

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Fall and Winter 2018
Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History Bill Collar, Editor - **833-6064**

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

If museum closed: **(920) 833-6064**

Summer hours: **1:00 – 4:00 WTFSS**

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

Closed: January, February and March

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A Message from the Board of Directors

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our members informed of exhibits, activities and progress at the museum and the vital role the historical society fills in the community. Our members are our most valuable asset. We cannot play a viable role without your support. Please use the form at the end of this publication to make a donation to the society this holiday season.

Christmas Open House December 1st



Museum volunteers with Dorothy, the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow.

Be sure to visit the museum between 10:00 and 1:30 on Saturday, December 1st for the Christmas open house. This year's theme is a "***Wizard of Oz Kids' Christmas.***" It features all the characters from the story in a holiday setting. Janice Eick and her sisters Jean and Joan, have done an outstanding job decorating the museum for Christmas.

The second floor has been turned into a winter wonderland with numerous decorated trees and winter scenes. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be on hand to greet visitors and distribute holiday cheer. ***The first 100 children will receive a free gift courtesy of a generous donor.*** Consistent with the Oz theme, children have the opportunity to walk the yellow brick road, play with the Santa train and participate in making holiday crafts.

Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies add to the holiday cheer. This is an excellent opportunity to treat the children or grandchildren and tour the festive museum.

Volunteers Make it Happen

Please note that even though you may have received previous newsletters via the Internet, this printed copy includes an envelope suitable for returning a donation to help the society meet our financial obligations. The philosophy of the Board of Directors is to have a vibrant organization with numerous activities and changing exhibits. All museum workers are volunteers and 100% of your gift is used at the local level. We appreciate your assistance. All donations should be sent to PO Box 237, Seymour, WI 54167.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting



Jessica Michna as Dolley Madison

The annual meeting of the SCHS was held Saturday, May 5th in the upstairs meeting room of the museum. Nationally known actress Jessica Mincha, presented an outstanding performance portraying Dolley Madison.

She referred to Mrs. Madison as "The Lady Who Saved Washington." Charming, flamboyant and strong willed, Dolley was tested in the calamity of the War of 1812 and saved the priceless painting of President Washington when the White House was burned. Born into a Quaker family, Dolley was raised to be obedient and well behaved. Early in her life she married a man selected by her father. Dolley would soon

be strengthened by adversity. Widowed at an early age she was courted by Congressman James Madison. As First Lady, Dolley would become the Grand Dame of Washington. An audience of 57 people gave Mrs. Michna a well-deserved standing ovation.

"Thank You" to all who helped make the event a real success. Don's Quality Market provided snacks and museum volunteers baked a variety of desserts. During the business part of the meeting society members approved the budget and elected two new board members. Seymour businessman Kurt Boettcher replaced Jon Braun and former teacher Lynn Koenigs took Karen Coonen's position.

Summer Vintage Toy Show at the Museum

During the summer months the Seymour Community Museum displayed a vast collection of vintage toys. If you remember Tonka Trucks, Fisher-Price Toys, Lincoln Logs, Tinkertoys and Lionel Trains you would have enjoyed the vintage toy exhibit. The toy show was a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to bring children to the museum while experiencing personal nostalgia. The display was interactive and the children had the opportunity to play with the barn animals, build a log cabin, play a vintage game or engineer the train, all under adult guidance and supervision. Area residents donated unique toys and others came from the museum's permanent collection.



Young visitors to the museum enjoying the vintage toys and fun exhibits.

The museum board has made a commitment to offer more activities for youth. One of the more popular exhibits is the Kid's Corner sponsored by the Seymour Lions. Visitors have the opportunity to tryout a manual typewriter, play a vintage game or read from an old time book. The historical society appreciates the support of the Lion's Club.

Burgerfest 2018



Guests from Appleton posing with "Big Boy" and The "French Fry Guy."



"Burgertime," a 1982 video arcade game is a popular attraction in the museum.

Visitors to Burgerfest enjoyed warm weather, foot stomping music, a huge parade and an assortment of balloons. During the festival the museum was open from noon until 4:30. The modern, air-conditioned facility offered a welcome respite from the heat and provided an opportunity to learn more about Seymour and the history of the hamburger. A 12-minute video of Larry the Cable Guy and his visit to Seymour in 2011 is always a popular attraction. Often out of town visitors return to the museum at a later date and bring friends.



Janice Eick, Bob Bock and an unidentified assistant welcomed visitors to the store.

During the fest twelve volunteers staff the museum and adjacent 1930s general store. The store offers a walk back in time and shows what life was like in Seymour during the depression years. The former Miller-Piehl office building contains many everyday items donated by area residents. In addition it features a millinery store, banking area and a harness shop. The emphasis is on agriculture items, since Seymour has a rich agrarian history.



"Larry the Cable Guy" is ready to bite into a huge "Charlieburger" in 2011.

Thanks to our Donors and Volunteers

During the summer months several bus tours and numerous visitors from out of state stopped at the museum. Their most common comments are "Where did you get all this stuff?" and "How can a small town like Seymour afford a museum like this?" The answer to both questions is "Local people have been very generous in donating their time, money and historical items." Everything on display has roots in Seymour or the surrounding area. If you have something that you think will add to the

exhibits inquire at the museum desk. Of particular interest are objects that tell a story about the area. Anything with a "Seymour" label or has a unique history is highly valued.

Recently board member Kurt Boettcher volunteered to enhance the west exterior of the old general store. He has added wood chips and a number of new perennials. A generous donation by Toni Lubinski Boutillier added two concrete park benches and a small pagoda. The items are well-traveled. The stone benches were originally in her garden in Bayside (Milwaukee). A career move for her took them to Houston and then they went with her to Baltimore before she moved back to Shawano eight years ago. Toni and her brother Travis resided in Seymour until she was six. her father, Tony, operated the Seymour Creamery. Later he purchased a beer distributorship in Shawano.



Toni Lubinski Boutillier sitting on one of the benched she donated to the museum garden.



Travis Lubinski loaned his electric football game, hockey game, and baseball game to the toy show.

Music in the Park Remains Popular

The summer Music in the Park program concluded on Wednesday evening, August 29, with Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythms and an audience estimated at 500. The finale was at Rock Ledge Park with the city providing a corn roast and fireworks to celebrate the sesquicentennial. The color guard from Kraft-Krause-Mueller Post 106, presented the colors in honor of veterans of the military.

It was another successful summer as over 2,500 people enjoyed the eleven concerts in the park. Members of the historical society extend a sincere "Thank you" to Seymour area merchants who make the music possible and provided raffle prizes. It takes many volunteers to organize and produce the summer long program. Special thanks go to John and Lynn Koenigs who line up all the bands and provide a variety of music. The following merchants helped sponsor the music program and provided prizes for the free raffle. Be sure to thank them when you patronize their business.

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ BMO Harris Bank | ✓ Good Shepherd Services | ✓ Nicolet Bank |
| ✓ Community First Credit Union | ✓ Home of the Hamburger | ✓ Performance Pallet Corp. |
| ✓ Don's Quality Market | ✓ Hotel Seymour/Jackson Point | ✓ Ralph's Hardwood Floors |
| ✓ Edward Jones | ✓ Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club | ✓ Seymour Chiropratic |
| ✓ Family Insurance Center | ✓ J J's Auto Clinic | ✓ Seymour DQ Grill and Chill |
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The "Greatest Hits Polka Band" at Music in the Park . The Wednesday night crowd enjoying the music.

Kraft Photography Exhibit a Success

A complimentary gathering of about 70 people attended the opening night of the display of LaMont Kraft's photography. Kraft's work included many scenes from Wisconsin including the beauty of Door County and numerous spots he and his wife, Sandy, have visited. Many of the large photos were wrap around canvas requiring no frame to display. Kraft is a well known exhibitor at juried art shows in Wisconsin. The show was an opportunity to see his work in Seymour and a number of people made a purchase. Numerous cards and smaller images were also available. The historical society appreciates the donation of proceeds the Kraft's made to the museum. If you missed the exhibit Kraft's work is available on his website (naturesedgebykraft.com).



LaMont Kraft with several of his photographs.



Char Agostine and Cathy Anschutz enjoying the exhibit.



Museum volunteers served food and drinks.



Snacks and drinks courtesy of Don's Quality Market.

This fall five classes of fourth graders from Rock Ledge School took guided tours of the Seymour Community Museum. After a brief orientation emphasizing the changes that have taken place during the last 100 years on Depot Street, the classes were divided into two groups of 10 to 12 for the tour.

Students learned what life was like prior to electricity and many modern conveniences. They viewed a program about the early years and through a video met Horatio Seymour, the namesake of



Mr. Lowney's 4th grade class.

the city. When viewing the military exhibit, the students learned how residents of Seymour and the surrounding area responded to defend our freedom from the Civil War years to present times. The vintage barber shop, beauty shop, doctor's office and dentist office provided students with an idea of what life was like in Seymour prior to electricity.

The upstairs of the museum features five rooms decorated in a 1930s theme. In the kitchen an animatronic grandma explains in five messages what preparing meals was like during the depression years. The other rooms include a living room, adult bedroom, kid's bedroom and a comprehensive utility room equipped with an I-Pad explaining all the contents. It is rewarding to receive positive feedback regarding the various programs sponsored by the historical society. The fourth grade teachers have been bringing the students to the museum since its opening in 2012.

After the visit this year veteran teacher Mr. Todd Lowney sent the following letter to museum volunteers.

"Thank you so much for sharing you time with our kids and your continued devotion to education! The kids come back every year excited about the city that they live in. They love all the rich history that you magically craft in your instruction. Thank you fo igniting that spark of desire for learning. Thank you also for being behind one of the most important buildings in our community! The Seymour museum is one of Seymour's jewels."

He asked the students to send a thank you note. A few samples are printed below.

"I really had a blast at your museum this afternoon. I enjoyed the wedding display and the juke box. I hope I can come back. i loved the antique toys and the cameras. They were cool. I love your museum" Thank you, Serenity

"I had an awesome and fun time at the museum this afternoon. I really enjoyed the scout uniforms. One reason I liked it was because I'm a girl scout. The uniforms make the person look important. I also like the little doll toys, they were so pretty and tiny. All in all I loved my time at the museum." Thanks, Morgan



"I had an exciting time this afternoon. I really enjoyed becoming Hamburger Charlie. I also liked the wedding display. The hats and clothes and antique toys were cool. The rotary phone was fun to play with. I liked the antique dishes and cups the best." Thanks for so much fun. Monique

"I liked the 100 year old chairs in the theater. The bar under the chair the held people's hats was neat. I got to wear the hat. I liked the computer that had the airplane video game and I got to play it. I got to dial 911 on the rotary phone. I liked putting my face on the Hamburger Charlie Statue. I also like the funny clippers that cuts hair and the razor for shaving. Thanks, Clayton

Seymour Memory Books Still Available

The historical society has sold over 500 pictorial history books. ***Seymour, Wisconsin: 150 Years of Memories*** is still available for purchase. The 226 page hardcover book has over 500 Seymour area related photos. Books are available at the museum and Don's Quality Market for \$30.00. All proceeds benefit the Seymour Community Historical Society and museum and will be used for new exhibits and to meet operating expenses. Members of the historical society are grateful for sponsorship of the project by seven area businesses. These include:

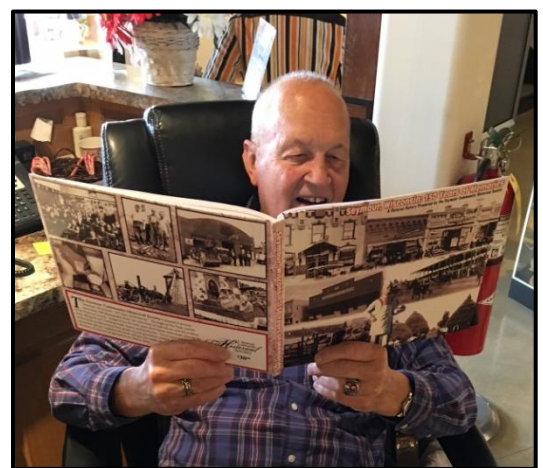
- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Don's Quality Market | Truymen-Haase-Zahn Insurance |
| Northeastern Roofing, Inc. | Hotel Seymour |
| Schuh Construction, Inc. | Performance Corporation |
| Advertiser Community News & Times Press | |

The book was organized and edited by the historical society board of directors. Most of the photos were from the society collection or donated by people interested in the project. The intent of the book is to provide a cross section of what life was like in the Seymour area during the period celebrated by the Sesquicentennial. It makes a great coffee table book with something for everyone. The historical society has received a great deal of positive feedback.

"Congratulations to the historical society on completing this project. The book is very entertaining and brings back many fond memories." Bonnie and Larry Huettl

"Thanks to the historical society for putting the book together. It is a real keepsake. We appreciate all the work that went into completing it." Ron and Pat Seidl

*"The photo book **Seymour, Wisconsin: 150 years of Memories** is absolutely terrific. Although it takes so much more work to self-publish your own photo book, this book demonstrates that the financial rewards can be just as substantial. This project not only meets the local historical*



A local history buff enjoying the book.

society's mission by sharing its historic collection with the public, it provides much needed revenue to maintain the organization's role as a vital pillar in the community."

**Richard Bernstein, Southern Region
Local History-Field Services
Office of Programs and Outreach**



Books can be ordered by mail. Use the form at the end of this newsletter.

New Exhibit at the Museum

This summer, Tom Jackson owner of the Hotel Seymour, obtained the original architectural drawings of the hotel dating back to 1898. He donated the art work to the Seymour Community Historical Society. Mike Keyzers, vice president of the society, contacted his brother in law, Ken Winius owner of the Print Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He cleaned up the originals and enlarged them to make a remarkable display showing the inner workings of the Hotel Falck, as it was known for about fifty years.

The drawings show a number of views of the exterior and a detailed description of each floor. Originally the basement contained a barber shop with an entry from Wisconsin Street. First floor featured a saloon, dining area, kitchen, billiard hall, card room, coat room, sample room, office and ladies parlor. The upper floor consisted of a parlor, sitting room and twenty-four sleeping rooms with one public "toilet room." There was also one larger room with a wash basin, toilet and tub.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the collection is a beautiful color painting of the exterior. The six foot by seven foot exhibit is on permanent display in the museum. The Museum is open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 until Christmas. Admission to the museum is free. Donations are appreciated.

More facts about the hotel that are included in the exhibit:

Hotel Falck



Completed in 1898, the Hotel Falck was described in the Industrial Review of 1900 as having "metropolitan magnificence." The review went on to say:

"The hotel is built of red brick, two stories and basement high, 50 x 100 feet. The basement contains a barbershop, public bathrooms, storage rooms, heating apparatus, laundry, etc. The first floor is devoted to the office, parlor, dining room, kitchen, lavatory, bar room, sample rooms and servants' quarters.

The second floor contains some thirty sleeping rooms, all richly furnished. The house is finished in maple and southern pine. Water and light are furnished from private plants, and the entire house is steam heated. The table accords with the superior air that pervades the entire hotel.

It is first-class and the service is prompt and attentive."

George Falck



George Falck, who came to Seymour in 1881, was the first owner of the building. An enterprising man, Falck operated the hotel for over thirty years. He was succeeded by his son, Grover, who ran the hotel until the late 1940s.

Mr. Falck was postmaster in Seymour four years. He was on the common council two years and served the city four consecutive years as mayor. For sixteen years he was foreman of the volunteer fire department. He acted as secretary of the Odd Fellows Lodge for 26 years, was trustee of the fair association since its origin, and was a stockholder and director of the State Bank of Seymour.

A Gathering Place

Throughout its history the hotel has continued to be a major gathering place for the community and a purveyor of fine food and drink. In the late 1940s the Falck family sold it to Dr. L.H. Sieb and Leonard Nelson. During this time the facility was referred to as "Hotel Nelson".

The hotel was managed by Mr. Nelson until the 1951 purchase by Dr. Vernon Hittner. His improvement program included a revamping of the whole kitchen before he sold it to a corporation of non-local men.

Other significant owners of the hotel include Claude and Doris Peotter, Dale "Corky" and Patti Dethardt, and Tom Jackson.



Ken Winus owner of the Print Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin cleaned, enlarged and installed the Hotel Falck exhibit. The display is located in the northeast stairwell area of the museum. Thanks to Tom Jackson for the donation of the original drawings.

History of the Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club

Celebrating 50 years 1968-1969 thru 2018-2019

by Jill Hodkiewicz

(Condensed) The complete article is available at (seymourhistory.org)

The early history is based on an interview on July 19th, 2016 with Gene & Shirley Kropp, Don Melotte and Gene and Jacqui Westerman.

In the winter of 1968-69, a few friends who were enjoying the beginnings of snowmobiling in the area talked about starting a club. Gene and Shirley Kropp, Don and Joyce Melotte, Gene and Jacqui Westerman, and Carl and Joan Wagner, got together one night in the local tavern in Isaar. They were getting tired of riding in the ditches, the railroad tracks (which was not so legal) and across the fields of a few friends. They wanted to get permission to ride on farmers land.

At the first meeting in Isaar they decided that Gene Kropp would be their president. Don Melotte would serve as vice-president and Joyce Melotte would be secretary and treasurer. Each couple threw in \$5.00 dues to start. They would contribute more as needed. The newly formed club needed a name and Joyce Melotte suggested the Isaar Trail Riders. It was accepted



as a name they all liked. Joyce Melotte also the came up with the first patch. It was red with white stitches showing four snowflakes surrounding a profile of a snowmobile. It simply said ISAAR TRAIL-RIDERS. Seven couples were members the first year.

Earliest members of the Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club also included Ted and Lillian Van De Yacht, Seifred and Betty Peters, and Milton and Rose Peters. Seifred and Milton Peters were brothers who started a Sno-Prince dealership. They sold snowmobiles from 1966-1968. Seifred Peters Jr. also participated in the Seymour Snowmobile Race held in 1970.

It was decided that they wanted their first trail to go west from Isaar to a small tavern called Koeppel's. They approached farmers who

owned land along the way. Most farmers were agreeable to the idea but there were some who were strongly opposed. They feared crop damage and others didn't care for the idea of strangers riding across their land.

Soon the first trail for the Isaar Club was in place. Trail signs, to designate it as a snowmobile trail, were arrows painted on boards. Gene Kropp is credited with cutting snowmobile shaped signs out of tin to tack on trees and fence posts. After the first trail was established, the club decided their next trail would go east toward Highway 29 to Green Bay and Duck Creek.

Some trails went through wooded areas and needed to be brushed out. Fred Van Vonderon pulled the first "grooming" equipment. It was a old bedspring pulled by his Evinrude. Fred's snowmobile had reverse but was considered quite heavy at around 500 pounds.

President Gene Kropp's first snowmobile was a 1967 Olympique Ski-Doo purchased at Le Mieux in Green Bay for around \$800.00. Gene Westerman's first snowmobile was a 1969 Herter



Gene Westerman in the early 1970s.

purchased at the Kuensh Garage in Kuensh for around \$650 or \$700. Don Melotte's first snowmobile was a late 1960's Sno-Jet purchased at Dolittle Sports in Kaukauna for around \$750. Couples usually rode together on the same snowmobile. Shirley Kropp was the first woman in the Isaar Club to ride her own snowmobile.

In the next few winters, more people became interested in joining the Isaar club.

Gene & Shirley Kropp held cookouts in their garage and invited people from as far as Green Bay. Other club events soon followed. One of the earliest events was a moonlight ride. Members took tin cans mounted on poles. They



Martin Vande Corput (left) and Leo Roskom ready to ride on their 1970 Arctic Cat 303 Wankels.

then placed rolls of toilet paper soaked with diesel fuel in the cans, lit them, and carried these on their snowmobiles for light. They organized parties in the woods with large bonfires.

The club's members started riding on some Friday nights to Colonial Lanes in Freedom or to Cable Hogue near Pulaski for a fish fry. Isaar snowmobilers also trailered to informal rides up north including the Anitgo, Elcho and Summit Lake areas and also the Navarino wildlife area. One of the first marked trails up north was the 100-Miler out of Lakewood, Wabeno or Crandon. If you rode the 100 miles of the trail, you earned a patch

The Outagamie County Snowmobile Alliance formed in 1974 and contacted the Isaar



Young riders Jodi and Julie Kropp in 1973.

club to come to meetings held at the Outagamie County Conservation Club. The club was asked to join but members were hesitant at first because they were unsure if they would then have others telling them how to run things. Worries were also expressed about snowmobilers coming into the area that were complete strangers with no interest in the local area

The Isaar Trailriders finally did join the OCSA. The Outagamie County Snowmobile Alliance belonged to the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. The AWSC had been formed in 1969.

In the late 1970's Gene Kropp retired as club president. By then the Isaar Trailriders had added more miles of trails, up to 13.1 miles.

Gary Kropp took over the position of club president next. He attended meetings of the



Carl Wagner (left) helping get Norb Hackl's 1974 Raider 44TT out of deep snow.

Outagamie County Snowmobile Alliance and would report back to the club about what was going on with snowmobiling in the county and state. Somewhere around the fall of 1983, the Isaar club decided to hire Al Schampers of Al-Kay Farms to groom the trails. He continued to groom the trails until the winter of 1990-91. The Isaar Trailriders then asked the nearby Dairyland Snowmobile Club if they would be interested in taking over the grooming of the trails. They agreed and continued to do so until the end of the 2013-14 season.

All persons who were at least 12 years of age and were born on or after January 1, 1985 were (and still are) required to take a Wisconsin approved Snowmobile Safety Course and obtain a snowmobile certificate to ride on public lands. Soon after this law was passed, the ITR sent

men and women to become certified teachers of these courses. Among them were Don Kropp, Paul Wenninger, Kurt Schuh, Jake Hodkiewicz, Steve Melchert, Patti Eisenreich, Katie Grassel, Tim Schroeder and Melissa Blom. These people and others have graciously taught many snowmobile classes over the years and they continue to do so.

The next club president was Paul Wenninger who served from 1988-1995. Paul kept things running smoothly despite some years with little snow. He attended the Outagamie County Snowmobile Alliance monthly. Many of these years President Paul didn't even own a snowmobile. In 1995 Steve Melchert was elected president. Steve attended the monthly meetings of the OCSA and kept the club informed about these meetings. Steve went to the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs fall convention for many years to report the happenings from across the state. He served as the Isaar club president until the fall of 2010.



L. to R. Derek Mueller, Jill Hodkiewicz, Tim Schroeder and Jake Hodkiewicz brushing trails with the Florence Co. Snowmobile Club.

In 2002 the Isaar Trailriders began a website that was first started by secretary Scott Seidl. Katie Grassel maintained the website until 2016 when the Isaar Club switched mainly to a Facebook page.

In 2003-2009 the club joined forces with the Florence County Snowmobile Club for their annual fall work bee to help them clear their trails by removing trees, limbs and other debris from the trail. The Isaar Club also checked that the snowmobile signs were all in good repair and still in place.

After the work was finished club members were treated to a cook out and potluck supper hosted by the Florence Club and the Lake Hilbert Campground. The campground generously donated campsites to Isaar members who wished to stay for the night.

In 2007 Cory Mueller wrote a winning essay "What Snowmobiling Means to Me" that won him an AWSC scholarship. He is the son of present members Todd and Rhonda Mueller. Cory is also the grandson of past members Jerry and Roseanne Mueller and the great grandson of founding members Marvin and Grace Mueller.

Alzada Roffers made the club proud when she started the Isaar Trailriders Junior Club in 2008. The youth club has had many events. They took baskets to the Good Shepard Nursing Home, participated in the Nichols and Freedom Christmas parades and in 2011 won an award for the best float with the theme, "In the Eyes of a Child." The youth also had a float in the "The World's Largest Hamburger Parade."



Alzada Roffers and her mother Janet.

Alzada ran for the title of Miss Snowflake from 2008 to 2012. In 2009 and 2010 she placed as second runner up and was awarded the title of "Miss Sparkle." In 2011, Alzada was first runner up for Miss Snowflake. Alzada (or Zadie" as her friends call her) is the daughter of Cyril and Janet Roffers and also the granddaughter of Seifred and Betty Peters.

Alzada was instrumental in starting a junior club for Outagamie County. The junior club hosted booyah on the trail to raise money for the Brain Tumor Coalition. They had another booyah sale on the trail for the Old Glory Honor Flight. They raised money to send two veterans to Washington D.C.. They again were able to

have booyah on the trail and send money to the March of Dimes.

2008 was an important year for snowmobilers who lived in the Seymour city limits. The Seymour City Council approved An ordinance to allow city residents to ride from their homes to the nearest snowmobile trail.

On a Saturday in February of 2008, the snowmobile club tried something that they had never done before. They had a hot dog cook out on the trail. It was held near a small cabin on some land owned by members Jake and Jill Hodkiewicz. They hosted snowmobilers from Kaukauna, Suamico, Green Bay, Appleton, Depere, Oneida, Mill Center, Howard, and Little Chute. Over 100 snowmobilers stopped.

In the fall of 2010, the club experienced new leadership with President, Tim Schroeder. He brought new ideas and added to the events the Isaar Trailriders participated in during the summer. Tim is president to this day.

In the winter of 2010-2011 a group of eight Isaar Tailriders women snowmobilers decided to participate in a cause called the Pink Ribbon Riders. The Pink Ribbon Riders are a



passionate all- volunteer organization dedicated to raising money through motor sports related events. The money collected is used to buy gift cards that allow people diagnosed with breast cancer to keep up with their bills, buy groceries and to help ease their lives. The Isaar Trailriders Club decided to support this cause by sending eight women along with a generous donation to the Pink Ribbon Riders. The women were ready to ride but the snow conditions at the time in Eagle River did not allow for that so the women went by car

The Isaar Trailriders are a civic-minded group. In the spring of 2011 until the present they have helped the county by doing a ditch clean up. The ITR pitch in twice a year, usually in April and October, on Highway 55 north of Seymour from County Y to Shady Road. The

club even has a sign that reads "Adopt-A-Highway Sponsor , Isaar Trailriders Sno-mo-Club."

The Isaar Trailriders have had fundraisers ever since the club started. In the early



years until the mid 1990's the Isaar Club held dances in places like Cable Hogue and the Edgewood Supper Club. The Trailriders had bands such as Stone Broke, Star Fire and polka bands. When the dances became less profitable, because

of the higher prices of the bands and rental of halls, security guards and bartenders, the club decided to switch to a 9-pin tap bowling tournament at Wally's Seymour Bowl. Wally's runs the tournament and the club has raffles, silent auctions and games.

The 9-pin tap bowling tournament continues to be the main fundraiser of the club. In fact, on the night of April 14, 2018, when we had our fundraiser for the season, the area was hit with a huge snowstorm like most have never seen. It dropped two feet of snow and lasted into Monday. It was the second largest snowstorm in recorded history. But, the Snowmobile Club still did just fine with their fund raising that evening.

In the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 season, the Issar Trailriders Snowmobile Club donated money to help sponsor the UW-Platteville Clean Snowmobile Challenge Team. Their challenge was to build the best running, lowest emissions, best balanced, best performing snowmobiles to enhance the sport.

Last year, with their Kubota D902 Diesel, their team placed 1st in the Diesel Utility Class. In this class, their team also won Best Draw Bar Pull, Best Design, Lowest Emissions and Lowest In-Service emissions. With their Ford 1.0L Eco boost, they placed 4th in the International

Combustion Class. In this class, they won Best Engine control and Best Balanced Performance.

The Isaar Club has done many fun activities through the years. They have done an annual club ride over a three-day weekend for many years. The club has gone to places like Ishpeming, MI. Medford, Laona, Plymouth, Antigo, Weston, Sturgeon Bay, Shawano, Crivitz, Carter, and Eagle River to name just a few. There is also a men's ride referred to as the "Guys Ride" that has been riding every year since the early 1980's. They have gone most everywhere in the region from Upper Michigan to Northern Illinois and as far west as the Mississippi River.

The clubs fun summer activities keep the members interested. These include picnics in places like the Memorial Park in Pulaski and the Lake Park in Seymour. The club has had golf outings at Hilly Haven, Pine Acres, Sandalwood, Irish Waters and Crystal Springs. Other activities

include ATV rides, kayaking (2014) and clay shoots. In the summer of 2016 the members even tried a paint and sip event where each member painted a picture. Since 2011, members who can make it, meet the third Friday of each summer month for a fish fry dinner at a predetermined location.

During the winter season, as long as the trails are open, the club does a fish fry ride every Friday night. The members meet at the home of a member, usually Don Kropp's home, and decide where they will ride to get their meal. Members who do not wish to ride snowmobiles may travel by car.

The ITR have had landowner appreciation dinners for many years. We thank the many landowners for letting our trails cross their land. It is only with their help that our club can join with other clubs in Wisconsin to make ours one of the best trail systems in the United States.



Isaar Snowmobile Club in the early 1970s. left to right back: Norb Hackl, Rose Van Vondren, Carl Wagner, Joan Wagner, Jean Hackl, Sylvia Vande Corput, Shirley Kropp and Nubs Vande Corput. Front row: Fred Van Vonderen, Gene Kropp and Gene Westerman.

Grave Matters During Victorian Times

By Lynn Koenigs

Lynn is a member of the Seymour Community Historical Society Board of Directors. She has written several books about the social and cultural life in the area. Her books are available at the gift shop in the museum.

Have you ever taken time to look at the casket tucked away in the far corner of the museum? You may wonder why this early casket has a glass covering. Years ago, the body wasn't embalmed so decomposition was rapid. The glass let you see the body but helped prevent the death smell from escaping. Flowers decorated the room to cover the body odor.



The glass topped casket in the museum display.

The Victorians had a lot of superstitions associated with death.

- When there was a corpse in the house one had to cover all the mirrors. And, if a mirror in your house was to fall and break by itself, it meant that someone in the home would die soon. Anything reflective or shiny would be covered like glass of any kind, including picture frame glass.
- When someone died in the house and there was a clock in the room, you had to stop the clock at the death hour or the family of the household would have bad luck. To permit a clock to continue marking time was synonymous with inviting the spirit of the deceased to haunt the home.
- When the body was taken from the house, it had to be carried out feet first because

if it was carried out head first, it could look back and beckon others to follow it into death.

- In the early 1800s the graveyard began to take on a new look. Trees, bushes, flowers and even statues were added to give a garden look.
- Socially, decorum demanded that family members adjust their behavior and dress for years after the death of a close relative.
- In the 1830s and 1840s, mourning actually became an art form and many books were written on the subject. During the civil war when death was on a massive scale, mourning took off with a vengeance.
- If a woman were to go out on the street in mourning in the 1860s she would cover her face with a veil. One reason for that was to shield the fact that she had been crying. But another of the superstitions they believed was that spirits of the departed would hover around those they loved. And if a passerby looked directly on the mourner's face that spirit might attach itself to that person. So, the veil was a protection for the wearer as well as a protection for others.
- Mourning clothes were something you



A child's casket in the museum collection.

needed quickly when there was a death in the family. As a result, mourning garments became the first off-the-rack clothes you could buy. Remember, this was a time when most clothing was made at home.

- You could either go to the place that sold mourning clothes and buy them or take everything to a merchant who would dye them all black. If you were poorer than that, you would put your own clothes in a



A pump organ from the Methodist Church is included in the funeral exhibit.

large pot in your back yard and dye them black. The reason you did it outside was that black dye was very pungent smelling and the smell permeated the air for miles. The dyeing agent was often created by boiling walnut husks.

- Another curious and widespread concern in the nineteenth century was the fear of being buried alive. Sometimes the coffin lids weren't screwed down for at least two days after death. Because of this fear, coffin alarms were developed. A bell was attached to the headstone with a chain that led down into the coffin to a ring that went around the finger of the deceased. So, if you were to wake up and find yourself accidentally buried, you could pull on the chain and ring the bell in the cemetery yard. Imagine being a cemetery caretaker working late and hearing one of those bells ring!
- During the 19th century, most funerals were held in the home. Draping the front door in black fabric was a common practice.

- The custom of wearing black after the death in the family has been observed for centuries, possibly to draw less attention to the mourners to avoid becoming Death's next victim. A woman donned what was known as "widow's weeds" within twenty-four hours of her husband's death. Black crepe typically referred to a silk or wool fabric with a distinctively crinkled or pebbled texture that was specifically used for mourning clothing.
- During deep mourning a widow did not leave her home and did not receive any visitors for specific periods of time, during which she spoke only to her family and closest friends. Parties, wedding, and other social affairs were forbidden during the first two stages of mourning.
- By contrast a widower was expected to mourn his deceased wife for only three months, simply wearing black crepe on his hat or armband. Because the family was depended on his financial support, he returned to his occupation as soon as the deceased was buried.
- The final stage of a widow's ritual was called half mourning and lasted three to six months. During this stage she was allowed to add more elaborate fabrics with touches of lilac, lavender, violet, mauve, and gray. Bonnets could now be white.
- In general, a woman completed the mourning process for a deceased husband in two and a half years. Then she could store her mourning clothes and slowly rejoin society.



Local obituaries are on file in the museum.

Personally, I am glad things have changed. ---Lynn E. Koenigs

New Funeral Exhibit

Through the generosity of the Kurt and Debbie Boettcher family an exciting new addition is coming to the funeral home exhibit. It will emphasize the influence Philip Muehl had during the early years of settlement. The Muehl family came to Seymour in the mid 1860s. Philip Muehl started a furniture store in 1867. The Muehl furniture store consisted of three buildings on Main and Factory Streets. The primary store, two stories and 22 x 72 feet, located on the west side of central Main Street was a Seymour landmark for many years. In 1873 he added a undertaking and casket company.

Philip Muehl was one of the most active businessmen in Seymour around the turn of the century. In addition to furniture and the funeral home, he handled carpets, wallpaper, toys, bicycles, sewing machines, and numerous other household items. When he retired, his son, Harvey took over his affairs. Mr. Muehl was active in the community. He served as city treasurer and treasurer of the school board. He resided on Factory Street, one block east of Main. The new exhibit will feature Philip Muehl appearing through use of cutting edge hologram technology. A hologram is a picture of a "whole" object, showing it in three dimensions.

The Memory Forest

Christmas is only six weeks away and the Seymour Community Historical Society is accepting sponsors to purchase trees in the memory forest that will brighten up Depot Street again this year. Anyone who desires to purchase a tree should contact Janice Eick at Northeastern Roofing (833-6184). The trees are a minimum of \$40.00. Please decorate your tree as you wish. If you only want lights on the tree, that is fine. This is a great way to remember a loved one while donating to the historical society.



Forty trees are available this year. They will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Name plaques in front of the trees will identify the sponsors. The trees are lighted the entire month of December. Sponsors are responsible for decorating and removing decorations from the trees. Please have all decorations in place by December 1st and remove them after the holiday season

Unique Christmas Presents

Are you looking for an unusual Christmas gift for someone with a connection to the Seymour area? Stop at the museum any Sunday afternoon between 1:00 and 4:00 PM and visit the gift shop. A few of the gifts available include post cards, hamburger jewelry, shirts and caps, pens, flashlights and Hamburger Charlie items. The sesquicentennial book ***Seymour, Wisconsin: 150 Years of Memories*** is also available. If you would like to order a book through the mail, complete this form and mail it along with a \$37.00 check to P.O. Box 237, Seymour, WI 54165

Name _____	
Shipping Address _____	
Number of books ordered at \$30.00 each _____ = \$ _____	
Shipping and handling \$7.00 for one book _____ = \$ _____	
\$10.00 for two or more books shipped to the same address	
Total Paid _____ \$ _____	

Museum Activities



Visit the museum gift shop for a variety of unique items.



Girls enjoy trying on vintage hats in the millinery shop.



Bus tours such as this group from the Appleton YMCA visit the museum.



The Isaar trailblazers celebrated their 50th anniversary with display at the museum.

For Your Information

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1. A special Christmas sale at the museum gift shop -- A HOTH T-Shirt and cap for only \$25.00
2. An index to the book: ***Seymour, Wisconsin: 150 Years of Memories*** is available at (seymourhistory.org)
3. A lifetime membership in the Seymour Community Historical Society is available for only \$50.00.
4. All past ***Seymour History Bulletins*** can be accessed at the society website.
5. Several new exhibits will be on display when the museum reopens in April.
6. Workers at the museum are volunteers, but your financial support is essential to keep the museum open.

Donations and Memberships from March 2018 to November 2018

(In the order received)

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

Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Harold Pingel	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Dave Fairbanks	Sustainability
Cathy Krull	Seymour, WI	In memory of Dave Fairbanks	Sustainability
Fox Valley Two Cylinder Club	Larsen, WI		Sustainability
Steve Kemp	Seymour, WI	Thrivent Choice	Sustainability
Kailhofer Greenhouse	Seymour, WI		Flowers
Ron and Laverne Miller Family	Kaukauna, WI	In memory of Mary Miller Yaeger	Sustainability
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI		Sustainability
Janice Norelius	Thornton, CO		Sustainability
Judith Murphy	Neenah, WI	In memory of Robert Daoust	Sustainability
Brandon Lawrence	Appleton, WI	Bay Ridge Electric	In Kind
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Doris Kropp	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	Water and Soda	Concessions
Judith Bush	Downers Grove, IL		Flowers
Larry and Bonnie Huettl	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Nichols Paper Products Co.	Nichols, WI		Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Don Raymakers	Sustainability
Dan and Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	In memory of Don Raymakers	Sustainability
Dan and Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	In memory of Mary Krabbe	Sustainability
Dan and Sally Natchek	Muskego, WI		Sustainability
Ron Melchert	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Carl Seitz	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Butch and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Bob and Sue Manzke	Seymour, WI		Building Fund
Becky and Jon Stellmacher	Appleton, WI		Sustainability
Terry Witthuhn	Shawano, WI	Thrivent Choice	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI		Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Joseph Winus	Sustainability
Lamont Kraft	Seymour		Sustainability
Nichols Centennial Committee	Nichols, WI		Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Letty Kailhofer	Sustainability
Vivian Tremel	Seymour, WI	In memory of Letty Kailhofer	Sustainability
Ronald Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI		Cabinet Work
Scott VerVoort	Black Creek, WI		Carpenter Work
Vernice Kraft	Seymour, WI		Sustainability

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ (Circle Amt.) \$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 \$50.00-Includes Life Memb. Other _____

In memory of (Optional) _____

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

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

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Return Service Requested

**Open House and Kids' Christmas Party at the Museum Saturday,
December 1st 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

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

Thursday through Sunday

Fall and Winter:

1:00 to 4:00 Sunday

Closed January through March

Open by request anytime

Admission:

Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual

- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00

Year Individual - \$5.00 Year Family - \$10.00

Your Historical Society Programs During the Past Year

April - World War I Tribute

May - Annual Meeting Featuring Dolley Madison

May - Memorial Day Slide Show

June - Vintage Toy Exhibit

July - Vintage Toy Exhibit

Summer - Music in the Park

August - Home of the Hamburger Exhibit

September - LaMont Kraft Photography Show

October - Fourth Grade Tour

November - Isaar Trailblazers Snowmobiles

December - Kids' Christmas and Open House

Winter - Memory Forest