



Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**

Calumet County Historical Society's Music Display

By Tom Schneider

Music has always played a very important part in our lives. Especially in our area, predominantly populated with German descendants, music is engrained in our heritage.

In this display at the Calumet County Historical Society's Museum is testimony to that. Most homes included the classic phonographs, some with very ornate sound horns seen in the photos, to entertain family and friends during frequent visits.



The button accordions shown, along with the lap harp, are examples of what some musically inclined folks may have to provide entertainment for visitors. There are likely many hundreds of these instruments in closets, attics and basements all over Calumet County right now. A more modern example of our musical heritage is the long play album of the very recognizable Syl Groeschl. Syl's band has a rich history in the Groeschl family dating back over 150 years.

Tom Schneider's Bio Tom has been around music all his life with his dad, Jerry starting his band when he was 4 years old. Piano lessons started in 4th grade while attending Holy Trinity School in Jericho. The opportunity to take trumpet lessons was presented to him in 6th grade. This meant getting out of school early once a week and carpool to Chilton High School to study under his cousin, Howard Schneider. He continued studying music all through high school enjoying every minute of concert band, marching band and jazz ensemble. It was also during this time, at age 16, that he played his first gig with his dad's band. While pursuing a business degree at UW-Whitewater, he continued his music education studying under noted jazz musician/instructor, Lou Feriano. During this time played regularly with The Les Schneider Band, Tuba Dan Jerabek and The Bill Thull Band. After graduation he settled in to a regular spot with The Jerry Schneider Band where he remains today while also venturing into his own 3 pc group, 2/5th's Party Band. Music and heritage have been and will continue to be an avocation for Tom

