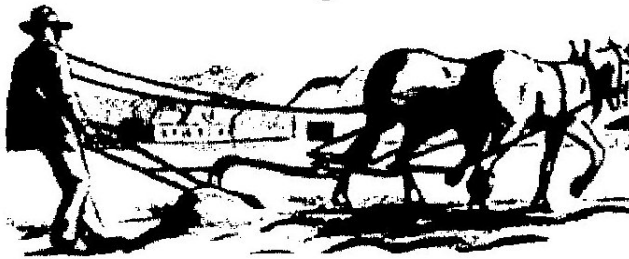


Wheatland Plowing Match Association



FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Volume 15, No. 4

Rural Heritage News

Fall 2005

WPMA Annual Meeting

**7:00 p.m. Thursday
November 10, 2005
Naper Settlement**

It is time for the WPMA annual meeting. The meeting will be held in the basement of the Chapel at the Naper Settlement at 523 South Webster Street in Naperville.

If you have not been able to join any of the monthly meetings. This is the meeting to come to. Come hear what WPMA has accomplished this year. Give new ideas for the year 2006. Come and help us continue the tradition of the Wheatland Plowing Match Association. A handful of board members can-not do it alone.

At this time we do not need to elect new officers but if you would like to help out on any of the committees, please let us know, we are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas. Any time and help that you can give WPMA is greatly appreciated.

We have several goals and events in mind for 2006. In order for WPMA to succeed we need many volunteers. If you can't commit a lot of time, we understand. Just come share ideas and what time you can spare.

Please mark your calendars now for November 10th. Or this months meeting on October 19th both are at the chapel in Naper Settlement.

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, Marty 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

WPMA Scholarships Awarded

This year three \$1000 college scholarships were awarded during the Farmers' Pork Chop Supper.

Inside this issue you will find one essay from one of the students that were selected to receive the scholarships. The other two essays will be in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Kristen Hacker, Andrew Lein and Joseph Parrillo.

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 2005, we awarded scholarships to three 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

Pedal Pull at the DuPage County Fair

The Wheatland Plowing Match Association sponsored the Pedal Pull on Sunday July 31st. At the DuPage County Fair. There were 62 total contestants in three weight classes. The crowd cheered for each contestant as they tried to pedal the tractor & pull the sled with weights in it. The longest pull was 20 ft. 10 inches by Mike Liberg from West Chicago. Trophies were given out to the 1st 2nd & 3rd places in each weight class. Thanks to Tom Kuhn, Ray Keller, & Karl Wiesbrook for handling the tractor & sled, Louise Wiesbrook, Melanie Hulmes & Karen Allen for registering the contestants, and Jessica Wiesbrook for passing out the ribbons given to each child. Also a special thanks to Kristy Langstraat from the Fair Association for announcing the event. Tractor & sled were provided by The Will County Threshermen's Association. Without these special people we would not have had a successful event.

Karen Allen

WPMA MEETING

*This months meeting will be held on Oct.19th at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Chapel at the Naper Settlement.
Please note the change of place.*

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



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

January 1st, 2006 Naperville's Electric Parade

WPMA is calling all family's that have their name on the farmers plow monument at the Naperville River walk. We need one person from your family to represent your family by holding a sign with your family name on it on Jan. 1st 2006 in the Electric parade in Naperville. To help celebrate Naperville's 175th Anniversary. WPMA is designing an entry in the parade. We will not have enough space to have a representative from every family. We will take a representative from the first 15 families that respond to our call. So act now.

Come join in the Fun. Let us know who your family representative is. Please call Louise Wiesbrook right away at 630-551-4779.

Share your memories

Celebrations mark the milestones of our lives. The Naperville Heritage Society is asking Naperville residents how they celebrate special occasions and is seeking stories, photos, items or memorabilia that reminds them of those celebrations. Perhaps it's a beloved childhood toy, maybe it was the dress worn for a first high school dance or even a favorite sled received during the holidays.

Share the memories of unforgettable celebrations with Naper Settlement. Whether it's new or old, that reminder of a special occasion could become part of an exhibit on celebrations to be displayed beginning Feb. 10 in the Heritage Gallery at Naper Settlement. The exhibit will tie in with Naperville's 175th anniversary in 2006.

To be considered for the exhibit, the cherished memento must meet one of the three criteria: it must be related to Naperville, made in Naperville or used in Naperville. Submissions will be accepted from now until Nov. 4. All loaned entries will be insured and returned promptly after the exhibit closes.

For more information about this special exhibit that will show the way Naperville celebrates, contact Assistant Curator Bryan Ogg at 630-305-5259 or Chief Curator Louise Howard at 630-420-6014.

Last Fling Parade

Once again the WPMA had an awesome float in the Last Fling parade on Labor Day. Amazingly this year we did not get rained on.

Our hay rack this year was pulled by the WD-45 Allis Chalmers tractor that was donated to the WPMA by John Fry.

Our theme this year was summer fun at the county fair. The float was decorated with flowers, a John Deere pedal tractor, a wooden bench made by Cordell Wiesbrook that he showed at the fair, the cutest pair of pygmy goats that you've ever seen, rabbits, sheep, ducks, chickens, a dog, and an adorable baby miniature horse. We would like to thank Louise & Karl Wiesbrook and family for loaning all these animals to WPMA from their petting farm. We would also like to say thank you to the animal holders, decorators, tractor driver and mechanics: Karen Allen, Melanie Hulmes, Jerry & Betty Feldott, Tim & Anita Drendel, Ron, Tammy, Jessica & Becca Brigel, Louise, Karl, Jessica, Heather, Bailey & Cordell Wiesbrook.

Having all these helping hands made all the work of putting this together more fun. Seeing all the smiles and hearing all the cheers from the crowd when they saw the animals made all our hard work worthwhile.



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.

The History of Zion Lutheran Church By Kristen Hacker

Zion Lutheran Church started over one hundred and fifty years ago with the German Settlers arriving from Pennsylvania. Jacob Fry and John Leppert arrived in 1854 and soon established what was then known as "The German Lutheran Church." For the first ten years of its existence, the small congregation met in homes and a schoolhouse, which was located on 111th Street. The people of Zion began building their own church during the summer and fall of 1864. They had bought the supplies from Chicago and they carried them to the site with horse drawn wagons. On the first Sunday after Christmas in 1864, the new church was dedicated. Amazingly, the total cost was only \$31.00.

The style of the church was a simple reflection of its builders. Its tall steeple and white exterior could be seen for miles across the fields of Wheatland. At the center of the interior stands the pulpit and altar. It was originally varnished, then later redone with stain finish, and since 1945, the altar is white with a gold trim. Above the pulpit, over the doorway "Glory to God in the Highest" was written in German. Today the words are covered with wall panels. The pastor would give his sermon in German, and the music was slow and had a sobering effect on the congregation. It was also not frowned upon to close one's eyes during the service.

In 1879, the congregation elected their first resident pastor, Reverend F.H. Siebrandt. He established the first Christian Day School Classes, and the first church organ was bought. In 1886, the church bought three acres and the people built a one-room schoolhouse for the day school. The school taught all subjects and students attended one or two years. However, it was forced to close twenty years later because of World War 1.

For twenty-nine years, Pastor William Bramscher served Zion Lutheran. During his time, many things changed. English replaced the German language, and the Fellowship Hall was built. On April 7, 1929, the hall was dedicated. As time passed the people to Zion Lutheran Church kept their faith alive. In 1976, a new church and education center was built. The heritage behind Zion Lutheran Church is unbeliev-

able.

At the 150th anniversary, the congregation looked back on all that had been accomplished. At that celebration, many people shared their memories of the church, and how its heritage affected them. Some members have been attending the church for over fifty years, those members include; Bill Hacker, Malinda Woesthoff, Elvera Ruff, Arleen Bramscher, and Harley Schoger. The times have certainly changed for Zion Lutheran Church; however, it is evident that the pride and faith that the Church has acquired throughout the years is still the same.

Kristen Hacker is a graduate of Lexington High School she is planning to attend the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. She plans to major in Animal Science

Apple Crisp

6 cups sliced peeled apples
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup all- purpose flour
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup cold butter or margarine
Ice cream, optional

Place the apples in a greased 9-in. square baking dish. In a bowl, combine the sugar, flour and cinnamon; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over apples. Bake at 375* for 45-50 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly around the edges. Serve with ice cream if desired. Yield: 8 servings

Important Dates to Remember!

November

November 10 - WPMA annual meeting

December

December 25 - Christmas Day

January

January 1 - Naperville Electric parade