

Volume 15, No. 2

## Rural Heritage News

Spring, 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

Of course you can contact any of the board members mentioned above for tickets. Also new this year, reserve your tickets by mail. See enclosed order form.

### **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.

## 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)

or Donna Sagen (630-961-1306)

or come to the WPMA meeting on the third Wednesday of April.

## Calling all DuPage Co. Fair Alumni

In recognition of the DuPage County Fair 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 any-time 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](http://www.dupagecountyfair.org).

## Important Dates to Remember!

### APRIL

April 10 - Easter Sunday

### MAY

May 1 - Spaghetti Supper - See page 1 for Details!  
May 2 - 4-H Open Horse Show at Harris Forest Preserve  
May 22 - 23 - Tractor & Engine Show - see page 5

### JUNE

June 17 - 20 Oswego Prairie Fest

### July

July 14 - 18 Kane County Fair  
July 21 - 25 - 50<sup>th</sup> DuPage County Fair  
July 29 - Aug 1- Kendall County Fair

### August

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

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



## Scholarship Applications Due June 1st

It's customary for the WPMA to award two \$1,000 scholarships each year to high school graduates who demonstrate an interest in agriculture business or related field. Once again in 2004 due to the generosity of our WPMA members and friends, we awarded four qualified applicants.

If you know 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 at guidance offices at all local high schools. The forms are also available by visiting [www.wheatlandplowing.org](http://www.wheatlandplowing.org).

If you have any questions, please call me at 357-1234.

Mary Ann Bobosky  
Chairman, Scholarship Committee



## Note from President

Winter is over and spring is on its way. I wish everyone a great summer. I hope to see you all at either the Spaghetti Supper on May 1<sup>st</sup> or the Farmers' Pig Roast on August 7th.

We have recently lost two of our great WPMA supporters. Both of them were always pitching in and helping in anyway they could.

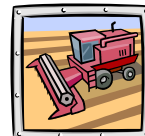
LeRoy Bohnsack who always helped with the fundraisers.

Lois Voris one of our original members.

These two friends and members will be greatly missed. But we will remember them for their kindness and generosity.

*Wilbert Hageman, President*

Watch your local papers for notice of the Fredenhagen Park Dedication in Spring 2004!  
*See the WPMA Granite Stone at the Exchange Club Memories Fountain.*



## Do you have time to tell your farm history?

We are in 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 Web Site

Visit the Wheatland Plowing Match Association 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.

Would you like to donate an item to be given away in the drawing at the Spaghetti Supper?  
If you have something you could donate please call any one of our board members.



## Pedal Tractor Pull At DuPage County Fair

Last summer 49 children under the age of 12 participated in the Pedal Tractor Pull. The children were divided into 3 weight classes.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each class received a trophy with a tractor on top. Each child received a participation ribbon & DuPage County Fair cap. Bruce Kastle of Naperville supplied the tractor & sled, along with the scale to weigh in each contestant.

Helping Bruce last year were WPMA board members: Karen Allen, Ray Keller, Louise & Karl Wiesbrook, and Fair Board Member, Kristy Langstraat.

### **Jacob & Nancy Matter**

#### *and their Descendents*

Jacob Matter was born February 4, 1818 in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania and died at Naperville, IL on November 30, 1889. He was the son of Christian and Julia Hetzel Matter. Jacob also had four brothers, Elias, Samuel, Isaiah and Jonathan, and one sister, Elizabeth.

As far as is known about the Matter family in America, most can be traced back to two brothers who immigrated here from Holland in 1776 and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Jacob's father, Christian, was a shoemaker by trade, but spent the latter part of his life on a farm near Ringgold, Pennsylvania which now forms the site of Mifflinburg. Christian was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Nancy Milliren Matter was born September 26, 1818 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Abram and Mary Shafer Milliren. She married Jacob on September 27, 1838 and they made their home in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania for six years.

Having learned the shoemaker trade from his father, Jacob would work at it during the winter seasons and in the spring and summer, would engage in

logging or rafting down the Red Bank River to Pittsburgh, a distance of 100 miles. Those who had horses took them on the raft for the ride home—those who did not walked!

On Easter Monday in the year 1844, Jacob and Nancy Matter and their two children, Abraham/Abram (4 ) and Abbie Ann (6 mths), moved their household goods in a one-horse wagon from Pennsylvania to Naperville where they arrived on May 20<sup>th</sup>. They traveled through mostly swampy, timbered and almost trackless country. Almost incessant rains often saturated their clothing and bedding, necessitating frequent drying during fair days, and made the journey a memorable one. Their party, beside themselves, consisted of the John Flisher and Dan Otto families.

The first winter was spent in a cabin on a site near where the Naperville High School now stands. Wolves would chase the family hunting dogs under the cabin and rattlesnakes would poke their hideous heads through holes in the cabin floor. Jacob would make occasional trips to Butterfield Lake several miles to the north to fish for part of his winter food supply. The fish were kept frozen in a tub set outside the cabin beyond the reach of wild animals.

Eventually they moved to their claim seven miles southwest of Naperville in Will County, where they spent the principal part of their lives.

In 1869 they moved to Aurora where Jacob engaged in the grocery business for several years. That same year they sold the old homestead to Abram and purchased another farm close to it, eventually moving in during October of 1877.

Jacob and Nancy were the parents of ten children: Abram, Abbie Ann, Isaac, Henry, Newton E., Elton E., Mary, Emma Melissa, Ella and Sarah J.

Abram or "Abe" was a soldier in the Civil War. He got a pass from General Grant to return to his regiment, which was then engaged in the siege of Vicksburg. He managed to exchange his worn-out mule for the horse of the officer in charge of this post, and with rebels in pursuit, made his escape to the union lines about 20 miles distant. He secured a company of cavalry and returning by morning of the next day, captured the rebel post. General Grant sent him his compliments with a pair of "shoulder straps"-Captain's Commission—but Abe turned this offer down, a decision he often regretted.

Abbie Ann married David B. Givler, who served in the Civil War, enlisting as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. He was the editor of the

Naperville Clarion. They were the parents of six children.

Isaac was a bridge carpenter in the employ of the C.B. and Q railroad. He lost an eye while working on a bridge, but was able to continue working.

Son Henry died suddenly in 1920 while at work at the Burlington Car Shops in Aurora.

He and his wife were the parents of five children.

Newton was the editor of the Wheaton Illinoisan, a weekly paper. He also served several terms as DuPage County Coroner and as Treasurer. Newton was married to Rebecca H. Stark and they had two children.

Elton purchased his father's second farm and was engaged in farming. He was married to Emma Stark.

Mary was married to the Rev. J.H. Yaggy, who at one time was the treasurer of Northwestern College. They had three children.

Emma Melissa married John Palmer Patterson, son of Thomas and Agnes Palmer Patterson. John was born in Manchester, England March 12, 1855. They were the parents of seven children. John was, at one time, manager of the DuPage Valley Creamery as well as a farmer.

Ella married L.M Umbach, who was a professor of Biology and Physical Science at Northwestern College. They were the parents of four children.

Sarah J. married George Batholomew; they had no children together. George was a foreman at one of the silver-plating factories in Rockford, Illinois.

Researched and submitted by Caron George Stillmunkes

Once again this year WPMA will be sponsoring the Pedal Tractor Pull at the DuPage County Fair. Since this year's fair is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, you won't want to miss this fair. Mark your calendars now.

### July 21-25 DuPage County Fair

WPMA is proud to be a co-sponsor of the DuPage County "Teachers on an Agriscience Bus".

Never thought I would see it!! Farmyard animals in downtown Naperville? Yep, this year WPMA is sponsoring a sculpture decorated for the annual United Way Art Event. Be sure to visit Naperville this summer.

Kendall County Historical Society

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tractor & Engine Show May 22 & 23, 2004 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location – Lyon Farm, Rt. 71, Yorkville, IL

Come help support the Lyon's Historical Farm village. This is history in the making. Their first ever Tractor & Engine show. Come enjoy the show and the historical village. Just some of the events are: Blacksmithing, Model Train Display, Steam Engines, Old Farm Machinery, All brands of tractors, Tractor GAMES, Daily Parade of Power, Baker Fan, Fire Trucks, Hay Rides, Log saw cutting on F-20, 1847 Union School, 1850 Plano Depot, General Store, 1870's Farm House, Dyno, Early Caboose, 1880 town Hall.

**Free Parking – Food Booths on site**

### **Swap Meet & Flea Market Dealers Wanted**

Contacts Call Ken Wolf 630-554-1983, Jack Jenkins 630-554-3064, John Woodward 630-553-0625 or Loretta Withers 815-695-5417.

### **How do you know if your membership is up and dues are necessary?**

Please check your address label on this newsletter. If your name is not followed by the numbers of "04" or "05", then please renew your membership today. WPMA values your membership and we need your continued support.



### **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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

Check the next newsletter for the August Farmers' Pig Roast details.

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