on to win state championships, and as collegians won conference championships and set records at UW-La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin. Head track coach, Giz Herbst, wrote this article for the June 11, 1975 edition of the **Seymour Times-Press**.

## Patza & Braun bring State titles to town

**SEYMOUR** - Seymour's outstanding duo of Bill Patza and Jeff Braun captured 20 points for the school, placing us in a tie for third in this past weekend's State Track and Field Class "A" Championships at Madison. The meet, the oldest of its kind in the nation (80th Annual Meet), has seen some top notch athletes come and go. After the weekend's action the two Seymours would surely be ranked with the tops in their particular specialties.

Both men had qualified in two different events each. Bill was in the 100 low hurdles and long jump. Jeff was in the discus throw and shot put. Bill Patza ran his trial heat in the hurdles on Friday, but did not make it into the finals. Jeff threw in the discus event on Friday and made it into the finals but did not place in the scoring as he came in seventh. But the main attraction was in their specialties, Patza's long jumping and Braun's shot putting.

Bill started off the Seymour show of strength Friday afternoon and evening by taking complete command of the long jump event. Patza with his screaming approach down the runway drew all of the attention and left his competition in awe with his long powerful approach runs, strong take-offs, and high arching "hitch-kick" in air flights to the sand pit. More important than his Class A style was his tremendous distances. Patza started out with a leap in the trials of 22'8", followed with 22'6" and then blew the competition off the track with a 23 feet 2½ inch sail. With his leading trial jump, Bill went to work in the finals by first leaping 22'10 3-4", followed with 23'2" and then burned one out on his final jump a distance

of 23'7", but fouled by just reaching over the take-off board by a half inch. Patza's best, and winning, leap of 23'2½" was a new field record at Madison Memorial's Mansfield Stadium.

Bill's efforts so outclassed his competition that his shortest leap was enough to win.

Patza's victory made it the second consecutive year he has returned home from Madison as the State Long Jump Champ. Last year he leaped 22'7" for the Class B championship. Bill has reigned as the premier long jumper for two years and has never lost in high school competition. Bill's record is truly fantastic if one considers the hundreds of long jumpers in Wisconsin's high schools. Along the way Bill has set many meet and track records, records which could likely stand for many years to come.

Where Patza left off on Friday, Braun took over Saturday morning. In one of the strongest competitions in the shot put in years, if not ever, in the State Meet, big Jeff Braun proved he was king. In a display of bulk and muscle, Jeff proved he was the premier shot putter of recent years in the State of Wisconsin. The competition started with anxious coaches, parents, friends and fans waiting as the first two flights of less capable shot putters fired out their trial puts. The third and top flight, Braun's flight, started with thunder as Oshkosh's putter put one out 60'4½" and a few others dropped out 60 feet and some high 59 footers were slipped in also. Finally, with Braun putting the last because of his sectional "toss" being the best, the crowd got what

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they were waiting for. Jeff, with no evidence of the pressure of those long puts of his competition bothering him, immediately fired out two 61 footers. With his first two efforts in, Jeff "psyched" himself to a peak and blew one out 63 feet 1¼" inches. In the finals. Jeff

for a tremendous day, a day all shot put fans will remember.

Like Patza, Braun has left many victories and new records in his wake. Records which may not be broken for decades. Braun's winning "toss" of 63'1¼" was just one of his many records. The "toss" is a new field record at Madison Memorial's Mansfield Stadium.

What a fantastic exhibition of talent. Seymour finished one, if not the most, successful year it has ever had in track and field with the efforts of its two finest track and field men. Bill Patza and Jeff Braun have displayed superior strength, technique, and desire to succeed in their own specialties. They have proven that a Seymourite can succeed athletically and can not only succeed, but be the best in the state. The formula they have used is simple, but takes someone special to follow: (1) Desire (2) Confidence, (3) Strength; and (4) Technique. They have developed these by the use of the school's weight training program, constant attention to and work with their coaches, and a lot of personal and family sacrifices. Congratulations to Bill and Jeff.



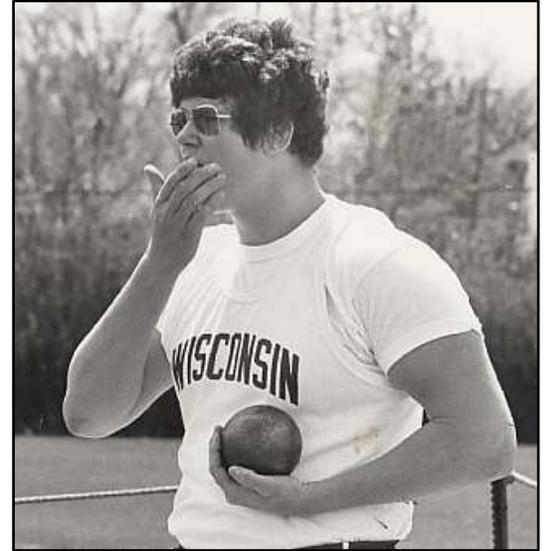
**Bill Patza** went on to be a five-time All-American in track and field at UW-La Crosse, setting long and triple jump records, along with being the first from La Crosse to reach 50 feet in the triple. He captured three indoor and outdoor triple jump conference titles.

In football, Bill caught three touchdowns passes in one game against UW Whitewater in 1980, a record that is tied for third in school history. He caught 11 touchdown passes and brought down 62 receptions during his collegiate career. Bill is a member of the UW-La Crosse Athletic Wall of Fame.

**Jeff Braun** starred as the greatest shot putter in the history of track and field at the University of Wisconsin. He won seven Big Ten shot put championships (indoor and outdoor) and captured one title in the discus. He established a school and conference record that stood for years, heaving the 16 pound ball 63 feet one inch. After graduation from Wisconsin Jeff continued to compete at the international level at one time ranking 8th in the nation and among the best in the world.

Setting a new personal best at 66 feet 1 inches in 1977 Jeff was determined to make the United States Olympic team and compete at the 1980 games in Moscow. Unfortunately, the world political scene was chaotic and President Carter, protesting the Soviet invasion of Afganistan, prohibited the team from competing in Moscow.

Jeff did make the team for the Pan-American games and has donated his uniform, along with a number of other items for display at the museum.



## Gift Shop Redesign – Thank You Ron Nachtwey

Once again the SCHS extends a hearty “Thank You” to Ron Natchwey. We are fortunate to have a talented craftsman like Ron among our many volunteers. Ron recently completed building shelving for the gift shop in the museum. He is now working on a display table and bench. In the past Ron has crafted the partitions for the exhibits, the Reese Dairy Bar Exhibit and numerous shelves, tables and benches. He donates all this time to the historical society. The society also thanks Ed Machachek and his crew of Jeff Reed, Bill Loasching, and Jon Braun for staining and sealing the shelving.

You will find a wide assortment of items



available in the museum gift shop. Caps, shirts, mugs, blankets, can coolers, magnets, jewelry and other collectibles with the HOTH logo reflect the origin of the hamburger in Seymour. The shop also stocks books from area authors, vintage toys and postcards portraying historical and modern day Seymour.

## **Seymour Community Historical Society Annual Report for 2014**

### **Membership as of Jan 1, 2015**

Lifetime family members -----	246	Lifetime business members -----	61
Annual family members -----	11	Annual individual members -----	13
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>331</b>		

### **Museum Use**

- The museum was open five days a week 1:00 to 4:00 through September. The building is also open for groups by appointment.
- From October through December, the building is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 and by appointment.
- The museum is closed from January through March. Open by appointment.
- A wide variety of organizations toured the museum. These include the Rock Ledge fourth grade students, senior living residents, local clubs and organizations, class reunions, family gatherings and visiting historical societies.
- Burger Fest was a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the new facility. We had 1,544 guests the day of the festival.
- **The total number of visitors to the museum in 2014 was 3,240**

### **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](http://seymourhistory.org)) received 4,972 hits.**

**Our Facebook site (Seymour Community Historical Society) was accessed by 1,258 people**

Currently we have over 2,500 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 during the summer of 2014**

**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.

**May** – Annual meeting with John Maino and the Packer display attracted 98 people  
Muehl Library exhibit had 78 visitors.

**June** – Music in the Park started. Vintage wedding exhibit at the museum - 161 visitors

**July** – Vintage stock car exhibit attracted 347 visitors

**August** – During Burger Fest 1,544 people toured the museum.

Music in the Park concluded with the HOTH sponsoring free hamburgers.

The program was very popular averaging about 300 per concert.

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

The doll exhibit had 83 visitors.

**October** – Thirty-three jack-o-lanterns were displayed on Depot Street.

**November** - The memory forest remains popular with 35 trees and \$1,300.00 in income

**December** – Our Kid's Christmas event attracted 145 participants

## General Comments

- Music in the Park continues to be a very popular attraction for city residents. The total attendance for the summer was **over 3,000** Profit from the raffle and concession income was \$3,300.00.
- The gazebo was used regularly throughout the summer. Often when the gazebo is used for community events such as church service and assorted gatherings, the museum is open to provide clean restrooms for the participants.
- The Christmas display around the museum and in Nagel Park included 35 decorated trees. The trees generated \$1,300.00 for the historical society.
- The SCHS has been getting great assistance from the alternative school students with cleaning and upkeep.

## 2015 City Budget

**A total of \$16,625.00 is budgeted to cover museum utilities and capital outlay.** 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 2014

- The SCHS has a reliable team of 15 volunteers who maintain and supervise the museum and general store five days a week during the summer months.
- The SCHS continued to add to its collection of local pictures and artifacts.
- 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 provided numerous fun activities for area residents of all ages.
- 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.

## 2015 Budget for the Seymour Community Museum

<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Cleaning Supplies	200.00	Bld. Maintenance	2,000.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	Utilities	14,200.00
Tax Preparation	750.00	New Displays	5,000.00
Bands for Music	3,000.00	License and Fees	200.00
Advertising	1,200.00	Web Host & Tech.	700.00
Music Expenses	800.00	Flowers & Decor.	300.00
Special Events	1,000.00	Memorials & Gifts	500.00
Memory Forest	600.00	Postage	250.00
Newsletters	1,000.00	Miscellaneous	1,000.00
Display Maintenance	1,000.00	Admission Donations	1,000.00
		Burger Fest	1,000.00
		Music in the Park	3,000.00
		50/50 Raffle	2,100.00
		Memory Forest	1,500.00
		Gift Shop	400.00
		Memberships	300.00
		Donations	9,000.00
		City of Seymour	14,400.00
		Music Concessions	2,000.00
	<b>Total Expenses - \$34,700.00</b>		<b>Total Income - \$34,700.00</b>

### Plans for 2015

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

## Community Resource

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

## Help Support the Historical Society and the Museum

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

As you can see from our balance sheet, the society requires a minimum of \$9,000 in annual donations to balance the budget. Your help is essential. To contribute to the historical society, mail your donation to P.O. Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165. **All workers at the museum are volunteers and 100% of your donation is used to cover the cost of Society and Museum activities.** The Seymour Community Historical Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity. Your donation is fully deductible as provided by law. The federal identification number is: 39-1235870.

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

## Donations and Memberships from November 2014 to April 2015 (In the order received)

The historical society gratefully acknowledges the following donations and new lifetime memberships.

John Cumicek	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Tom and Ann Duffey	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Thrivent Financial (K. Coonen)	Employee Giving Campaign		Sustainability
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Eunice Karweick	Seymour, WI	In memory of Ralph Lorenz	Sustainability
Richard and Ann Piehl	Shorewood, WI		Sustainability
Community First Credit Union	Appleton, WI		Building fund
Steve and Cheri Krabbe	Seymour, WI	In memory of Roy Porter	Sustainability
James and Sandra Wrangell	Milwaukee, WI	In memory of Roy Porter	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Roy Porter	Sustainability
Susan Ludvigson and Don Feurig	De Pere, WI	In memory of Roy Porter	Sustainability
HOTH	Seymour, WI		Burger Fest
Shirley Robinson	Monona, WI		Life Membership
Judy Severson	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Francis Gerl	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Leland and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI	In memory of grandson Shaun	Sustainability
Terry and Patti Lardinois	Seymour, WI		Life Membership
Clayton and Audrey Ebert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Tillie Stueflat	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI		Sustainability
Joseph J. Kline	Lombard, IL	In memory of Marian Kline	Sustainability
Joseph J. Kline	Lombard, IL	In memory of Keith Spaude	Sustainability
Joseph J. Kline	Lombard, IL	In memory of Roger Eick	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Ione Zahn	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Delores Murphy	Sustainability
Tom Kuntsman	Boulder, CO		Sustainability
Melinda Roberts	DePere, WI		Year Membership
Jon and Jodi Braun	Seymour, WI	Bench for Roy Porter	Music in Park
Thrivent Financial (K. Coonen)	Employee Giving Campaign		Sustainability
Thrivent Financial (K. Coonen)	Employee Giving Campaign		Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Pat Nagel	Sustainability

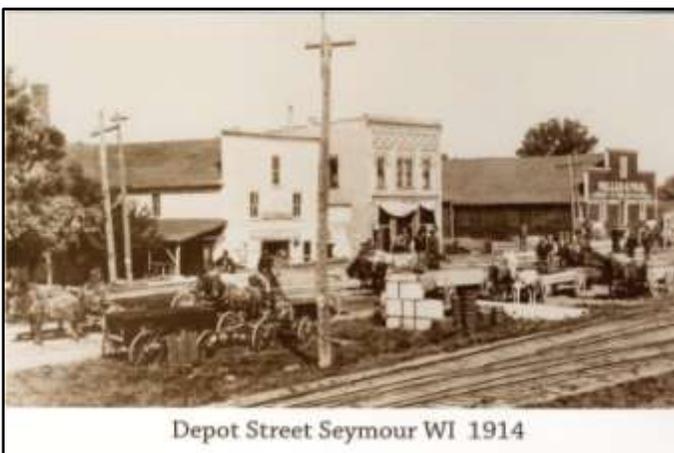
Bob and Marge Coonen	Seymour, WI	In memory of Pat Nagel	Sustainability
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI	In memory of Pat Nagel	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Alice Brick	Largo, FL	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Jean Marnocha Wroblewski	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Bob and Marge Coonen	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Baylake Bank	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Sustainability
Don's Market	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jo Marnocha	Building Fund
Jim Silverwood	Chicago, IL		Year Membership

**The people listed below donated to the museum sustainability fund in memory of Al Storma**

Anschutz, James Mr. and Mrs.	Aumann, Jon	Blohm, Betty
Blohm, Melvin and Ruth	Blohm, Rodney and Cindy	Blohm, Vernon Mr. and Mrs.
Boetcher, June	Brown, Marlene	Brownson, Bob and Nancy
Brownson, John Mr. and Mrs.	Brownson, Tom and Mavis	Collar, Bill and Holly
Court, Elaine	Cumicek, John	Dean, Gail
Del Vaux, Bernard Mr. and Mrs.	Eick, Janice	Esser, Irene
Esser, Kevin	Frechette, Sandra	Gagnow, Marcella
Ganzel, Ray and Audrey	Gutt, Victor and Ruth (Palkowski)	Helms, Lois
Helms, Marcella	Heiden, Merlin	Herman, Paul and Roxanne
James Luanne	Kasza, Loretta	Klass, Mary
Kryszk, Charmaine	Lubinski, Dick and Donna	Lubinski, Evelyn
Lubinski, Bob and Kathy	Maas, Sherrie	Mc Hugh, Clayton and Janet
Miller, Shannon Mr. and Mrs.	Moede, Ila and Ed	Moeller, Richard Mr. and Mrs.
Rettler, Marilyn	Rugolski, Diane	Rohloff, Bob and Marion
Rohloff, Pat and Janet	Soufal, Carol and Jerry	Schoeppel, Dave and April
Sherman, Billie and Aliyah	Sherman, Greg and Connie	Sherman, Kyle and Mackenzie
Sherman, Stacy	Silver Foxes Exercise Group	Stegert, John and Cheryl
Stephani, Marcie	Storma, Carol	Storma, James and Sarah
Storma, Lucille	Swiecichowski, Faye	Trost, Vernon and Evelyn
Vanden Heuvel, Bud and Audrey	Vander Zanden, Dave	Waegli, Sue
Wickman, Gladys	Wormley, Michael Mr. and Mrs.	

**Have You Considered ...**

Leaving a bequest to the Seymour Community Historical Society in your will? Our legal representative will be happy to work with you and your attorney along with other financial advisors to help you formulate your gifts and estate plans. Contact a member of the board of directors or call (920) 833-6064 or e-mail [pma@billcollar.com](mailto:pma@billcollar.com) for additional confidential details.



**Postcards, such as these, are available for purchase in the museum gift shop.**

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

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**Return Service Requested**

## **Annual Meeting Featuring Eleanor Roosevelt at the Museum on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00**

**Website:** [www.seymourhistory.org](http://www.seymourhistory.org)

**E-mail:** [seymourhistory@centurylink.com](mailto: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

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 - 2015**

June 17 **Les James and Family** - Old Favorites

June 24 **Rocker, Rocker, Rocker** – Rock and Roll

July 1 **Starwood** - Variety

July 8 **Sarah and the Husband** - Variety

July 15 **TNT** – Polka and Variety

July 22 **Hauser's Hot Shots** - Polka

July 29 **The Sugar Bush Boys** - Traditional

August 5 **New Generation** - Polks

August 12 **Tom's Tunes – Old Favorites**

August 19 **Larry, Scott, and Andy** - Variety

August 26 **Sgt. Bernie Kroll** - Polka

**Military Mascot Exhibit May 17 to June 14 ----- Details inside**