

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Fall and Winter 2025
Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History Bill Collar, Editor - (920) 833-6064

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The Seymour Community Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years of Incorporation as a State Non-Profit Educational Corporation on December 3rd, 2025.

As I remember the early years by Bill Collar

In the spring of 1975 local history buff and long time Seymour resident, Tom Duffey, approached me and said, "The nation has a Bicentennial coming up in 1976 and we should do something to celebrate and preserve Seymour area history." I was in my third year of teaching U.S. History at the high school and interested in finding out more about Seymour's past. The community celebrated a centennial in 1968 and I had read the ***Centennial Review Book*** and found it fascinating.

Tom mentioned that the Green Bay and Western was closing down the depot and figured the city could acquire it at a low price and it would make a great museum. Rita Gosse, another local history advocate was interested as were a number of people mentioned in the following article. This issue of the ***Seymour History Bulletin*** is dedicated to everyone who contributed to making the society what it is today. Past newspaper articles are used to tell the story.

Historical Society okays Seymour application to form local organization

BY ALICE BOGENSCHUTZ

Post-Crescent correspondent

SEYMOUR — The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has notified members interested in forming the Seymour Community Historical Society of the approval of their application.

The formation of the historical society is in conjunction with the bicentennial railroad depot museum plan for preserving the area's history.

Thurman Fox, museum director of the State Historical Society, told a group of 30 persons at the local society's recent meeting that museums began as private collections in homes and later became public functions.

Fox said there are more than 7,000 museums in the United States, with others being established every 3½ days. He specified that a community museum should tell the story of the area by the artifacts and historical items collected and displayed. He said Seymour has an interesting history and added the size of

November 10, 1975 Appleton Post-Crescent

the community is not a negative factor because there are many communities of this size with museums.

Questions and discussion centered on gathering the material needed to compile the history as well as ideas. Landscaping was explained and the group said it is not just a bicentennial activity. It will be an ongoing project.

Elected to three-year terms on the board of directors were Rita Gosse, Tom Duffey and Bill Collar. Two-year terms went to Bill Hupy, Lois Dalke and Chuck Kimball and one-year terms to Gladys Stern, Adrian Cumicek and Doris Woldt.

Duffey said the old depot will not be a railroad-type museum but will reflect the important part the railroad played in the history of the community. Tracing the history and telling of the importance of agriculture, county fair, railroad, local business, people and other factors will be included.

The museum is expected to be open July 3, 1976, and will be open weekends and by appointment for civic groups.

Senior high students from Collar's history class will go into the community and interview older residents. Collar has done research on Horatio Seymour, an American political leader in New York who owned much of the land in this area in the 1800s. He also has reproduced slides from old photos which will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the Dec. 3 meeting in the municipal building.

Duffey said diaries, letters, old advertising items and especially pictures are needed, as well as persons who have lived here for many years and can help identify pictures.

Membership is open to all interested persons in the community school district. Yearly memberships are \$2 per person or \$3 per family. Donations of funds toward the project will be welcomed.

A Brief 50 Year History of the Seymour Community Historical Society.

March, 1975 - Tom Duffey comes up with the idea to organize a local historical society to commemorate the national Bicentennial in 1976.

Summer, 1975 - Several planning meetings are held and it is decided to incorporate as an educational organization affiliated with the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Those present at the early meetings include Tom Duffey, Rita Gosse, Emil Gosse, Lois Daelke, Bill Collar, Edna Sherman, Maynard Sherman, Gladys Stern, Chuck Kimball, Adrienne Cumicek, Doris Woldt, Eleanor Piehl, Frank Piehl and Bill Hupy.

Dec. 3, 1975 - The Articles of Incorporation of the Seymour Community Historical Society are approved by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Officers are Tom Duffey, president; Bill Collar, vice-president and Rita Gosse, secretary-treasurer.

July 3, 1976 - The former Green Bay and Western Railroad Depot is opened as a museum.

May, 1978 - The Seymour Community Historical Society is recognized by the Outagamie County Historical Society for "Historic Preservation" in saving the depot and converting it to a museum.



An early organizational meeting (1975) of the future Seymour Community Historical Society. L to R Rita Gosse, Eleanor Piehl, Maynard Sherman, Lois Dalke, Gladys Stern and Edna Sherman.



Gladys Stern and Bill Collar (1977) examine pictures and a vintage washing machine in the former railroad depot (museum).

March 14, 1979 - The Articles of Incorporation of the SCHS are amended to make them "perpetual." The document is signed by Bill Collar, president and Rita Gosse, secretary.

April, 1987 - The Miller-Piehl Lumberyard on Depot Street is closed. Lee Nagel, Seymour businessman purchases the Depot St. property and donates it to the city. The GB & Western Railroad insists the museum (depot) be moved off the railroad property. The **SCHS** starts A "Save the Depot" campaign to raise \$10,000 to move the museum across the street to the city property.

November, 1988 - The museum (depot) is moved preserving the former railroad depot.

Spring, 1989 - The city council discusses possible demolition of the former

Miller-Piehl Office Building. The **SCHS** presents a plan to move the museum from the depot to the Miller-Piehl building. Agreement is reached and the move is made. After 12 years in the railroad depot the museum has a new home in the former Miller-Piehl Office Building. The Seymour Model Railroad Club has plans to move into the former depot/museum.

May, 2000 - "Buy a brick, build a dream" is the theme as \$20,000.00 is raised by the SCHS and a commemorative wall is built to finance a 34-foot diameter gazebo next to the museum. The Allouez Village Band plays at the dedication on May 15.



Catherine Hittner donates her fan collection to Rita Gosse and the Seymour Museum, in the former Miller-Piehl Building. (1990).

June, 2007 - Former Seymour resident and Seymour businessman, Carl Kuehne, gets involved in a project to build an addition on the old Miller-Piehl Building. After several studies a decision is made to build a new museum adjacent to the present one. He donates \$300,000.00 to bring the building fund to \$800,000.00. The building campaign goal is set at 1.2 million dollars.



In 2007 Carl Kuehne suggests building a new museum.

Spring, 2008 - A steering committee is formed for the purpose of generating support and planning for a new building. Members include: Jim Campbell, Bill Collar, John Cumicek, Tom Duffey, Carl Kuehne, Don Hoff, DDS, Debbie Peterson, Perry Pierre, Harold Pingel, "Pudge" Schuh and Elizabeth Timmins.

Fall, 2008 - Schuh Construction, Inc. submits several plans for a new building and determines it is possible to move the commemorative wall to make room for the new structure.



On August 17, 2011, members of the steering committee plus Mayor Judy Schuette participate in the official ground breaking for the new museum. L to R are Jim Campbell, Harold Pingel, Tom Duffey, Bill Collar, "Pudge" Schuh, Mayor Judy Schuette, John Cumicek, Debbie Peterson, Dr. Don Hoff and Elizabeth Timmins.

July, 2012 - Grand opening for the new museum.

Spring, 2021 - SCHS renovates the "Old General Store" next to the museum. Donations from SCHS members finance a \$40,000.00 structural repair to the 1893 building.

June, 2022 - A ten foot by sixty-five foot mural of early Seymour mounted on the west side of the "Old General Store". Generous donations from members finance the project.

June, 2024 - The SCHS installs a kid's playground with slides and a climbing area in Nagel Park providing children with a place to play while parents attend music in the park.



Mayor Schuette holds the door for first visitor Marge Coonen.



Schuh Const. completes the project on time and below budget.

During the very early years of the Historical Society numerous meetings were held at the Seymour Municipal Building where area residents were asked to bring old pictures and help identify people and buildings. Numbers varied from 10 to 40 and a large amount of historical information was collected. The Seymour Centennial Book from 1968 was valuable in addition to articles by local historian Flora Boyden.

The article below appeared in the Appleton Post-Crescent on December 9, 1975.

Seymour seeks more information on city's history

SEYMOUR — The Community Historical Society presented slides to about 40 community residents here recently.

During the slide presentation by Bill Collar, residents were asked to contribute information in identifying pictures of rural area scenes, Main Street and several old houses and other buildings, some possibly dating back to before 1900.

Collar told the group that a great deal of information was obtained from the slide presentation and stressed the need for more old pictures, information, *along with items of historical value for the museum.*

Also needed to complete the story on

Seymour ...

Continued from page 1

Seymour's history are information and pictures concerning the fairgrounds and county fairs between 1900 and 1940.

Another slide presentation of the early days is planned in January, date to be announced. Many residents requested another showing of the first 50 slides so more people could view them, perhaps adding more information.

Membership is still open to all interested persons in the community school district. Donations towards the project also are being sought.

Those seeking information should call either Tom Duffey or Rita Gosse. It was also noted that pictures can be donated but it isn't necessary to give up pictures as copies can be reproduced.



On May 8, 1978, Bill Collar accepted an Historic Preservation Award from County Executive Eugene Higgins on behalf of the SCHS for preserving the railroad depot as a museum.

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L to R: Lois Dalke, Pam Rucinski, Bill Collar and Tom Duffey pose with a cigar store Indian carved and donated by Marv Dalke. (1978)

Restoration at Work in Seymour

June 11, 1978 Appleton Post-Crescent

AS YOU DRIVE through the many communities in Outagamie County, it is common to see once-busy railroad depots abandoned or being razed. Thanks to the Seymour Community Historical Society, the local depot stands as a proud reminder of the days of the steam engine when the depot was the center of activity in the community.

Seeking a Bicentennial project that would be a lasting contribution to the city, a group of history-minded citizens organized and formed the Seymour Community Historical Society. Their major project was the development of a museum in the former railroad property.

At the request of the society's president, Tom Duffey, the city contacted the Green Bay and Western Railroad. The little depot once destined for demolition as was obtained under a \$100-a-year lease.

With the museum as a catalyst, the Seymour Community Historical Society became a reality. In order to solicit membership and encourage local citizens to attend meetings, early Seymour pictures were obtained and made into slides suitable for presentation. Additional local history was obtained through interviews with senior citizens and the writings of Flora Boyden, a local history enthusiast.

At the first meeting the numerous photos came to life as lifelong local residents recalled the early years. To add credibility to the history of the city, several members did research at the Wisconsin State Historical Society and investigated the files of local papers. With the groundwork laid, the society became a source of local history for the community.

In early 1976 the Seymour Community Historical Society was chartered by the state and in-

corporated as a nonprofit organization. To promote the society, a 25-minute sound-slide presentation was developed with assistance from the local high school. This program has been presented to numerous local organizations ranging from women's clubs to Boy Scout groups. Over 400 slides have been developed to preserve the social and cultural history of the early years.

As future planning is done, one of the main concerns of the directors is educational programs that appeal to adults and students in the community.

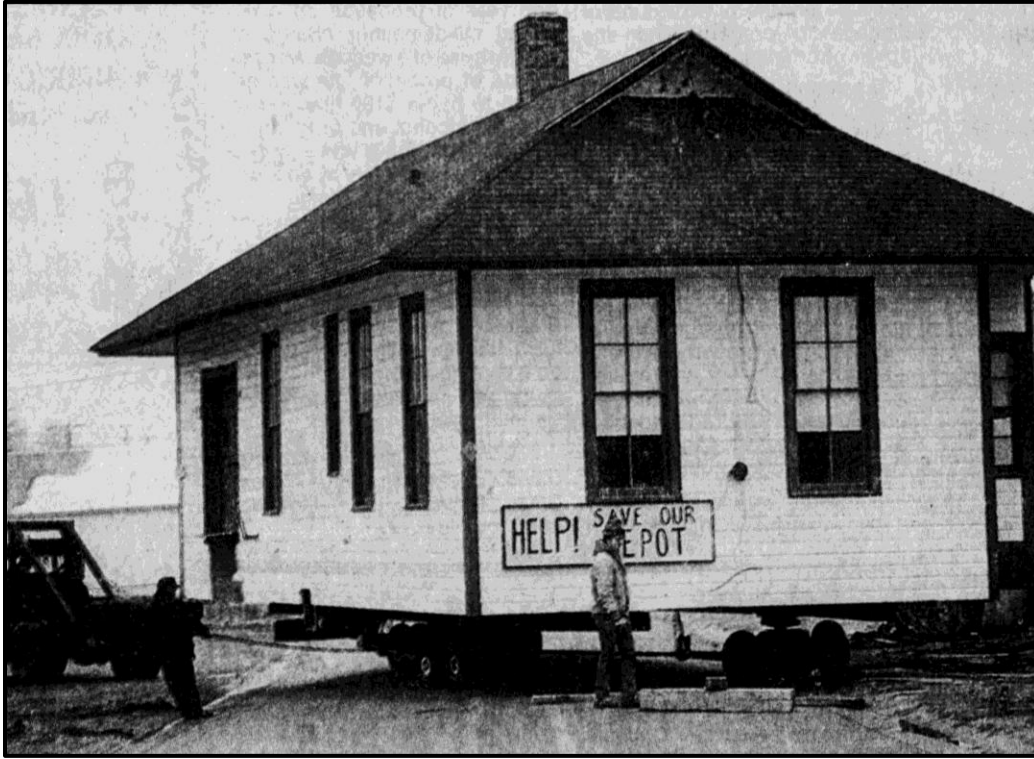
While much work still must be done, the Seymour Community Museum opened during the summer of 1976. Numerous local students and adults volunteered their time to clean, paint, and renovate the historical landmark. With cooperation from the city council, money was made available to assist in developing displays and the purchase of photographic equipment.



Green Bay and Western Depot as it looked in 1978 after it was renovated and converted to a museum. Notice the vertical railroad ties protecting the walkway from the railroad tracks.

Seymour Depot Makes its Move

Green Bay Press-Gazette November 16, 1988



SEYMOUR — The Seymour Community Museum was saved on deadline day by Delmar Bain and his sons Randy and Kevin.

They moved the turn-of-the-century former railroad depot across Depot Street to its new location.

The Green Bay & Western Railroad had set Tuesday as the deadline for moving the building off railroad property.

The Bains over the last two weeks had prepared for the move with work on the foundation.

Moving the depot was a painstaking and slow task. Movement was measured in feet per hour, and sometimes in inches per hour.

"House moving is always trouble. Nothing but trouble," Delmar said.

Delmar has been moving houses in the area for 20 years. Randy, 33, and Kevin, 21, have been working with their father since graduating from high school.

The depot was hooked up to a truck with a pulley and trailer in back. Delmar and Kevin worked underneath the depot as it was moved, making sure the building stayed stable on the trailer used to haul it. Randy monitored their progress from the driver's seat of the truck.

"It's a little scary, but you get used to it," said Kevin.

By 11:15 a.m., the depot had cleared its old foundation.

At 11:50 a.m., the north side of the building crept into the street. By 12:30 p.m., the wheels that were headed north were headed east toward the new foundation.

Delmar, on hands and knees in the street, watched the wheels move as the corner of the depot crept past him on the timbers that created a track for the move. Kevin, underneath the depot, adjusted the timbers to allow the wheels to move while Randy inched the truck forward.

At 12:45 p.m., the whole depot was in the street. Movement was relatively swift from this point. The truck and pulley moved the building diagonally across Depot Street, and within twenty minutes all but one corner of the building was off the street and onto the wet sand and gravel on the other side.

By 1:30 p.m., the depot was parallel to its new site, and Kevin had already begun lifting timbers out of the old foundation for transport to the new foundation's site.

A crew from the Seymour Department of Public Works was scheduled to arrive today to fill the old foundation with black dirt.

A "Save the Depot" drive raised \$4,500, said Rita Gosse, president of the Seymour Historical Society.

"We avoided going to businesses, but encouraged contributions from the businessmen as private citizens," Gosse said. "We did receive help from Aid Association for Lutherans and the Lutheran Brotherhood, but a farmer gave \$500 as well."

The goal of the fundraising is \$10,000, and moving the depot cost \$3,800. Money for electricity, wiring, heat, and landscaping is still needed, but Gosse said "the generosity of the people has helped greatly."

Rita Gosse said Green Bay & Western is getting rid of all of its unused depots because of the liability. The historical society purchased the building from the city for \$1 in 1975 and converted it to a museum, but the railroad wanted the building off its property.

Mayor Judith A. Schuette told Gosse that the City Council planned to hold public hearings on the possibility of a library next to the depot's new location.

Seymour earns OCHS top award

The Seymour Community Historical Society is the recipient of the Outagamie County Historical Society Preservation Award for 1989.

During 1988, the Seymour Community Historical Society made a major effort to preserve Seymour's Railroad Depot, ca. 1889. They obtained a site for the structure, received a postponement of the building's destruction from the railroad and raised funds necessary to move the structure to its new site.

The May 24, 1989, Appleton Post-Crescent announced that the SCHS was recognized for historical preservation for saving the former GB and Western Depot.



The "Buy a Brick, Build a Dream" campaign by the SCHS raised \$20,000.00 by selling bricks in a commemorative wall for \$30.00 and \$60.00 each. On May 15, 2000, the gazebo was dedicated for future use including music on Wednesday evenings and Burgerfest activities. On October 28, 2011, Schuh Construction, Inc. donated their services and expertise to move the commemorative wall to make room for building the new museum.

Museum opening set in Seymour

SEYMOUR — Grand opening festivities for the Seymour Community Museum will be June 18-25.

The museum was relocated earlier this year to the former Miller-Piehl Lumber Co. building on Depot Street. Hours will be 2 to 9 p.m. during the grand opening. It will remain open Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Museum exhibits include room themes depicting the 1890 through early 1940s period, Rita Gosse, Seymour Historical Society president said.

The Model Railroad Club expects to open later this year in the old depot building that formerly held the museum collection. It was relocated next to the Miller-Piehl building.

The June 11, 1989, GB Press-Gazette announced the opening of the museum in the former Miller-Piehl Office Building and the establishment of the Model Railroad Club.



Seymour ready for gazebo, bandstand dedication Monday

By Claire Mangin

Post-Crescent correspondent

Appleton Post Crescent

May 14, 2000

SEYMOUR - Imagine a nice stroll on a warm summer's evening, graced by a glorious sunset and capped off with the sounds of your favorite live band performing outdoors.

Residents here will have the opportunity to revel in picturesque scenes just like that after the dedication of a new gazebo and bandstand in the downtown area Monday.

"This will be an ongoing legacy for the people of Seymour," Rita Gosse, president of the Seymour Historical Society, said.

An idea that has been talked about for years finally began to take form after the state sesquicentennial celebration in 1998.

Members of the Seymour Historical Society and Sesquicentennial Board joined forces and decided it was time to act. The cost was prohibitive, with estimates of more than \$20,000 needed to complete the structure.

The two groups began to publicize the idea, in hopes of garnering financial support. Letters were sent to businesses and corporations throughout the Fox Valley area and in Green Bay. The donations began to come in.

The "Buy a Brick, Build a Dream" campaign followed, which enabled individuals and small businesses to purchase various-sized memorial bricks for a modest fee that would be inscribed with the donor's name and used to pave a walkway leading up to the gazebo.

To date, more than 375 bricks have been sold at \$30 and \$60 each.

The gazebo was originally planned to be a 24-foot-diameter structure, but it soon became apparent that was not going to be large enough. Plans were expanded to 34 feet to accommodate larger bands.

A cupola has been salvaged from the old Seymour Leaders Five and Dime Store, and will be mounted on top of the gazebo.

The gazebo was designed by Seymour Lumber and constructed by Schuh Construction and Schaumburg Builders.

Several free performances are on tap for Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, including big band sounds, country-western, party music and karaoke.

In November of 2011 general contractor, Schuh Construction began work on the new museum with Miller Masonry doing the brick work. Private donations raised 1.2 million dollars fully covering the cost of the building and a sustainability fund. Because of in-kind donations by the builders the building project was completed under budget.

Fortunately, fund raising projects and generous local people have continued to support the historical society and museum. For the past ten years of SCHS history check the past History Bulletins at Seymourhistory.org.



Looking Back at Some Memorable Times in SCHS History.



Chuck Kimball, Bill Collar and Lowell Veitch discuss remodeling the old railroad depot. 1976



Rita Gosse prepares a wedding gown for display in the first museum. 1976



Janice Eick, Betty Crocker and Rita Gosse set up the kitchen display in the former Miller-Piehl Building. 1989



Janice Eick started "The Memory Forest" with 24 trees in 1996.



The car show and "Old Tyme Family Picnic" was a big hit in 1991.



Mitch Miller has displayed his military collection at the museum several times. 1997

A number of copies of the 1899-1900 Seymour Press are on file with the State Historical Society. Listed below is Seymour news from over 125 years ago.

Fix Up Your Sidewalks

Seymour Press, May 11, 1899

There are a lot of miserable poor sidewalks in the city that must be repaired or rebuilt. It is not pleasant for the street commissioners or city marshal to give people notice to fix their walks and it is not pleasant for you to receive the notice but if they are in poor shape the notice will be given just the same. The best way is each property holder to keep their walks in shape so that the officers will not be compelled to look after the walks. If a person is injured on a poor walk, the city is liable for damages. Fix up your walk before you receive a notice to do so.

Seymour Students Shock Green Bay in Declamatory Contest in Spite of Rude Welcome

Seymour Press, May 11, 1899

The order in the room while Green Bay contestants spoke was good but while the Seymour contestants were on the stage the Green Bay audience, laughing, waving handkerchiefs and passing remarks on their appearances, tried to embarrass them. Of course this can readily be pardoned on the ground that the Green Bay people never having seen before genuine backwoods man, were completely carried away by their curiosity as to what his ability and limitations. It is reported that a teacher of Green Bay School doubtless fearing a stampede from these backwoods men had inquired anxiously of a Seymour teacher whether the Seymourites been given instruction how to take defeat.

The poor pedagogue was compelled to admit that he entirely neglected that. Seymourites did not have to display their lack of training in the respect at this particular art and observing they learned from the actions of their opponent how to act in an emergency of that kind. The Seymour speakers demonstrated how to handle victory with grace. The method pursued by their opponent was one that would grace an Indian war dance better than an educational institution.

After the contest the Seymour delegation took street cars for the depot, and had hardly got seated, when a crowd of the sore-headed defeated hoodlums threw mud and sticks at them, besides passing insulting remarks. A girl said the Seymour speakers were drunk. If they were drunk they were sober enough to act like civilized people, and defeat the speakers in the oldest city in the state---what would they have done to them if they had been sober!

Green Bay people ought not to have taken their defeat so hard, for their speakers were entered in the wrong class, and we would advise them to tackle something easy next time.

News from the *Seymour Press*

February 23, 1899

This year is somewhat different from any former year, in that the first two figures together contain each of the last two; the last two added together make the first two, and the first two added together made the sum equal to either of the last two.

It is reported that wild ducks are dying by the hundreds, as a result of the generally frozen condition of Lake Michigan and wherever a small spot of open water is found, vessel men say there appears to be thousands of the ducks about.

While working near a wood saw on the farm of Theodore Marks Tuesday forenoon, a young man named Alex was very badly injured. The machine broke loose and the saw caught in Alex's clothes, it cut eleven holes each about three inches long in his arm and shoulder and tore his clothes in pieces.

Kitty ---- Charlie Welles proposed to me last night, and when I accepted him he wanted to kiss me, Janet ---- And did you let him? Kitty --- Of course not. A girl can't afford to kiss every man.

The parties who are endeavoring to build an electric streetcar line from Appleton to Seymour, now want the farmers and others on the line to pay for a survey. It is the first time they have tried this. If A man strikes you for aid, set your dog on him. We have seen enough of paying for surveys etc. by the people. Let them build their own roads

The old Seymour House has been moved and work has commenced on the Hotel Seymour. Landlord Fuchsgruber will have a splendid Hotel

when finished. Plans and pictures of new building can be seen at the Seymour House.

May 11 1899

The new marriage law which requires a license from the county clerk five days before marriage can take place went into effect Friday. County Clerk John Montgomery received a lot of blank licenses and is ready to accommodate anyone who is contemplating marriage.

Tuesday A. W. Brehmer fell into M. Bodenheimer's cistern. Mr. Brehmer was at work fixing eave spouts. He fell head first in five feet of water. Charles Eachner grabbed him by the legs and tried to pull him out, but could not do so and finally let go. Then Mr. Brehmer came up head first and crawled out of the 16-inch square man hole. He says he was wet.

The announcement that a baseball game between the West Side High School of Green Bay and the Seymour High School is a welcome one. That Declamatory contest needs a chaser. Yes it is a welcome one, and the Seymour lads will see that the "declamatory cheers" will have an opportunity to chase themselves around the ball grounds faster that they were chased before. But they can rest easy that they will not be chased out of town, never mind which way the game goes. Seymour boys have good breeding as well as good speaking facilities.

The Seymour correspondent of the Appleton Post has this to say: Senator Whitman, at the request of H. J. Van Vuren, has introduced a bill to have the text books of schools printed by the state. Mr. Van Vuren says books that should be furnished for 25 to 35 cents are now sold to schools by the monopolists at about \$1.25 making it a real burden upon poor people.

Wrestling Match at Kuehne's

May 29, 1899

Sunday about sixty-five young sports drove out to R. Kuehne's farm to witness a number of wrestling matches. The program opened with a contest between Charles Krotz and Wallie Munger. Munger did not last long, it taking Krotz only four minutes to throw him twice.

Wrestling and foot races were popular forms of entertainment and often included betting and prizes for the winners.

The next was a wrestle between Will Ness and Krotz. Ness throwing Krotz after a tussle of ten minutes. Krotz still being among the living, a match was made up between him and Joseph Shire. Our reporter informs us that Shire lasted only a short time.

Then came the heavyweights, R. Kuehne and James Bennett; they wrestled about six minutes when Kuehne was thrown "down". Quite a number of dollars changed hands by bets and the successful wrestlers received their percentage of the bets which was as follows. Bennett \$10.00, Krotz \$1.00 and Ness \$2.00.

Alumni Ball

Seymour Press, May 11, 1899

Quite the event of the season in Seymour social circles was the Fifth Annual Alumni Ball given last Friday at Odd Fellow's Hall. The committees in charge of the affair had spared no time or pains in making the occasion what it was destined to be a complete success. The attendance was large, so large in fact, as to hamper somewhat the movements of the dancers, but inconvenience was overlooked by the good natured guests of the ball and dance went merrily on.

The hall presented a brilliant scene of gaiety that will not be forgotten. Youth and beauty were there, graced with all the charms that render them irresistible. The Hassman Orchestra of Appleton furnished the music which inspired the feet of the dancers with plenty of motion. An elaborate supper was served at midnight by host Falck in his elegant new hotel across the way.

Twenty couples at a time were accommodated at the tables, and the epicurean repast proved a most enjoyable adjunct to the general festivities. The party was given under the supervision of the following members of the Alumni Committee on Arrangements: Miss Esther Stewart, Anton Henes and Frank Sargent; Floor Committee; Ed Thomson Harry Cole and Fred Strong.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's the International Order of Odd Fellows was the largest fraternal organization in Seymour. They, along with the women's organization, the Rebekahs. hosted many of the major social events in Seymour. The IOOF Hall was located on the second floor of a building directly across Main Street from the new Falck Hotel. The IOOF maintains a worldwide presence, but is no longer active in Seymour.

An interview with Marge Coonen about the 1968 Centennial Book and her time on the Board of the Seymour Community Historical Society.

In 1968 Seymour celebrated its centennial with a huge parade and three days of fun. Five women from the Seymour Woman's Club wrote and edited a "Seymour History and Photo Album". The book is a valuable resource when doing research on area history. At 92 years young, Marge recalls events from over 55 years ago and her role in putting together the 112 page book. This summer the museum will feature an exhibit highlighting the Seymour Centennial Celebration.



1. Are you originally from the area?

I graduated from Kaukauna High School in 1951 and came to Seymour in 1957 when I met Bob. I was teaching at St. Joseph's Academy in Green Bay.

2. What did you enjoy most about living in Seymour?

We enjoyed being in business and it was a great place to raise a family. You are not paying me to say this, but I really enjoyed being active in the historical society. Young people must know about Seymour's history and have some appreciation for where we have been. I tell my son Steve, "You are in the museum, your Lieutenant-Colonel uniform is on display in the museum."

3. Why did you volunteer to research and write the Centennial Review Book?

The Centennial Planning Committee came to the Women's Club and requested that we put together a historical review and picture book. Since I assisted with the yearbook and newspaper in high school and college I volunteered to help. I really enjoyed gathering all the information and putting it together.

4. What resources did you use to gather the historical information?

Our major source was a series of historic newspaper articles written by Flora Boyden in 1966 and 1967. She divided the history of Seymour into a number of categories and every week or two an article was included in the newspaper. She was a tremendous resource.

5. Where did all the pictures come from?

Fritz Shellman, the editor of the newspaper, had quite a collection in the files of the **Seymour Press**. He did most of the layout. Local people also donated pictures.

6. How did you finance the book?

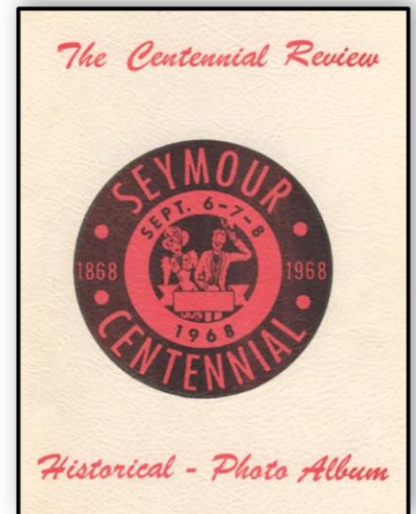
We sold ads to various businesses and after the book was completed they sold for \$2.00 each. I can't take credit for all of the book. Many people pitched in to make it a real success.

7. Was the Centennial Celebration a big deal for Seymour?

Absolutely, the whole community got involved. Mack Miller organized a fantastic parade. We had music and entertainment. The men grew beards and the women wore calico dresses. Jan Braun was the centennial queen. She sold the most buttons. The Jaycees and others took the old fire truck to other community celebrations to advertise the big time coming in Seymour.

8. How many years were you active with the Historical Society?

I served in various capacities from the mid 1980's until after the new museum opened in 2012. I said I would stay on as treasurer until all the bills were paid for the new building. I didn't want a new person to have to take on that kind of responsibility. I'm proud of the fact that the books balanced and that people were so generous in their donations that no tax dollars were used.





Members of the Seymour Woman's Club who wrote and edited the 1968 Seymour Centennial book are busy at their work. They are from left to right: Mrs. Ivan Dunbar, Mrs. Ernest Schuster, Mrs. Maynard Sherman, Mrs. Donald Reed, and Mrs. Robert Coonen.

The celebration was a three day event with the opening ceremony featuring opening speaker Lt. Governor Jack Olsen. Music, dancing, rides, concessions and various contests took place in downtown Seymour. The final day included a huge parade with 15 marching bands and over 200 parade entries. The final event was a Centennial Ball with music by Ray Reis at the Hotel Seymour.

Centennial begins



The centennial was held September 6 - 8, 1968 with an estimated 40,000 people attending. Tom and Marilyn Seidl are pictured riding a bicycle built for two in the parade. The Seidls and many others were active in promoting the centennial. Seymour Press



A parade photo with the west side of Main Street in the background showing Muehl - Boettcher Furniture, Luther's TV Center, Country Cousins Bar and the Ben Franklin Store. Today this area is part of a parking lot for a grocery store.



These children walked in the Kiddie Parade on Sept. 7, 1968. They were all from Seymour's Pearl Street so Vivian Tremi called them the "Pearls of Pearl Street" and made a play pearl necklace for them to hold in the parade. Left to right, Sue Schmidt, twins Judy Palubicki and Jackie Palubicki, twins Karen Doecker and Sharon Doecker, David Steward, Alan Steward, Brenda Tremi, Deb Seidl, and Katie Seidl.

Meet Your Board Member

Mary Skinkis



Family: Jeff and I have been married for 36 years. We have a daughter, Megan, and two sons, Justin and Jason.

Education: I graduated from Seymour High School in 1980 and Marian College of Fond du Lac in 1984 where I majored in Elementary Education.

Work experience: I retired from teaching in 2020. I taught 4th grade at Rock Ledge in Seymour for 30 years.

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, taking walks, baking and cooking.

Why do you serve on the board? I want to be involved in our community. I also think that my background in education is a good fit with many of the things we do at the museum.

My favorite part of the museum? I am most impressed with all the interactive technology we have at the museum. It's amazing! A visitor could spend days going through all of Seymour's history archived on computers throughout the museum.

Fun places I have visited: Jeff and I have just started to travel, and enjoy all of our trips. My favorite trip so far was to Iceland and Norway in 2024.

Favorite museum outside of Seymour: I find all museums interesting, but The Louvre Museum in Paris, France, has been my absolute favorite!



Present Seymour Historical Society Board Members L to R: Mary Skinkis, Joyce Zahn, Cathy Anschutz, Karen Kuske, Mike Keyzers, Steve Skiba, Kurt Boettcher and Sue Keyzers. Unavailable when picture was taken: Bob Bock, Terry and Patti Lardinois.

Kids' Christmas at the Museum - Dec. 6th Santa Claus will be present - Bring your Camera

Sponsored by the family of "Bud" Vanden Heuvel



Celebrate Christmas at the museum between 10:00 and noon on Saturday, December 6. The first 100 children, accompanied by an adult, will receive a free gift from Santa Claus courtesy of the family of Frank "Bud" Vanden Heuvel. Bud was a Marine Corps veteran, auctioneer, livestock dealer and longtime mail carrier in Seymour. He loved children and was active in the fair and supporting school activities.

The museum will be decorated in a Christmas theme with a number of activities available for the children. They can enjoy the Christmas train, fly the 1911 aeroplane, play Burgertime, picture themselves as "Hamburger Charlie" and much more. This is a great time to tour the entire museum with the family. Admission is free!



Bud volunteering at an auction for the Cub Scouts in 1985.

Music in the Park - 2025

Members of the historical society extend a sincere "Thank you" to Seymour area merchants and others who make the music possible and provide raffle prizes. It takes many volunteers to organize and produce the summer long program. This summer the Seymour Lions Club provided much assistance with concessions, raffles and they provided free popcorn. One hundred percent of the society share is used for historical activities and sustaining the museum. John Koenigs has lined up the bands for years, Mike Keyzers as M.C. keeps the programs organized and the rest of the Board of Directors handles concessions and other tasks.

The major challenge to music this year was the weather. We had two rain outs and at one concert rain was threatening and the small audience of 55 had a close-up view of the musicians as they all moved under the gazebo. The largest audience was the final concert when Chad Przybylski and the Polka Rhythms attracted 422 people. The following people and merchants sponsored the music program. Thank them when you patronize their business.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Biese, Bill and Linda | ✓ Leisgang, Greg and Pam | ✓ Scott Marcks Trucking & Exc. |
| ✓ Community First Credit Union | ✓ Lions Club | ✓ Seymour Chiropractic, SC |
| ✓ Countryside Photography | ✓ Melchert, Gary and MaryLou | ✓ Seymour Dental |
| ✓ Diedrick's Heating and Air | ✓ Melissa Hanson, LMT | ✓ Seymour Flour Mill |
| ✓ Edward Jones - Kurt Eaton | ✓ Menn Law Firm, Ltd | ✓ Seymour Lumber |
| ✓ Family Insurance Center LLC | ✓ Muehl-Boettcher, Inc | ✓ Shabock Farm B & B |
| ✓ Good Shepherd Services, LTD | ✓ Nicolet National Bank | ✓ SJK Countryside |
| ✓ Home of the Hamburger | ✓ Orion Labels, LLC | ✓ T & T Storage |
| ✓ Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club | ✓ Osborn Roofing | ✓ Trailside Tap |
| ✓ JJ's Auto Clinic - Seymour | ✓ Packerland Rental, LLC | ✓ Truymen, Haase, Zahn Insurance |
| ✓ JSA Coffee Roasting | ✓ Performance Corporation LLC | ✓ Witt Family Ford |
| ✓ Kwik Trip, Inc | ✓ Ralph's Hardwood Floors, Inc | |



Top left: Lions Club members helping out at Music in the Park, L to R - Dan Beilfuss, Carl Moeller, Steve Weyers, Jason Beilfuss and Steve Gegielski.

Top Right: Chad Przybylski and The Polka Rhythms are one of the most popular bands, usually drawing over 400 people.

Bottom: Good Shepherd Services has been a sponsor for many years.

History of Music in the Park

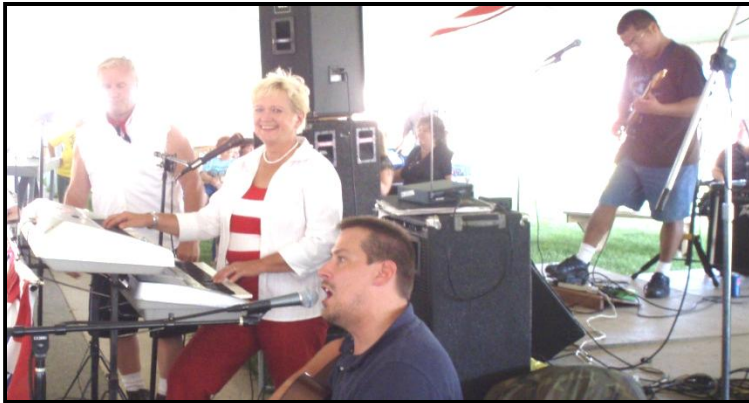
Society president for many years, Rita Gosse, had the dream of providing weekly music for the community during the summer months. In 1998, Rita along with numerous members of the historical society, launched a "Buy a Brick, Build a Brick" campaign. (For more information about this project refer to page 8 of this publication). Thanks to the generosity of many area donors \$25,000.00 was raised and the 34 feet in diameter gazebo (bandstand) was completed in May of 2000. Initially a limited schedule of musicians performed, but by 2004 fifteen Wednesday evenings were filled with music. Because of unpredictable weather in May and early June the number was eventually trimmed to twelve. With the help of local musicians John and Lynn Koenigs, a wide variety of bands now perform with crowds as large as 450. Listed below is the schedule from 2004.

Music in the Park - 2004

May 19	Seymour H.S. Jazz Band and Flute Choir	July 14	Outagamie County 4-H Co. Band and Chorus
May 26	Shawano H.S. Combo	July 21	Cliff Elertson and Country Band -Shaano
June 2	Don Dorf - Grits and Grins - Bluegrass	July 28	Starwood - Kevan Krahn and Band
June 9	Mike Ryba and the Concertina Club	Aug. 4	Duffey and Denise - Local artists
June 16	Lee Nimmer and Skip Jones	Aug. 11	KNX The Party Band - Veterans night
June 23	In the Dark - Local Seymour Musicians	Aug. 18	Dan Weyland and Loren LeBlank - Polka
June 30	Dan Gruetzmacher - from Wausau	Aug. 25	Surprise Night - Don't miss the fun
July 7	Les James - A Seymour favorite		

In 2004 because of the construction on Depot Street music was moved to the Lake Park. The sponsors were:

Don's Quality Market	Truymen Haase Insurance	American Family Insurance
Baylake Bank	Lubinski Law Office	Pierre and Sweeney Law Office
M and I Bank	Dairyman's Bank	Bank One



Three local bands that played in 2004 and continued for about 20 years. Upper left - John and Lynn Koenigs and the KNX Party Band in 2010 playing in the Burgerfest tent with an audience of 452. Upper right - Kevan Krahn and Starwood in 2005 in the gazebo. They were always a popular draw. Bottom left - Les James at the key board. For many years Les was the musician to kick off the summer concert series. His tunes were always a trip down memory lane.

This summer Sandy Heiden stopped at the museum and dropped off some of her father's high school memorabilia from 1947 to 1950. Bob Rohloff was a three sport star at Seymour playing football, basketball and baseball. In the materials, several references were made to the huge basketball rivalry with Kimberly. It was a time when the Appleton Post-Crescent included extensive coverage of area sports. The following excerpts will be of interest to sports fans.

Seymour Knocks Kimberly Out Of Little 9 Lead, 52-35

Appleton Post-Crescent Dec. 11, 1948

Seymour—Before the 1948-49 race got underway for the Little Nine conference's Eastern division basketball crown, Seymour Coach Bob Wulk said, "This is the year we've got to beat Kimberly; we've got eight lettermen back and it's now or never."

Last night Seymour bore out Wulk's hope for a title by handing the Kimberly Papermakers a stinging 52-35 defeat before a capacity crowd. Kimberly went through the last two Little Nine campaigns without suffering a loss and the year before tied for the top spot with Reedsville, the year Coach John Gable led his Reedsville crew to the state championship.

Ciesielczyk, Nowack Star

LeRoy Ciesielczyk was the Seymour hero last night with a 20-point outburst on eight baskets and four free tosses. Bill Nowack, burly 6-foot, 2-inch 240-pound center, aided with 11 points and was the mainstay of the Seymour Indians' defense, grabbing off most of the rebounds. The triumph kept the Seymour quintet tied for first place in the Western division scramble with Reedsville, each with two victories in two starts.

Seymour led all the way, taking a 12 to 7 lead at the quarter, and boosting it to a 24 to 17 bulge at the half. The Indians turned on the pressure during the third period and were leading 40 to 26, at the end of the quarter. Rusty Tiedemann was top scorer for Kimberly with 11 points and Jim Van Eyck had 8 points.

The Kimberly high school "B" team took the Indians by a 34 to 18 score.

The box score:

Kimberly—45			Seymour—52			
	FG	FT		FG	FT	
Pieweger, f	1	0	1	Ciesielczyk, f	8	4
Wahlers, f	0	1	2	Burns, f	1	0
Lemmers, c	1	1	3	Weise, f	0	0
Tiedeman, g	5	1	1	Novak, c	3	5
D V'Eyck, g	3	0	2	Rohloff, g	4	1
VrZanden, g	3	0	2	Wesenberg, g	1	3
Busch, g	0	0	0	Gilbert, f	2	3
H'oberger, g	0	0	0			
V'Eperen, g	0	0	0			
J.V'Eyck, f	4	0	5			
Sweers, f	1	0	3			
Totals	16	3	19	Totals	19	14

Stubborn Seymour '5' Bows to Kimberly in, Little 9 Thriller, 38-37

Tiedemann's 2 Gift Shots in Last 25 Seconds

Appleton Post-Crescent January 30, 1950

BY ORV WONER

Russ Tiedemann, Kimberly High school's play-making forward, stepped up to the free throw line with his team trailing Seymour High school's basketball team on a 37-36 score with 25

seconds remaining in the game and swished two free throws to net a hard-fought 38-37 victory for the undefeated Kimberly cagers on the Appleton High school court



Rohloff

Saturday night before an overflow crowd which was in an uproar during the entire game.

The triumph all but assured the Kimberly Papermakers the Eastern division championship in the Little Nine conference race. Kimberly now has copped eight games and owns a 2-game bulge on second place Seymour, which has a 6-2 record, with four games remaining on the schedule. Both of Seymour's losses were dealt out by Kimberly. The other setback also was on the Appleton High school floor in December on a 49-38 count.

Crowd Backs Seymour

Coach Bob Wolk's Seymour Indians won everything but the ball game. They captured the fancy of the huge throng right from the beginning by their fighting play. The Indians made more field goals than Kimberly but on the free throw line Seymour ran into difficulty. Kimberly slipped in 12 free throws in 21 attempts while Seymour could make only five out of 15. The Indians connected for 16 baskets to 13 for the Papermakers.

It was their inability to convert free throws that cost the Indians the game. With the score standing Seymour 37, Kimberly 36, Seymour missed three straight gift shots.

The Big One!

Seymour—37			Kimberly—38			
	FG	FT		FG	FT	
Cies'cyk, f	3	1	5	Tiedemann, f, g	3	3
Kunstman, f	3	0	1	Wahlers, f	2	1
Burns, f, g	0	0	2	Busch, f	0	1
Jensen, f	0	0	0	Lemmers, c	4	8
Rohm, c	1	0	4	D.V'Eyck, g	1	0
Werner, c	0	1	0	J.V'Eyck, g	3	0
Wic'berg, g	2	0	2			
Rohloff, g	7	3	3			
Totals	16	5	19	Totals	13	14
Score by Quarters—						
Seymour	13	7	10	7	37	
Kimberly	10	8	9	11	38	
Free Throws Missed: Seymour—11 (Ciesielczyk—4, Kunstman—3, Wickesberg—2, Jensen); Kimberly—9 (Tiedemann—2, Wahlers, Lemmers—2, D. Van Eyck, J. Van Eyck—3).						
Officials—Roy "Jumbo" Elandt (Marion) and Perry Luchsinger (River Falls)						

Kimberly Trips Seymour to Take Little Nine Leadership

Papermaker Height Decisive Factor in 49-38 Fray; More Than 2,500 See Tilt

BY ORV WONER

Kimberly High school's powerful basketball team, unbeaten in five starts prior to Saturday night's battle on the Appleton High school floor with Seymour's cagers for the Eastern division lead in the Little Nine conference, walked off with court with a hard-fought 49-38 decision in spite of losing four of five regulars on fouls during the course of the game.

More than 2,500 fans jammed into every bit of available space before the preliminary game was half over to watch the first game between

Kimberly on Top!

Seymour—38			Kimberly—49			
	FG	FT		FG	FT	
Cies'cyk, f	4	12	3	Tiedemann, f	3	3
Kunstman, f	1	0	5	Wahlers, f	2	1
Burns, f	0	0	5	Harker, f	0	0
Rohm, c	1	2	1	Masoras, f	0	0
Werner, c	0	0	1	Busch, f	1	1
Rohloff, g	2	4	3	Lemmers, c	7	0
Wic'berg, g	2	0	2	D V Eyck, g	3	2
				J V Eyck, g	3	1
				H'sberger, g	0	0
				Papaskkers, g	1	0
Totals	19	18	26	Totals	20	9
Seymour	10	8	8	12	38	
Kimberly	13	15	8	13	49	

After Seymour's victory over Kimberly the previous year the rivalry grew so intense that in order to hold the expected crowd the contest was moved to the Appleton gym. Kimberly earned sole possession of first place with a 49-38 victory in front of over 2,500 cheering fans.

The Papermakers sewed up the conference crown with a 38-37 nail biter in the return engagement.

Good Times



John and Lynn Koenigs board members and music coordinators - 2016



Music in the Park audience - 2013



Jim Campbell and Carl Kuehne at the SCHS Packer Display - 2014



Kevan Krahn entertaining Roy Puls and Don Feurig -



Selling Concessions at Music in the Park - 2015



Bill Jartz guest speaker at the annual meeting - 2019



Janice Eick with author Holly De Ruyter at the annual meeting 2017



Randy and Deb Peterson with Steve Kemp at Countryside's photography display - 2013

Donations Since April 10, 2025

Listed in the order received.

Gail Barclay	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Ann Marie Karweick	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Steve Skiba	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Ellen Duffey and Siblings	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Janice and Patsy R. Piper		In honor of George Piper	Sustainability
Colleen Weyers	Green Bay, WI	In memory of Ron Weyers	Sustainability
Harold and Thelma Tech	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Rick and Terry Johnson	Seymour, WI	IMO Richard and Joan Johnson	Sustainability
Steve and Darla Dorosz	Seymour, WI	IMO Vern Lubinski and Harold Pingel	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Bonnie Huettl	Sustainability
Richard Mullen	Seymour, WI	Mullen Estate	Sustainability
Laurene Ferge	Nichols, WI		Sustainability
Warren and Gloria Maass	Seymour, WI	IMO Debbie Court, Margaret Smet & Mary Krohlow	Sustainability
Judith Bush	Downers Grove, IL	IMO Mildred and Alvin Prelipp	Flowers
Steve Blohm	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Butch and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI	And family in memory of Carlton Hock	Sustainability
Delphine Raymakers	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
West Works, LLC	Seymour, WI	Donated cleaning and painting Charlie Statue	Sustainability
John and Becky Stellmacher	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, W	In memory of Mary Klass	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Mary Klass	Sustainability
Randy and Cassandra Skinkis	Seymour, WI	In memory of Mary Klass	Sustainability
Pamela Zak	Seymour, WI	In memory of David Zeise	Sustainability
Jeff and Mary Skinkis	Seymour, WI		Life Member
Gail Barclay	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Rick and Bonnie Buntrock	Ashwaubenon	In memory of George Binsfield	Sustainability
Diana Malcheski	Black Creek, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Jim Brill	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Shirley Melotte	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	IMO Gary Melchert - Hortonville, WI	Sustainability
Steve Skiba	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Blackbaud Giving Fund		Thrivent Dollars	Sustainability
Cathy Anschutz	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Vera Holzer	Seymour, WI		Sustainability

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ (Circle Amt.) \$10.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 Other _____

In memory of (Optional) _____

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.
Thank You for your support!

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

Website: www.seymourhistory.org

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

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

December 6, 10:00-Noon ----- Kids' Christmas Sponsored by the family of "Bud" Vanden Heuvel

* A free present for the first 100 children.

* Santa Claus will be there - Bring your camera

Christmas sale at the museum gift shop.

* Many unique items available at bargain prices.

* Seymour post cards, cutting boards, ornaments,
jewelry, water bottles, coasters, books hamburger
items and much more!