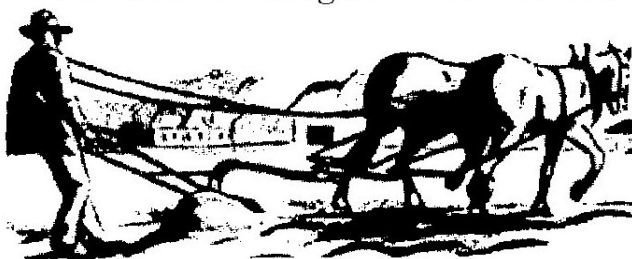


## Wheatland Plowing Match Association



FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Volume 15, No. 1

# Rural Heritage News

Winter 2005

## WPMA Fund-Raiser Spaghetti Supper Saturday, April 23rd 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.

It is time for the WPMA first event of 2005. Once again the Spaghetti Supper will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church located at 11007 S. Book Road in Naperville.

Just like last year we are offering two separate servings. To accommodate you early birds that like to get home before dark, we have a 4:30 serving. You will have the same entertainment as the later 6:00 p.m. serving so that you don't miss out on anything. Door prizes will also be given away at both servings.

Come enjoy visiting with family and longtime friends. Invite new friends and neighbors for a night of fun. The menu as always includes family-style spaghetti, sauce, salad, rolls *with butter*, beverage and dessert.

Remember, the Spaghetti Supper supports the WPMA Scholarship Fund. Being able to help our youth acquire higher education in an agriculture field is very important to us.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 8 years and under. Tickets are sold in advance only. Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the door. So get your tickets early.

Tickets are available at Heritage FS Barn, Feed and Garden Ctr. at 11127 S. Heggs Rd., 630-904-2175. Or you can call Karen Allen at 630-904-0667, Ruth Hageman at 630-904-0796, Tammy Brigel 630-554-8114 or any one of our board members.

## 2005 WPMA Board Members!

### WPMA Officers

President, Jerry Feldott: 630-355-1174  
Vice-President, Ray Keller: 630-553-1973  
Treasurer, Donna Sagen: 630-898-8060  
Secretary, Louise Wiesbrook: 630-551-4779  
Correspondence, Karen Allen: 630-904-0667

### Board Members

Patrick Berthold, Tammy Brigel,  
Anita Drendel, Marty 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, Anita Drendel: 630-553-5411  
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

## Membership Dues Now Due!

Remember to send in your dues. Please check your mailing label to see if you are current on your membership dues. If you do not have an "05" on your label, you will not be receiving the next Rural Heritage News. We value your membership and need your support.

### 2004 Scholarship Essays

Inside this issue you will find the last two of the interesting essays from the students that were selected to receive the scholarships.

## Scholarship Report

It is customary for the WPMA to award two \$1,000 scholarships each year to high school graduates who demonstrate an interest in agriculture business or a related field. In 2004, we awarded scholarships to four qualified applicants.



If you know of any high school seniors who are headed for college to study in an agriculture-related field, please tell them to apply for our scholarships. Applications are available in the guidance offices at all of the local high schools.

Advanced education is important no matter what career, and we are so happy that our fund-raising efforts provide so many scholarship opportunities. If you have any questions, please call me at 630-553-5411.

Anita Drendel  
Chairman, Scholarship Committee

## Annual meeting update

We would like to thank members Patrick Berghoff, Anita Drendel, Marty Keller, and Donna Sagen for excepting the nominations to the board. WPMA needed you, and you rose to the occasion.

We have some big shoes to fill with Wilbert Hageman, Tim Drendel, Bob Hamman and Karen Dietzman leaving the board.



## WPMA Web Site

Visit the Wheatland Plowing Match Assoc. web site, [www.wheatlandplowing.org](http://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 February meeting will be held on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at John Greene Realty. We welcome anyone that would like to come help keep WPMA going strong and give us your ideas.*

## 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

Emily Smith is a graduate of Neuqua Valley High School. She plans to study Spanish and become a Spanish teacher. Congratulations Emily!

## The History of Wheatland School

Education has always been a primary goal for the people of Wheatland Township. Although the journey to the state in which Wheatland School is in now, was a long ways away. The road to the building and maintaining of the school on Route 59 and 103<sup>rd</sup> Street was one in which endured many trials and tribulations.

In 1948, Community Consolidated District 40-c was formed. During the next two years, the board of directors planned and constructed the original Wheatland School. When Wheatland School opened in the fall of 1950, the period of the one-room-school-house that had provided for us for over one hundred years ceased in Wheatland Township.

The original Wheatland School building opened with three classrooms and 62 students. The dedication was held on December 1, 1950. The Naperville Sun called Wheatland “a new, ultra-modern consolidated school.” The Aurora Beacon News hailed it as “the epitome of consolidation.” Mrs. Janet Brown was the school’s first principal and also taught first and second grades. Doris Lee, Bert Panthke, Phyliss Schillinger, Gerry Smith, and Doris Wilkening were the first to graduate from Wheatland School.

In 1967 it looked as though Wheatland would, after all, lose its district. Yet it didn’t. The credit was given to the farmers of Wheatland. “They’re the greatest people in the world,” the principal of that time stated. The farmers settled on elevating their taxes about \$2.00 an acre in order to construct an addition to Wheatland. The community took it a step further and contributed financially and with physical labor in order to keep the costs down to about \$14.00 a square foot. These farm families include the Clows, Pattersons, Boughtons, Hackers, Smiths (my grandparents), Kemmerers and many others.

The “new” Wheatland School was open to the public on November 12, 1967. Enrollment had matured to over one hundred and thirty students, and the addition of four classrooms, a stage, a gym, and four bathrooms was seen as a triumph for the community as a whole. As the Naperville Sun reported

it looked as though the future of District 40-C “was assured.” The Sun stated that the only problem Wheatland may have is “one of growth.”

In 1970, four more classrooms were added to the north wing. In 1972, District 204 was combined from three elementary school districts: Wheatland School in Plainfield, Indian Plains School in Eola, and Granger School in Aurora. At the instance of unity, the entire population of the district was 4,204. The south wing, with an additional five classrooms, office area, and bathrooms was added in 1972.

Wheatland School has always been about community. Cody Smith, my father, graduated from Wheatland School in 1965, remembers that there was always an annual picnic as well as a Thanksgiving dinner with food provided by the mothers of each student at Wheatland School every year. Also, there would be Community Fridays in which parents and students would come together every other Friday in order to enjoy in a variety of activities. There was also a yearly field trip to the Plowing Match in order to compete in areas stretching from cooking to handwriting contests in order to possibly be awarded with hard-earned dollars. I graduated from Wheatland School in 1997, and I remember that every year there was a “Black-top Party” at the beginning of every year for the entire family of each student. At these parties there would be contests, cakewalks, face-painting and softball. To this day, Wheatland School still has open doors to its surrounding communities.

Growth has just infested through the halls of Wheatland School. Kids, classrooms, restrooms, supplies, technology and staff have packed in the walls of this building where so many students have learned the foundational truths that their lives have been based upon.



**If you know a senior in high school, please tell them about the WPMA scholarship that is available and tell them to contact their school guidance office for an application or Call Anita Drendel 630-553-5411. Applications must be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.**

Eric Wulf is a graduate of Neuqua Valley High School. He plans to study agricultural and biological engineering. Congratulations Eric!

## The New Frontier

To me a historical event is usually something that happened in the past and is remembered as a great achievement in the history of man. Lately I have had to redefine that definition into something else. No longer are historical events something in the past and are since forgotten or hardly remembered, but they are things that are happening right around us. I have lived in Naperville my whole life (even though we had a Plainfield address the first few years) and one thing that I have noticed in recent years is the expansion and development of the surrounding area. The other day I thought to myself. I am watching history unfold right in front of me. The growth of this area has become a part of my everyday life. Everywhere around me I see construction, demolition, landscaping. No matter where I look though I always try to picture what that particular spot used to look like, what used to be there. Throughout this paper I intend to not only talk about the development of Naperville today but share some information about the settling of Naperville and its early years as a developing, thriving little city.

Naperville was first officially settled by John Naper in 1832. There was no town then but the area around where Naper settled was known as Naper's Settlement. There is still a Naper's Settlement today in which there is an interactive historical reenactment of the early days when John Naper first came to this area. He set up a flour mill and a trading post with a small cabin for him and his family. Life was tough and John Naper built what he had out of nothing. Through his early settlement and trading post many more settlers arrived and began to prosper. He did well in trade with Indians and other settlers just arriving to the area. During the first few years of the settlement the population grew to around 180 people, businesses began to boom, roads started being built around town, and houses went up everywhere.

The growth of Naperville is also due in part to all of the travelers coming from the east, and trade routes that ran from Chicago to Ottawa at the time of the 1840's. Naperville's population and trade

skyrocketed in 1849 when a plank road was established from Oswego through Naperville all the way to Chicago bringing more business and supplies to the thriving community. Before this road was laid, all there was to bring trade to the city were old wagon trails. This new road established a well-defined route for trade and people to negotiated, bringing more and more people and goods to the young town of Naperville. The same year that the road was completed is when the railroads began to be laid from Chicago to Wheaton to bring more trade to the area. Naperville a few years later got its own railroad line and depot. Naperville was now caught in the middle of trade and settler routes, becoming bigger and bigger.

While the Great Chicago Fire ravaged most of Chicago. Naperville was making another addition to its growing population, a college. With the addition of the new university, which was relocated from Plainfield with the help of Naperville residents, to bring a more sophisticated and educated standard to the town, Naperville saw even more growth. With the railway in place and the new building for the university many students traveled to gain knowledge at the now North Central College. This in turn provided the community with educated people and professors. The town now had more jobs available, and more people to contribute to the communities needs. The foundation of a great city, which was laid by John Naper, was now being built upon. The town had everything that it needed, including location, trade, institutions for education, and a strong and faithful community to fall back on. With all these ingredients the town now had the right recipe to grow into a flourishing city that could only get better with time.

The Naperville in years past may seem very different from the Naperville you see now. In reality it is. We have automobiles, and planes, and computers now, but when you think about it Naperville has really stayed the same. Technology may have progressed but the values and foundation that Naperville was built on have stayed true. Today many people who live in Naperville do not know of the city's struggling beginnings. Many of these people have only lived here for a few years. Still today I can see the foundation of the city's early years, the quest for a better place to live, to play, and to work. The city was made on the premise that hard work and dedication pay off. I think that is why many people live here, because they are the same way that

the city is. As more and more people begin to realize the struggles in the beginning for Naperville I think they will appreciate the land and people around them just as I do today.

*References: A history of the County of Du Page, Illinois, Chicago:Dross & Spears, 1857. 6-7 Lebeau, Pierre. A Shared History. Naperville:n.p.,1995, 4-38.*



## Hobson School History

On October 2, 2004 a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Hobson School Reunion was held at the school. In 1832 Henry and Thankful Goodrich settled along the DuPage river, 172 years ago. Their first property was later known as the William Greene farm. Subsequently, they bought acreage further west on the south side of Hobson Road. Today, the red brick Hobson School and Goodrich Woods Forest Preserve occupy the western boundary of that farm.

In 1926, Henry's son Irving deeded twenty acres of the westernmost, wooded portion of the family farm to the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. In 1928, the present Hobson School was erected. Since farming ceased in 1958, the only landmarks remaining are the Goodrich Woods Preserve and Hobson School.

The Hobson Cooperative Nursery School was built with team work. Before the nursery school opened in the 1960's there were hardly any pre-schools in the area. Parents came together to pitch in to handle everything from including installing new sinks, toilets, building maintenance to fundraising.

Hobson organizers want to preserve the school building where it is. District 203 owns the land where the school is situated and is considering selling the parcel.



### 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.**

Thank You Karen Dietzman

Karen sent a letter to be read at our meeting in January stating that after 30 plus years on the board she finds it hard to attend our monthly meetings and then drive all the way home to Sandwich, IL.

She stated she is still very interested in the happenings of the WPMA and would be willing to help in any way she could on occasion, especially if there is ever anything concerning our monument on 119<sup>th</sup> street east of Rte 59. Karen has done an excellent job as secretary over the years and has been helpful on committees and fundraisers, some of which have been very time consuming. The organization and I will miss you and your help. So please come visit us at our main functions.

Your Dad, *G. Alan Diehl*



## Help Wanted! Servers Needed!

Calling all volunteers! We need help at the Spaghetti Supper. Do you have any spare time on the day of the supper?

We need help in these areas:

- Setting up tables and chairs in the morning.
- Cooking in the kitchen.
- Making lemonade & coffee.
- Serving food and drinks.
- Taking down tables and chairs afterwards.

If you could help in any one of these areas, we could reduce the workload on the handful of volunteers that help make this event a success.

To volunteer, call:

Stu Carstens (630-393-2679)

Donna Sagen (630-961-1306)

Better yet, come to the WPMA meeting on the Third Wednesday in February or March.

### Important Dates to Remember!

#### February

February 19 & 20 - Quilt Show, Naper Settlement

#### March

March 12 - St Patrick's Day Parade, Naperville

March 12 & 13 - Maple Sugar Days, Naper Settlement

#### April

April 23 - Spaghetti Supper - See page 1 for Details!

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