

# Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Fall and Winter 2024

## Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area History

Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

Web site: [www.seymourhistory.org](http://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 purpose of our newsletter is to keep our members informed of events taking place at the museum and to keep Seymour History alive through relating past social, cultural and economic activities. This publication includes part two of an poignant interview with Robert Court who served as a medic in Vietnam. Veteran Seymour businessman Kurt Boettcher has replaced Bill Collar as president of the historical society and Terry Lardinois has been named vice-president. We continue to be thankful to our sponsors who step forward to help make Music in the Park possible. Also of interest to local history buffs are a number of 1924 Seymour news articles from the Green Bay and Appleton papers. It is fascinating to compare life in Seymour 100 years ago with life today.

Since a fire at the *Seymour Press* office destroyed copies of the local paper prior to 1947, historians must research Green Bay and Appleton papers for Seymour news. Fortunately, the larger area papers included a "Seymour News" section every week or two. The last several pages of this publication list our most recent contributors. Thank you for your gifts and donations necessary to keep our mission on track. The Seymour City Council recognizes the value of preserving our heritage and supporting an attractive museum through covering the cost of the museum utilities.

### Mission Statement

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

## Changes in Distribution of the Newsletter



Because of increased postal rates, changing addresses and the increased cost of production, you will only receive a paper copy of the Seymour History Bulletin if you have made a donation in the past year or if you contact Bill Collar via e-mail ([bicollar@aol.com](mailto:bicollar@aol.com)) or by phone (920 833-6064). A number of our members contribute to the historical society every year. You will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter unless you contact Bill and indicate you no longer desire a paper copy. All members of the Seymour Community Historical Society will receive an electronic copy sent to their e-mail on file. If your address and/or e-mail change, or are not on file be sure to contact Bill. Thank you for your continued support.

### Future Programs at the Museum

Saturday, December 7th - **Kids Christmas** - 10:00 to noon - Free present for the first 100 children.

Courtesy of the family of "Bud" Vanden Heuvel.

Sunday, December 1, 8 and 15 **Christmas Sale** at the museum gift shop 1:00 to 4:00

## Kurt Boettcher Named Society President



After 15 years as president of the Seymour Community Historical Society Board of Directors, Bill Collar has turned over the board leadership to Seymour businessman and six year board member Kurt Boettcher. As a member of the Seymour Historical Society Board of Directors, Kurt was responsible for upgrading the museum flower garden and landscaping. He also spearheaded the 65' mural project and has been active in assisting with the elderly at Music in the Park.

Kurt graduated from Seymour High School in 1975 and the University of Minnesota in 1979. As a long-time owner of the Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, Kurt's business experience has been a valuable asset during his time on the board. Addressing his time on the board Kurt remarked, "I believe it is important to preserve our heritage and the history of our community. It is a delight to serve on the board with dedicated individuals who feel the same way. It is a way of giving back some of my time to the community that has supported me throughout the years."

Retiring president Bill Collar credited Boettcher for being an active board member and great asset to the historical society. "Kurt has been a valuable board member who has been instrumental in developing a number of new exhibits in the museum. Most notable is the Muehl-Boettcher Hologram detailing the history of the business dating back to 1873. I'm confident he will provide the leadership necessary to see the society and museum prosper for years to come."

The new president encourages everyone to visit the museum for a great educational and fun experience. "There is something for everyone. The displays are done so well. They give the visitor an excellent idea of what life was like in Seymour years ago. Growing up in Seymour was a great experience, from starting my education in the red brick school, going to the businesses with my family and friends, having fun at the fair and seeing many movies at the See-more theatre and much more! A person can relive all those experiences by touring the museum."



***Kurt Boettcher has been responsible for upgrading the museum flower garden and the historical mural on the west wall of the 1930s general store. Both add beauty and color to the Depot Street area.***

# Meet Your Board Member

## Terry Lardinois, Vice-president



**Family:** Married to Patti. We have 3 sons and two daughters. We also have seven grandchildren.

**Education:** Following graduation from Seymour High School I attended St. Norbert College earning a B.A. degree in History with a minor in math.

**Work experience:** After graduating I began an over 40-year career in banking both as an owner and CEO of several banks.

**Hobbies:** My wife and I enjoy going to our cabin, traveling and spending time with our children and grandchildren.

**Years on the Museum Board:** One Year

**Why do you serve on the board?** I enjoy history and I feel like I am keeping it alive for others to enjoy by being a part of the Board.

**My favorite part of the museum?** I like the military exhibit. I also enjoy looking at the newly installed high school sports exhibit.

**Fun places I have visited:** Driving around our state I enjoy the "Rustic Roads" and all the State Parks. Outside of Wisconsin it's hard to list just a few. The people and different cultures are awesome.

**Favorite museum outside of Seymour:** Chicago Museum of History and the Holocaust Museum.

**Other facts you wish to include:** If you haven't seen Seymour's Museum, take some time and stop in and visit. You will be pleasantly surprised as to the treasures it contains.

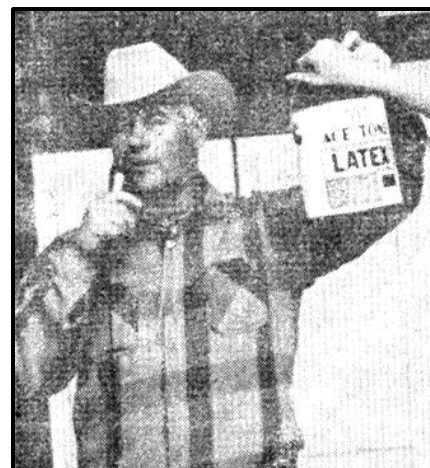
## Kids' Christmas at the Museum - Dec. 7th

*Sponsored by the family of "Bud" Vanden Heuvel*

Celebrate Christmas at the museum between 10:00 and Noon on Saturday, December 7. The first 100 children, accompanied by an adult, will receive a free gift courtesy of the family of Frank "Bud" Vanden Heuvel. Bud was a Marine Corps veteran, auctioneer, livestock dealer and longtime mail carrier in Seymour. He loved children and was active in the fair and supporting school activities.

The museum will be decorated in a Christmas theme with a number of activities available for the children. They can enjoy the

Christmas train, fly the 1911 aeroplane, play Burgertime, picture themselves as "Hamburger" Charlie and much more.



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

# We Love Our Volunteers

In addition to our board members several other people volunteer as docents at the museum welcome desk. We appreciate their commitment to the historical society and museum.



***On Friday afternoons in the summer Susan Manzke can usually be found volunteering at the welcome desk. She likes the 1950s era juke box and plays the classic tunes.***



***Sam Goeben is a fifth grade teacher who enjoys volunteering at the museum. She likes the variety of exhibits and is very helpful when computer problems develop.***



***Former board member Ellen Piehl continues to volunteer at the welcome desk. Her knowledge of Seymour history and training in genealogy are valuable assets.***

## Music in the Park - 2024

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. One hundred per cent of the society share is used for historical activities and sustaining the museum. John Koenigs lines up the bands, Mike Keyzers as M.C. keeps the programs organized and the rest of the board of directors handles concessions and other tasks.

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

- ✓ Bank First - Seymour
- ✓ Community First Credit Union
- ✓ Countryside Photography
- ✓ Dairy Queen Grill and Chill
- ✓ David Hermus Repair, LLC
- ✓ Diedrick's Heating and Air
- ✓ Edward Jones -Seymour
- ✓ Family Insurance Center
- ✓ Good Shepherd Services
- ✓ Hanson, Melissa, Massage LLC
- ✓ Home of the Hamburger
- ✓ Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club
- ✓ J J's Auto Clinic - Seymour
- ✓ JSA Coffee Roasting
- ✓ Kelsey's Kountry Kitchen
- ✓ Leisgang, Greg and Pam
- ✓ Melchert, Gary and MaryLou
- ✓ Menn Law Firm, Ltd
- ✓ Muehl-Boettcher, Funeral Home
- ✓ Nicolet National Bank
- ✓ Northeastern Roofing, Inc.
- ✓ Orion Labels, LLC
- ✓ Packerland Rental, LLC
- ✓ Osborn Roofing
- ✓ Performance Corporation
- ✓ Ralph's Hardwood Floors
- ✓ Scott Marcks Trucking
- ✓ Seymour Chiropractic, SC
- ✓ Seymour Lumber
- ✓ Seymour Dental
- ✓ T & T Storage
- ✓ Truman, Haase, Zahn Insurance
- ✓ Witt Family Ford

Free raffle prizes were provided by Dairy Queen, Don's Quality Market, Edward Jones, JSA Coffee, Mel's Cafe, Sissy's Treats and Treasures and Seymour Dental.

It is thanks to our music sponsors numerous volunteers make Wednesday nights special in Seymour. A huge **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who sold raffle tickets, donated concessions, sold items and assisted with set up. The Lions Club provided free popcorn and helped with distribution.



# An Interview with Vietnam Veteran Robert Court - Part 2

*Editor's comment: Robert and Debby Court are lifetime members of the Seymour Community Historical Society and avid supporters of the museum. They have always attended exhibits and speakers on military topics. Several times it was mentioned that I would like to include an interview with a Vietnam Veteran in the newsletter and install it on the military kiosk at the museum. No one volunteered until several months ago Debby mentioned Robert was ready to be interviewed.*

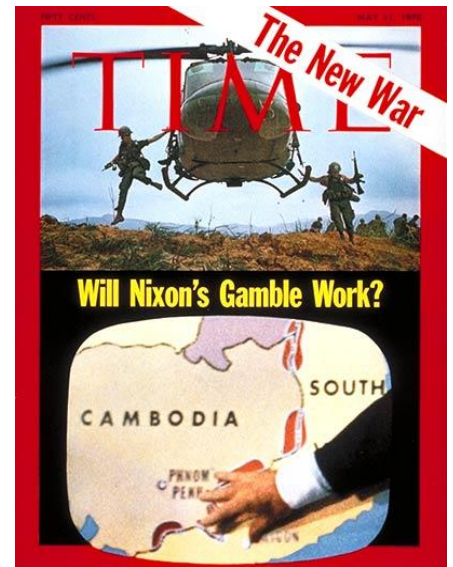
*Robert, who was a medic, served in Vietnam for 14 months and often was under enemy fire. He was one of the first to land in Cambodia in 1970; his helicopter was shot down, he saved lives and had his life saved. While modest about his experiences, he answered every question and related a compelling story. I didn't realize the degree of his commitment until I read the book "Twelve Days In May" by Jerald Berry. It is the previously untold story of the 3-506th Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division. Thank you Robert Court for your distinguished service.*

"South Vietnam was divided into four sections or Corps and I got assigned to the 101st Airborne Division which operated in the northern part of the country. The 3-506 is one battalion of the 101st Division. The 3-506th (Currahee's) means to stand alone. The battalion commanders that were in Vietnam in the

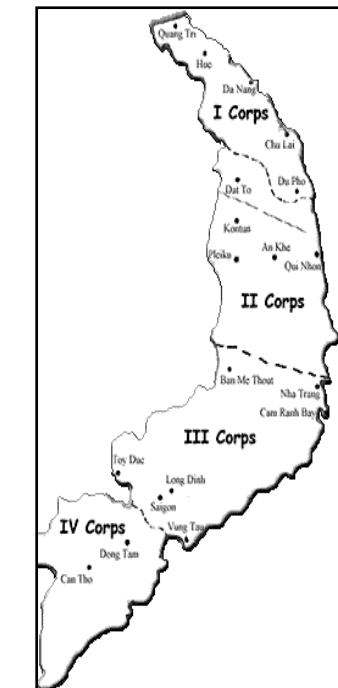


3-506th knew if shots were fired in I Corps or II Corps we would be called in. We were transported in whatever was available. It could be a helicopter, C-130 plane, Chinook helicopter or by semi/cattle truck. Six infantry men traveled in a helicopter, two on each side with their feet hanging out and ready to jump off and two in the middle facing each other. The medic and radio operator were in the

field. The medical staff spent 6 months out in the field which was longer than most. I actually spent 10 months because things were winding down and there were no replacements. On May 5 or 6 we went into Cambodia. I wrote home and told my mom and she wrote back that she didn't believe me because she said that President Nixon said we didn't have any troops in Cambodia.



*Time Magazine May 10, 1970*



middle so they were protected. Such was the case in the helicopter that I got shot down in.

## Introduction to the Infantry

On February 19, 1970 on Hill 474 a medic got killed and that was the day I went out in the

## Under Fire

The first experience I had with seeing the VC up close was a life threatening situation. They were no more than 20 yards ahead of me, our machine guns were behind me and I was in 'no man's land.' My two wounded people, the Lieutenant and point guard were just ahead of me. Fortunately, the point man was just shot through the arm and wasn't wounded very badly, so I bandaged him up and went after the Lieutenant. He was shot through the femur, it was broken, not bleeding badly, but still a very serious wound.

## **Saving the Lieutenant**

I was about 6'3, but pretty thin and the Lieutenant must have weighted about 210. I figured I could load him up on my back and bear crawl him out of there. After about eight to ten feet I could see that wasn't going to work. This all happened within two or three minutes. By now both machine guns melted down and only a few M-16s were left to give me cover. It seemed like the enemy firing stopped and I called for help to get the Lieutenant out of there.

## **A Close Encounter**

Three guys came and helped me carry him out in a poncho. I distinctly remember seeing this log ahead of me with a VC behind it. He had a rifle that looked so long that it could extend out and touch me. I figured it had to be one of those extra long single-shot Chinese rifles. Anyway he was bringing it up and I grabbed my rifle, put it on automatic and fired, but only one shot fired, the one in the chamber. The clip to my M-16 had fallen out and I had to find a replacement. So I found a clip, put it in and emptied it. I didn't even look up. I found another clip and fired that without even looking up. I thought bullets were ricocheting off my helmet because I was hearing and feeling something. When I did look up I realized it was the guy I was bandaging. My rifle was about six inches from his head and he kept hitting me on the helmet with his fist to get my attention because of the rifle noise.

## **Saved by the Cake**

The following night I was going through my rucksack looking for something to eat and I found a pound cake that was in a can the size of a tuna can. I have to admit that most of the food we ate seemed like it was left over from WWII. Later on we got dehydrated food in a plastic bag that just needed water added and that was a little better. I opened it up and it was drier than dry. Absolutely no moisture was left in the cake. I felt something on the back and I turned it over and a AK-47 round

had gone through the can and lodged in the cake.



*The pound cake that possibly saved Robert's life.*

I saved the round and have it at home. I realized that this was on my back and I came inches from getting killed.

## **Alpha Company - First In**

When we first went into Cambodia Alpha Company was to lead and this included me. Our commander was in a little two man 'Bumblebee' helicopter. He was checking out these landing zones that they had picked out on a map. Everything was live. Shots were being fired everywhere. So we are flying around with about 20 other helicopters looking for a place to land.



Eventually the pilots said, 'we have to go back and refuel.' We did, but didn't have enough refueling depots to accommodate all the birds. So that took two hours. Our battalion commander was determined that the 101st had to be the first with boots on the ground in Cambodia. So we went back and I was on the third chopper to land. By evening we had the landing zone and firebase all set up. They said Alpha Co. was to stay and provide cover while the fire base was established.

We were bulldozing dirt and putting concertina wire around. Our job in Cambodia was to disrupt the enemy and destroy as many weapon caches, food caches and medical supplies as possible.

### **The Black Market**

When we went into Cambodia we were one of four battalions. We captured cases of M-16s that hadn't even been opened. That just shows how widespread the black market was. We couldn't believe that they would have brand new cases of American weapons that weren't even opened.



### **Helicopter Crash**

There was one medic for every platoon (about 30-35 men). Each company was three platoons or around 100 men. As Bravo headed out on our mission the VC ambushed them. The VC set up the perfect ambush by getting between two platoons. Bravo called for reinforcements and I was on the first chopper to answer the call. But we never made it in. We got hit by enemy fire and crashed a quarter mile or so from the site. When we crashed I was in the middle and I did a somersault over one of the guys and was quite dizzy. I remember having trouble walking. The captain of my chopper was severely wounded, but I didn't know that. Nineteen men were wounded and six died.

The second chopper landed and now we had twelve infantry men to set up a defensive

perimeter, but the VC never attacked. The higher ups wanted us to guard the chopper overnight, but we knew better and decided to get out of there and get to a clearing where the enemy couldn't sneak up on us. There were numerous clearings where napalm had been dropped. We used one of these areas to set up our secure area for the night. Everything was charred and the residue from the napalm was all over among the burnt stumps. We set up a defense where we put Claymore mines out and trip wires.

### **Rescue**

During the night a water buffalo came in and set off the trip wire. We were prepared to stop any VC with our knives since a rifle flash would let the enemy know where we were and possibly draw mortar fire. When the buffalo tripped the wire a flare went up and lit up the area. We were hugging the ground and fortunately the VC had left the area. Being a farm boy, the water buffalo didn't upset me.



***A Chinook helicopter carried away the downed Huey.***

None of us got any sleep that night. You have to remember Bravo Company was isolated with 19 men wounded and 6 dead. I thought the rest of the company was there to cover for them, but they went back to the base. The next afternoon a Chinook chopper arrived to lift out the downed chopper. Two more choppers arrived to return the 12 of us to the firebase and our company.

### **Recommendation for Valor**

I got a recommendation for valor for saving the lives of the two soldiers. In the letter I got it says, 'Cambodia Campaign.'

### **Agent Orange**

In Vietnam everyone smoked, but worse than that was the soot left behind by Agent Orange. We would always set up camp in a clearing where everything was burnt off and covered with soot. I asked 'Why don't we set up in the vegetation where it is clean.' Everyone felt it was safer in the open where the VC couldn't sneak up on us. They had to be damn fools to crawl through that stuff.



***Deforestation caused by Agent Orange***

### **More on Cambodia**

When we went into Cambodia we were supposed to be there 30 days, but we only lasted 12. At first we did a lot of damage, but after enemy reinforcements came in it was much more difficult and we got out of there. After the Cambodian incursion, the battalion commander got the word that the VC occupied a hill. He decided

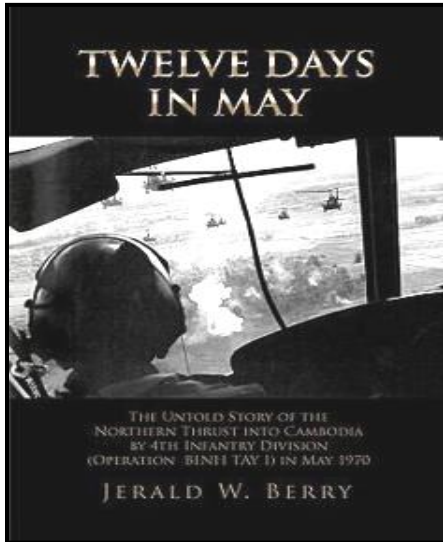
he wanted several companies to attack the enemy. So we set up on the side of a hill. Bravo and Delta were coming up the backside to flush the VC out toward us. So he is flying around in his bumblebee helicopter checking things out. Suddenly the radio operator says, 'Holy crap the whole hill is moving, there has got to be a thousand of them' They never expected that. Two hundred against 100 we had pretty good odds, but not against a thousand!

### **Evacuation**

So the battalion commander called our company commander and told him to get down the hill and he had already called for choppers to pick us up. Well, we didn't have that many choppers and since you can only get six on a chopper it would take quite awhile to pick everyone up. They had to leap frog, take one group and come back for another. As we are coming down the hill we are looking for clearings where Agent Orange had been used. We found a clearing and the Captain told the radio operator to call in the first chopper and he would guide him to set down. Since the chopper pilot had no idea of the slope of the terrain, the captain stood with his rifle over his head with it level to the ground.

### **Tragedy Strikes**

He was standing about three feet above where the chopper was going to land. The chopper came in and the blade cut off the captain's hand, his other arm was hanging by a couple tendons and part of his face was sliced off. His eyes were open, but his nose and jaw were gone. I'm about 5 feet away. Two guys grab the captain and throw him on the chopper, I see his hand on the ground and pick it up and throw it in the chopper. It takes a few seconds for the chopper to lift off. I thought the captain was dead, but he braced himself up on his elbow, looked at the machine gunner and pointed to his head with his stump. He wanted the gunner to shoot him with his pistol.



**A detailed description of the Cambodian Incursion is told in the book "Twelve Days In May."**

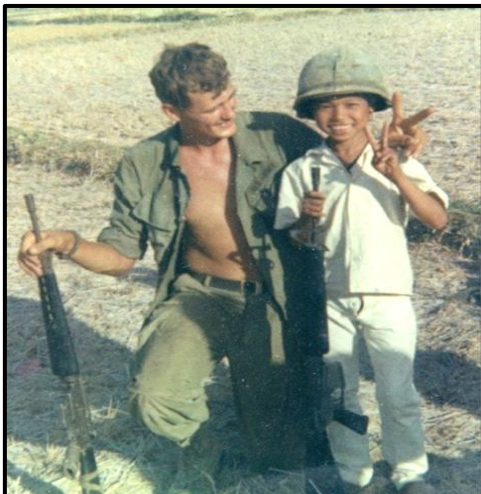
Six weeks later I got a letter from a surgeon on a navy hospital ship thanking me for sending the hand with him. He said they made three attempts to reattach the

hand, but they all failed. They reconstructed his face and the

captain did survive. I discovered author Jerry Berry who wrote a book, **Twelve Days In May** and three other books about the Cambodian Incursion. My wife contacted him and he asked if I had any interesting stories. I told him about the incident with the captain. He said he got to know the captain well and went hunting with him for about 12 years in the western states. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2004.

### Natives of Vietnam

The native people of Vietnam who befriended Americans knew when the VC took over that they would be killed. I remember going



through hamlets where people were friendly and several weeks later the hootches were all burned and the whole area destroyed. The people who came to the

United States knew if they didn't get out they would be killed. It was a war that couldn't be won. By day many of the locals were your friends, but at night the VC would come in and order them to move weapons from point A to point B. What choice did they have? If they didn't do it their whole family could be killed or raped. We would sit in the mountains at night and could see the flashlights and all the activity in the villages. Being a medic and a religious person, it was very disheartening to see all the women and children who were victims of the war. When we first arrived getting off the plane I will never forget the smell evidently caused by the humidity and improper sanitation. I was in Vietnam for 14 months.

### Adjustment to Civilian Life

There was a lot of adjustment when I returned from Vietnam. We lived out where the cemeteries are so we weren't too far from the big quarry on Highway 54. One day they blasted and I dove under the table. When I would go out I often went to Wally's. Then it was downtown on Main Street. A car came down the hill and backfired and I jumped under the pool table. Of course everyone laughed at me. I was drinking too much and smoking up to three packs a day. I decided I had to stop and that June I went 'Cold Turkey.'



**Old Glory Honor Flight August 1, 2014**

## The Honor Flight

The honor flight blew me away. I went through the EAA. Everyone on our plane was a Vietnam vet and on the way to DC everyone told their story. It was just amazing to hear all the stories. Mike Birling and John Minlschmidt were with me and I sat with them. When we got to DC they gave us a warm welcome with fire trucks shooting water in the air that the plane went through.

Things were much different when I came home from Vietnam. I flew into Fort Lewis Washington and five hours later I was out of the

army. I got off the plane and there was Chub Garsow from Seymour. He was one of the guys telling us to take our clothes off and change into other clothes that were provided, I had new boots and perfectly good clothes, but they wanted us to put them in a pile and change into civilian clothes 'so you don't get disrespected' when you get off the plane. I didn't get spit at, but others did. We had a two to three hour layover before we could get a flight to Milwaukee, so four of us rented a car and drove. Three of them were from Milwaukee. Once we got to Milwaukee I got on a Greyhound Bus and rode to Green Bay."

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)  
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 10834

10 September 1970

### AWARD OF THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

COURT, ROBERT A 399-50-8652 PFC 91A10 HHC 3d Bn (Aml) 506th Inf (WGZCTO)  
APO SF 96383

Awarded: The Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

Date of service: 13 May 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of  
AR 672-5-1.

Reason: For heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1970. Private Court distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company A, 3d Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry, during combat operations in Cambodia. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Private Court's squad was ambushed and the lead man was seriously wounded. Despite the intense hostile fire, Private Court maneuvered to his wounded comrade, treated him, and carried him to nearby cover. Private Court continually subjected himself to the intense barrage throughout the battle, rendering medical aid to his wounded comrades. Private Court's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

***Robert Court's award for valor during combat in Vietnam.***

## **News articles from 1924**

### **"HOTTENTOT" IN SEYMOUR"**

*Green Bay Press May 10, 1924*

DEPERE - It has been announced that "The Hottentot" the comedy farce that packed the Pearl Theater for three nights in DePere the past week, will be shown on Thursday and Friday of the coming week at the Seymour auditorium under the auspices of the American Legion of that city. Seymour residents will be treated to one of the best shows that ever came into the city, in the opinion of the DePere residents. Many from DePere who failed to see the show here, intend to drive to Seymour for the play.



***In 1916 the "New Auditorium" was built at the corner of Robbins and Main Streets. It hosted many traveling performers, and later became a movie theater.***

### **PLANS WELL UNDER WAY FOR SEYMOUR'S BIGGEST, BEST FAIR**

***Secretary Fiedler Says Event This Year Will Surpass All Previous Attempts***

*Green Bay Press May 10, 1924*

"The Seymour Fair", says George F. Fiedler, secretary, "will be better and bigger this year than ever before" "Since the gates were closed to the public last season, the fair association has been making preparations for that consummation."

Among the preparations finished or under way, Mr. Fiedler is calling attention to the purchase

of additional room at the south of the grounds, the painting of the grandstand, and the largest premium list ever gotten up by any fair association. Also one of the best half-mile tracks, now in perfect condition, in this part of the state on which a large number of horses are now in training. The fair association raised the purses for winning horses to \$300 and added money for races each day of the fair. Adding to the excitement are the calf and pig clubs, the livestock judging contest for boys and booking the Ostrich Farmers company from Los Angeles. There will be fireworks, free attraction night and day in front of the grandstand and baseball games daily.

#### **Increase in Purse**

The painting of the grandstand according to Mr. Fiedler, to correspond with all other buildings on the grounds presents a spectacle very pleasing and attractive to the eye. "The increase in the racing purses," says Mr. Fiedler, will attract the best grade of race horse to be found in the country. "Whatever their tastes may be says Mr. Fiedler" old or young, the fair is designed for their continuous entertainment throughout the days and evenings. The Ferris wheel and the Merry-go-round will give distinct pleasure to the younger element, while the displays, races, games and attractions will meet the demands of all pleasure seekers"

#### **Fifty Ostriches on Exhibition**

Only the Seymour Fair grounds will be the one place in this part of the state where an exhibition of the ostrich farms may be witnessed this season. As a part of this exhibition, an ostrich will race daily carrying a midget on its back, with the fastest horse that can be obtained for the purpose. Besides this, the manner of capturing ostriches with a lasso is to be demonstrated.

The free attractions night and day, are the Four Rodeoers, acrobats, W.J. Langer, clown, and, equilibrist, Geddis Trio, Mid-air performers and fifty ostriches, plowing, dragging, buggy driving and racing.





***The Isaar school served the area from 1893 until 1966 when students were transported to Seymour. It was destroyed by fire in 1968.***



***Firemen saved four truckloads of desks and other supplies that were stored there until the new Rock Ledge School was completed.***

## **FIRE AT THE FALCK HOTEL**

*Appleton Post Crescent January 3, 1924*

On Sunday morning, Sept. 9, 1923, fire of unknown origin, broke out in the Falck Hotel, Seymour, and in a few minutes so filled the basement kitchen dining room, and halls with smoke that escape by the regular passages from the upper floor appeared impossible. Mr. & Mrs. Falck had to be removed from the burning structure through a window by firemen.

For a time, it looked as if the entire hotel would be devoured by the flames, and this would have been the result had not local firemen been

able to confine the fire to narrow limits until the Appleton fire department arrived on the scene. By united effort of the departments of both cities, the fire was extinguished and the loss was held down to \$7,500. which covered a gutted kitchen and rooms on the second floor, and damage by smoke and water to other parts of the building.

### **Reopened in Week**

One week after the fire had done its work, and before the damage was repaired, the hotel was opened again to accommodate the most persistent part of its trade. Plans were soon adopted not only for obliterating the traces of the fire but also for removing the inside rooms on the second story and using the space for the construction of a sky-lighted lobby. Instead of narrow halls, all the rooms, according to the plans open into this lobby.

Other improvements designed at the same time and nearly completed include running water, hot and cold, in each room; large modernly equipped baths, new furniture, new curtains, new blankets, redecorated walls, hardwood floors provided with rugs, rubber tiled floors provided in the lobby, washroom and halls, new ranges and equipment in the kitchen, full equipment of new furniture in upper story rooms, parlor and lobby, and new electric light fixtures.

These changes and improvements, which are to be completed not later than January 15, will make the Falck Hotel exceedingly attractive and comfortable hostelry.



***Mr. and Mrs. George Falck following the fire.***

### **Oldest Business Man**

George Falck moved to Seymour and opened up for business as a saloonkeeper on Feb, 2, 1881, A number of business men preceded him, but they have since retired. As a business man, Mr. Falck is the oldest one in Seymour.

In 1885, Mr. Falck built a frame building on the site of his present place, which he opened up to the public as a saloon and hotel. In 1889, he built his present brick hotel which is a two story building 60 by 100 feet.

### **Born in Germantown**

Mr. Falck was born in Germantown in 1854, one of a family of ten children all living. In 1855, the family moved to Morrison, Brown county, where the father worked a farm and operated a general store. At this place George attended public school until he was 14 years old, and worked on the farm and clerked in the store until he reached his majority. In 1875 he started selling farm implements in Morrison and continued in that business till the fall of 1880 when he moved to West De Pere where he married Mary Hoenisch. Three children were born to this union, Edwin Appleton, commercial traveler; Grover, musician, Seymour, and Ray, dentist, who died seven years ago in Milwaukee.

### **Prominent Civically**

George Falck completed his education in a Milwaukee business college. Under Cleveland's administration, he was a postmaster in Seymour four years. He represented one of the wards in the common council two years and served the city four consecutive years as mayor. For 16 years he served as foreman of the volunteer fire department and was a member for 21 years. He acted as secretary of the Odd Fellows lodge 26 years, was trustee of the fair association since its origin 39 years ago and is a stockholder and director of the State Bank of Seymour. As a delegate or otherwise during his residence in Seymour, he attended all

the city, town, county and state conventions of his party.

Mr. Falck has always been an enthusiast and a power behind any political or popular movement to improve social, political or economic conditions in city, county, and nation. In private business he is an outstanding success. He knows how to meet men and he and his wife understand how to entertain their guests and make them feel at home in the Falck Hotel.

## **FARMERS FLOCK TO MONTHLY FAIR**

### **Break Snowstorm Isolation By Coming to Seymour to Trade**

*Appleton Post-Crescent Feb. 12, 1924*

Seymour--- Monday was a big day at the Seymour monthly stock fair. Farmers who had been snowed in for more than a week took advantage of the mild weather and came out in numbers to sell livestock and produce, do their shopping and transact other business. Offerings in small pigs were light, mostly because of the difficulty in hauling loads over the country roads.

The Green Bay an Western passenger train usually due here at 10:20 in the morning was



***The second Tuesday of the month the population of Seymour practically doubled as farmers displayed a wide variety of goods for sale on Morrow St.***

about two and a half hours late Monday due to a breakdown of the engine. A special engine was sent to Seymour to take away the cars of livestock.

### **More Snow**

Another snow storm visited the locality Saturday, accompanied by a high wind which caused considerable drifting. The snow was piled higher and some roads were made almost impossible for traffic.

### **Postpone Entertainment**

The closing number of the high school lyceum course scheduled Feb. 4. was not given because of the storm tie-up. A new date will be announced later. The tie-up also caused the Seymour Press to issue a day late. Guy Miracle is sick at his home due to an infected tooth. Theodore Nicodem, cashier at State Bank is in a Green Bay hospital where he submitted to an operation. Miss Grace Berry is sick at her home but is recovering. August Stritzel Sr. pioneer of town of Seymour is seriously ill with pneumonia at his home. Members of his family have been summoned to his bedside.

### **Team Defeated**

Seymour high School basketball team met defeat at the hands of Bear Creek Friday Night. The score was 36-to 10.

Harold Miracle and Edgar Eick left Monday for Green Bay., where they are employed by Morley-Murphy Hardware Co. Mrs. Ida Ploeger is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. A. Boyden. The Methodist Ladies Aid Society is giving a "swap" social Tuesday night at the church. Colonial lunch will be served.

## **15,000 PEOPLE AT SEYMOUR FAIR TODAY**

*Appleton Post-Crescent August, 21, 1924*

Seymour- Fifteen thousand people are attending the second day of the Seymour fair here on Wednesday. This is Appleton day and a large number of Appleton people are in attendance. The

crowd is one of the largest in the history of the fair association. Seymour officials early Wednesday morning had decided to extend the fair one day, closing on Friday instead of Thursday, but shortly before noon the officials said the huge crowd today made another day unnecessary so the fair will close on Thursday night as scheduled. Races postponed from Tuesday because of the wet track probably will be sandwiched in Wednesday or Thursday. The track is in fair condition now and a crew of men worked all morning to make it as fast as possible.

### **Seymour Team Wins**

A crowd of the usual size for the first day attended the fair on Tuesday. The rain during the night did not interfere with the program during the day, except for the horse races. Two races were run off and the others postponed.

The Seymour baseball team defeated an Appleton squad, 6 to 5, in one of the feature attractions of the afternoon. A high class program is offered fair visitors. Today is Appleton day and a large number of Appleton people are in the grounds.

### **Judging exhibits and Horse Races**

Judging of exhibits began Tuesday morning and the work probably will be completed before the end of the day. The class of exhibits is fully up to the high standard set by the Seymour fair and in some departments the number of exhibits breaks all previous records.

Eight horses were entered in the half mile running race which was won by "Dewey" in 1 minute and 4 seconds. Second place was won by Topsy. King Direct copped first money in the 2:19 pace for a purse of \$300 and added money. The winner owned by A.J.Mitchell from Plymouth was forced to extend himself and five heats were required in the race. Ramsey Thornway, owned by J.Anderson of Shawano finished in second place. All eight horses finished the race providing much excitement for the large crowd.

## **W.C.T.U. TO HAVE PUBLIC MEETING**

### **State officer will speak at two meetings at Seymour on Wednesday**

*Appleton Post-Crescent March 25, 1924*

The Women's Christian Temperance Union will meet at the home of the Rev. S.B. Welles Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Sanford, state officer will be present. A public meeting will be held in the evening at the Congregational church and an address will be given by Mrs. Sanford. All are invited.

Miss. Sylvia Steward of Seattle, Wash. Is visiting her relatives, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Row. The Rev. G.W Lester left Monday for Waterloo to assist in funeral services of a friend. Rebekah Lodge gave a card party and social in Odd Fellow Hall Friday night.

Roller skating was enjoyed by many Friday night at the auditorium opening. Seymour streets are bare and several wagons came in from country because farmers no longer can use sleighs. Trucks of cream Friday went to Appleton by way of Green Bay and had to be pulled out of the snow once. Returning by way of highway C the drivers were obliged to leave the truck eight miles from Seymour and walk home.



***During the early 1920s Main Street in Seymour was mostly dirt and turned to mud with the spring rain. Newspaper articles refer to the city as being "Mud Bound."***

Charles Willis has rented his farm half mile west of the city to Otto Asman of this city. Possession will be given April 1. The American Legion and auxiliary had a joint session Monday night at Deans hall. Miss Alice Hillegas left Saturday to resume her studies at Oshkosh normal school. Mrs. Louis Maass spend the weekend at Appleton visiting her son and daughter, who are employed there.

Mrs. William Beck and daughter visited relatives at Green Bay over Sunday. Louis Becker is visiting his mother at Milwaukee this week. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Karrow spent the weekend at Appleton, Roger Benedict spent the weekend at the home of Perry Culbertson. Mr. Benedict is a student at Lawrence College, Appleton.

## **KISSINGER SELLS GARAGE INTEREST**

### **George Vandenberg Becomes Sole Owner. Bottling Works Is Bought.**

*Appleton Post-Crescent August 21, 1924*

John Kissinger has sold his interest in the Vandenberg Auto Company to George Vandenberg and has purchased the Seymour Bottling Works from John Stuckart. New machinery and other improvements will be made in the bottling factory.

The Seymour Press will build an addition to its office 12 by 28 feet to take care of its growing business. The Green Bay and Western Railroad has added one more passenger car on the train running from Wisconsin Rapids to Green Bay. This is a midday train is called "The Scoot."

***All past issues of the Seymour History Bulletin going back to 2008 can be accessed on the society website ([seymourhistory.org](http://seymourhistory.org)). The site also contains over 2,000 Seymour area photos.***

# Visitors to the Museum in the Past Year

## (647) 18 States and 2 Foreign Countries

Usually during the week of Burgerfest about 1,500 people visit the museum. The festival normally brings people from all over the Midwest to Seymour. Since the festival was postponed this year, the number of visitors declined. However, the 647 people who signed in at the museum, still represented 18 states and two foreign countries. When people from out of town are asked why they are visiting they often remark that they wanted to know more about the history of the hamburger. Others comment that they love to visit small town museums and heard that Seymour had much to offer. Whatever the reason, it is a delight to hear positive comments about the museum and our community.

### Cities Represented

Algoma	Denmark	Lake Stevens, WA	Plainfield
Annapolis, MD	Denver, CO	Lewiston, ME	Pulaski
Antigo	De Pere	Madison	Quebec, Canada
Appleton	Dudley, MN	Manitowoc	Rochester, MN
Bellingham, WA	Duluth, MN	Marshfield	Sacramento, CA
Belview, MN	Edinburg, TX	Middleton	Salt Lake City, UT
Black Creek	Germantown	Midvale, UT	Saxon
Bluffton, SC	Grand Rapids, MN	Milwaukee	Seymour
Bonduel	Green Bay	Mountain	Shawano
Briarton	Howard	Mt. Horeb	Sheboygan
Brownwood, TX	Iron Ridge	Naperville, IL	Shenyary, China
Cherry Log GA	Janesville	New London	Shiocton
Chicago, IL	Juneau	Oneida	St. Francis
Chippewa Falls	Kaukauna	Oregon	St. Paul, MN
Colgate	Keshena	Oshkosh	Suamico
Crivitz	Kronsonwetter, CO	Pardeeville	Tucson, AZ
Deadwood, SD	La Crosse	Philadelphia, PA	Viero, FL

### 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 April 10, 2024

### *Listed in the order received.*

Dave and Mary Maass	Fountain Hills, AZ	In memory of Denny Sager, Class of 1959	Sustainability
Dave and Mary Maass	Fountain Hills, AZ	In memory of Carl Kuehne	Sustainability
Michael Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI	In memory of Ron Nachtwey	Sustainability
Colleen Weyers	Green Bay, WI		Sustainability
Rick and Bonnie Buntrock	Green Bay,		Sustainability
Terry and Patti Lardinois	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Laurene G Ferge,	Nichols, WI,	In Memory of Margie Zibell	Sustainability
Barry and Sandy Kailhofer	Seymour, WI		Flowers
Laurene G Ferge	Nichols, WI,	Thrivent Choice Dollars	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI		Water and soda
Pete Mullen Estate	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of Bud Vanden Heuvel	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of Bud Vanden Heuvel	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Bud VandenHeuvel	Sustainability
Arlin and Janet Springstroh	Black Creek, WI	In memory of Marjorie Ziebell	Sustainability
Warren and Gloria Maass	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Margaret Coulter and Patricia Daugherty	Sacramento. CA	Muehl relatives	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of Bob Skinkis	Sustainability
Randy & Cassandra Skinkis	Seymour, WI	In memory of Bob Skinkis	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In memory of John and Pat Matteson	Sustainability
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	In memory of John and Pat Matteson	Sustainability
Butch and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Judy Blohm	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Seymour Lions Club	Seymour, WI		Popcorn
Becky and Jon Stellmacher	Appleton, WI		Sustainability
Butch and Betty Blohm	Seymour, WI	In memory of Shirley Vanden Berg	Sustainability
Dr. Lee and Mary Jo Piehl Jess	Grand Rapids, MN		Membership
Jon Schaumberg	Seymour, WI		Sustainability
Robert and Debra Court	Seymour, WI	In memory of Ron Seidl	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In Memory of Ron Seidl	Sustainability
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	In memory of June Raether	Sustainability
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	In Memory of June Raether	Sustainability

## 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.

- **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
- **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.*

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

**Website:** [www.seymourhistory.org](http://www.seymourhistory.org)  
**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

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

- \* A free present for the first 100 children.
- \* Santa Claus be there - Bring your camera

**Christmas sale at the museum gift shop.**

- \* Many unique items available at bargain prices.
- \* Seymour post cards, cutting boards, ornaments, jewelry, water bottles, coasters, books hamburger items and much more!