Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society - Spring & Summer 2023

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area

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Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 Friday - Sunday **Fall and winter:** 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday Closed:

January, February, March, April and May. Open by appointment anytime.

The Contents of this Issue

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our members informed of events taking place at the museum and to keep Seymour History alive through relating past social, cultural and economic activities. In addition to the annual meeting, this publication includes an interview with long time Seymour resident John Cumicek. John recalls growing up in Seymour, living on north Main Street, his time in the army and many changes in the community over the years. Also of interest to

Mission Statement

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The Seymour Community Historical Society is primarily educational. It specifically collects and preserves records and physical objects relating to the history of the city of Seymour, Wisconsin and the surrounding area.

changes in the community over the years. Also of interest to local history buffs is a reprint of a 1966 **Seymour Press** article featuring the retirement of rural mail carrier Herman Husman after 41 years as a rural mail carrier.

From an historical point of view the newsletter focuses on Seymour articles from the *Appleton Post Crescent and Green Bay Press Gazette* one hundred years ago (1923). Since a fire at the *Seymour Press* office destroyed copies of the local paper prior to 1947, historians must research Green Bay and Appleton papers for Seymour news. Fortunately, the larger area papers included a "Seymour News" section every week or two. Readers will also find the Music in the Park schedule for 2023.

The last several pages of this publication list our most recent contributors. Thank you for your gifts and donations necessary to keep our mission on track. The Seymour City Council recognizes the value of preserving our heritage and supporting an attractive museum through providing the utilities.

Annual Meeting with Speaker Giz Herbst - May 6, 1:00 pm



After a brief business meeting attendees will be treated to an engaging presentation by long-time Seymour resident Giz Herbst. Giz and Linda Herbst have been full-time residents of Egg Harbor in Door County since Giz's retirement from the Seymour School district in 2000. They operate an art gallery (Yore Place) featuring Giz's watercolor paintings and son Fred's wood fired pottery. With deep roots in Seymour, the Herbsts are lifetime members and active supporters of the Seymour Community Historical Society.

After serving as teacher, coach and athletic director for 33 years at Seymour, Giz acquired a new hobby after several years in Egg Harbor. He is a member of the Egg Harbor Historical Society and edits bi-monthly

Dates to Remember - See Inside for Details

- * May 6 Annual Meeting with Giz Herbst 1:00 * June 2- Museum Opens Fri. Sat. Sun.
- * May 7, 14, 21, 28 Museum Open

- * June 14 Music in the Park Starts
- * May 29 Memorial Day Program in A.M.
- * Aug. 30 Last Music in the Park

emails on the history of Egg Harbor from 100 years past. He also edits the Historical Society's quarterly newsletters and does a yearly update of the Village's self-guided walking tour. In addition, Giz has assembled numerous local history manuscripts and prepared and presented local history programs.

Program Summary "Door County Shoreline Settlements"



The program is a tour of the 298 miles of Door County shoreline, the longest shoreline of any county in the United States. Over the years there were 36 shoreline settlements; can you name 10? The program will have many interesting photos from past and present. The presentation will be of interest everyone with an appreciation for history and the trials and tribulations of early settlers.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the early history of Door County, renew your friendship with Giz and to interact with others who have similar interests. Coffee, juice and desserts, courtesy of the historical society, are available following the presentation. This is also an fine time to tour the museum. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Village Stompers Reborn

(Seymour Press 1968)

This past summer Dan Melchert donated a framed leather club jacket and several "Seymour Press" articles about the "Village Stompers". A permanent exhibit is now on display in the museum.

A group of young auto enthusiasts intent on establishing a "cool" rapport with the community have formed a hobby club. They will pursue their own interests in cars and serve the community. About five years ago a similar group of young men failed in their attempt to keep a club operating.

Self Policing

One of the problems was the lack of a permanent home in which they could gather, exchange ideas and improve their cars. This year's group has reinstated the name "Village Stompers" and with the help of the City of Seymour found a home in the old city hall. The police and fire departments previously housed in the building have moved to the new municipal building. Before members vote on an applicant, he must indicate his reasons for seeking membership. It is all part of the self-policing effort designed to ensure the club longevity for years after the 15 charter members have left. The Stompers currently have 20 members. Two of the originals are no longer in the club. Most members are from the Seymour area.

High Standards

They stress up keep of their cars and work together on car projects such as custom painting



or body work. An impromptu visit to the clubhouse found it neat and clean. They tore out the old furnace from the former fire hall. The old police office, now a lounge, has couches, easy chairs and a television set. About a third of the members competed in races at Kaukauna this summer and collection of trophies speak of their success. The Club meets twice monthly It has \$1 monthly dues and penalizes members \$1 for one excused absence, \$2 for a second and imposes possible expulsion for three misses. Police Chief William Hietpas took a interest in the group and was instrumental in obtaining the old city hall quarters for the club. The club in turn has given him an honorary membership and consider him their adviser

Elected Officers

The club has elected officers to serve for the first year. They are Ron Haws. president. Charles Ness, vice president, Steve Mielke, treasurer and David Helein secretary. The club is only nine months old. Its members must be 18 years old and own a car. Most are 21 and older, although a few pre-18year-olds have been admitted on a probationary basis. The entry fee is \$7.00. The member gets a "Village Stomper plaque for his car. Applicants must be approved by 75% of

membership by secret ballot. Members are encouraged to be law-abiding citizens. By-laws stipulate a \$3.50 fine on members involved in a moving traffic violation. A three-point infraction means suspension for 30 days from the club and 60 days on a six-point infraction.

Forbid Beer

They forbid beer on the clubhouse, prohibit "foul language" (And apparently set a self - imposed fine for violators of this law as judged by the heavy "cuss can" on top of the television set.) Members are reminded that they have neighbors on either side of their clubhouse and that the use of the current facilities is probationary.

Members work only on club cars to avoid competition with any of the city's businessmen. Some of their equipment has been purchased, other items were donated. The terms of service to the community, members parked cars during the city's three-day centennial celebration this summer and earlier helped the Jaycees build picnic tables and prepare trash cans.



Stompers Receive Award

Bernie Meyer (right), chairman of this year's Seymour Community Chest Drive, presents an award of appreciation to Ron Haws of the "Village Stompers" Auto Club for their outstanding work soliciting funds for charity. The drive workers were (Back L to R): Jim DeWalle, Dave Truyman, Lowell Stephani, Devon Rusch, Charlie Ness, Bob Daoust, and Steve Bischoff. Seated: Steve Rhode, Dan Melchert, Bert Dunst, Dale Dethardt, Dave Helein and Jerry Sambeir.

2023 Budget for the Seymour Community Museum

To be approved at the annual meeting

Expenses		Income			
Cleaning Supplies	200.00	Bld. Maintenance	4,000.00	Admission Donations	600.00
Office Supplies	700.00	Utilities	15,000.00	Music Sponsors	5,500.00
Tax Preparation	1,000.00	New Displays	3,500.00	50/50 Raffle	3,100.00
Bands for Music	5,500.00	License and Fees	400.00	Memory Forest	2,150.00
Advertising	1,000.00	Web Host & Tech.	1,500.00	Gift Shop	700.00
Music Expenses	1,000.00	Flowers & Decoratio	ns 1,000.00	Memberships	200.00
Special Events	1,400.00	Memorials & Gifts	1,500.00	Donations	13,700.00
Memory Forest	1,500.00	Postage	600.00	City of Seymour	16,000.00
Newsletters	1,400.00	Miscellaneous	550.00	Music Concessions	1,300.00
Display Maintenance	2,000.00			Special Events	500.00
Total Expenses - \$43,750.00 Total Incom			Total Income - \$4	13,750.00	

Dolls and Aprons a Fun Exhibit June through July

The upstairs display room of the museum will be occupied by dozens of dolls of all types during the summer months. Many were created in Seymour by expert doll maker Tillie Steuflat. Learn the intricacies of doll making as Tillie's daughters Janice, Jean and Joan share their collections with museum visitors. Along with the history of doll making, view a large assortment of vintage aprons, once a household necessity.

Interview with John Cumicek

John has been active in community affairs all his adult years in Seymour. He is a man who can be counted on to help get things done. The American Legion, Fair Association, economic development, school activities and numerous committees and organizations have benefited from his contributions. He served on the steering committee for the new museum and continues to volunteer as a guide.

"I was born in Racine in 1943 to Charles and Julia Cumicek. My dad immigrated from Czechoslovakia in the early 1900s. During WWII my dad worked in a factory in Racine making airplane parts. He read a book on watch making and became interested in that as a profession. He was mechanically inclined, became interested and took a



Charles Cumicek (front) pictured with Earl Brietzman in the Jewelry store. (1946-47

test to become a watchmaker in the state of Wisconsin. He passed the test, then my parents considered what to do and they heard that there was a jewelry store for sale in Seymour, Wisconsin.

Jewelry Business

They saved their gas stamps from WWII and took a drive to Appleton and made a long-distance telephone call to a Mr. Leinninger who owned the jewelry store in Seymour. They asked if the store was still for sale and he said, 'Indeed it is, especially after what happened last night when my wife died.' He invited them to come to Seymour and that's when my folks came in 1944. We lived above the store at 245 North Main Street.

My Sister Kathy

Kathy, my sister, was born on July 18 at St. Vincent Hospital, delivered by Dr Raymond Groendahl of Seymour. She remained in the hospital until July 27, my fourth birthday. Thus, on my fourth birthday, I received a sister and a red scooter. Kathy continued

the family business. After one year at St Norbert College and the death of our father in January 1966,

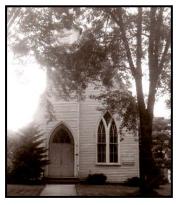


Kathy in the Jewelry store around 1968. (L to R) Dave Wilson an employee, Kathy, John and John's mother, Julia, who took over the store when John's father died.

Kathy attended the Milwaukee Technical School and became the second female licensed watchmaker in Wisconsin after being an apprentice for Bob Thimke in Shawano. Kathy purchased the jewelry store in 1977. She was the first female to be appointed to the State of Wisconsin Watchmakers Examiners Board. Kathy operated Cumicek Jewelers until 2017 for a total, of 40 years in Seymour.

Memories of Main Street

I will recall the west side of Main Street in downtown Seymour and what it looked like in the late forties and early fifties. Starting at the corner of Pearl and Main Street, first came the Emmanuel Lutheran Church that stood on the corner as it does today. South of the Emmanuel church was a Congregational



Congregational Church

church then came two large rocks that we used to climb on as kids. There monument there а today in honor of that church. I remember going to church suppers in the living room of the pastor's house. Next was a house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Otto who operated the See-More Theater that was across the

street. Crossing Alley Street there was a business owned by a VandenBogart that made women's hats. Ladies would come from all over to buy hats.

Continuing south was Olsen's restaurant. Prior to Olsen's it was owned by the McBain family. In fact, Rogene McBain who we know as Rogene Skodinski today, was my baby sitter. Next was my parent's

store and then south of that was Dobe's tavern. West of the tavern they had a garage where they kept two race horses. That garage is still there today. It was Dobe's tavern until I was in the fifth or sixth grade and the Cropsey's bought it. Dobe's would hire myself and Jerry Olsen from the restaurant, to go out and collect bushel baskets full of grass for the horses. We





Shopping at Miller's and Kahnt's during the sidewalk sale.

got paid so much per basket. South from the tavern was Schoen Refrigeration and before that it was a sport shop and Kraft's Shoe Store. Next came the Economy Store, then Jensen's Appliance and Kuehne's Cleaners who did dry cleaning and he was also a tailor. Jerry Olsen and I used to visit Kuehne's Cleaners often and talk with Paul Kuehne. Once while visiting I shoved Jerry through a showcase window. It was never replaced. A sheet of lumber took its place. Kuehne's was followed by Kahnt's Shoe store.



Paul Kuehne, Tailor

On the corner Morrow and Main was Billy Miller's Department Store. As you crossed Morrow Street came the Hardware Store and then Reese's Dairy. made their own ice cream and delivered milk door to door. Reese was also agricultural teacher at Seymour High School. Next came Marnocha's Tavern and then Swan's Barber Shop. That

takes us down to the railroad tracks and I will stop there.

Kids in the Area

We had a number of kids who lived in the area. Jerry Olsen was my age, Ron Cropsey, Jim Schoen, Susan Gagnow Moeller, Orrin Kahnt who was tall and played basketball for Seymour. I remember at age 12 he had size 12 shoes.

Six Auto Dealers

I can recall at least six automobile dealerships. Windau's was at the corner of Pearl and Main Street,

Mielke's was next going south, then came Gustman's, then Cook's on Morrow Street, Melchert Brothers on South Main and Vandenheuvel Motors on Highway 54.



Melchert Brothers - 1952
Six Grocery Stores

Seymour also had six grocery stores. Helmke's on North Main Street, the Economy Store across the street was owned by a man *named Crystal*. The Red Owl was on Morrow Street. Hallada's Market was next to the tracks on East Main. Pasch's owned by Leroy Pasch and his brother was south of the hotel. Lastly, Dunbar's was on South Main at the intersection of Hwy 54 and 55. Some of the businesses had apartments on the second floor and that is where the owners lived. This was during the late 1940s and 50s.



Clarence Hallada with a group of Brownie Scouts. Left to right - Jane Grunwaldt, Judy Reese, Clarence Hallada, Sally Eick, Judy Selberg, and Darlene Ebert. They picked out hams for the annual supper at St. John Catholic Church. 1953

Grade School

I went to grade school at St. John's and had nuns for teachers. When I started first grade we met

in the gym since they needed more space. As an altar boy I had to memorize prayers in Latin. We had two



grades in one room. It was very challenging for the sisters, sometimes they had 50 or 55 students in one room. My teachers were very good and they provided an excellent education.

High School

I graduated from Seymour High School in 1961 where I was

active and was a member of the National Honor Society that was just started. I always enjoyed sports even though I was not an athlete. Mr. Gulbrand needed a statistician for the basketball team and I was the stat man for the next three years. We didn't have winning teams in those years, but it was enjoyable. At the end of the season the school sent

us to the state basketball tournament. We always looked forward to it, even though we didn't stay in hotels, we stayed in individual homes.

My social studies teacher was Orson "Buck" Weaver and he had quite an influence on me. I was on the debate team that was



Mr. Weaver

coached by Jim Watson. We were part of the Northeastern Wisconsin Conference and my senior year we defeated Preble for the conference championship.

Athletics didn't have many trophies, but we got a trophy for being the Northeastern Conference Debate Team Champions. I remember Barb Treml, Janice Lathrop, Bob Schroeder and Mike Tierney as being members of that championship team. The high school that I attended was built in 1954. For entertainment I followed sports. My senior year Mr. Thompson was the head football coach and Mr. Becker was his assistant and Orson Weaver was the baseball coach.

Growing up in Seymour

I often attended movies in Seymour at the See-More Theater. Since I lived just across the street it was very handy. I remember the admission price was twelve cents with a two-cent tax. So, for fourteen cents we could see the movies. We liked the cowboy movies with Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry.



Scout House - 1953

I was active in scouting and remember going to meetings at the scout house. It was built in 1952. The scoutmaster at that time was George Baerwald who owned he Gambles store that was located across Main Street from my dad's store. George and his wife didn't have any children and they became like a second set of parents to me. I worked at the hardware store and even remember counting out 44 clothes pins. Francis Gerl also worked there. He was in high school. I became an Eagle Scout in 1961.

College Years

Dad was a watch maker and Jeweler and he recommended that I not go into that business. So upon graduation I enrolled in St. Norbert College. I received a degree in business and went through the ROTC program and upon graduation I enrolled in the service. I was the only student from Seymour to go to St. Norbert that year. I still remain in contact with all of my old college roommates and classmates. I graduated with a degree in business and a minor in military science. It was the height of the Vietnam war and all male students had to take classes in ROTC as



freshmen and sophomores. After the sophomore year you had to decide if you wanted to go into the advanced program. Ι decided to enroll. Then we had to go to basic training or summer camp between our junior and senior year. We went to Fort Riley Kansas. I distinctly remember that after 11/2 weeks with our heads shaved I was out in

the field taking a class on radio transmission. I was tapped on the shoulder and was told that there was a problem with the braces on my teeth. They gave me the option of going home or signing a waiver that the army was not responsible if something went wrong. In 1965 all my classmates were commissioned as second lieutenants but I was not. I remained a

sergeant-major until the next year when I did go back to Fort Riley and obtained my second Lieutenant bars. During our graduation in 1965 it was significant that our class speaker was John Glenn.

Military Career

My military career started in 1968 when I had to



John Glenn

report to Fort Sill on Thanksgiving Day. I was an artillery officer and reported to artillery school. We were told that all orders after artillery school were cancelled and we just knew we were going to be sent to Vietnam. Instead, I got orders to report to Pershing Missile School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. While at Fort Sill and being trained in artillery the classes were difficult with a lot of math.

Tragic News

In January of 1966 I was getting ready for a class and saw someone from the Red Cross. I said to one of my classmates somebody is going to get some bad news. I sat down in class and suddenly got tapped on the shoulder and I was the guy that got the bad news. I was informed that my dad died. They said, under the circumstances, 'Cumicek you can stay and take the test or you can leave immediately on a flight for home. It is a very difficult test, but if you stay and take it we will guarantee that you will pass. We will cover for you.' I thought I might as well stay. I took the test then immediately left for home. I arrived at the airport in Green Bay at 2:00 AM. My neighbor Jerry Olsen picked me up and took me home.

My dad was just 64 years old. I was on emergency leave then I had to go back. He had some previous medical issues and had a heart attack. He was taken to St. Vincent Hospital and since Seymour didn't have an ambulance at that time, he was transported in a hearse from the funeral home. They dropped my dad off and he waved to them and said, 'thanks guys see you later.' Never did they think they wouldn't see him again.

Graduation at Fort Sill

After I graduated at Ft. Sill from the artillery



basic course, I went through the Pershing Missile School with the German air force officers and was shipped to Germany. My unit was the 3rd Battalion of the 84th Field Artillery and my Battery, with nuclear capability, was out in the field on standby.

Since I was a new officer, they had a special assignment for me. I was to be an attorney for a fellow who did something wrong and I was taken to Heidelberg where this fellow was in the brig and I had to represent him. I had a friend in Seymour who was an attorney, Ken Rottier, so I knew a little about it. As an attorney in the military, I had a 2-0-1 record. I won another case and I got a guy off from a drunken driving charge and in another it was obvious the man was guilty and he pleaded guilty.

Missile Tests

Since we were working with missiles capable of being armed with nuclear warheads, we could not test fire them in Germany. On several occasions we flew from Frankfort, Germany to Albuquerque, New Mexico



and we test fired missiles with dummy warheads from the desert to White Sands Base in NM. The military wanted me to reenlist and become a platoon leader and help with an experimental program where they fired two missiles at once. I didn't have a girl friend at the time, so I said I would do it providing I could come home and visit my mother. They agreed with that so I extended my enlistment six months. During the six-month period I did become a captain. I became the Battery commander of C Battery of the 3rd Battalion 84th Artillery. The Pershing Missile Program was the number one mission of the cold war. Since I was active with that I was not sent to Vietnam.

Coming Home

I remember coming home and Dudley Birder from St. Norbert was at the airport and he said, 'Cumicek, welcome home.' I had my uniform on and actually had the opposite welcome from what the veterans of Vietnam had.

First Job

I took my first job as a bank examiner for the state of Wisconsin in September of 1968. I lived in an apartment right across from the zoo in Madison. The landlady there introduced me to my future wife, Adrienne, who was a teacher at Cathedral school in Madison. I called my mother and said 'I think this is it.' I was married to Adrienne on November 28, 1970.



Her uncle, who priest, was a performed the ceremony. was а bank examiner out of Madison for a year and a half, Appleton for a year, and a half and then I was transferred

Milwaukee for two years. In 1973 my mother sold the jewelry store to Bud Rigdon from Milwaukee. Adrienne and I lived in a duplex in Milwaukee owned by Rigdon.

National Guard

I was in Manitowoc and one of my co- workers informed me that something terrible happened. The Adjutant General of the Wisconsin National Guard was in a plane crash and was killed along with several other people. I was encouraged to apply for the position of the officer who was killed. I applied, and was interviewed by the new Adjutant General, and was accepted as a member of the Selective Service detachment for the Wisconsin National Guard. I served in the Guard for 20 years and my rank went from Captain to Major to Lieutenant Colonel. I retired from that in 1988.

Selective Service System

Shortly after retirement I received a call asking if I was interested in becoming the State Director of the Selective Service System. I said, 'Well I have four kids but I think I could do it.' I received a phone call from the governor's office congratulating me and after a six-month background check I became the state director on July 27, 1989. At that time in 1989, I was president of the bank in Seymour and was very busy. I was told it would be a short appointment because another person with some political ties was interested, but I served for 30 years. My major purpose was to be a liaison to the Governor. I worked with local boards and since we didn't have a military draft it was part time deal.

First National Bank in Seymour

I was hired at the First National Bank of



Seymour in 1973 by Phil Dallman who was the president. In 1983 he left and I became the president. We went through a number of takeovers and name changes including Firststar, Marine Bank and Bank One.

The Fair

The Outagamie County Fair started in 1885. When I came back to Seymour to work at the bank, Mike Burns asked me to serve on the fair board. When Burns and Maynard Puls passed away I became president until I retired in the 1990s. The new grandstand was one of the big accomplishments during this time. The old grandstand was not in good shape and we hired an architect to design a new one. It opened in 1993-94 and included an office facility. It



has seats for 4,000 and standing room for another 5,000 for rock groups like the BoDeans. The fair was

noted for big name entertainment, but in recent years competition from casinos and other venues made it difficult to continue with expensive performers. We worked with Jayson Promotions from Nashville to book the performers.

Family and Community Activities

Adrienne and I had four children, fifteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. After her passing in 2013, I've continued to spend time with the family, going to the grandchildren's activities, traveling and I remain active with community activities. I've always enjoyed following high school activities and being involved in the community. A few things that stand out in my mind include: The football state championship in 1985, three basketball state championships, five runner ups, the new buildings at school, and Burgerfest getting started. I served on many committees including the Seymour Economic Development Corporation, building the museum and the aquatic center. I was honored to be named the High School Athletic Backer of the Year and the Seymour Citizen of the Year. I remain active in the American Legion and as a volunteer at the museum.

Seymour was a great place to raise a family. I continue to enjoy the relationships I established over the years and have many great memories.

Christmas at the Museum - 2022

Close to 100 children, accompanied by their parents, visited the museum to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and pick out a present. Janice Eick and her sisters Joan Conradt and Jean Maass decorated the museum and donated presents. Every child received a bundle of candy canes along with a present of their choice.

A ten-foot Christmas tree was decorated inside the museum and 42 trees were included in the traditional memory forest on the museum grounds. Bob Bock had the Christmas train in operation to the delight of the children. Overall, it was a fun day for everyone and many stayed to explore the museum. Over 250 people visited the facility during the day.



Grandma Claus (Great Grandma Claus) was thrilled to see Cora and Everly Rohloff, twin daughters of Tara and Matt Rohloff.



Mike and Linda Huff donated their time and musical ability to entertain visitors with Christmas Carols.

Music in the Park - 2023 (Music starts at 6:15)

- June 14 **Thunder Country** If you like classic country, this is the band for you. Playing the greatest country hits and they always throw in a few surprises.
- June 21 **Talk of the Town** Back by popular demand playing jazz and the big band sound led by Kevin Van Ess and his hot clarinet.
- June 28 **Rocker, Rocker** An area favorite, they have been entertaining rock and roll fans for decades. Doug always brings his best to Seymour.
- July 5 **Tom's Tunes** Tom and his fun group sing many of your favorite tunes. Take a trip back in time and enjoy the hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s,
- July 12 **Hanna Rose**, **Sarah and the Husband -** Irish dancers, great vocals and one of the top fiddle players in Wisconsin always a fun night.
- July 19 **TNT** The Natural Talent Polka band from Pulaski brings their explosive sound to Seymour as they warm up for Polka Days in their hometown.
- July 26 **The Drovers -** Great entertainers from Stevens Point. Playing a variety of music during their first appearance in Seymour.
- August 2 **The New Generation** Jeff Maroszek and his relatives bring the Polish Polka sound to the Home of the Hamburger.
- August 9 **Molly Brown -** Presenting a superb Patsy Cline tribute show during her first performance at Music in the Park.
- August 16 **"Rockin" Country** Robin Wussow and local musicians rock the stage with classic country and rock and roll.
- August 23 **The Reason Why** Local musicians, Larry Wussow, Scott Skodinski, and Andy Huelttl play a variety of hits.
- August 30 **Chad Przybylski and the Polka Rhythms** An annual favorite veterans night. Chad and his band are noted for their high energy and great music.







They start them young in Pulaski!



Gail Dean - The Seymour Community Historical Society lost a valuable member with the passing of Gail Dean. Gail, a Seymour native, was a long-time member of the board of directors. She enjoyed volunteering at the welcome desk in the museum and was often sought out for her knowledge of Seymour area history. Thank you to everyone who donated to the museum in her memory. Her fun personality and quick wit will be missed.

Herman Husman Retires After 41 Years As A Rural Mail Carrier

(Reprinted from the Seymour Press 01/12/1966)

Four decades and one year (41) of a rural mail delivery in rural Route 3, Seymour ended last month when Herman Husman retired. There were 78 families on route 3, when Mr. Husman started and of those 78, Albert Krahn, Frank Biel, Ed DeBruin, Vanden Huevel, Fred Hill Sr and Oscar Krause still reside on the route and received mail daily delivered by Herman.



Retired mail carrier Herman Husman (Left) was honored Monday night after 41 years of rural mail delivery on Seymour Route 3. Husman, who is a director of the Seymour State Bank is shown with T.A. Nickodem the Bank Executive Vice President and cashier.

The route naturally grew and today there are 274 families on the route and of those 274 families, 29 were served by Mr. Husman for 30 years. The families are Roy Thomas, Hilmer Mueller, Kranzuch Brothers, Louie Ullmer Jr. Joseph Wirth, John Linsmeyer, John Weier, Mrs. Louis Ullmer, Mrs. Anna Platten, Red Wagner, Alfred Hansen, Vernon Marcks, Joe A. Linsmeyer, Carl James, Kuene Brothers, Wm Matuszak, Otto Worsch, Harvey Alberts, John Platten, Art Lembcke, Mr. Alton Wenninger, Rufus Dreisow, Helmuth Thomas, Francis Leisgang, Frank Vanden Huevel, B. Verbruggen, and Lawrence Johns,

The length of the route today is 71 miles, 274 families, 269 mailboxes, and better than 22,000 miles traveled each year. Mr. Husman made 290 stops each day plus stop signs. In talking to the press Mr. Husman stated that the tire wears about 8,000 miles for the rear tires and 10,000 miles for the front. An average of 8 gallons of gasoline is used per day. In the 42 years Husman delivered



Wisconsin winters were not kind to the rural mail carriers.

mail on Route 3, he used 25 automobiles.

He had 3 Fords, a Hudson, a Chrysler, 3 Essexs, 2 Terraplanes, 4 Pontiacs, 6 Chevrolets, and 3 Plymouths. Mr. Husman is presently driving a Chevrolet. Mr. Husman was sworn in as a substitute carrier on February 15, 1925, by Postmaster John Stewart and received his permanent appointment August 16, 1925, under George Fiedler, Postmaster. Since then he has served under three more postmasters, the late Grover Falck, Earl Windau, and the present, Maynard Puls.

The early days of delivering mail were accomplished with a Model-T Ford in the summer and horses and sleigh in the winter. When Mr. Husman was honored at a dinner at Frank's Supper Club, he said that most of the horsepower he used

in the rough winters of 1925 through 1937 came from the animals as he was compelled to use two horses and a sleigh to get the mail delivered. Husman remembers going through eleven winters in which it was necessary to use a sleigh and horses.

He even made the route several times just on horseback, which certainly was no pleasant task, but to coin a phrase of mailmen of today and long ago, "The mail must go through". When the season changed the snow turned to mud, the rubber tires on Mr. Husman's Model-T were adorned with chains. This process was also required after every rain and many are familiar with the roads at that time. Husman's first route covered 26 miles, which included three miles of narrow cement.



After a heavy snow the only way to get around was by horse and sleigh.

In 1936, as a result of route consolidations, his area covered 41 miles, and two years later, it increase to 45. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Husman's total route mileage was 71 miles. His average mileage of mail delivery exceeds 20,000 miles. The route he traveled in 1925 reached from the town of Oneida to the town of Black Creek and never extended more than four miles from Seymour. A terrific contrast is explained in the fact now reaches through Issar to that his route Pittsfield on 29 and two miles south of 55, including all inlaying areas. Another great difference is seen the number of mail boxes, fed by

Mr. Husman. He delivered 5,000 pieces of mail per month to 75 mailboxes in 1925. Now he carried 35,000 pieces per month compared to 286 boxes.

Billy Burgoynne started Mr. Husman's Route 5, which originally was known as Route 37. Since



Downtown Seymour after the big blizzard of April 1, 1929. Pictured are Irene Zabel, Jim Feurig and Kate Wassenberg.

then, Oscar Anhalt and William Rowe had the route before Husman took it over. In the early years, he received help from his brother Billy who was a substitute carrier. A train brought the mail from Green Bay in those days and during the bad weather found it extremely hard to get through. One such time was the year 1929 when the locomotive was stalled in the drifts near Black Ceek for one solid week. No mail could be delivered during that time which proved the exception to the rule. The mail does not ALWAYS go through.

The winter of 1929 was really a peach. Snow was far above the fence posts, and with the ice and snow in the fields, it was possible to take horses and sleigh right over them in delivering mail. The Husman's owned six horses, two of which were alternated in pulling the sleigh with the mailman and stove. Many a story can be told by those who remember some of the tribulations mailmen endured with their teams of horses.

One such incident took place during one of those winters near the Fred Blohm farm. It seems

that both horses driven by Husman went down in a snow drift. As he unhitched the animals to get them out, the trouble began. The one horse, which was unhitched and out in front took off while Herman was unhitching the other one. There was nothing to do but complete his task, jump on the horse, and chase the other one. But something here does not give the story a happy ending ... for the horse he jumped on had never been ridden and he finally succeeded in stopping the runaway horse with the aid of a neighbor. Even the horses needed shoveling out in those winters.

Mr. Husman recalls the worst winter of car delivery as 1937. On one occasion he was following a snow plow when the plow broke down near Plain View School. Andrew Eisenreich had to pull the mailman's car back to his place where he turned around. Then it two hours to get back to

town in the in the 20 below degrees weather with driving snow. Husman never did get through one road in four weeks, and Fred Hill's son Bob, delivered the whole section's mail on horseback.

Herman lived one-half mile south of town on the farm of his father, Fred Husman. He got up at 4 a.m. to feed the horses and on many days come in after dark on the stormy days. He must report to the post office at six and has to leave at 8:30. He is one of three carriers at the post office, which originally started with five. The hardwood floor where Husman sorts mail at the post office shows the wear of 41 years, as that portion of the floor boards will soon have to be replaced. His present day of delivering now takes 6.5 hours. Mr. & Mr. Husman reside at 546 Green Street, Seymour.

Seymour News from 1923

It is fascinating to look back to see what life was like in the Seymour area 100 years ago (1923). Unfortunately, all of the Seymour Press papers prior to 1947 were destroyed in a fire at the Press office. Fortunately, the Appleton Post Crescent and the Green Bay Press Gazette included a significant amount of news from neighboring communities.

SEYMOUR AUTO FIRM PURCHASES LOTS

(Press Gazette - Jan. 23, 1923)

Seymour, Wi, The Vandenberg Auto Company of this city has purchased the corner lot and residence on Main and Factory streets adjoining the garage known as the Leach residence, one of the oldest in the city. This will give the company more room to expand business.

Albert Tesch, three miles north of the city lost a valuable brood mare last week from eating moldy silage. Mr. Tesch had thrown the silage over the yard fence so that the stock could not eat it but the horse reached over the gate while in the yard and ate too much.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Sherman are at Dubuque, Iowa, called there by the illness of Mrs. Sherman's mother.

Shipping Cream

Arthur Thiede is employed at the receiving station of the Fairmont Creamery Company. The company is shipping a limited amount of cream and sweet milk, this will be increased later on.

Mrs. Levi Paulson went to Deaconess hospital, Green Bay, Friday for an operation. Dr. H. J. Staeben, Seymour, Route 1 is at St. Vincent's hospital, Green Bay, where he is consulting specialists for stomach trouble. Mrs. Ted Vanden Heiden, Seymour, R1 is in St. Vincent's hospital recovering from a serious operation. Peter Blanshan was at Green Bay Thursday to see his wife, and little son, who is recovering from a mastoid operation. They are out of the hospital, staying at the home of George Russell, Mrs. Blanshan's father, in Green Bay.

Radio Concert

In a letter received from Mrs. Peter Tubbs, who is spending the winter with her daughter and family at Greenville, Texas Prof's S.E. Steward is planning to have a radio concert at Greenville, Tex. and will give Seymour people a chance to take it in. Prof. Steward has charge of the Conservatory of Music at Wesley College at that place.

LECTURE ON LIFE OF CHRIST

(Press Gazette - Jan. 25, 1923)

SEYMOUR, Wis. Commencing Sunday night at the First Methodist church Rev. George Lester will give a series of illustrated sermons for six weeks, five of them being on the life of Christ. The first of a series of cottage prayer meetings will be held at the home of Rev, G.E. Lester Thursday night.

The W.C.T.U. will meet at the home of Mrs. S.M. Culbertson Friday afternoon.

A miscellaneous shower was given for Miss Esther Staeben, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H.J. Staeben at their home in North Cicero Saturday evening. A large number of neighbors and friends were present. Games and dancing furnished entertainment. Lunch was served.

Boar Attacks Horse

Elmer Munger, a farmer living four miles northeast of this city, had a fine team of bay horses badly lacerated by a boar which was running in the same lot with horses. This was the first time the boar had shown signs of being vicious.

SEYMOUR RESIDENT BUYS POND

(Press Gazette - Jan. 25, 1923)

Henry Wolk bought the old fish pond on Morrow Street. The lot will be filled and graded as soon as possible in the spring. Mr. Wolk intends to build in the future.

Henry Wolk and George Fiedler, local auctioneers, have formed a partnership. Their first sale will be a Holstein sale in town of Chase, Oconto County, this week.

Seymour High School basketball teams were

defeated at Manawa Friday night. Boys score 13-9 and girls 4-3. Harold Miracle, Seymour star was not able to go on account of sickness.

Vandenberg Auto Company has installed a new door at the entrance on Main Street.

Hill Restaurant had a chimney fire Saturday afternoon which caused slight damage to the roof. The flames were extinguished with buckets of water.

BUILDING FOR SEYMOUR MARKET

(Press Gazette Feb. /15/1923)

SEYMOUR, Wis. M.G. Hallada proprietor of the Hallada meat market in this city, has completed plans for the building of a new meat market on the site where the present market and barber shop stands. The present market will be moved north on railroad property to which Hallada has a lease as soon as weather conditions will permit. The barber shop building if not sold, will move on to some central location. Hanson and Frazer occupy the building.

George Eisendeich, Seymour contractor has the contract for construction which will be a cement basement, tile and brick walls. The building will be two stories high, 44 by 85 feet. The plan calls for modern refrigerator plants in basement and first floor. The smoke houses will take care of 1,000 pounds of sausage at one time. The refrigerators will be 18 by 22 feet.

Office Rooms

The plan is to have room for a barber shop on the first floor, the second floor will have a hall and office rooms for rent. Hallada Brothers came to Seymour ten years ago from Crystal Falls, Michigan and bought the small Krause Meat Market here. They have built up large wholesale business as well as city trade. They have their own slaughter house and are compelled to build to give them the necessary room for their products. The firm M.G. Hallada has five boys, his brother Jim is one, all working for the firm.

FORMER SEYMOUR RESIDENT DEAD

(Press Gazette - April 13, 1923)

Seymour, Wis. Word has been received here that Alfred Sherman of Plainfield, Wis. died at his home there Friday, April 27. His brother David Sherman will attend the funeral services which will be held Sunday. Mr. Sherman is a former Seymour resident.

Philip Muehl has returned from Tampa, Fla. where he spent the winter months. Mrs. August J. Miller is recovering from a severe illness.

The residence of John Beckman has been sold to Frederica Kollath of Osborn by the Graham Realty Company. Consideration \$3,500.

Piehl Erects Playhouse

A play house has been erected by William Piehl south of his residence on Main Street for his daughters Marjorie and Marie. The house is a bungalow, built on a concrete foundation and has three rooms and a porch. It is also equipped with electric lights.

Seymour will be represented in the district shorthand and typewriting contest at Green Bay Saturday. Eleanor Booth and Arneida Haver will take part in the junior typing contest. Arneida Haver and Flossie Kollath in the junior shorthand contest. Edgar Eick and Arnold Heling in the rapid calculation contest.

SEYMOUR CHAMBER TO PROVIDE BAND CONCERTS WEEKLY

Musical Body Will Be Reorganized and Begin Rehearsals.

(Post Crescent - May 23, 1923)

Seymour---The Seymour Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution instructing R.C. Finkle, leader, to get members of the Seymour Band together to give band concerts every week as in previous years. The chamber will finance the concerts. A meeting of band members will be called some night this week. Rehearsals will

commence soon and about the middle of June the first concert will be held.

SEYMOUR ROAD NOW OPEN

(Press Gazette - April 14, 1923)

On Wednesday traffic was opened between Appleton and Seymour, also between Green Bay and Seymour. This is the first time for weeks that cars have been able to get through the snow drifts. The busses between these points will soon be running on schedule time.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Muehl of Underhill, are the parents of a seven pound baby girl, born Sunday.

FUNDS COMING IN RAPIDLY FOR NEW GRANDSTAND IN SEYMOUR Officers of Seymour Fair Association Believe Goal will be Easily Reached

(Post Crescent - May 22, 1923)

The drive to finance the erection of the grand stand on the Seymour Fair grounds, lasting six hours on Tuesday, was so successful and gave the officers such confidence in reaching the \$12,000 goal without difficulty when the drive is resumed the first of the week, that at a meeting of the building committee Thursday night the contract was awarded. Building operations will begin at once.

In the six hours that the drive committee was at work in and about Seymour, \$4,500 was raised from the sale of regular grandstand season tickets for the fair this fall at \$5.00 each and \$7.00 for box seats.

According to George Fiedler, secretary of the fair, the ticket method of financing building operations for the fair has never to his knowledge been tried before by fair officers and is the best method thus far devised and tried by the Seymour fair.

When Mr. Fiedler proposed the ticket method a number of friends of the fair shook their heads and said it would not succeed and would fall flat. But as soon as the drive started it was discovered that the method was very popular and appealed to the rank and file of the people because the subscription involved was within the reach of every purse and the fair was giving full value to each subscriber in return for his money. The drive will be resumed in and about Seymour with renewed vigor the first of next week and will be extended to Green Bay and other cities, villages and townships not yet approached at that time and will reach Appleton after June 5th.

Friends of the Fair

Seymour and nearby townships that responded to the first call generously will be combed again to uncover friends of the fair who were missed by the drive men before. Mr. Fiedler says that the citizens of Seymour are wondering which of the cities, Green Bay or Appleton will buy the largest block of tickets and be the greater help to them in paying for the Seymour Grandstand. In the opinion of the writer, if the result of the Green Bay drive is announced as soon as it is made Appleton will have the advantage because the Appleton drive is to be made after the one in Green Bay is finished.

Rapid Growth

Figuring from the rapid growth of Seymour fair from 1886 when the entire gate receipts were \$2.59 to 1922 when they were \$17,000, the new grandstand with a seating capacity of 3,000 to replace the old one with a capacity of 1,200 is an absolute necessity. The officers of the fair are greatly elated over the backing and support their novel financing project has thus far received and they are confident that the ultimate result will be as satisfactory as the part already announced.

SEYMOUR HARDWARE STORES IN MERGER

(Press Gazette - Aug. 29, 1923)

Seymour, Wis.-- On January 1, 1924 the Droeger Hardware company and N. Uttermark & Son Hardware are going to merge their business under the name of Seymour Hardware Company.

In order to complete this merger N. Uttermark & Son's store will be closed, beginning Dec. 26 and open as soon as the stock is taken. After this the Droeger Hardware Company's store will be carried on in the building now occupied by N. Uttermark & Son. The new firm feels that it can serve the public better in service and price than under the old arrangement

James Day of Oakfield and Art Heagle of Green Bay bought a car load of cattle here and shipped them to Oakfield Monday morning. The cattle were all tested for tuberculosis before being shipped.

Arterials Established

Arterial highway signs have been placed at the intersections along Main St. by the order of the city council. This step was taken to prevent accidents at corners.

The Seymour Fire Department was called to Briarton on Monday evening to help put a fire which burned the hall at that place and spread to the cheese factory.

The Ladies Aid Society of the M.E. Church met with Mrs. G.W. Lestern at the personage on Tuesday afternoon. A picnic supper was served at church.

SEYMOUR PATIENT WATCHES SURGEON REMOVE APPENDIX

(Press Gazette - Dec. 14, 1923)

A surgical operation under unusual conditions was performed upon Miss Elsie Wichmann of Seymour at Deaconess Hospital here yesterday afternoon by Dr. V. Hittner, also of Seymour, it was learned today. The Seymour physician removed the appendix of the Outagamie County girl without the use of ether or other sleep producing anesthesia.

A local anesthetic was used, with the patient watching every detail of the operation and carrying on a spirited conversation. According to Miss Wichmann, she experienced no pain.

This is the second operation of this character performed by Dr. Hittner here, his first being about a year ago. Several Green Bay surgeons also have removed appendixes without the aid of ether or chloroform, but the local anesthetic operation for appendicitis is not in general demand as yet.

AUTOISTS TEARS WHEEL OFF CICERO MAN'S MILK WAGON

(Post Crescent Aug. 29, 1923)

Cicero - A passing automobile tore a wheel off Walter Sherman's milk wagon as he was driving into his driveway last Wednesday. Two cars passed each other at the driveway and one machine was

crowded against the milk wagon. The driver never stopped after hitting the wheel.

The equity picnic held in the Wussow Grove Sunday was well attended. Music was furnished by the Seymour and Black Creek bands. Several farmers who are interested in the new trunk highway going through this town attended a meeting in Green Bay on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Sherman and Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Spaulding and family spent Thursday camping on the Wolf River at Leeman. They report a splendid catch of fish. Cicero was well represented at the Seymour fair and several Cicero farmers captured guite a number of prizes.



SHS Girls BB 1923-24 Front L to R: Virgie Vandenberg, Eleanor Booth, Agneta Veitch, Back: Toneta Frieman, Viola Ness, Margaret Cary, Tudey Forstner, Hilda Koepp



Main Street looking North - 1920s



Hallada Meat Market - 1920s



Huth Merchandise - 1920s

Donations Since, November 9, 2022

Listed in the order received

A sincere "Thank You" to all of our donors. Your generosity makes it possible to maintain the museum and offer a variety of programs.

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Dick and Donna Lubinski	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Gail Dean
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Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Dan Melchert

Volunteers Make it Happen

The philosophy of the Board of Directors is to have a vibrant organization with numerous activities and changing exhibits. All museum workers are volunteers and 100% of your gift is used at the local level. We appreciate your assistance. All donations should be sent to PO Box 237, Seymour, WI 54167.

Ways You Can Donate to the SCHS

Gifts from our members and others who value the preservation of our heritage and area history assist the society in meeting our financial obligations. There are numerous ways you can help us financially.

- **Memberships** If you are not a member, a lifetime membership can be purchased for \$50.00. A membership provides you with access to all the resources of the historical society and museum. Many lifetime members become annual donors. Lifetime businesses memberships are \$100.00.
- **Cash Donations** Monetary donations assist your society in maintaining the museum, providing new exhibits, and pay operating expenses.
- **In-kind Donations** Some people have expertise in certain professional trades that are very useful in meeting the needs of the society. Some examples are electrical, plumbing, electronics, construction, etc.
- **Estate Planning** Several members have remembered the historical society in their will. This has enabled the SCHS to complete a number of larger projects such as the improvement of the Miller-Piehl Building.
- Matching Funds or Benefit Programs such as Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- **Memorials** on behalf of loved ones. Arrangements can be made to have a museum exhibit or display named after a deceased person.
- A gift of appreciated stocks, bonds, or real estate to the SCHS eliminates federal taxes on capital gains.
- Make the SCHS a beneficiary of a percentage of your IRA, 401k, annuity, will or trust.

All donations to the SCHS are tax free and fully deductible as provided by law. Our federal tax ID is 39-1235870.

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation

Name			Phone	
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In memory of (Optional)				

Are you a lifetime member? If not, a family membership is \$50.00, a business membership is \$100.00

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

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

Return Service Requested

May 6 - Annual Meeting featuring Giz Herbst and Door County Stories. (1:00) May 29, Memorial Day - Slide show of Seymour area veterans. June through July - Doll and Apron Exhibit with the dolls of Tillie Stueflat.

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

Friday through Sunday

Fall and Winter:

1:00 to 4:00 Sunday

Closed January through April 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 - 2023 (Music starts at 6:15)

- June 14 Thunder Country Traditional country
- June 21 Talk of the Town Classic Jazz and more.
- June 28 Rocker, Rocker, Rocker Classic Rock.
- July 5 Tom's Tunes Variety and Fun Entertainment
- July 12 Jon and Sarah Irish dancers and fun music.
- July 19 TNT Polka Young Talent Kicking Off Polka Days
- July 26 The Drovers Playing a variety of hits.
- Aug. 2 The New Generation Polkas and more
- Aug. 9 Molly Brown Superb Patsy Cline tribute show.
- Aug. 16 The Reason Why Wussow, Skodinski and Huettl.
- Aug. 23 Rockin' Country Classic country and rock and roll
- Aug. 30 Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythm's Energetic polka