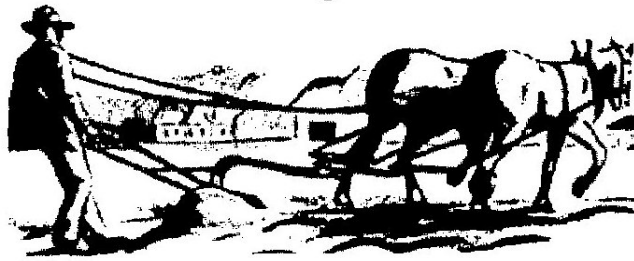


Wheatland Plowing Match Association



FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Volume 16, No. 2

Rural Heritage News

Spring 2006

Family Spaghetti Supper

April 22, 2006

Serving continuously
4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The spaghetti supper is our annual fundraiser for the WPMA scholarship fund. Come out and help support higher education for young adults interested in agricultural-related fields.

This year instead of having two separate serving times. We will be serving continuously from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm. You will enjoy the usual menu of spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, roll, beverage and dessert.

Mark your calendars now. Gather up your family and friends. Come and enjoy an evening visiting and let WPMA cook for you.

Once again the supper will be back at Zion Lutheran Church at 11007 S. Book Road, Naperville, Il. The tickets are adults \$8 in advance \$10 at the door and \$3 children 8 years and under.

Order your tickets now by contacting any one of our WPMA board members. Tickets also available at:

Heritage FS Barn Feed & Garden 630-904-2175
Russell Dry Cleaners 630-355-1312
Hamman Farms 630-898-5266

2006 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

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Anita Drendel, Marty Keller

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Publicity, Tammy Brigel: 630-554-8114
Membership, Marty Keller: 630-554-6628
Historical, Ruth Hageman: 630-556-3435
Nominating, Earl Meisinger: 630-904-0787
Site Committee, Wilbert Hageman: 630-556-3435
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 asking for volunteers

Are you able to give a little of your time on April 22nd to help with the spaghetti supper?

We can always use extra hands setting up table and chairs; Setting up the place settings; Serving the delicious food; Cleaning up the tables and resetting them for the next hungry guests; Washing dishes; And of course the clean up afterwards.

If you can help please call Tammy Brigel 630-554-8114 or Karen Allen 630-904-2175.

Scholarship Report Applications are due 6-1-06

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



Now is the time to update your WPMA Membership!

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 "06" 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



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.



We are in need of farm history!! 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.

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
630-556-3435



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 you can send them to the P.O. Box 92, Plainfield, IL 60544 or contact the newsletter coordinator Tammy Brigel at 630-554-8114.

WPMA Meeting

This months meeting will be held on April 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church.

Otterpohl Dairy History

Herman, the third son of Conrad and Mary Otterpohl, was born in 1858. He was tall and quiet like so many others of his family: his talents seem to have included an instinctive flair for business, most of it apparently self-taught. Herman's childhood was spent on the family farm. At the time of Conrad's death in 1894, Herman was executor of the estate.

Herman married Eva Graf on May 1, 1894 at S.S. Peter and Paul Church, Naperville, of which they remained faithful life-long members. The couple set up a business in the Conrad building across from the train depot. It was a milk depot and grocery store, with Herman and Eva living in the rear of the store, and the upstairs being rented out. The first milk route was established from this base in 1896, probably a convenient drop-off for dairy farmers bringing milk to the station for shipment to Chicago. There were listings for milk trains on all published railway schedules, at this time, it was routine for customers to furnish their own small, covered pails into which milk was dipped from the milkman's large cans.

Herman and Eva moved to the house on Front Street, later known as 12 S. Ellsworth, in 1907. In 1910, the local paper reports that the house was being remodeled and a two-story addition added: also reported was the sale of the grocery business. By this time Herman had been in business for 12 years, shrewdly deciding to concentrate on the milk concern, and continuing to steadily build up a number of patrons. He must have been a far-seeing man advancing with the times, while being known as a hard-working quietly respectable person. These abilities enabled him to steadily build a solid, expanding business. It is interesting to note that he was among the first group to have a telephone installed.

About 1906, Herman built a modern dairy at the back of this place, on the alley. This provided easy access for the farmers to bring milk, and the wagons to be loaded for the routes. There was a large barn beside the dairy, which housed the horses, wagons, and later trucks and family car. This dairy was equipped newest sterilizing equipment, the means to pasteurize, bottle, and making it the first dairy here to pasteurize. A

number of farmers continued to sell raw milk on their own small routes until the late 20's when the sale of raw milk was banned as a health hazard.

Three children were born to Herman and Eva; Bernard in 1899, Lillian in 1901, and Conrad in 1902. It was a great sadness to the parents that the infant Conrad contracted spinal meningitis, living only a month.

In 1920, the newspaper tells us the first horse was retired and replaced by a truck to be used on the longest route to the sanatorium. Herman retained a horse and wagon for his town route, but was determined to conquer the driving of a vehicle eventually. The ledgers for the business show expenses for a horse as late as 1926.

Lillian married Paul Drendel in 1921, moving into the house two doors south, which Herman had bought. This was later numbered as 22 S. Ellsworth the house in between the two family houses at 16 S. Ellsworth was at some time acquired by him and rented out. When Bernard marries Alice Kearns in 1924, they rented the home at 12 S. Ellsworth while the parents moved in with Lillian and Paul. After a one-day honeymoon, Alice immediately took over the feeding of the men working for the dairy. Fortunately she was from a large farm family and had an efficient, cheerful personality, which helped to cope with the sizable job. Added to these chores was always the one of waiting on customers when the men were busy. Paul had a business downtown vulcanizing tires and selling tires and auto accessories. Eventually, he came to work at the dairy.

In 1924, Herman sold the business to Bernard, going into semi-retirement. In 1926, Eva died: Herman lived only 2 years longer. Alice described him as a cheerful, gentle old man who sat on the porch in a rocking chair, smoking his pipe and rocking the new babies. The dairy continued to grow, although there were some tough financial times during the Depression years. It was often hard to find the money to pay the farmers; this was made more difficult by all the customers who could not pay their milk bills. Bernard refused to cut off service to these families, maintaining that their children must not be denied milk at the very least. All this time, there were two growing families to support at home. The Otterpohl and Drendel households were be-

ginning to fill up with healthy, active children. Bernard and Alice were to have six living children: Bernard H., Herman, Ellen, Mary Eva, Alice Mae, and Anna. A child who died at birth was born between the two living sons. Lillian and Paul were to have five children: Mary, Delores, Ruth, Marjorie, and John.

The dairy continued to grow, products were added, and there was a good wholesome route including many hundreds of small bottles delivered daily to the schools. The Naper Theatre had to limit the running of the kids' favorite ad>an empty bottle slowly filling up with Otterpohl milk accompanied by appropriate sound effects from the audience.

In 1947, Bernard made the decision to sell to Cloverleaf Dairy in Downers Grove. Staying in business would have meant switching over to expensive homogenizing equipment and paper containers. Competition from big Chicago dairies was increasing, so sadly, 51 years of family business came to an end. This meant a complete change of lifestyle for both families. Bernard moved to his property near Land O'Lakes, Wis., building up a resort that finally had 16 cabins and a lodge catering to serious fisherman. Paul went to work at Kroehler's, staying there until retirement. Lillian died in 1956, Alice in 1963, Paul in 1965, and Bernard in 1966.

Facts taken from the Conrad Otterpohl History that was researched and written by Marjorie Otterpohl, wife of the second Herman Otterpohl.

Submitted by Ruth Hageman

Thank you to all our advertisers, past and present!

Remember to check out the advertiser's page and support our advertisers when you can—they welcome your business and your inquiries. To advertise in the next newsletter contact Tammy Brigel 630-554-8114



Mark your calendars now for the BBQ Pork chop and chicken dinner cooked by Fay's BBQ on Aug. 5th at Naperville Settlement.

Plowing Contest Results

These results were printed in the Successful Farming magazine December 1925.

Wheatland, IL. - 47th Annual Contest

Farmer's Class Driver

- 1st – Walter Erickson
- 2nd – William Bermes

Boy's Class

- 1st – Forest George
- 2nd – George Susemiehl

Manufacturers Class

- 1st – Glen Wright

Big Rock, IL. – 30th Annual Contest

Farmer's Class

- 1st – Roy Lewis
- 2^{nc} – Richard Williams
- 3rd – Lester Allen

Boy's Class

- 1st – George Susemiehl
- 2nd – Archie Williams

Manufacturers Class

- 1st – Glen Wright
- 2nd – Arthur Stark
- 3rd – Walter Corniels

Pilot-Rock, Iowa – 18th Annual Contest

Two – Bottom – Plow Class

- 1st – Henning Nelson

Interesting enough all these entries were using a Fordson tractor. The Ford Motor Co. listed these results in their advertisement.

Important Dates to Remember!

April

- April 19 – WPMA monthly meeting
- April 22 – WPMA Spaghetti Supper

May

- May 29 – Memorial Day

June

- June 18 – Cow bingo at Naper Days

The Flour Sack

In that long ago time when things were saved. When roads were graveled 'n barrels were staved. When worn-out clothing was used as rags. And there was no plastic wrap or bags.

Pillsbury's Best, Mother's and Gold Medal, too. Stamped their names proudly in purple and blue. The string sewn on top was pulled and kept; the flour emptied and spills were swept. The bag was folded and stored in a stack. That durable, practical FLOUR SACK.

The sack could be filled with feathers and down, for a pillow, or t'would make a sleeping gown. It could carry a book and be a school bag, or become a mail sack slung over a nag. It made a very convenient pack, that adaptable, cotton FLOUR SACK.

Bleached and sewn, it was dutifully worn as bibs, diapers or kerchief unadorned. It was made into skirts, blouses and slips' n Mom braided rugs from a hundred strips. She made ruffled curtains for house or shack from that humble, but treasured, FLOUR SACK.

As a strainer for milk or apple juice to wave men in, was a very good use. As a sling for a sprained wrist or a break. To help Mother roll up a jelly cake. As a window shade or to stuff a crack. We used a common, sturdy FLOUR SACK.

As dish towels, embroidered or not, they covered up dough, helped pass pans too hot. Tied up dishes for neighbors in need. And for men out in the field to seed. They dried dishes from a pan not a rack. That absorbent, handy FLOUR SACK.

We polished and cleaned stove and table, scoured and scrubbed from cellar to gable. We dusted the bureau and oak bed post, made costumes for October (a scary ghost.) And a parachute for a cat named Jack from that lowly, useful FLOUR SACK.

So now my friends, when they ask you, as curious youngsters sometimes do, "before plastic wrap and Elmer's glue, and paper towels, what did you do?" Tell them loudly and with pride, don't lack. "Grandmother had the FLOUR SACK.

Anonymous

Aprons

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Anonymous

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 will be held at Naper Settlement either in
the basement of chapel or pre-emption house at 7:00**