

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2026

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History Bill Collar, Editor

Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 Friday - Sunday

Spring, fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday

Closed: January, February, March and April. Open by appointment anytime.

Board of Directors

Cathy Anschutz	Terry Lardinois
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The Contents of this Issue

As a tribute to the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 50th year of the Seymour Community Historical Society this edition focuses on life in Seymour throughout the years. Of particular interest is a page devoted to activities in the museum available to visitors. The Seymour Museum is truly a

Mission Statement

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.

"Community" facility. There is something for everyone in the family including a number of historical activities for youngsters.

Historical articles by Mrs. Arthur Boyden (1951) and Eleanor Piehl (1987) provide the reader with a glimpse into past life in the city and area. Articles gleaned from the Appleton Post-Crescent and Green Bay Press-Gazette in 1926 relate the successes and challenges of Seymour residents a

century ago. This includes a startling report about a mad dog that terrorized the city and visitors to the fair. A fun activity puts you in the position of George Falck and the Seymour fire chief to determine how they responded to the fire at the hotel in 1923.

The newsletter summarizes the fun times when Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the museum and presented over 100 youngsters with a Christmas gift courtesy of the family of "Bud" and Audrey VandenHeuvel. Readers are advised to save the date on June 20th when the historical society will celebrate 50 years of serving the Seymour community. Mike Keyzers and the Music in the Park crew have firmed up the schedule for the summer concerts and other activities sponsored by the society. As usual the ***Seymour History Bulletin*** concludes with a list of our generous donors who make the society and museum possible.

Museum Opens on Memorial Day May 25

The Seymour Community Historical Society Board of Directors is pleased to announce the museum will open Memorial Day, May 25 following the veterans tribute program at the Veterans Memorial Park on Depot Street adjacent to the museum. Visit the Museum and view the slide program honoring Seymour area veterans. It will be open all summer on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00. Several special programs are planned for the summer and they are explained in this newsletter.

Dates to Remember - See Inside for Details

- * **May 25 - Museum Opens for Memorial Day**
- * **May 18 - Annual Meeting**
- * **June 10 - Music in the Park Starts**
- * **June 20 - Signs of the Times - A look back.**
- * **Aug. 26 - Last Music in the Park**

For an inexpensive family outing visit the Seymour Community Museum, Old General Store and Model Railroad Layout and Museum - all located on Depot Street.

Kids' Christmas at the Museum

Sponsored by the family of "Bud" and Audrey Vanden Heuvel

Numerous parents, grandparents and smiling children and grandchildren benefited from the generosity of the Frank "Bud" and Audrey Vanden Heuvel family and visited the Christmas at the museum display on Saturday, December 7. The first 100 children, accompanied by an adult, received a free gift courtesy of the Vanden Heuvel family. 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.

Seymour Community Historical Society board members Cathy Anschutz, Mary Skinkis, Patti Lardnois and Karen Kuske decorated the museum and displayed gifts courtesy of the Vanden Heuvel family. The children could select a gift and a cookie baked and donated by Pam Zak and Mary Skinkis.



"Thank you" to all the volunteers who helped make the Kids' Christmas a great success. Joe Schuh and Bev Moeller were excellent in their roles and even Mavor Greuel welcomed them to Sevmour.

New Exhibit at the Museum

When the museum first opened in 2012 a number of interactive exhibits were included to make your visit most memorable. The Carl Kuehne family sponsored a history of Seymour centered around the origin and growth of Kuehne Stockyards. After 14 years the activity needed updating and thanks to the generosity of Ronald and Mary Schuster, the exhibit has been revised and improved in honor of former Seymour residents Ernest and Cecelia Schuster.

The animated and colorful program includes a total of 20 questions relating to Seymour history. Five questions are randomly selected and the participant has the opportunity to answer. At the conclusion a percentage score is displayed. The player may then stop or continue with the next series of five questions. Five sample questions are included below. The answers are on page 17.

1. In 1884 rich farm land near Appleton was available at a reasonable price. Robert Kuehne had just turned 19 and his father encouraged him to take up farming. Robert had other ideas and chose to invest in which of the following?



- A. Cattle
- B. The automobile
- C. A sawmill
- D. A grocery store

2. After purchasing cattle from a local farmer, Robert shipped them by train to the largest meatpacking city in the Midwest. Which city was known for its large stockyards in the late 1800's?

- A. Green Bay
- B. St. Louis
- C. Chicago
- D. Minneapolis



3. After a successful sale in Chicago, Robert's brother Ewald joined him in business and they began buying cattle from farmers around Seymour and what other two settlements near Seymour?



- A. New London and Waupaca
- B. Black Creek and Shiocton
- C. Shawano and Marinette
- D. Freedom and Oshkosh

4. During the second Tuesday of the month Seymour hosted Stock Fair Day. The population of the city practically doubled during this popular event. Where was the "Stock fair" held?

- A. On Main Street, in the heart of downtown
- B. On Depot Street by the Railroad Depot
- C. On Morrow Street toward Kuehne's
- D. At the fairgrounds



5. By 1900 up to six trains a day were passing through Seymour. Which railroad carried passengers and shipped cattle from Seymour?

- A. The Green Bay and Western
- B. The Burlington
- C. The Great Northern
- D. The Southern Pacific



Interactive Exhibits at the Museum

Original Burgertime

Take a trip back to the 1970's before video games and play the original Burgertime arcade game. No cost is involved since plenty quarters are available at the welcome desk. Parents, show your children how to operate the joy stick. Ask at the desk for a token to play.



Fly the Aeroplane

In 1911 a traveling pilot brought his Aeroplane to Seymour and performed in front of the grandstand. This activity challenges the player to take off with the 1911 bi-plane and fly through 10 circles. Fun for kids of all ages! Challenge others to play.



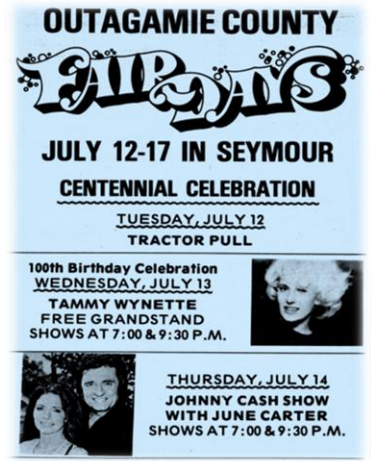
Picture Yourself as Hamburger Charlie

A life-sized realistic statue of Hamburger Charlie stands before you except that his face is blank. Working with a partner you can align your facial image with Charlie's and push the button to take your picture. Great fun!



Entertainment at the Fair over the Years

Johnny Cash, George Jones, The Beach Boys, Cheap Trick and numerous other big name performers have graced the stage at the Outagamie County Fair. You can check out every year and listen to a brief recording of the singer.



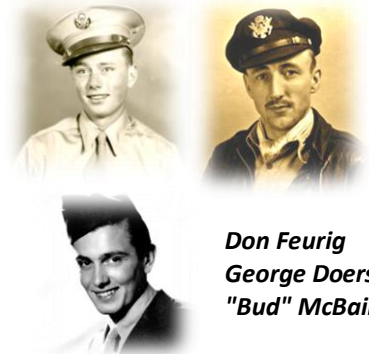
Seymour Businesses and Fun Recollections

Discover little known facts about business changes and listen to the recollections of long time residents. Find out that German prisoners worked on local farms during WWII and many more unusual events in area history.



Interviews with Veterans of WWII

Do you realize that a local soldier was one of the first to visit Hitler's bunker or that a Seymour resident was in the O.S.S. , a forerunner of the C.I.A.? Listen to an Ace Seymour graduate tell of his exploits flying a fighter plane.



Don Feurig
George Doersch
"Bud" McBain

Burgerfest History

How did Burgerfest get started and what were some of the highlights over the years? These questions and many more are answered by viewing a number of brief historical videos. Learn about Larry the Cable Guy's visit and the making of the world's largest hamburger.



Yearbooks and Sports

This fascinating exhibit enables the visitor to access Seymour H.S. winning sports teams, yearbooks and highlights from the careers of state championship coaches from 1922 to 2020. It also includes summaries of the careers of many of Seymour's most decorated athletes.



For a fun, educational and inexpensive family activity visit the Seymour Museum.

In 1987 the Voyageur magazine asked for information regarding the origin if the various historical societies in northeastern Wisconsin, Eleanor Piehl, the secretary of the organization submitted the following article. It conveys much information about the history of Seymour and early years of the SCHS.



Eleanor Piehl

Our depot-museum was organized in 1976, a local expression of the 1976 patriotic fervor countrywide. Tom Duffey, publisher of the Seymour paper, ***The Times-Press***, published an invitation for a meeting of individuals interested in organizing a local historical society. Those attending formed the nucleus of the Seymour Historical Society. Although we have since affiliated with the state organization, we do not have close ties to the Outagamie Historical Society.

The local Green Bay and Western depot was made available through the generosity and interest of Weldon McGee, then head of a local museum. Area citizens quickly responded to the idea of a local museum. In a very short time, we had examples of early streetlights, used millstones, spinning wheels, oak filling cabinets, used bank chairs and counters, church pews, back issues of local papers and quite a bit more. We were ready to open. Carpentry, painting, gardening being accomplished by historical society members.

A large group of early photographs was of prime interest. About a dozen of those depicting early scenes and pioneer residents were reproduced and enlarged. They now form a cornice between wall and ceiling in the main museum room. In the ten-year span of its existence the Seymour Museum has come to reflect the life and times of early Seymour, a rural center of trade and emigrant settlement of the 1870s to the 1940s. Enhanced by the building of the Green Bay and Western Railroad, separated from the city of Green Bay by the Oneida reservation lands, but augmented by the northern push of settlement from southern Wisconsin, Seymour flourished for a period of about seventy years, as trading center, a supply depot, a social and church area of reference.



Frank Piehl was one of many citizens who pitched in to convert the depot to the first museum.



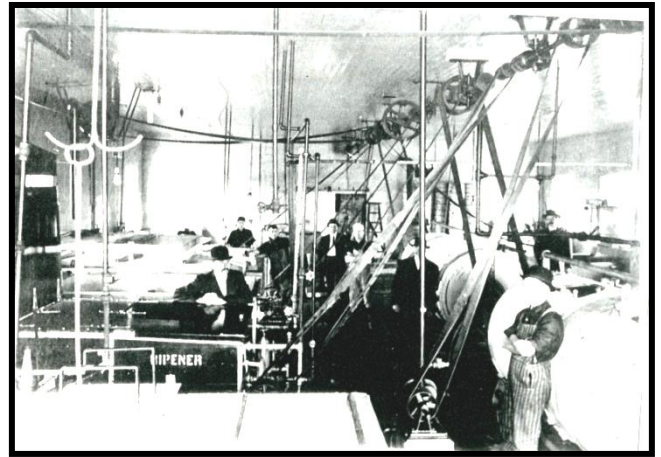
Seymour even had a cigar factory

The railroad brought in visiting salesmen who hustled with their black valises to the Hotel Seymour, where, on long tables before a ceiling-high, room-wide mirror in an upstairs foyer, they showed their latest styles to proprietors of local department stores or specialty shops. On a Monday on Morrow Street, a rural livestock sale took place with such regularity that farmers and area residents knew it could be a weekly socializing and marketing trip as well as cattle sales. Kuehne Brothers had a nationally respected sale of cabbage emanating from these lively Monday Morrow Street sales.

Pioneer residents described Seymour as being an almost completely independent community. Consider these early establishments: a cigar making shop, a carriage making shop, a spoke and hub factory, two lumber yards, a large grain elevator, thirteen saloons (an estimate), two blacksmith shops, a photography salon, two cheese shipping warehouses, a monument plant, charcoal kilns, numerous boarding houses, hardware and department stores, a hat shop, a foundry, a brewery, a

steam-powered electric plant, a three story grade and high school, a county fairgrounds, Catholic, Congregational, Methodist, Lutheran, and Evangelical churches.

This is the story that family historians wanted to tell with the establishment of the Seymour Museum. They could remember the caravans of horse-drawn lumber wagons carrying timber and shingles for the barns being built in the Black Creek, Hofa Park, Angelica-Pulaski area. They remembered the old Seymour Theater where they spent every Friday night, or the gala events staged in the Seymour hotels. They still talk about Phinney Graham's boarding house, or the dangers of a young boy hanging around a dark blacksmith shop.



Dangerous working conditions in a cheese factory.

The interest and enthusiasm continued with the museum for the beginning years. Some financial support was provided by the city government, with most of the maintenance work volunteered by Seymour Historical Society Board members. In the last six years museum board members have attempted to sustain interest with shows and exhibits. These shows have included a quilt exhibit, a doll show, a local



Cathrine Hittner and her international fan display with SCHS president Rita Gosse in 1986.

arts and crafts show, and an 1890 Kitchen show. Last summer (1986) we focused on individual collections: Catherine Hittner's fan collection, a model animal collection, and a wood carving exhibit from the work of Marvin Dalke. Individuals in the community are beginning to approach the museum board members with offers of collections for exhibit. Thus, for 1987, we have a porcelain bird show slated, a bonsai collection, as well a reshewing of Centennial Parade slides for Sunday openings.

A former museum president, Bill Collar, high school football coach and history teacher, put together about 100 slides for his junior history classes and summer museum showing. A unit for grade school teaching was developed by Frances Gerber in summer in-service sessions. Our local library carries a vertical file reference where copies of area source materials can be found year around and utilized by genealogical scholars and students.

Last summer a local genealogist and office worker volunteered to photocopy all records, old newspapers, single copy photographs, all materials needing some kind of organization and filing. With that done, we feel we are pretty well organized for 1987. Our great need today is space. The interest is certainly here.

During the summer month, Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are open from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sundays. No charge of admission is asked, but contributions are accepted. Each year we have area groups wishing to see what we have and how we are organized. Such groups are always welcome, whether on Sunday, or by appointment with Seymour Board members. Those serving on the Seymour Museum Board are as follows: Rita Gosse, President; Gladys Stern; Eleanor Piehl; Maynard and Edna Sherman; Lois Dalke and Bill Collar.

Sincerely, Eleanor Piehl, Secretary (1987)

Seymour Education in 1926

One hundred years ago, in February of 1926, a meeting was held to discuss building an addition to the school that was completed in 1904. Once considered the pride of the city, the impressive building lacked a suitable gymnasium and sufficient classrooms. During the years of growth the high school enrollment increased from twelve in 1904 to twenty-six in 1926. Including the grade school students from the city, who utilized the same building, crowded conditions prevailed. Eventually the addition was approved and by 1936 Seymour had one of the finest gymnasiums in the area.



The High School and grade school that was consumed by fire in 1903. The building was completely destroyed including contents valued at over \$12,000.



The new high school and grade school was completed in 1904 at a cost of \$25,000. A renovation and addition was completed in 1936.



F. W. Axley (Professor Axley) was the principal of Seymour High School from 1899 to 1930. He was highly respected and instrumental in the growth of the school. Retiring at sixty-one, for the next 32 years, he was noted for his agricultural prowess and service to the community. Professor Axley was a clerk on the school board for 18 years, chairman of the Seymour Library Board, a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, and for many years secretary of the Farmers' Equity Co-op.

Seymour High School Graduates 1926

Lewis Becker, At home, Seymour, Wis.
Myrtle Damman, At home, Seymour, Wis.
Beatrice Deering, Normal student, Milwaukee, Wis.
Harvey Dunst, At home, Seymour, Wis.
Alice Freiman, Normal student, Stevens Point, Wis.
Walter Glaeser, Employed in fruit orchard, Yakima, Wash.
Emma Gosse, Training School student, Kaukauna, Wis.
Viola Herning, Business College student, Green Bay, Wis.
Dorothy Hill, Business College student, Green Bay, Wis.
Selma Husman, Business College student, Green Bay, Wis.
Elaine Huettl, At home, Seymour, Wis.
Robert Jackson, U. of W. student, Madison, Wis.
Lillian Karrow, Stenographer, Marinette, Wis.

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The following Seymour articles from the 1926 Appleton Post-Crescent provide the reader with a glimpse of what life was like 100 years ago. The fair continued to be a big event, population growth necessitated school enlargement, electricity was coming to some area farms and wolves were causing problems in the area. A mad dog on the loose was of concern and the county board voted to support the Seymour fair with a \$5,000.00 stipend. In 1926 Hortonville and Seymour were competing to be named the official "Outagamie County Fair."

SEYMOUR FAIR SOCIETY PICKS ITS OFFICERS

Association Had Successful Financial Year

Plans Four-day Fair

Post-Crescent Jan. 12, 1926

Special to the Post-Crescent. Seymour-Seymour Fair and annual meeting on Monday evening at the city hall. Officers elected were President, F.W. Huth; Vice President, F.A. Shepherd; secretary, George H. Fielder; treasurer, L.H. Waite; trustees, William Piehl, William Beck, C.J. Jackson, George Falck, George Eisenrich. The annual report showed receipts of the past year to be \$21,396.56, of which \$5,371.37 was gate receipts, \$2,260.25 grandstand receipts, \$1,270.12 exhibits, \$1,633.10 space privilege and speed. Premiums paid totaled \$4,662.55, attractions cost \$4,317.37, race purses totaled \$2,476.50, leaving a balance of \$76.40.

Seymour Creamery company is installing a new Pfandler Pasteurizer, glass lined and with capacity of 1,000 gallons. Plans are being made to ship milk to Chicago. George Fielder, F.H. Huth, Dr. G. D. Libby and H. P. Muehl attended the Wisconsin



Seymour Fair - 1926

Fair Association convention at Marshfield Tuesday.

Booking of fair attractions was done at this meeting.

Appleton and Shawano buses did not show up Tuesday. Slippery roads were supposed to be the cause. C.J. Jenkins is confined to his home by illness. Herman Zibell is on the sick list. Raymond Melchert has gone to Watersmeet, Mich. to work. Mrs. S.G. McCord is at Wauwatosa visiting her daughter and receiving medical aid. Miss Flossie Holath who is training for a nurse at Oshkosh, spent New Years Day at home with Mr. and Mrs. A. Holath, and has returned to Oshkosh. George Bubolz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bubolz, returned to Columbus, Ohio, on Monday where he is attending school. Misses Gertrude and Anna Bubolz have returned to the university at Madison after spending vacation at home with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Buboltz.

Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Kellogg have gone to New York for a month to look after Indian land claims. Leland Forest, of Eau Claire, is employed as new assistant in Seymour high school. He is a musician and will have charge of music in school. Elmer Spaude is laid up with a broken arm caused when cranking an automobile.

SEYMOUR VOTES ON ENLARGING SCHOOL FEB. 23

Basketball and Bowling Teams Victorious

Wolf shot at Isaar

Special to **Post-Crescent** Feb. 15, 1926

Seymour Parent-Teachers Association will hold a box social at Dean Hall, Feb. 22, celebrating Washington's birthday. A special school meeting has been set for Tuesday evening, Feb. 23 to consider the reconstruction of Seymour school building to give necessary room for schoolwork.

A.L. Thompson shot a wolf Monday east of Isaar. He will receive a bounty of \$30. Wednesday, they tracked one all day. Farmers here about have lost a good many turkeys and other fowl by wolves this year. Miss Grace Blanshan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Blanshan, is ill with scarlet fever.

The bowling match which was to be held at Seymour Wednesday night between Seymour Creamery and Madler's Insurance Peddlers, of Hilbert, had to be postponed on account of poor roads. Seymour Creamery won at Hilbert Feb. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Dean announce the marriage of their daughter Bonita Grace to Matthew J. Wirth of Milwaukee.

The basketball game Tuesday night between Seymour Creamery team and Columbus Dodgers, Green Bay, at Seymour auditorium, was won by Seymour 22 to 16. The preliminary between the Methodist team and an Appleton team ended 18 to 12 in favor of the Methodists. On Feb. 25 both Seymour teams will play Appleton teams.

Mrs. Jennie Burgoyne will go to Chicago Monday on a business trip. Joseph Kushawa who resides with his son Jacob, suffered a paralytic stroke Tuesday night and is unable to talk. The Lincoln supper just served by the men of the Methodist church Tuesday night was largely attended. E. C. Smith and family of Appleton attended the supper. One year ago, Mr. Smith was chef on a like occasion. Leonard Leisgang, Route 2, has returned from a Green Bay hospital where he submitted to an operation. Alma Hill returned from Bellin Memorial Hospital, Green Bay, Wednesday. She is recovering from an operation for appendicitis.

TRACTION CO. EXTENDS LINE NEAR SEYMOUR

Post-Crescent May 14, 1926

Traction, Light, Heat and Power company of Appleton is extending its power line one mile east of highway 54. Four farms will be supplied with light and Power, Claude Schaumberg, Gerry

Schaumberg, Robert Kuehne and John Blohm. The Seymour Rendering works also will be supplied. A large crew of men is at work, and more lines are being added to the poles running south of the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard McMonogal and Mrs. Fred Butler of Kelley Lake spent Sunday with Otto Schuster and family, Green Bay. The Junior prom of the Seymour high school was held Friday night. It was a grand success and the auditorium was crowded. The Senior class play will be presented Thursday night, May 13, at the city auditorium. Mrs. C.H. Benedict, who has been at Bellin Memorial Hospital two weeks, is recovering from her operation and expects to be home soon. Ralph Tubbs, who has been ill several weeks, left the hospital Monday, returning to his home in Green Bay, Route 1. He will be laid up four weeks longer.

Seymour Stock Fair was larger than usual. Monday several buyers from Whitewater and other cities in southern part of state were here buying



Seymour Stock Fair on Morrow Street

small pigs. Seymour banks are closed Saturday afternoons during the summer months. Ed Severson is remodeling his residence opposite the fair grounds. Leonard Brugger is substituting for Herman Husman, mail carrier on Route 5.

H.A. Ullenbrauch, who has been a partner in the barber shop with Earl Frazer, sold his interest to Mr. Frazer, possession to be taken June 1. Mr. and Mrs. Ullenbranch intend to move to Oregon, July 1.

The new Standard Oil station is ready for the roof; the other work having been completed. The high school will hold a track and field meet at the fairgrounds, Friday May 14 at 1:30pm. Seymour, Hortonville, Pulaski, and Gillett schools will complete.



The new Standard Station on South Main St.

2,000 FEET OF CONCRETE TO BE LAID ON MAIN STREET

Post-Crescent July 15,1926

Construction work is progressing on North Main St. It is expected that concrete will be poured Tuesday. Two thousand feet of concrete will be laid extending the street to the fair grounds and giving Seymour a mile and a half of pavement leaving but a short space which has been graveled between the five miles of concrete on highway 55.

FOUR PERSONS BITTEN BY MAD DOG AT SEYMOUR

Wild Canine Chases Through Crowd at Fair.

Post-Crescent August 26,1926

Micheal Trauffer, 226 N. Morrison St. and three other persons were bitten by a mad dog which ran through the streets of Seymour and the fair grounds early Wednesday evening during the fair. Others bitten were Earl Fenn, Navarino, a child named Rose from Rose Lawn, a Tremel boy of Isaac and a man named Armitage of Nichols. All of the sufferers are receiving a modification of the Pasteur treatment for the prevention of hydrophobia which is being administered by a Seymour physician.

All of Seymour was distressed by the rabid animal. As the word spread attendance at the fair rapidly declined.

The dog roamed about the Fair grounds and streets from 7 o'clock until it was shot about 9:30 in the evening. Other persons in the crowd had their clothing torn by the canine and some were thought to have received slight wounds. The dog raced through the crowd from the Standard Oil Co. station to the Fairgrounds and made a circle of the grounds returning to the station and repeating the route several times before the danger was discovered.

Motorcycle officers gave chase on their machines and when this plan failed volunteers with shotguns were placed along the walks. The chase and the armed men almost caused a riot in the crowd which did not understand what was going on, William Jansen, Seymour, shot the dog.

Although a few cases of rabies have been discovered among dogs of towns of Freedom, Osborn, and Oneida, there was not certainty that the Seymour dog was infected until a positive report was received from State Hygenic Laboratory, Madison.

SUPERVISORS VOTE \$7,500 TO FAIRS AFTER FIGHT

Seymour and Hortonville Expositions Get Substantial Assistance

Post-Crescent November 26,1926

Sharp debate preceded appropriations totaling 7,500 to the Seymour and Hortonville fairs and to the Fox River Valley Poultry and Pet Stock association at the meeting of the county board Monday afternoon. Supervisor Malachi Ryan, village of Combined Locks, informally proposed that an appropriation for the Seymour fair be cut from \$5,000 to \$3,500. Anton Janson, Little Chute, had moved for adoption of the original resolution and William Beck, Seymour, rushed to the defense of the fair.

Granted the floor by Chairman Mike Mack the Seymour representative explained that the purpose

of fair association is to promote the interests of individual counties. Mr. Beck pointed out that Wisconsin counties donate from \$300 to \$10,000 annually for their expositions. He quoted statistics to show that Outagamie-co appropriations in 1926 were \$8,500 and defied the supervisors to show cause why the activities of the Seymour fair should be curtailed.

"The average cost to each town of the county for fair purposes is less than \$100 a year, less to the individual fairer than would the expenses of sending his son or daughter into town to a motion picture show." Mr. Beck said. "Seymour's fair compares favorably with any within a radius of 75 miles. Are you men going to build an organization up to a high standard and then knock the 'pins' from under it?"

"From a standpoint of saving in taxes," Mr. Beck declared, "you could eliminate the county nurse, the county agent and the fairs and the county superintendent of schools, the only suggestions at two meetings held recently by the finance committee which sought opinions on how taxes might be reduced, and the total savings to the county would be less than \$25,000 - an infinitesimal amount when spread over the entire tax roll."

Let's start to protect our taxes in the one way that might mean a real reduction - retain some of the money here that the state now takes away." The amendment to reduce the amount of appropriation lost 36 to 5. The resolution for \$5,000 carried almost unanimously.

Flora Boyden, a long time Seymour resident and historian, authored many articles about the history of Seymour. During the 1950's she was a correspondent to the Appleton Post-Crescent. On December 28, 1951 she submitted the following article to the paper summarizing the major events in Seymour during the course of the year.

SEYMOUR- Seymour has had an active year. Many people wonder what activities there are in a little town and how people keep busy. In making a resume of the doings of the various organizations, the churches, the clubs, and the people, it is notable how so much can be crowded into a year.

JANUARY

To begin with, January is a busy month. There's inventory for the merchants, it's tax time, and everyone is busy thinking what they will do, to make a success of 1952. *The thermometer dropped to 32 below zero on Jan. 30, 1951.* The Boy Scouts had their big pancake supper and the Women's Club was busy getting its scrap book ready for national competition.

FEBRUARY

In February, the Boy Scouts held their annual bean feed, the churches celebrated World Day of Prayer and the annual Masonic party for the ladies was held at the Evangelical church with the Rev.



A popular activity at the Gardner Dam Scout Camp is handicraft work. Troop 17 of Seymour is well represented with - seated left to right, Jim Droeger, Bob Coonen, Dave Wendt and Tom Landweher. Ralph Hallada is standing in the back row.

Dascomb Forbush of Appleton as the speaker. On the last day of the month we had a snow storm accompanied by thunder and lightning.

MARCH

March wasn't kind to Seymour as Leland West of Seymour and John Adrian of Kaukauna were killed in an airplane accident just south of Shiocton, and on March 10 we had the biggest blizzard of the year.

APRIL

Elections highlighted April. The first robin was reported and the McDowell and the Chaminade choruses of Appleton entertained Seymour people sponsored by the Kiwanis club. The Daughters of Isabella club of Green Bay presented a concert for the Seymour Women's club. There were audiometer tests at the Seymour public school and on April 28 the temperature hiked to 80 degrees. There was much talk of trout fishing. A meeting was held in the high school gym at which plans were made for a new scout building to be built in Rock Ledge Park.



Planning the Scout House. L to R: Tom Landwehr, Ray Beyer, T.J. Landwehr, Joe Lotter, Earl Fenn, Art Koepp, Gale Mielke and Martin Koepp.

MAY

The Seymour High School made the front page in May with its senior class play, a graduation class of 68 and many social school functions.

JUNE

The 5th of June the Alice in Dairyland contest was held in Seymour under Kiwanis supervision, and 12 girls chosen to represent this area at the contest at Fond du Lac. Strawberries were 35 cents a quart. Dick Sachs and Dallas Goerl attended

Badger Boys state at Ripon, and Janice Peotter and Helen Reis went to the Badger Girls camp at Madison. The eighth Wisconsin school safety patrol congress was held at Wisconsin Dells and was attended by several children of the Seymour school.

JULY

The Legion sponsored the 4th of July celebration at the Fair Grounds and many family reunions were held in Seymour during the month, the largest being that of the Mullen family, with 150 in attendance. New streets were opened in Seymour and new water mains installed in the Clark Addition. At the annual school meeting, a five-member school board was elected.

AUGUST

The Seymour fair took all of the attention for August. There were 35,000 in attendance for the 5-day fair, and the grandstand income doubled for the 5-day showing. An ice revue, horse races, stock car races, 4-H exhibitions, and a Centennial historical pageant furnished the entertainment. A driver in the stock car races was badly injured and rushed to the hospital. Many 4-H boys and girls were in the spotlight with their prize entries.

SEPTEMBER

School opened in September with several new teachers. The Women's club visited the Grignon home at Kaukauna on Sept. 12 and a bad storm hit Seymour doing much damage to trees,

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shrubbery and telephone and electric wires. On September 21 the Seymour State Bank opened for business in a new building on South Main St.

OCTOBER

The annual Seymour High School homecoming was held in October with a huge bonfire, pep rally, dance and the Seymour team meeting the De Pere Red Birds. The homecoming queen was Dolores Lembcke with Judy Wurtzel, Nance Melter, and Donna Mae Muller in her court.

The local firemen held their annual dance to raise funds for the kiddies' Christmas party, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored a dance for the benefit of little Kay Seidl at which \$1,000 was collected to help the little girl on the road to health. Grover Falck, postmaster, was found dead in his home. On Oct. 2. Several Girl Scout troops were organized each with two leaders who attended a series of meetings in scouting at Appleton.



The Emmanuel Lutheran church of Seymour celebrated its 75th anniversary with 1,800 in attendance at the three services. A dinner and supper were served to all the visitors. The Seymour Women's club entertained the school teachers at a reception and the entertainment was put on by members of the Green Bay Recreation club. The

Seymour Rebekah Lodge No.21 entertained delegates at a district meeting from Iola, Clintonville, Shiocton, Manawa, New London, Waupaca, Ogdensburg and Seymour.

NOVEMBER

November blew in with much snow. The



Seymour library celebrated its 50th anniversary with open house and a tea in the library rooms. The Kiwanis club entertained the library board and honored F.W. Axley and George Droeger, who had served on the library board for many years. Miss Eleanor Tubbs, the present librarian, was presented with a corsage. The Congregational churches of Seymour and Nichols honored their pastor, the Rev. George R. McKeith on his 50th year in the Congregational ministry.

Many of the deer enthusiasts left for the north woods for the annual deer season, and many were the tales told when they returned. Nov. 24 a bad fire burned out the Sarrfe studio and home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Don Fraser. Earl Windau sold his garage and was appointed acting postmaster in place of Grover Falck, deceased.

DECEMBER

December brought us snow, thunder, lightning and rain, but also brought us Christmas and a very busy holiday season. The Future Farmers of America held their annual banquet at the Seymour High school gym, with I.O. Hembre, Madison, state education leader for soil conservation with the

University Extension Service as the speaker. About 190 attended and honor awards were given to FFA members.

Members of the surrounding school area met in December with the Seymour school board and high school faculty to talk over the crowded conditions of the Seymour school. The Catholic women of St. John's church held a Day of Recollection, at the church with a large crowd in attendance. The speaker was the Rev. Blaise Peters, O. Praem of St. Norbert's college, De Pere. A Boy Scout Court of honor was held in St. John's Hall, with many boys receiving merit badges. Dairy Plant operators in the area were entertained at a dinner at Hotel Seymour, with Ed Tierney, manager of the Badger Co-Op in Seymour in charge. The Seymour Women's Club held its annual party in the school gym with Mrs. C.J. Conseor presenting a Christmas cantata.

Schools, churches, homemakers clubs, the Garden club and all organizations held annual Christmas parties, and Santa visited the Seymour children and handed out 940 bags of candy to the little tots on one of the coldest days of the year. All



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in all, it has been a busy year for Seymourites. Besides the parties and usual club activities there have been various immunization clinics, T.B. clinics, and much work done on the new Scout building. Everyone could agree 1951 has been a busy year.

ENDS SATURDAY FEB. 3rd!

Kahnt's Big Shoe Sale

SHOP NOW AND SAVE!

Humor from 1926

Doctor: "Do you have a temperature this morning?"
Patient: "No, the nurse took it."

"A moth leads a terrible life"
"How come?"
"He has to spend the summer in a fur coat and the winter in a bathing suit."

Teacher: "Where is Berlin?"
Student: "He is in New York writing a new song hit."

In the 1950s you could purchase everything you needed right in Seymour. Six auto dealers, a department store, shoe store, etc.

Miller's JANUARY WHITE SALE

and Clearance Sale Starts Fri. Jan. 12th
Hurry! Get Your Share of these Bargains **MANY MORE ITEMS ON SALE BUT NOT LISTED**

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MILLER'S DEPT. STORE

Fire at the Falck Hotel

On Sunday morning, September 13, 1923 George Falck and his wife were sleeping in the upstairs apartment of their hotel. They were awakened by the smell of smoke. Mr. Falck traced the smell to the basement where it became more intense. He knew he had to take action. Test your firefighting acumen by completing the quiz based on the decisions made at the time. The answers are on page 17.

1. What should he do?
 - A. Continue to investigate to find the source of the smoke.
 - B. Ignore the smoke and go back to bed.
 - C. Call the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department to report the fire.
2. You are Art Wolk, the Seymour Fire Chief, you receive a fire call from the Falck Hotel at 5:15 AM, what do you do?
 - A. Drive to the hotel to personally investigate.
 - B. Go to city hall and ring the fire bell to alert the volunteer firemen.
 - C. Since the hotel is only two blocks from city hall, personally drive the fire truck to the hotel.
3. You are the Seymour Fire Chief and you arrive at the hotel with a number of volunteer firemen. Upon investigation you discover a fire burning in the basement. A draft coming from the clothes chute is feeding the fire burning in a pile of boards, bags, and rubbish. Smoke and gas make it difficult to fight the fire. What do you do?
 - A. Call the Appleton Fire Department for help. They have better equipment and trained professionals.
 - B. Flood the basement to suffocate the fire.
 - C. Continue fighting the fire without calling for assistance.
4. You are the Chief of the Appleton Fire Department. You receive a call from Seymour asking for help. The Appleton City Council has ordered you to never take the fire trucks outside the city limits. What do you do?
 - A. Follow the rules of the city council and reject Seymour's request.
 - B. Leave Appleton immediately with one truck and several men.
 - C. Drive your personal car to Seymour to help.
5. The posted speed limit is 30 MPH. Seymour is about 30 miles away. If you drive the truck at the speed limit it will take a hour or more and most likely you will be too late to save the building and the contents. What do you do?
 - A. Follow the speed limit. You don't want to put your men or others at risk.
 - B. Drive as fast as necessary to arrive as soon as possible.
 - C. Remove all extra equipment from the truck to be able to drive faster and safer.
6. You arrive in Seymour with a four men and a fully loaded truck. You averaged about 45 miles an hour. How long did the trip take?
 - A. 38 minutes
 - B. 66 minutes
 - C. 24 minutes
7. You are the Appleton Fire Chief and you meet the Seymour Chief in front of the Hotel. How does he greet you?
 - A. He wants to stay in charge, but asks for your assistance.
 - B. He explains the situation and turns the command over to you.
 - C. When the Appleton Fire Department arrived the Seymour volunteers went home.
8. The professional firefighters from Appleton took charge and they fought the fire with assistance from the Seymour volunteers. What happened?
 - A. The fire was extinguished and the building was saved.
 - B. The hotel burned to the ground.
 - C. The fire spread to other buildings destroying much of the city.
9. Even though the actions of the Appleton Chief saved the hotel and downtown Seymour, the Appleton City Council met to decide what action should be taken against the chief for taking the truck out of the city limits. What did they do?
 - A. They fired the chief for breaking the rules.
 - B. They took no action since, "It was the right thing to do,"
 - C. They replaced the chief, but allowed him to stay on the force.
10. Seymour Mayor L. H. Waite wrote a letter to the officials of the city of Appleton. What did he say?
 - A. He offered to pay for the cost of sending the truck to Seymour.
 - B. He thanked the city and offered to assist Appleton if they ever needed help.
 - C. He criticized the Appleton Department for interfering in Seymour's affairs.

Seymour Community Historical Society Lifetime Membership

As of March 2026

1. Albert, Jean
2. Anschutz, James and Cathy
3. Barclay, Gail
4. Barclay, Janet
5. Barlament, Mark
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9. Beilfuss, Dan and Ruth
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131. Reed, Randy and Ann
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206. Zahn, Mark and Renee
207. Zak, Dr. Dan and Pam
208. Zastrow, Lila

Thank you for your support and lifetime membership. If you are a member and not listed, contact Bill Collar at (bicollar@aol.com).

Answers to the quiz on page 4: 1-A, 2-C 3-B, 4-C and 5-A

Answers to the quiz on page 16: 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-B, 8-A, 9-B, and 10-B

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Listed in the order received

Beise, Linda	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
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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

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Thank you for your support!

Save the Date, June 20, 2026 for "Signs of the Times"

On June 20th the historical society is inviting you to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the organization. Nagel Park, on Depot Street, will host the celebration. A large tent will enable guests to seek shelter from the elements while enjoying music at the gazebo, food trucks, concessions, numerous historical displays and free admission to the museum and general store. Starting at noon, music will continue until 4:00.



R and R Country Band playing your favorite country hits from noon until 2:00 PM.



Puttin' on the Fritz with Toni Fritz playing and singing 2:00-4:00.

Learn more about:

- One room schools
- History of Seymour sports
- Vintage photography
- Old time funerals
- Seymour area scouting
- Military services
- Rug weaving
- Hats and fashion
- And much more

Bring the entire family. There is something for everyone. Playground equipment, chalk drawing and the model railroad exhibit will be available along with many activities in the museum and general store including free candy for the kids. Museum activities include a scavenger hunt and numerous interactive exhibits including a vintage arcade game, juke box, custom video game and many more fun activities.

MUSIC IN THE PARK 2026

- June 10 Zander's Music Makers** - Playing Polka the way it is meant to be.
- June 17 Talk of the Town** - New Orleans style jazz led by Kevin's enthusiasm and clarinet.
- June 24 Rocker, Rocker** - An area favorite. Rock and Roll with Doug on the keyboard.
- July 1 Ricky Q** -A new group **making their first appearance in Seymour.**
- July 8 Jon, Sara & Friends** -Always a fun night with Jon's quick wit and Sarah's hot fiddle.
- July 15 TNT** - The Natural Talent Polka band from Pulaski.
- July 22 Thunder Country** - If you like classic country, this is the band for you.
- July 29 The Drovers** - Playing past hits, this Stevens Point band is back by popular demand.
- August 5 New Generation** - Jeff Maroszek and his relatives bring the Polish Polka sound to Sey.
- August 12 Rockin Country** - Robin Wussow and local musicians rock the stage with popular hits.
- August 19 Tom's Tunes** - A fun group singing many of your favorite tunes.
- August 26 Chad Przybylski Polka Band** - An annual favorite with high energy and great music.

Music starts at 6:15. Bring your lawn chair or use the benches provided. Concessions available on the grounds.

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

Return Service Requested

May 18 - Annual Meeting
May 25 - Memorial Day - Museum Opens
June 10 - Music in the Park starts - 6:15

June 20 - "Signs of the Times"
Aug. 26 - Last Music in the Park

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 May

Open by request anytime

Admission:

Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual

- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00

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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.

- **Lifetime Memberships** - Only \$50.00.
- **Cash Donations** - Always appreciated.
- **In-kind Donations** - Volunteer to help with activities.
- **Estate Planning** - Include the SCHS when planning for the future.
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- **Memorials** - Donate on behalf of loved ones.
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