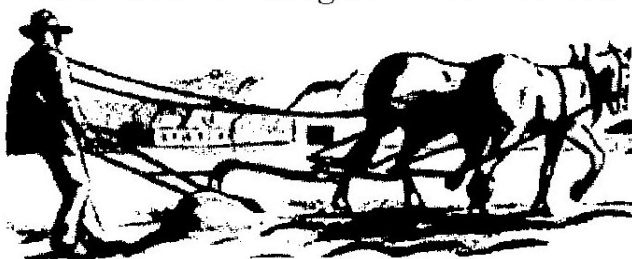


Wheatland Plowing Match Association



FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Volume 14, No. 3

Rural Heritage News

Summer, 2004

Annual Fund-Raiser

Farmers' Pig Roast

3 to 7 p.m., Sat., Aug 7th

Mark your calendars for the 23rd annual Farmer's Pig Roast. Tell all your friends, neighbors, and bring all your family members. This is a great opportunity to have a family reunion or get together with your friends without the worry of how to keep them entertained or having to cook. Instead of running back and forth to the kitchen, wouldn't you like to just be able to sit down and visit?

For the third year in a row the Village of Bolingbrook is giving us a warm welcome back at the former Fry-Leverenz farm. With the increasing decline of family farms in our six township area, it is nice to know that the Village of Bolingbrook wants to help preserve our rural heritage.

The Fry-Leverenz farm is located on Essington Rd., just about one and 1/2 miles south of Naper/Plainfield and 111th Street. Follow the big signs that indicate the WPMA Pig Roast is "this way."

Through our annual fundraisers and because of the generosity of our members the WPMA has once again been able to award four \$1000 college scholarships to young adults interested in agricultural-related fields of study. The four scholarships will be awarded at the pig roast.

Tickets are- Adults \$12, Children (5-12) \$6. Which includes a Pork dinner, Soft drink, Entertainment, Antique Cars & Machinery Displays, Childrens Games, Rural Historical displays. There will also be a Hog auction, items for a silent

2004 WPMA Board Members!

WPMA Officers

President, Wilbert Hageman: 630-904-0796
Vice-President, Tim Drendel: 630-553-5411
Treasurer, Bob Hamman: 630-420-2243
Secretary, Louise Wiesbrook: 630-551-4779
Correspondence, Louise Wiesbrook: 630-551-4779

Board Members

Karen Allen, Tammy Brigel, Karen Dietzman,
Jerry Feldott, Ray Keller

Committee Chairman

Publicity, Tammy Brigel: 630-554-8114
Membership, Frank Keller: 630-554-6628
Historical, Ruth Hageman: 630-904-0796
Nominating, Earl Meisinger: 630-904-0787
Site Committee, Wilbert Hageman: 630-904-0796
Scholarship, Louise Wiesbrook: 630-551-4779
Special Events, Stu Carstens: 630-393-2679
By-Laws, Earl Meisinger: 630-904-0787
Equipment, Ray Keller: 630-553-1973

Newsletter Coordinator, Tammy Brigel: 630-554-8114

auction and a raffle. Hopefully this year the weather will cooperate and we will have the plowing demonstration and see who has the talent to plow the straightest line.

Tickets will be available in advance at the following establishments: Keller's Farmstand, Naper Settlement, Russells Cleaners, Wagner Farms, Sids Garden Center, Heritage F.S. Barn Feed and Garden Center, Our Team Auto & Truck Inc., John Greene Realty, any WPMA Board Member. Or by mail see the order form in this newsletter. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. WPMA thanks our sponsors Hamman Farms and Macom Inc..



Spaghetti Supper Update

Thank you one and all who answered our call for volunteers to help at the spaghetti dinner. Because of the fantastic help we had, we were cleaned up and out of the church in record time.

We hope that everyone had a nice time visiting and enjoying the fellowship. Remember if you enjoyed the hog calling demonstration to check out the contest at the DuPage County Fair.

Stu profusely apologizes for forgetting the butter. He had too many shopping lists. Stu has always done such a great job doing all the shopping for the supplies. I guess it was bound to happen that sooner or later he would forget something. I know next year he will be double-checking the butter supply.

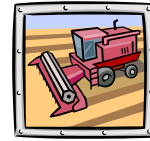
Once again WPMA thanks all of you that bought tickets, donated items or volunteered your time to help make this fundraiser such a success.

Tammy Brigel



WPMA Web Site

Visit the Wheatland Plowing Match Association web site, www.wheatlandplowing.org to check out activities and events, farm history, the history of WPMA and other topics of interest. The site also has links to agricultural sites for your quick reference to other farming topics.



Do you have time to tell your farm history?

We are in desperate need of your family histories. Are you writing your family history? Is it ready to be highlighted in the next issue of the Rural Heritage News?

The Wheatland Plowing Match Association welcomes your family history for publication in this newsletter. Please give me a call if your family history is complete and ready to share with other farm families.

Our volunteers strive to publish your written histories without typographical errors, omissions or changes. Sometimes, however, because of limited space, we must edit to fit.

Please attempt to keep your submitted histories at 1000 words or less. If farm family historians can provide a hard copy as well as a copy on a computer disk, it would be greatly appreciated by our editors who must keystroke the information.

We also welcome longer, more detailed histories, letters and updated memories to keep on file for the web site. John Bushman at Naperville North supervises the Wheatland Plowing Match Association web site.

Ruth Hageman
Chairman, Historical Committee
630-904-0796

WPMA's July meeting will be held on July 27th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Pig roast site. We welcome anyone that would like to come help fine tune the details of the pig roast.

No Farmers! No Food!

Thanks to everyone who regularly attends WPMA board meetings.

On the third Wednesday of every month, we celebrate our rich rural heritage!

You're welcome to join us every time.

Meetings are held at John Greene Realtor building at 1311 S Rte 59 at 7:00 p.m.

He made it!

Most of you that know Elmer Staffeldt will be interested in this story, the rest of you will find it interesting.

Debbie Staffeldt called the night of Elmer's knee replacement surgery a few weeks ago and said her Dad was doing OK. We all know he's tough—he made it.

Before Elmer went in for his surgery Betty and I visited him at his daughter Mary Lou's house in Waterman, when we were about to leave, Elmer said at age 92 he didn't know if he would make it through this operation, I interrupted him and said "What are you talking about, for you this knee thing is a piece of cake, after all you've been through, Such as.

When you got shot with a .22, you made it. When you were making hay and you were hoisting a number of bales up to the mow and things broke and the bales came down on your head, you made it. When you had Mary Lou's SUV and run off the road into a ditch and flipped end over end, landing on its top, all the windows broken, leaving you sitting in there, you made it.

When you were cutting up brush running a chain saw with your one arm and you run it through your leg, you made it.

When you had your tractor bucket raised up high with a ladder in it and were up to the peak of the gable on your house and then the tractor rolled back and the ladder slid down the wall and you landed on a rose bush and into the window well, you made it.

When you stuck your hand in a corn picker and lost your hand, you made it. When you tried to run a gasoline semi tanker off the road and wrecked your pickup, you made it. When you ran your son in laws big John Deere tractor through a farmyard gate and the tillage machine you were pulling was twice as wide as the gate, considerable damage resulted but you made it.

When you run a tractor into the rear end of a combine, smashing it, you made it. When you fell down a flight of stairs and landed on concrete, you made it. When you had a hip replacement a few years ago, you made it. A number of accidents where your little red pickup ended up with a smashed front end, you made it.

Like I say, this knee operation is a piece of cake. *Good Luck Elmer,* G. Alan Diehl

Thanks Dad

My Dad (G. Alan Diehl)....Many of you reading this newsletter knew my dad way before I ever did...but, I have known him MY whole life! I started enjoying the Wheatland Plowing Match when we moved from Naperville to 95th street in the early 50's. As kids we never missed a match, and always looked forward to spending the whole day running around not missing a thing. I guess I inherited my love of the organization from my Dad, and have been actively involved since 1972 when I first was elected to the Board as secretary. When my Dad first got involved with the Match, I remember he was Chairman of the Parking Committee. Boy, I thought that he had the best job....he got to see every person that came thru those gates to attend the plowing event! My Dad is still involved, and has been involved with about every committee possible. He has held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President and President. My Dad has passed a lot of the history of the Wheatland Plowing Match that originated in 1877 on to me, and I try to keep that history alive even through the changes that have occurred over the years. It is a great organization, and I'm proud to have served. Thanks Dad,

Love Karen



Thanks for your help...in advance!

Consider lending a hand and donating prizes for the raffle at the Farmers' Pig Roast. Plan now to attend our annual reunion with family and friends.

Want to volunteer???

Please call: Wilbert Hageman. (630)-904-0796

Farmers' Pig Roast
August 7th, 2004

REMEMBER: Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund and all other efforts to educate and create awareness about our rural heritage as stated in our mission.

What do you know that we should know?

A listing of upcoming events appears in the newsletter. It needs your input. If you have news events, memorable poems or historical thoughts to share in this newsletter, please forward them to WPMA historian Ruth Hageman.

Calling all DuPage Co. Fair Alumni

In recognition of the DuPage County Fair 50th anniversary, a special class has been created for anyone who has ever exhibited and competed in a livestock class at the DuPage County Fair at least once during the past 50 years.

Titled the Alumni Exhibitor Showmanship Class, the friendly and nostalgic exhibition will take place after the 4H and Junior Class Open Show each day of the fair. The 50th annual DuPage County Fair is set for July 21-25 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. The theme is Golden Memories, and many special events, including this one, are planned to celebrate this important milestone.

Participants must be 35 years old or older, and each must have shown livestock at least once in 50 years in one of the following categories: dairy, poultry, sheep, goats, swine, rabbit and beef. Participants can "borrow" an animal to show since the exhibition focuses only on showmanship skills.

Did you keep items from past fairs?

A call is going out to the public for donations of memorabilia and/or souvenirs from past DuPage County Fairs. Programs, news articles, ribbons, photos, plaques, awards, and souvenirs are sought for a special historical display at the 2004 DuPage County Fair during its 50th anniversary. All memorabilia will be returned.

All items should be clearly identified with the following information: name, address, phone number, year of fair memorabilia is from, and any additional information about memorabilia and how it relates to the DuPage County Fair. Items can be dropped off at the fair office anytime during normal business hours.

Organized in 1954, the DuPage County Fair Association is composed of a 21 member volunteer board. A not-for-profit event, the annual county fair takes place with the help of the DuPage County 4-H program which provides members, leaders and some of the many volunteers to help serve the public visiting the fair.

This affordable family event includes musical entertainment by country star Brad Paisley (July 21) and the legendary Randy Travis (July 22); a horse show, birthing and milking

center; demolition derby; a petting zoo; food courts; rodeo; livestock auction; carnival rides; truck and tractor pull; pig races and much more.

Tickets are only \$6 at the gate; kids under age 8 are admitted free! Five-day passes can be purchased for \$15.

For more information, call Ellen Sietmann at (630)-668-6636 or visit online at:

www.dupagecountyfair.org.



Pretty Mayme Miller, 17, of Naperville, sits astride a giant pumpkin at the vegetable show at the 1937 Wheatland plowing match.

Date-September 11, 1937

Place-Martin Fry Farm

The officers of the Association deserved a great deal of credit for replacing the equipment following the fire.

The two new 40 x 60 foot tents made quite a showing.

One new feature of the match was the broadcasting of the proceedings over station WLS, Chicago, Illinois.

A program of singing was put on by the four Churches of Wheatland and DuPage Townships.

There were two airplanes present, which took up quite a large number of passengers for flights over the neighborhood.

A fuel economy contest was held this year. Professor Shaw of the University of Illinois was present.

One of the newer exhibits were several booths at which hybrid seed corn was shown.

Orvis Schroyer won the prize winner's class.

John Chrissee won the men's class.

George and Mary (Gartner) Diehl Family History

To write the history about George Diehl (1859-1931), who has the honor of having a popular road named for him, I must start with the first generation that came to America.

Adam Diehl, George's father, was born in Bonn, Germany in 1830 and came to the United States in 1851. (I have his original immigration papers preciously framed by my daughter Marianne (Lisson) Kuhn and displayed in her home.) After nearly three months on the ocean and a short stay in New York, he went west and settled in this area. Adam worked as a farm laborer where he met Frances Hillenbrand (1835-84), a German immigrant also. She came to the United States with a trunk handmade by her father. I have this trunk in my home and when I was younger I imagined something beautiful in the trunk, such as hand-painted china or a special piece of art, until I realized she brought with her the bare necessities; a soft feather bed (The German people still like their feather beds) a warm blanket, a winter coat and maybe a change of clothes and a pan or two. These items would have arrived safely and filled the trunk to start her new life here.

Adam and Frances were married in 1858 at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Naperville. Seven children were born to this union; George, Michael, Charles, Elizabeth (Renner), Anna (Fortman), O'Tillia and Henry.

George (1859-1931), my grandfather, married Mary Gartner (1865-1954) in 1888 at Saints Peter and Paul Church also. Their nine children were William (died at age two), Anna (Rott), Edward, Cecelia (Millen), Harry, Joseph, Jeanette (Schultejann), Clarence and Albert. I have many fond memories of my Diehl uncles as they all owned farms in the area. Aunt Cecilia and Jeanette died when I was very young so I have limited memories of them.

George and Mary Diehl started a dairy business in Chicago the first few years of their marriage, and then came back to this area and eventually bought two farms, one on Route 59, North of Fox Valley where Pebblewood is now, and the other farm West of Route 59 on Diehl Rd. They lived in a stately Victorian farmhouse with many farm buildings. One of the most

outstanding features of my grandparents home was the summer kitchen in the rear of the home. The wood paneled room had a wood-burning stove where my Grandmother prepared all her summer meals, so the rest of the house stayed cool. In the winter it was closed and used for cold storage.

Another unique feature was the cistern pump on the back porch next to the kitchen door. As a child I remember priming the pump and watching the water flow through the drain to the vegetable and flower garden. It was certainly handy in the summer drought. The Victorian two-seated swing was ideal for daydreaming, as well as seeing how high we could pump it. Many times we lifted the legs from the ground and almost tipped it over. The third rail ran less than a half-mile from the farm so that was always fascinating to see. Most of all I can still see the white picket fence lined with endless rows of every shade of hollyhocks. It could have been an inspiration for a Currier and Ives setting.

Many of my Diehl cousins still own farms (including myself) in the surrounding counties. We will be the last generation to own farmland, as it is disappearing for development and high technology.

By, Granddaughter Rita (Rott) Lisson

Remember to check out the WPMA farm sculpture at the Naperville Riverwalk this summer.

Important Dates to Remember!

July

July 14 - 18 Kane County Fair
July 21 - 25 - 50th DuPage County Fair
July 29 - Aug 1- Kendall County Fair
July 29 Jazz Band concert in Naperville Central Park

August

Aug. 7 - Farmers Pig Roast
Aug. 13 - 22 Illinois State Fair
Aug. 25 - 29 Will County Fair

September

Sept. 4-6th Naperville Last Fling
Sept 5th Jaycees Antique Automobile Show
Sept 8-12th Sandwich Fair

For tractor show dates, call Tom Kuhn: 630-355-3454



Oatis and Ivy

The WPMA is sponsoring a United Way Sculpture of a calf and a lamb for their fund raiser entitled 'Tending our past cultivating our future', featuring farmland friends. Our sculpture was painted by WPMA member, Mary Ann Lisson Kuhn. The sculpture is situated on the Farmers' Plaza by the farmers monument on the Naperville Riverwalk on Jackson Street south of the bridge.

Check it out before it is auctioned off on Sept 10 at the Holiday Inn Select N. Naperville blvd., Naperville. From there they will go not to the slaughterhouse but to homes, businesses, and organizations throughout the Naperville Area.

The WPMA will gladly accept anyone who wishes to be a sponsor at the spaghetti supper and the Farmers' Pig Roast. This year we are happy to have Macom Inc. and Hamman Farm as sponsors for the pig roast. We thank these two sponsors who have been great supporters of our events.

Ken's Korner

Charlie the Chicken on the Feed Line

Pet chicken Charlie liked to go feed the cows, riding in back

On the pickup load of cubes like he's guard of the sack

While I fed, he'd get out of the truck and go to milling around

Cows were gentle as could be, gathered on the feed ground

But their attitudes changed at the calving time of the year

Charlie wandered too close to the new babies hidden near

One cow spotted him and she's gonna put him in his place

He knew he didn't have a chance if it got down to a foot race

He danced and dodged and stepped aside trying to escape

When she charged, he looked like a matador without a cape

He got his chance but worse, he's headed in my direction

I was no match for that cow and would be little protection

I barely got out of the way and chicken and cow went on by

Now is the time when old Charlie wished he had learned to fly

He was able to get underneath the truck, winning by a stride

Before she upset that pickup, he slipped out the other side

Hopped up in the bed dancing like a matador without a cape

Cow is trying to get in too, bent tailgate plumb out of shape

While she's busy, I was able to get in the truck and drive away

Took Charlie home, and at calving time, that's where he'll stay

K.K.

Rhubarb Upside Down Cake

4 lbs Butter 2 cups Rhubarb cutup
1 cup Brown Sugar

Melt butter in deep 9 inch pan, add sugar, mix well and add cutup rhubarb. Set Aside

2 eggs yolks 1 Tsp Baking powder
3 TBS Water 1/2 Tsp Vanilla
1 cup sugar 1/4 Tsp salt
1 cup flour 2 egg whites stiffly beaten

Beat together egg yolks, water and sugar. Add sifted flour, baking powder and salt. Add vanilla and Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour over fruit, Bake 45 min. in a 375 degree oven. Turn over onto serving dish, serve hot or cold with whipped cream. Double for a 9 x 13 pan.