

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Fall & Winter 2023

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History

Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

If museum closed: (920) 833-6064

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

Fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday

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

Board of Directors

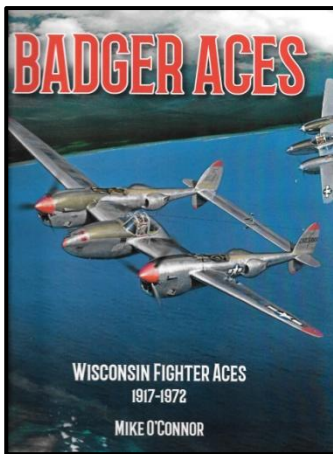
Cathy Anschutz	Mike Keyzers
Bob Bock	Sue Keyzers
Kurt Boettcher	John Koenigs
Bill Collar	Karen Kuske
Janice Eick	John Pashouer
Terry Lardinois	Joyce Zahn

The Contents of this Issue

The first several pages sum up the activities at the museum and events organized by the Seymour Community Historical Society over the summer months. The annual visit by the fourth graders is always fun. It is remarkable how curious they are about events and items that adults consider commonplace. Former Seymour resident Giz Herbst was the featured speaker at the annual meeting which was attended by about 60 members. The summer exhibit of dolls made by Ed and Tillie Stueflat brought back memories of the Treasure Chest Gift Shop. During Burgerfest, 1,440 visitors toured the museum and close to 500 people stopped in the old general store. Wednesday evening music continues to be popular with several crowds numbering over 400. On September 23 the historical society hosted former teacher and coach, Penny Gillespie, who enjoyed visiting with former students, players and friends.

On September 11, 2001 Russ Hanseter was in Washington D.C. as National Vice-Commander of the American Legion. His interview takes the reader back to that tragic day. Several members commented that they enjoyed the look back to 100 years ago in Seymour history in the previous issue and asked for more. A rare interview with Horatio Seymour from 1861 explains his early interest in investing in land in northeastern Wisconsin. Two events coming up at the museum prior to Christmas include a presentation by the author of "Badger Aces", a book about Wisconsin fighter pilots including Seymour's George Doersch. And of course, "Kids' Christmas" at the museum is always a big hit.

Author to Speak on Wisconsin Fighter Pilots *Seymour's "Ace" George Doersch will be featured.*



One of them embraced his nickname "Screwy Louie" and had a version of it painted on his P-38 fighter plane. Nine of them came from the Milwaukee metro area. The best of them was a shy farm kid from the tiny northern town of Poplar. Also included is Osborn resident and Seymour grad George Doersch.

They are fighter pilots from Wisconsin who fought in air battles in World War I through the Vietnam War. Their stories comprise a book called "Badger Aces: Wisconsin Fighter Aces 1917-1972," written by Mike O'Connor, a retired librarian from Wausau, who has been a military aviation researcher for decades.

"I've been interested in military aviation for as long as I can remember," O'Connor said, and he's been researching and writing about pilots and warplanes for 50 years. And nothing has held his fascination more than the fighter pilots – those swashbuckling, fearless fighters who, even though they worked in squadrons and teams, ultimately were alone in their planes and in battle. In the

Future Programs at the Museum

Thursday, November 9th - **"Badger Aces"** Wisconsin Fighter Pilots with author Mike O'Connor - 6:30
Saturday, December 2nd - **Kids' Christmas** - 10:00 to noon - Free present for the first 100 children.

20th century, O'Connor explains in the book's preface, more than 60,000 American fighter pilots engaged in combat. But, he says, only a total of 1,447 became aces, shooting down or destroying at least five enemy aircraft in combat. The book details the flying exploits of the 44 men from Wisconsin. One of them is Col. George Doersch, a double ace, who is credited with 10½ kills. Born and raised on a farm in Osborn south of Seymour, he graduated from Seymour High School in 1938. Following is a brief excerpt from the book describing Doersch's action late in World War II.



***Seymour's "Ace"
George Doersch***

"Doersch's final ground kill was another shared kill, a FW-190 on April 9th destroyed on Gernerig, an airfield near Munich. Striking across the airfield at low level on a second pass, he damaged a Heinkel 111 bomber. However, debris thrown up by the exploding German aircraft crippled his P-51D. Twenty miles south of Mannheim, his Mustang gave up the ghost and he belly landed. Rescued by troops from General George Patton's 3rd Army, Doersch was taken to Patton's headquarters and met the legendary warrior in person."

O'Connor will speak upstairs in the Seymour Community Museum at 6:30, Thursday evening, November 9th. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Christmas Open House and Kids' Christmas December 2nd



Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves have over 100 gifts for boys and girls.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the museum on Saturday, December 2nd. The museum will be decorated in a holiday theme and the first 100 children accompanied by an adult will receive a present. Families are invited to the museum between 10:00 and noon for the Christmas open house. This year's theme is "***Santa's Workshop.***" 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 Santa's workshop 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 North Pole theme, children have the opportunity to play with the Santa train, view vintage toys and take some candy canes home. This is an excellent opportunity to treat the children and tour the festive museum.



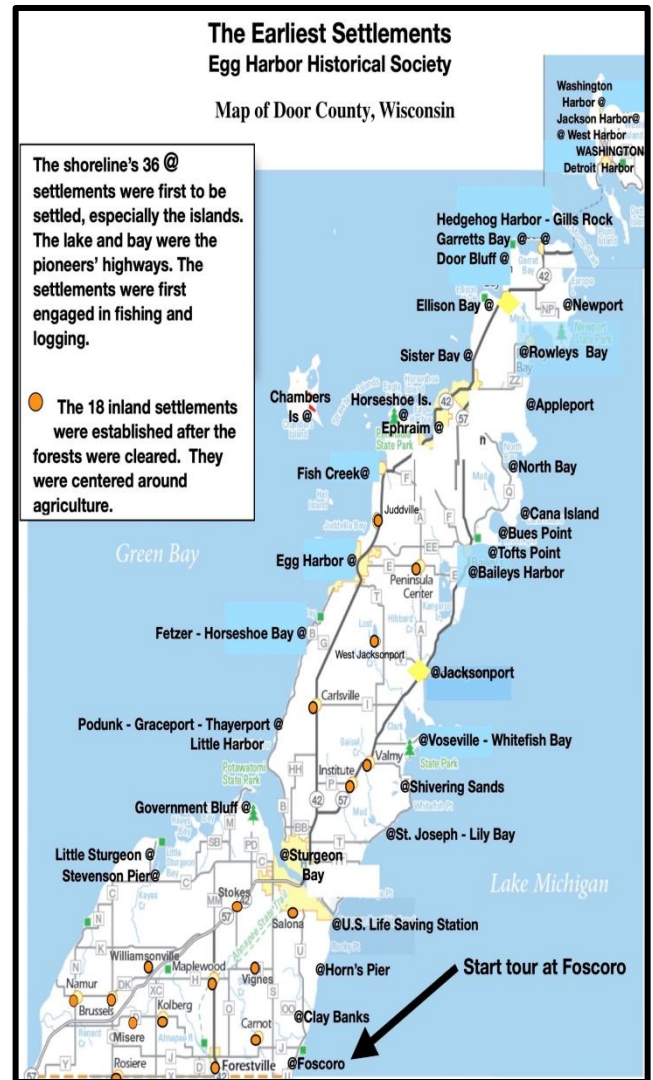
Annual Meeting with Giz Herbst and Door County History

The annual meeting of the Seymour Community Historical Society attracted 58 members. In the business portion on the meeting, Janice Eick, Mike Keyzers and Sue Keyzers were reelected to new three year terms. Terry Lardiniois and Joyce Zahn were name to the Board of Directors to fill vacant positions. The Board reelected Sue Keyzers as treasure, Kurt Boettcher as vice-president and Bill Collar as president. Cathy Anschutz was named to replace long-time secretary Janice Eick who remains on the board as a director.

President, Bill Collar thanked the attendees for their support of the historical society and museum. The 2023 budget was approved as presented and published in the Spring/Summer Seymour History Bulletin. Collar also pointed out the support of the city was critical as the Seymour City Council includes the cost of utilities at the museum and general store in the annual budget. Collar said, "The cost of the utilities usually amounts to about \$16,000. The city's support makes it possible for the historical society to use donated funds for meeting other expenses and upgrading exhibits in the museum. All people working at the museum are volunteers including the custodial staff."

Collar introduced Herbst as a native of Door County, a teacher, coach and athletic director at Seymour High School for many years, and a present officer in the Egg Harbor Historical Society. Herbst's program, augmented with descriptive visuals, focused on the early immigrants who settled in small shoreline communities, most of which faded away as local resources were depleted. Most of the early pioneers were mariners, fishermen, loggers and farmers.

Herbst took the audience on a journey up the east shore of Door County and down the west coast. Along the way he showed historical and recent pictures of 18 shoreline settlements, many which no longer exist. People were introduced to names like Foscoro, Shivering Sands, Appleport and Podunk.



Following the program the historical society provided coffee and homemade baked goods. Giz and his wife Linda, stayed around to renew acquaintances with friends and former colleagues. It was a fun and informative presentation. Thank you Giz Herbst for sharing your knowledge of Door County history with members of the Seymour Community Historical Society.

Music in the Park - 2023

The summer Music in the Park program concluded Wednesday evening, August 30, with Chad Przybylski's Polka Rhythms and an audience of over 400. The color guard from Kraft-Krause-Mueller Post 106, presented the colors in honor of veterans.

Members of the historical society extend a sincere "Thank you" to Seymour area merchants and others who make the music possible and provide raffle prizes. It takes many volunteers to organize and produce the summer long program. Special thanks go to John Koenigs who lines up all the bands and provides a variety of music. We also appreciate Gary and Mary Lou Melchert for donating the soda and water and Susan Manzke for passing out the free raffle tickets. Diana Malcheski and Lisa Elsner did an outstanding job heading up the 50-50 ticket sales. This year the raffle generated over \$3,000.00 for the historical society. One hundred per cent of the society share is used for historical activities and sustaining the museum. Mike Keyzers as M.C. kept the programs organized and the rest of the board of directors handled concessions and other tasks.

The following people, organizations and merchants sponsored the music program. Be sure to thank them when you patronize their business.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ✓ <i>Al's Farm Toys</i> | ✓ <i>Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club</i> | ✓ <i>Osborn Roofing</i> |
| ✓ <i>Bank First - Seymour</i> | ✓ <i>JJ's Auto Clinic - Seymour</i> | ✓ <i>Orion Labels, LLC</i> |
| ✓ <i>BMO Harris Bank</i> | ✓ <i>JSA Coffee Roasting LLC</i> | ✓ <i>Packerland Rental, LLC</i> |
| ✓ <i>Community First Credit Union</i> | ✓ <i>Kelsey's Kountry Kitchen</i> | ✓ <i>Performance Corporation</i> |
| ✓ <i>Countryside Photography</i> | ✓ <i>Kwik Trip, Inc.</i> | ✓ <i>Ralph's Hardwood Floors</i> |
| ✓ <i>Dairy Queen Grill and Chill</i> | ✓ <i>Leisgang, Greg and Pam</i> | ✓ <i>Scott Marcks Trucking</i> |
| ✓ <i>Diedrick's Heating and Air</i> | ✓ <i>Melissa Hanson LMT</i> | ✓ <i>Seymour Chiropractic, SC</i> |
| ✓ <i>Don's Quality Market</i> | ✓ <i>Mel's Coffee House - Seymour</i> | ✓ <i>Seymour Lumber</i> |
| ✓ <i>Edward Jones -Seymour</i> | ✓ <i>Menn Law Firm, Ltd</i> | ✓ <i>Sissy's Treats and treasures</i> |
| ✓ <i>Family Insurance Center</i> | ✓ <i>Muehl-Boettcher, Inc.</i> | ✓ <i>Seymour Dental</i> |
| ✓ <i>Foreman's Bar and Grill</i> | ✓ <i>My Agent Ins. LLC - Jodi Haefs</i> | ✓ <i>Sha-Bock Farm Bed & Breakfast</i> |
| ✓ <i>Good Shepherd Services</i> | ✓ <i>Nicolet National Bank</i> | ✓ <i>T & T Storage</i> |
| ✓ <i>Hermus Repair, LLC - Seymour</i> | ✓ <i>North Country Homes - Bonduel</i> | ✓ <i>Truman, Haase, Zahn Insurance</i> |
| ✓ <i>Home of the Hamburger</i> | ✓ <i>Northeastern Roofing, Inc.</i> | ✓ <i>Witt Family Ford</i> |



Cathy, Joyce, Sue and Karen head up the concession crew.



Tom's Tunes always presents a fun program.

Coach Gillespie Receives a Warm Welcome

Penny Gillespie, who coached volleyball for 16 years and taught Physical Education for 25, returned to Seymour for a visit. She also started the softball program and coached basketball for a number of years. The historical society organized her return and hosted a fun time at the museum. Coach Gillespie, lead the team to nine conference titles and four trips to the state tournament, including two runner-ups and one title, reminisced with former players, parents and friends for 2½ hours.

Gillespie commented that she thoroughly enjoyed chatting with all the former players, parents and friends who attended. She also heard from many people who were unable to attend. A special treat was when her rival coach and friend "Matty" Mathison, from Shawano, gave her a warm greeting. The historical society prepared a slide presentation with all her teams represented and presented her with pictures and a memory book signed by the 58 people who attended. It was a special afternoon for an outstanding teacher/coach who was a positive influence on many lives during her time in Seymour



Board member and former high school band director, Mike Keyzers served drinks and introduced Penny.



Former players, parents and friends enjoyed Coach Gillespie's comments about her years in Seymour.



Coach Gillespie pictured with four of her former players.



Historical society members Randy and Sandy Skinkis and Mary Klass stopped by to say "hello."

It was a Busy Summer at the Museum



A number of visitors remembered Ed and Tillie Stueflat and the "Treasure Chest" gift shop. The summer doll exhibit featured dolls that the Stueflats made.



Kurt stands in front of the "Hamburger Charlie" display that welcomed visitors to the upstairs of the museum during Burgerfest.



Mike shows the visiting 4th graders how the 1980s arcade game works. They are also fascinated with the 1950s juke box donated by Russ Hanseter.



Bob and Janice welcomed close to 500 people to the old general store during Burgerfest.

John Cumicek on Running

The 2023 Spring/Summer Edition of the Seymour History Bulletin included an interview with John Cumicek. We received a number of positive comments, but several others mentioned that we should have had John comment on his running. Here it is.

When and Why did you start running? I started running during my Junior Year (1964) at St Norbert College. I was in the Advanced ROTC Corp and we ran the streets of West DePere in preparation for Summer Camp (Basic Training) at Fort Riley, KS. We ran wearing our combat boots. I continued to run during active duty in Fort Sill, OK and in Germany in Heilbronn while on active duty. I kept running after active duty while living in Milwaukee during the early 1970's and have continued in Seymour since 1973.

Do you still enjoy it? Yes. It helps in keeping in shape along with swimming and walking.

How often do you run? I run and/or walk several times a week.

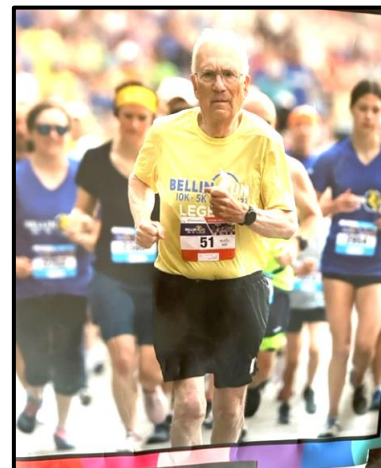
How long have you run the Bellin? On June 10, 2023, I completed my 47th Bellin 10K (6.2 miles). The first Bellin was in 1976 on a Sunday afternoon. Several persons ran from Seymour. I am one of 20 Bellin Legends that have run all 47 10K Runs. I am the oldest Legend. Ken Rottier ran the first five runs. Bellin has assigned each of the Legends a permanent bib number. My number is 51. Bellin has done a great job of giving the Legends special running sweat suits, running shorts, t-shirts, hats, sweats etc.

How did you place this year? I ran the 47th Bellin in 1:19:35 which was 6th out of 22 in the age category of 75-79. In July was my 80th birthday. I would have placed 2nd in 1.5 month in category 80-84. I started the race with my granddaughter, Ava Cumicek, who completed the race in 47:44, first in her 11-12 age category

How often have you run the Bun Run at Burgerfest? Place this year? I believe I have participated in all but one Bun Run. The one I missed was because I was at a Selective Service System conference. I was the oldest participant and placed first in my age category of 80 plus. My sister, Kathy Smits, organized the first few Bun Runs which was a 10K (6.2 mile) and a 2 mile. In one of the first Bun Runs, I finished the 10K exactly the same time my mother walked the 2 mile.

What is your favorite distance to run? At age 80, 5K (3.1 mile) is a good distance. A 10K (6.2 miles) is second choice. I ran the second Milwaukee Marathon (26.2 miles) with Jack Koebe (retired owner of the Seymour Ben Franklin) and Tom Hinz.(retired Brown County Executive and retired Brown County Sheriff). I also ran the first Fox Cities Marathon and several Half Marathons (13.1 miles).

Any tips for senior runners? I believe it is very important to keep active mentally and physically.



John in his 47th straight Bellin Run



The Legion Color Guard at Music in the Park: L to R - Greg Goetz, Glenn Dunville, Richard DeBuhr, Joe Klarner and Bill Vanden Langenberg.



John Koenigs in a rare singing performance at Music in the Park

Interview with Russ Hanseter about his experiences in Washington, D.C. when the Pentagon was attacked on September 11, 2001 (Part 1)

Editor's comment: During my lifetime the assassination of President Kennedy stood out as the most tragic and infamous event. That remained true until the heinous 9/11 attack and destruction of the Twin Towers in New York and the coordinated strike on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Longtime Seymour Teacher and Navy Veteran, Russ Hanseter was in Washington representing the American Legion when the Pentagon was hit. The purpose of this interview is to inform the public of the turmoil of that day and preserve Russ's memories for posterity.

For the purpose of brevity, only bits of his family life are included, but it is necessary to provide a background as to why he was in our nation's capital on that fateful day. It is also intended to emphasize the commitment Russ has made to advance the cause of the fair treatment of Veterans and their families. The final question all of us should ask is, What have I done, or can I do, to help improve the quality of life in my city, state and country?



Russ in the Navy

"After four years in the Navy during the Korean War Era I was eligible for the GI Bill and to receive help to go to college after leaving the military in 1956. Donna and I were married in February 1958, between semesters. I graduated in 1961 and immediately was hired to teach biology at Chilton HS.

We now had two boys and I drove back and forth to and from Oshkosh to Chilton. It was a great job and Donna and I made many friends there.

Settling in Seymour

I heard of a position in Seymour in the Spring of 1963 when the biology teacher Ray Gulbrand was leaving. I called for an interview and was hired that same day. They also offered me a contract for fall of 1964. Here is where the connection to, why I was in Washington DC on September 11, 2001 begins.

We rented a house next to Alvin Piehl, one of the owners of Miller-Piehl Lumber Company. We



Alvin Piehl WWI Veteran

made friends very quickly and I learned he was a WWI veteran. One day he literally tugged on my sleeve and said, 'Russ you are going to the Legion Meeting with me on Monday.' It was more like a command than a request.

Legion Membership and Leadership



I did join that fall and now have 60 years of continuous membership and have served at every level of the organization. Those include: Post Commander, Outagamie County Commander in 1968, as a

Ninth District (one of 12) Commander in 1993-1994, State Commander in 1995-96. I was on the Legion's National Legislative Commission from 1990 to 2019. I also served at the Legion's Boys Nation as a Party Counselor for 5 years in late 1990's. Also at Badger Boys State for 30 years from a counselor to Director and Chairman of the Board. I was very involved in the organization.

Donna and I attended National Legion Conventions going back to Pittsburg in 1993-2011 and I up through 2022. We normally drove in a caravan of Legion friends except for the long flight to the Hawaii Convention in 2005.

National Vice-Commander

Donna and I flew to San Antonio, TX for the American Legion's 83rd National Convention August 24-30, 2001. Normally we would have driven as we did to many other Legion conventions. However, I received word that I was being considered as a National Vice-Commander of the American Legion.

The Legion elects a National Commander at its National Conventions and five National Vice-Commanders. I was elected on the last day of the



Russ with Nat. Commander "Ric" Santos in 2021

convention along with the National Commander who was Richard "Ric" Santos of Maryland. He would lead an organization of over two million members.

Meeting President George W. Bush

President George W. Bush was one of the distinguished guests of the convention and welcomed us to his home state. I remember him talking about the defense budget and that it was one of the last things considered and that our national security was at the mercy of the budget games and last-minute cuts.

I was aware that we would be in Washington in just a couple of weeks for our Commanders testimony before The Joint Senate & House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Duties of the Vice-Commander

Going back to why I was there. There were five Vice-Commanders elected. If something happened to the Commander one of us would be the replacement. The Vice-Commanders are at the call of the commander and may represent the commander at various events. We each were assigned a Region made up of a number of Legion Departments.

I was assigned the Mid-West region and included ten Legion Departments, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

At that time their total membership was 906,000 legionnaires. That was quite a responsibility. Soon after the convention we would be in Washington D.C. for congressional testimony.

The Washington Experience

I arrived in Washington D.C. on Saturday September 8, and checked into the Hyatt on New Jersey Ave, located on a hill just blocks away from the Capitol.

On Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001 we were preparing for our session with the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee. We had an early breakfast at what I believe was in the Cannon House Office Building, just across from the Capitol. A number of Senators dropped in to greet the group. After breakfast there were a couple brief announcements, then I was to introduce Wisconsin Congressman James Sennsenbrenner for a few remarks on a Flag Amendment being considered.

I introduced him and before very long a Secret Serviceman rushed passed the tables up to the Congressman, whispered something and he said, 'I have to go to the Supreme Court immediately', and out he went. There was something bad happening, but we still had no idea what it was. Finally, a Legion official told us that the twin Trade Towers in New York had been hit by a plane.

Terrorists Strike



We were still unaware of what was going on until a second plane hit the other tower, and it was an obvious terror attack. As we walked through underground hallways to the Longworth Buildings headed to our 10:00 am hearing in the Rayburn Building, I remember saying to other commanders 'It had to be a terrorist in control ...because a pilot would have crashed the plane into the river.'

There was a lot of commotion and confusion all around the buildings. In the House Hearing Room, we were told that ...'the Commander and the five Vice Commanders would be allowed in the hearing' and all others would be connected by TV to the hearing in another room.

Senators and Congressmen and their aides shuffled in and out. After some time, we heard a tremendous explosion and ...I believe I felt the building shake. We didn't know it, but another plane had struck the Pentagon. Black smoke billowed up into the sky and lots of emergency vehicles could be heard.



Damage to the Pentagon on 9/11.

Then a voice came over the speaker system and said, 'Everyone was to get out of the building. If you had high heels remove them and run, use the stairs and outside get away from any tall buildings.' It was mass confusion and total chaos in and out of the buildings.

Reaction to the Pentagon Strike

Black vehicles with guns visible from downed windows, emergency vehicles with lights flashing, men visible on top of buildings with

weapons and sonic booms, it was very frightening to us veterans, and certainly to non-veterans.

We were told to head for our hotel on the other side of the Capitol. We walked around the front side of the Capitol and past the Capitol where a group of school kids were that had no idea where to go. Since I knew the area well, I led about 25 to 30 of them to a park on the other side of the Capitol which was near our hotel. I told them it was safe to stay there and away from buildings. I stayed with them until a policeman came and he took charge. I have no idea where they were from, but they were part of a school tour.

Eventually, I made it back to the Hyatt sometime before 11:00 am or so. We had a couple hundred legionnaires staying there. We also learned that another plane crashed in Pennsylvania and that plane was probably meant for the U. S. Capitol.

We were told not to use our cell phones to allow for emergency calls. They were asking for blood donations at local hospitals. Several of us volunteered but were told to stay in place if needed they would get back to us.

Back in Seymour

Meanwhile back in Seymour, Donna was having lunch at the golf course with friends, I believe Margaret Cismoski and maybe Marge Coonen, when they saw the news on TV and that the Pentagon had been hit and that an attack on the Capitol was expected. You can imagine what Donna must have been thinking as she couldn't contact me, and I couldn't call her.

Washington Shut Down

Chaos continued all that day and all night long, sirens, helicopters with flood lights shining down on Washington with terrible news on TV, planes grounded countrywide. What was coming next? We could see the Capitol from our hotel.

We accompanied the National Commander Ric Santos out into the street for interviews the next day. Some legionnaires with cars left that next

morning for home and some caught a ride with others who drove to the meetings. You couldn't get a flight, rent a car, or get a place on a train or ride the subway, Washington was completely closed down, phones were unusable for some time.

It was the next morning that I was able to talk to Donna. She said my sons would drive out to pick me up, but I told her no, that we would wait a couple more days and make a decision. I didn't want them there not knowing what was next

Coming Home

About 150 of us were stuck in in Washington DC, calling the airlines each day. Then on Friday evening one legionnaire from Nevada and I were told to be at the Dulles airport by 4:30 am on the Saturday morning. Reagan Airport was locked down because of how close it is to the Capitol. I don't think I got any sleep, leaving somewhere after 3:00 am on a very expensive cab ride. We got on a flight carrying only airline personnel back to the Midwest. Many looked like they were from the Middle East and that was somewhat unsettling.

I got off in Detroit, he went on to Las Vegas. I don't remember when I got into Green Bay I believe it was close to midnight. Donna picked me up and I was glad to be home.

Post 9/11 Travel was a Nightmare

I must have gone through the airport in Detroit a dozen times, but now it was shoes off and luggage checked with both scanners and by hand. I sure didn't look like a terrorist with my legion jacket, ID tags, and legion cap.

Here is one example of what travel was like: The National Commander's Homecoming was slated for Friday and Saturday, October 5th and 6th of that year. It was held in Baltimore, Maryland at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. We had a room over-looking the harbor it was beautiful.

I mention that because both Donna and I flew into Baltimore to attend the testimonial ...an early experience of flying Post 9/11. At the testimonial the Vice-Commanders each received an engraved pair of wine glasses as a gift from the

National Commander in a nice case. After leaving Baltimore we flew to Indianapolis for some training, and a kind of what you should or should not do as a National Officer. Arriving at the Indianapolis airport Donna was carrying the gift box with our two glasses.

Troubles in Indianapolis

The woman checking incoming passengers and luggage asked what was in the package. Donna told her and she said, 'You will have to open it for inspection'. She did and the 'grumpy' airport security official said 'I will have to confiscate them'. I was startled and said, Why? She replied...'she could break the glasses and stab someone.'

Unbelievable! I asked for a supervisor. After I explained, he waved us through along with the 'potential weapons.' I found some of the new workers enjoyed their 'authority'. I stayed for my training and Donna returned to Seymour.

No Exaggeration Necessary

When I came home from Indianapolis someone from the ***Appleton Post Crescent*** had heard that I had been in Washington over the week of September 11, they contacted me for an interview. I agreed and the reporter came to our house and we talked for about an hour and a half. She took a lot of notes. When the paper came out the headline read that ***I was at the Pentagon when it was hit***. I was very upset and called the reporter and told her I never said that I was at the Pentagon. She said; ***The editor said it would attract more readers and sell more papers.***"



Russ Hanseter in the museum for this interview

Editors's Comment: More details about Russ's term as National Vice-Commander will be included in Part 2 of the interview in the next edition of the Seymour History Bulletin.

We asked a number of our museum board members what they were doing and how they reacted to the 9/11 incident.

Sue Keyzers

"I was at work and it was the only time I ever watched TV at work. A customer called and told me to turn on the TV. I saw the second plane hit the tower."

Reaction: I was horrified. It was unbelievable.

John Pashouwer

"I was working in my shop. I heard the news listening to the John Miano show on the radio."

Reaction: I was shocked like everyone else.

Comments: I went into the house and watched the second plane hit the tower.

Cathy Anschutz

"I was working at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home. We were preparing an in-service for staff from neighboring facilities. As I was walking down the hallway our Human Resources Director informed me." The in-service was cancelled and everyone was watching TV.

Reaction: Shock, fear and confusion

Karen Kuske

"I was at home babysitting my four year old granddaughter."

Reaction: Disbelief

Comments: I was watching this all unfold on the TV. My granddaughter kept turning off the TV. She understood that all that was happening was horrible.

Kurt Boettcher

"I was going to Austin Straubel Airport to pick up a human remains which was coming in on a Delta flight."

Reaction: Shock – I went to shipping and everything was locked up. I then went in the terminal and there was panic and confusion. There was a jet with Chinese tourists on board that was grounded because they were flying over Green Bay at the time.

Janice Eick

"I just got into the office and the roofing crew was watching the news on TV."

Reaction: Everyone was just focused on the TV. It was the worst I have ever seen. The rest of the day was a blur – waiting to hear more. It will always be in the back of my mind.

Bill Collar

"I had just retired from teaching and I was presenting a leadership program for students at Mauston High School. It was a new school and the television system was not installed and no students or teachers had phones. Eventually a secretary from the office came into the auditorium and told me that a plane crashed into the World Trade Center. At first I thought it was an accident, but when I got the news about the second plane, I knew it had to be terrorists. The principal then came in and told the students to stay calm and we finished the program as best as possible."

Reaction: As I was driving home I kept searching on the radio to get more news. I didn't get steady radio reception until I got close to Oshkosh. I was shocked to see people panic as lines were formed at every gas station I passed. When I arrived at home my wife had the TV on and she informed me of the details. I remember being concerned about what action our government would take in retaliation.

Bob Bock

I was working on the farm fixing some equipment.

Reaction: Total disbelief.

Comments: I wondered how our government would react.

The following news articles are taken from the "Seymour News" section of the "Green Bay Press Gazette" and the "Appleton Post Crescent" 100 years ago - 1923. Pictures and ads are from the SCHS photo archive.

An Unusual Auto Signal Device

Appleton Post Crescent Feb 6, 1923

Arthur Staden and Harry Kitts of the Seymour Motor Car Company, Seymour, Wis. Have perfected an unusual signal device. The Seymour signal operates the stop light off the brake and also off of the switch, both automatically. It also has a "right" "left" "stop" and "back" light. Included in the equipment is a combination night and parking light which reads "safety first". This latter is for night driving.

This signal is operated by a rotary switch which can be turned in any direction and installed in the switch as a safety light which when lighted indicates that the signal in the rear is in operation. "The Seymour safety signal is the most complete signal and switch on the market today", says "Brownie" of the Milwaukee Journal, who is using one of the signals on his car. The inventors of the Seymour safety light have just received patents on a Buick cage-puller and also have completed a compressor for removing the locks on all overhead valve motors.

Editors comment: We have no record of the "Seymour Motor Car Co." or what happened to the signal device. Please forward any information to (bicollar@aol.com).

Seymour Auto firm Purchases Lot

Special to Press Gazette - Feb. 12, 1923

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

Albert Tesch, three miles north of city R 2, lost a valuable brood mare last week from eating moldy silage. Mr. Tesch had thrown the silage over the yard fence so that stock could not eat it but the horse reached over the gate while in the yard and

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



Bill Vandenberg and Tom Duffey, Sr. in 1936 shortly before the building was sold to Melchert Brothers.

Shipping Cream

Arthur Thiede is employed at the receiving station of the Fairmont creamer company. The company is shipping a limited amount of cream and sweet milk. This will be increased later on. Mrs. Levi Paulson went to Deaconess hospital, Green Bay, Friday for an operation.

Dr. H. J. Staeben Seymour, Route 1 is at the St. Vincent's hospital, Green Bay, where he is consulting a specialist for stomach trouble. Mrs. Ted Vander Heiden, Seymour Route 1 is in St. Vincent's hospital, Green Bay where she is recovering from a serious operation. Peter Blanshan was at Green Bay Thursday to see his wife, and little son, who is recovering from mastiold operation. They are out of the hospital, and staying at the home of George Russell, Mrs. Blanshan's father, in Green Bay.

Radio Concert

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

Autoists Tears Wheel Off Cicero Man's Milk Wagon

Special to the Post-Crescent Feb. 15, 1923

Cicero - A passing automobile tore a wheel off Walter Sherman's milk wagon as he was driving into his driveway last Wednesday. Two cars passed each other at the driveway and one machine was crowded against the milk wagon. The driver never stopped after hitting the wheel.

The Equity picnic held in the Wussow grove Sunday was well attended. Music was furnished by the Seymour and Black Creek bands

Neighbors Save Farm House

Special to Press Gazette - Feb. 25, 1923

Tom Bronson's farm residence on Route 5 came near going up in smoke Sunday about noon. A fire started on the roof from a spark from the chimney. Mrs. Bronson noticed the smoke and called her husband's attention to it. Neighbors, called on the telephone, responded, and put out the fire. Sections of the roof had to be cut away to stop the blaze. One section 16 x16 feet and another six or seven feet was burned. Some damage was done to second story as the ceiling was plastered to the roof. The building was insured.

Seymour School Overcrowded

Appleton Post Crescent - March 12, 1923

Seymour, Wis. Thursday March 8, Miss Florence Jenkins, county superintendent of schools and State Inspector Giles called a meeting of the city school board to inform them that the school rooms were overcrowded and that provisions would have to be made to relieve the congestion. There are three ways can be used. One - is to rent more room, second - to build a new high school and third - to refuse to take pupils outside of the district.

The latter course would take 50 per cent of the present enrollment in the high school. The

people will have a chance to take care of this problem later when definite plans and figures will be given.

Word has been received from Mr. Irwin Sherman from Dubuque, Iowa announcing of the death of Mrs. Sherman's mother, Mrs. William Cooper, of that city on March 7. William Cooper and Mrs. Irwin Sherman, her only child, survive. Mr. And Mrs. Sherman have been at Dubuque several weeks helping to care for the sick woman.

August Wolk, alderman of second ward, has been confined to his bed for a week with an injured knee caused by falling on a slippery walk. C. R. Blanshan is confined to his home with the grippe.

Lyceum Number At Seymour March 22

Appleton Post Crescent - March 17, 1923

The last number of the High school lyceum course "Peg O' My Heart" will be given at the auditorium Thursday, March 22. This was the drama that was postponed due to the first big storm.

Bunkleman and Son have a crew shoveling snow between Oneida and Seymour and expect to have the bus running on schedule by Friday, March 16. Alois Leisgang has been appointed substitute rural carrier on Seymour rural routes No. 2 and 1. H.G. Davis returned Wednesday afternoon after serving on jury at Appleton. Mr. Davis will have to serve April 2 again. Paul Kuehne, local tailor, is changing the interior of his store, making his stock room larger and putting in new shelving and fixtures.

Heart Disease Fatal to Seymour Alderman

Special to Press Gazette - March 29, 1923

August Wolk, 75, died at his home in this city, of heart failure. Mr. Wolk had been in bed a couple of weeks with a lame knee, which he hurt on a slippery walk, but was feeling fine, just before he died. Mr. Wolk was born in Germany

and married Minnie Brauer, also of Germany, in 1870. And came to America in 1871. In 1874 they came to Seymour from Baltimore, MD. He worked at his trade as a wagon maker in a shop where the city hall stands. Later he worked eight years for the Northwestern Manufacturing Company mill here.

Mr. Wolk was elected alderman when the city was organized. He served as city marshal for 28 years. He was pensioned three years ago and was elected two years as alderman, which office he held at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife and nine children, 16 grandchildren and two great grand children. Children surviving are:



August Wolk was and alderman and served as city marshal for 28 years.

Charles, Seymour, Bertha, Gary Ind. William, Minocqua, Paul, Chicago, Henry, Seymour, Arthur, Seymour Lydia, Seymour, Oscar, Seymour, and Benjamin, Minneapolis. The funeral was held Monday afternoon, with burial in city cemetery

Woman Breaks Leg When Sleigh Tips

Mrs. Norman Schauman Suffers Accident Similar to That of Husband.

Press Gazette - March 30, 1923

Mrs. Norman Schauman, town of Oneida, is confined to her bed with a broken leg as the result of a sleigh tip over Thursday morning. She is reported to be resting comfortably. Mrs. Schauman

had accompanied her husband on a trip to haul a load of wood to the home. The sleigh overturned with part of the wood falling upon the woman. Its weight caused her leg to be broken at the ankle.

Neighbors assisted in bringing the injured woman to Seymour for medical aid after which was conveyed to her home. Her husband suffered a similar accident about three months ago, when wood caused his leg to be broken.

Boys Quartet to Make Long Trip Seymour H.S. youths picked to sing at Cleveland, Ohio gathering.

Appleton Post Crescent March 30, 1923

Seymour High School boy's quartet, composed of Harold Miracle, Edgar Eick, Claude Ohlorgge, and Roger Benedict, will leave for Cleveland, Ohio, a week from Sunday to sing at the National Music Supervisor's conference in that city. Grand Rapids, Mich, Davenport, Iowa, and Oberlin, Ohio, are three other cities which have musical organizations at the conference. An interesting feature on the program will be the singing by a chorus of 1,000 boys from the city of Cleveland. Most of the programs will be broadcasted by radio.

Seymour Road Now Open to Traffic

Green Bay Press Gazette - April 14, 1923

Seymour, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Muehl of Underhill are the parents of a seven pound baby girl born Sunday. On Wednesday traffic was opened between Appleton and Seymour, also between Green Bay and Seymour. This is the first time for weeks that cars have been able to get through the snow drifts. The busses between these points will soon be running on schedule time.

Seymour Chamber of Commerce to Provide Band Concerts Weekly Musical Body will be Reorganized and Begin Rehearsals.

Appleton Post Crescent May 23, 1923

The Seymour Chamber of Commerce has passed a resolution instructing R.C. Finkle, leader to get the members of the Seymour Band together to give band concerts every week as in previous years. The Chamber will finance the concerts. A meeting of band members will be called some night this week. Rehearsals will commence soon and about the middle of June the first concert will be held.



The Seymour Community Band in 1920. Dr. Finkle is third from the left in the back row. He was a Seymour veterinarian for 48 years (1910-1958 and an accomplished musician and magician.

Seymour Patient Watches Surgeon Remove Appendix

*Green Bay Press Gazette
Dec. 1, 1923*



Dr. Vernon Hittner

A surgical operation, under unusual conditions, was performed upon Miss Elsie Wichmann, of Seymour, at Deaconess hospital here, yesterday afternoon, by Dr. V. Hittner, also of Seymour, it was learned today. The

Seymour physician removed the appendix of the Outagamie country girl, without the use of ether or other sleep producing anesthesia. A local anesthetic was used, the patient watching every detail of the operation, and carrying on a spirited conversation. According to Miss Wichmann she experienced no pain. This is the second operation of this character performed by Dr. Hittner here, his

first being about a year ago. Several Green Bay surgeons also have removed appendixes without the aid of ether or chloroform, But the local anesthetic operation for appendicitis is not in general demand, as yet.

Editors comment: Dr. Hittner served the people of Seymour and the surrounding area for 58 years from 1922 to 1988. He was noted for developing the "Button Hole" appendix procedure.

Call		Telephone For Articles in HARDWARE	222
Weight pounds	Local rate	Note the parcel post rate delivered to your door	
1	.05	Paints, Oils, Muresco	
2	.06	Garden Tools, Carpenter Tools	
3	.06	Hinges, Rope, Screws, Nails,	
4	.07	Doorlocks, Etc.	
5	.07	Droeger Hardware Co.	
6	.08	Seymour, Wisconsin	
7	.08		
8	.09		
9	.09		
10	.10		
15	.12		
20	.15		
30	.20		
40	.25		
50	.30		

Seymour Hardware Stores in Merger

Special to the Press Gazette - Dec. 19, 1923

SEYMOUR, Wis - On Jan 1, 1924 the Droeger Hardware company and N. Uttormark & Son, are going to merge their businesses under the name of the Seymour Hardware Company. In order to complete this merger, N Uttormark & Son's Hardware will close beginning DEC. 26, and open as soon as the stock is taken. After this, the Droeger Hardware Company's store will be carried on in the building now occupied by N Uttormark & Son. The new firm feels they can serve the public better in service and price than under the old arrangement. James Day of Oakfield and Art Heagle of Green Bay bought a carload of cattle here and shipped them to Oakfield Monday morning. The cattle were all tested for tuberculosis before being shipped.

Arterials Established

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

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

Miss Elsie Wickman submitted to an operation for appendicitis at the Deaconess hospital last week. The Ladies Aid Society of the M.E. church met with Mrs. G. W. Lester at the personage on Tuesday afternoon, after which a picnic supper was held at the church.

Horatio Seymour One of First to See Big Dairy Industry Here

Green Bay Press Gazette - July 18, 1934

Horatio Seymour was raised in Utica, New York located adjacent to the Erie Canal which was completed in 1825. Early in life he realized the economic impact of the canal connecting the Hudson River with Lake Erie. This experience instilled in him the desire to speculate on land where value was enhanced when a new canal was completed. He became an investor in the Fox-Wisconsin Improvement Co. and purchased vast parcels

of land in northeastern Wisconsin near the mouth of the Fox River.

He speculated when the canal was completed at Portage, land values would increase. The following article quotes him from 1861 while inspecting the waterway and verifies that he visited the Green Bay area and saw the wisdom of investing in the rich land. With his political connections as Governor of New York he obtained thousands of acres of land in the Seymour area at a very low price per acre.

Early recognition of Brown County's possibilities as a dairying center is recorded in an account of the trip taken up the Fox River in 1861 by officials of the Chicago and Northwestern railway, for the purpose of securing passage of an act of congress to change their route while still retaining their federal land grant. In the party was Horatio Seymour, Governor of New York, at that

time and a capitalist who was much interested in development of Wisconsin.

As their steamboat was making its way slowly up the Fox River, through the many locks. Governor Seymour noticed that the red clay soil which lined the banks of the stream was densely covered with fine grass. He got off the boat at one point to examine it. Upon re-embarking, he said: "I own as fine a grass farm as exists in the Genesee valley in New York State, and I tell you gentlemen there is not a square foot of sod on that farm as good as thick as is here growing on your red clay today. The northern part of Wisconsin is destined some way to become one of the greatest dairy sections in America."

Seymour Shoplifter Fined \$25.00

Green Bay Press Gazette Feb 8, 1930

Seymour merchants experienced something new on Wednesday when two young women, Mrs. Clarence Reap formerly of Menasha and Miss Louise Germaine of the town of Buchanan who were staying at the Falck Hotel went on a "shopping" tour of the town. During their tour they picked up three hats from Mrs. Burgoyne's millinery, one pair of stockings from Bauman's Store and a pair of shoes from Kahnt Shoe Store. None of the merchants, with the exception of Mrs. Burgoyne knew that the things had been stolen until Thursday morning when the young women made the mistake of dressing up in their newly-acquired finery and going for a walk.

The shoes were recognized by Mr. Kahnt and Chief of Police Decker was called and he took the two young women to Appleton where they appeared before Judge Berg in Municipal Court. Mrs. Reap was fined \$25 and half of the cost. And Miss Germaine's case was turned over to Judge Heineman's court for disposition.

Twenty-five dollars by today's standards doesn't seem like much, but taking inflation into consideration today's purchasing power is \$460.00.

Volunteers Make it Happen

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

Ways You Can Donate to the SCHS

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

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

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

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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

In memory of (Optional) _____

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

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

Thank you for your support!

Donations Since March 20, 2023

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

Joan Conradt	Pulaski, WI`	Jewelry	Gift Shop
Bill Trembl	Seymour, WI	Trembl Enterprises	Plumbing work
Kevin Rogaczewski	Seymour, WI		Computer work
Brandon Lawrence	Appleton	Bay Ridge Electric	Electrical
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jim Baxter	Sustainability
Jean F. Mongin Estate	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Steve Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Robert and Marian Melchert	Sustainability
Michael Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI	In memory of Ron Nachtwey	Sustainability
Jill and John Mahlik	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Colleen Weyers	Green Bay, WI		Sustainability
Don and Gail Hoff	Appleton, WI	In memory of Gail Dean	Sustainability
Don and Gail Hoff	Appleton, WI	In memory of Jean Melchert	Sustainability
Terry and Patti Lardinois	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Mark and Debbie Truymen	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jackie Loasching	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jackie Loasching	Sustainability
Kevan and Sandy Krahn	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Al and Jean Timm	Seymour, WI		Music
David and Mary Maass	Fountain Ridge		Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI		Sustainability
Sharon Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI	In memory of Ron Nachtwey	Sustainability
Bill & JoAnn VandenLangenberg	Seymour, WI		Life Membership
Scott and Cindy Sherman	Black Creek, WI		Life Membership
Rick and Bonnie Buntrock	Green Bay, WI		Sustainability
John Wurtzel	Payson, AZ		Sustainability
Marilyn Menor	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
John and Dee Nagel	Seymour, WI	In memory of Jackie Loasching	Sustainability
John Cumicek	Seymour, WI	In memory of Mary Monroe	Sustainability
John Cumicek	Seymour, WI	In memory of Ron Haws	Sustainability
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI	In memory of Jean Melchert	Sustainability
Laurene G Ferge	Nichols, W	Thrivent Choice Dollars	Sustainability
Janice Norelius	Thornton, CO		Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI		Water and Soda
Barry and Sandy Kailhofer	Seymour, WI		Flowers
Thrivent	Appleton, WI		Sustainability
Gail Somodi	Lakewood Ranch, FL		Sustainability
Anonymous	Anonymous	In memory of Ane Kerstine Larsen	Sustainability
Steve and Darla Dorosz	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Joe and Kim Klarner	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Shirley Robinson	Monona, WI		Sustainability
The Class of 1950	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Butch and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI	In memory of Ken, Barb and Dick Hock	Sustainability
Ken and Helen Blohm	San Francisco, CA		Sustainability
Dick and Donna Lubinski	Seymour, WI	In honor of John Cumicek's birthday	Sustainability
Steve and Darla Dorosz	Seymour, WI	In honor of all volunteers at the museum	Sustainability
Karen R Coonen	Appleton, WI	Thrivent Choice Dollars	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Tom Duffey	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Tom Duffey	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Don Doersch	Sustainability
Kathleen Reese	Madison, WI		Sustainability
Marilyn Seidl-Lorenz	Seymour, WI	In honor of Ken Melotte's 90th birthday	Sustainability
Shirley Kielar	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Robert and Debby Court	Seymour, WI	In memory of Tom Duffey	Sustainability
Robert and Debby Court	Seymour, WI	In memory of Pat Krohlow	Sustainability

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

Return Service Requested

Website: www.seymourhistory.org

E-mail: seymourhistory@centurylink.com

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

If the museum is closed: (920) 833-6064

Museum Hours

Summer:

1:00 to 4:00

Friday through Sunday

Fall and Winter:

1:00 to 4:00 Sunday

Closed January through April

Open by request anytime

Admission:

Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual

- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00

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

Future Programs at the Museum

Thursday, November 9th - **"Badger Aces "**

Wisconsin Fighter Pilots with author Mike

O'Connor - 6:30 **Free Admission**

Saturday, December 2nd - **Kids' Christmas -**

10:00 to noon - Free present for the first 100

children. **Free Admission**