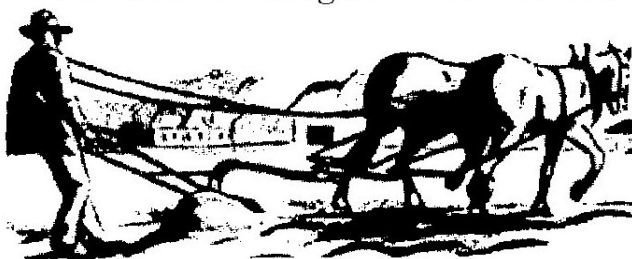


Wheatland Plowing Match Association



FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Volume 15, No.3

Rural Heritage News

Summer 2005

Farmers' Pork Chop & Chicken Supper **Saturday, August 6th** **4:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

It is time for the WPMA second event of 2005. Due to the lack of open space to have a pig roast at and the lack of time. WPMA will be having something different this year. We will be sponsoring a Pork Chop & Chicken Supper **cooked by Fays' BBQ** at Naper Settlement in Naperville.

We will have most of the same entertainment as we have at the pig roasts. Sorry no plowing. We will still have the farming history display, raffles, childrens games, a hog raffle, auction of the grand champion hog of DuPage County Fair, antique cars and tractors on display. And once again we will present the \$1000 college scholarship winners.

There is plenty of parking available in the high school parking lot. Come enjoy visiting with family and longtime friends. Invite new friends and neighbors for a night of fun.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$6 for children (5-12 years). Tickets are sold in advance. If we sell out prior to the event no tickets will be available 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, at the Naper Settlement, Keller's Farmstand. Or you can call 630-355-1174, 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: 630-961-1306
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

Is your WPMA Membership up to date?

Membership fees are \$10.00 for individual and \$20.00 for family. 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.

Please make checks payable to: WPMA, P.O. Box 92, Plainfield, IL 60544

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



The last beef cows in Naperville are leaving town.

An article in the Chicago Tribune on July 4th states that Wilbert and Ruth Hageman have sold their Naperville farm on which they kept the last cows in the suburb, which used to be a farming town.

Once, there were more cows than school-children in Naperville, but now the last 10 cows with a Naperville address are leaving.

Over the last 30 years, Naperville has transformed from a hamlet of 23,000 people to a sprawling suburb of more than 136,000 residents.

The last dairy farm left Naperville in 1993, when the Landorf family sold its 278 acres off Oswego Road to a developer.

“There really is no traditional agriculture close to Naperville now,” said John Bushman, who has taught agricultural science courses at Naperville North High School for 30 years. “The farmers can’t afford to stay on the property when they can sell to developers.”

Today, DuPage has fewer farms and acres of farmland than even Cook County. In fact, “we have the fewest number of farms of any county in the state.” said Mike Ashby, manager of the DuPage County Farm Bureau.

Information from the Chicago Tribune article.



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.

Ruth Hageman
Chairman, Historical Committee
630-904-0796

Help is always needed!

The handful of WPMA board members would really appreciate anyone that can help with the Aug 6th BBQ supper. The July 20th board meeting will be held at the chapel in Naper Settlement at 7:00 p.m. If you can't make the meeting but would still like to help call Tammy Brigel 630-554-8114

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.



Cow Chip Bingo

Cow Chip Bingo sponsored by the Tabor Hills & the Wheatland Plowing Match Association was held Sunday, June 19 during the Naper Days at the Naper Settlement.

The cow, Katie, owned by Wilbert Hageman, started the week at Naper Days Car Show at the corner of 95th & Rt. 59. Katie helped our organizations to sell deeds (2x2 foot squares) for \$10.00 each. On Sunday Katie was brought to the Naper Settlement Parking lot to do her thing on the grid of squares. The crowd cheered her on as she left a "Cow Chip" on the deed held by none other than our past president, Earl Meisinger. Katie had brought along 2 friends (steers PeeWee & Smokey). They were called upon to do their thing also. Smokey was next to leave his "Cow Chip". The judges, Tom Drendel, Donna Sagan & Karen Allen had to get out the tape measure for this one because it fell on the line between 2 squares The 2nd place deed was held by Stormy Grinell. It took awhile, but PeeWee finally came through with his contribution to "Cow Chip Bingo. The 3rd place deed was held by Cliff Preston.

By the Way, Earl won \$500.00!

The Wheatland Plowing Match Association also sponsored a coloring contest for 1st & 2nd graders in School District 203. What talented artists! The 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners were presented with a trophy & gift certificate to Oberwise Dairy. The pictures were displayed at the Car Show & at Naper Days. WPMA would like to thank Oberwise Dairy for the donation of the gift certificates to the winners.

Family History Peter Olesen Family

Peter Olesen came to the United States from Haastrup, Denmark in 1899, at the age of 19. When he reached Kane County, Illinois, he had only \$5.00 in his pocket! He had an uncle that lived on a farm near Elburn and he worked for farmers in that area. Earning from \$16.00 to \$20.00 per month.

Doris Heusinger, (his wife-to-be) was born in Plano, Illinois the oldest of five children. Her mother died in childbirth when Doris was 8 years old. She was taken in by an uncle, but shortly thereafter was placed in a boarding house to work, as her uncle had a large family of his own. Later, the boarding house closed and she went to live with a farm family near Hinckley, where she stayed until she was 17 years old, at which time she met and married her first husband, Chris Peterson. They had 2 sons: Wayne and Earl. Mr. Peterson got tuberculosis and died shortly thereafter. Her son Earl also passed away a short time later.

Peter and Doris met when they were each 23 years old and were married March 2, 1904: the same year Peter became an American citizen. They started farming near Hinckley on a farm they rented for \$6.00 an acre. After about 6 years, they bought 80 acres of the farm they had been renting. They developed an accredited Holstein herd and shipped milk to Chicago, driving horses and wagon to town 3 miles each morning with the milk.

They had started their family by this time and in 1916 they traded their Hinckley farm for part payment on a farm east of Naperville on the road that was eventually called Olesen Lane. The price was \$180.00 an acre for 190 acres, 70 on the west side of the lane and 120 acres on the east side where the stone farmhouse was situated. The Olesens were members of the First Congregational Church in Naperville.

They had a real struggle and many times wondered if they would lose the farm. They devel-

oped quite a dairy business, selling to households in Naperville daily. The milk was tuberculin tested but was not pasteurized. They carried on this operation for 25 years, milking 20 to 25 head of cattle. They had a hand-operated bottling machine and bottled about 200 quarts and 60 pints daily.

Aftermost of the children had grown and left home, the Olesens quit the dairy business, sold their herd of dairy cattle and raised feeder cattle. The feeder cattle were less work and more profitable than the dairy business.

In 1959, the Olesens decided to quit farming as they were both 79 years old and they purchased a home in Naperville, where they moved with their daughter, Alice. Their other children all lived in the area: Gladys (Glen Sprague) in Plainfield: Ernest in Naperville: Hazel (Alfred Faser) in Lockport: Olive (Arnell Peltzer in Aurora: and Roy in Aurora.

The oldest daughter, Gladys Sprague had 3 daughters. Doris (Gus Kresl) have 1 son and 1 grandson. Betty (Harvey Weitting) had 7 children and 12 grandchildren. After Harvey died in 1988, Betty married Les Haacke. Betty Passed away in January 2005. Shirley (Vernon Jungles) had 1 adopted daughter and 4 grandchildren. Shirley passed away in 1996.

Their son Floyd (Mildred Cooper) had 4 children. Daughter Barbara (Tom Callan) had 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Floyd Jr. had 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Margo (Bud Smith) had 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Son Ronald had 4 children.

None of the remaining children of Peter and Doris were blessed with children.

The Olesens celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in 1967 and Doris passed away in 1968 shortly before her 88th birthday.

Peter still drove his car around town, mowed his own lawn and maintained the house and yard until three months before his death in November of 1979, at the age of 99.

Submitted by Doris Kresl



WPMA Web Site

Visit the Wheatland Plowing Match Assoc. 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.



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.

Important Dates to Remember!

July

July 2-4 Naperville Rib Fest
July 20-24 Kane County Fair in St. Charles
July 21-24 Will County Thresherman's Assoc. 43rd Antique Tractor & Steam Show- Dollinger Farm- Minooka
July 27-31 Dupage County Fair- Wheaton
July 29-31 The Freeport Show

August

August 4-7 Kendall County Fair-Yorkville
August 6th Farmer's Pork Chop & Chicken Supper at Naper settlement
August 11-14 49th Sycamore Steam & Power Show
August 24-28 Will County Fair - Peotone
August 27-28 Boone County Fair

September

Sept 4th Car show - Naper Settlement
Sept 5th Labor Day Parade - Naperville 10:00 a.m.
Sept 7-11 Sandwich Fair
Sept 17-18 Big Rock Plow Match-Plowman's Park

October

October 9th Danada Fest - Wheaton