



Spreading the....

Farm Museum News

S T . C L A I R C O U N T Y F A R M M U S E U M
"PRESERVING A BIT OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- General Membership Meetings: Please check the website for updates.
- The St. Clair County Infirmary stake truck
- What's an OIL PULL?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Member Spotlight	1
Museum Project Highlight	2
Our Collection	2
Upcoming Events	2
How Do I Do That?	3
Interesting Finds	3
Revisiting the Past	3
Board Members & Contacts	4
Classified	4

S U M M E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S

Wow, with spring in full blossom the farm museum is preparing for a busy summer schedule. We are hoping to make this summer more enjoyable and productive as we depart from the pandemic of the past year. Farm museum members are busy planning for this summer and are hoping to deliver great opportunities for both members and the visitors.

Members of the farm museum will have the opportunity to help on many projects including plow day, working in the concession stand for the fire fighters swap meet & 4-H and high school

horse shows, guide special visits to the museum, as well as greeting visitors during our open days. The summer continues with concessions for the 4-H fair, the task of making preparations for the fall harvest days and the new pumpkin fest. Hopefully we can greet Santa at our annual breakfast. There are many opportunities for members to get involved and help fulfill our mission at the museum.

For the visitors, it is an opportunity to learn about the agricultural heritage by watching vintage tractors work the fields, or

stroll through the museum and view the artifacts of years gone by. Or stop by the fall harvest days and not only view a lineup of vintage tractors but see how those tractors were used on the farm to saw lumber, make shingles, thresh wheat, and other uses. See hit and miss engines working, watch a blacksmith, or visit the fiber fair or enjoy some music. Many activities exist for the youngsters also.

So, whether you are a farm museum member or a visitor to the museum, there are many opportunities available to experience the St. Clair County Farm Museum. See you there.

M E M B E R S P O T L I G H T -

L I S A T H A C K E R

Lisa has been a farm museum member for 2 years and helped out on events prior to that. She currently holds the office of farm museum board secretary which she really enjoys. Lisa was a medical assistant and has a love of all animals, especially horses, goats and dogs. Right now she has 2 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels named Charlie (4) & Ciara (2), but has owned & loved a Quarter Horse named Callie who was 28 when she passed away. Callie was the Great Grand Daughter of the famous Quarter Horse DOC BAR. Lisa also owned & loved 3 Rottweilers; Bear, Sarge & Jr., all of them have crossed Rainbow

Bridge along with her first Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Milo.

Lisa was introduced to the museum through Kim and Bill Schultz by helping out with raffle tickets at the fairs. As a museum member, Lisa feels a sense of pride knowing that she can help carry on traditions of yesteryear. Lisa's favorite projects at the museum are working with the horse events like the carriage rides and people movers. Not really having a favorite tractor color, Lisa would choose a John Deere if she had to but would rather get the horse power from real horses. Like she said, "I love horses." When you look into their eyes it's like looking into their soul."



MUSEUM PROJECT HIGHLIGHT -

1951 / 1952 FORD F5

The Ford F5 stake truck originally owned by the St. Clair County Infirmary is being restored by museum members Ron Charney and Larry Hyde, Sr. It is unclear if the vehicle is a 1951 or a 1952 as there are only slight differences between the two. To date, much work has been completed on the vehicle including the engine rebuilt, cab repainted, seat reupholstered, and the

brakes and wheel cylinders repaired. Other details such as cleaning and checking the radiator have been completed to make the engine run and get the truck road ready. After locating fenders for the truck, they were found to be from an incompatible model year so the current hold up is locating the correct set of front fenders. Once the cab and front end is completed,

work will start on the flatbed which is going to need some serious work. The hope is to get the truck "parade ready" to help advertise the great things we do at the farm museum.

If anyone has a lead on a set of fenders or is interested in helping out

with the restoration, Ron and Larry would sure like to hear from you.

**1922 Model G 20/40 44hp**

The farm museum's Rumely was purchased new by a sawmill in the Croswell area before being sold to a sawmill in the St. Clair area. According to museum member Glen Schade, the rumely sat unused for many years until the owners passing, at which time the widow donated it to the farm museum. After being rebuilt by Loyd Hallead of Marlette, it was placed in service at the museum. The

OUR COLLECTION -

THE RUMELY OIL PULL

rumely has 3 carburetors; kerosene, gas and water. Glen states that it is difficult to time and it doesn't like cold weather.

History of the Rumely Co.

The rumely oil pull was a farm tractor developed by the Advance Rumely Company and sold from 1910 to 1930. It was powered by an internal combustion, magneto fired engine which used all grades of kerosene.¹ Rumely was the first tractor company to build a tractor that used an oil cooling system to keep the engine at a steady temperature no matter how heavy the tractors load.²

Rumely Company started in 1853 in LaPorte, Indiana building threshers for cleaning grain and then started developing a line of steam traction engines. In the early 20th century, a company employee designed an internal combustion engine. The engine was a breakthrough as it greatly reduced the time needed to get the tractor moving by not having to wait for the steam pressure to develop. The engine was first put into a traction engine in 1908 and was nicknamed "Kerosene Annie". The first rumely oil pull traction engine entered full production in 1910 with the Model B

25-45 and sported a huge 50 horsepower. In 1911, the Rumely Company merged with the Advance Thresher Company to become Advance Rumely Company. The company produced fourteen models until it was bought out by Allis Chalmers Company in 1931 which then ended production of all models. Allis Chalmers used the Advance Rumely dealer network to market the Allis Chalmers products.³

1. Wikipedia
2. https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1083828
3. www.revivaler.com

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meeting

April 20, 2021
May 18, 2021
June 15, 2021

With this Covid pandemic that has consumed our lives, we must be able to change directions as quickly as driving a narrow front end tractor. Our ability to hold events may change direction so please check the museum website, facebook, or call to confirm the events you are interested in attending.

Fall Harvest Days

August 27, 28, 29, 2021

Plow Days

May 8, 2021

Rain day—May 15, 2021

Log Cabin Day

June 26, 2021

Museum Open

Saturdays and Sundays

May through October

Check calendar on website for open days

Easter Egg Hunt

The Farm Museum hosted a free Easter egg hunt on March 28 in lieu of the annual Breakfast event. Well over 100 youngsters searched the park grounds for those special treats left behind by the Easter Bunny. An added bonus was the opportunity to have a picture taken with the Easter Bunny.



INTERESTING FINDS -

https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_687671

ALLIS-CHALMERS FUEL CELL TRACTOR

In its search to develop electric power through chemical reactions, Allis-Chalmers in 1951 began research on fuel cells. In October 1959 near West Allis, Wisconsin, this fuel cell tractor plowed a field of alfalfa with a double-bottom plow. Fuel cells produce electrical power directly through a chemical reaction, without heat, smoke, or noise. Unlike standard batteries, fuel cells do not store energy but

convert chemical energy to electric energy.

This tractor has 1,008 fuel cells joined in 112 units of 9 cells each arranged in four banks that produced power to run a standard Allis-Chalmers 20 horsepower dc motor. Using a fuel cell to produce power was not a new idea in the 1950s. Over a century earlier, Sir William Grove originated the idea of a fuel cell that would run on hydrogen and oxygen. Over

the years inventors experimented with a number of fuels and configurations. The search for an efficient and economical fuel cell unit continues.



HOW DO I DO THAT -

IT MAKES ME WANT A CRY

As the snow melts and the days start to grow longer, I start to think of the spring time that is rapidly approaching. The seed catalogs have arrived, daffodils have sprung from the ground and my dreams of gardening are starting to come to the forefront of my mind. Although, there is one annual ritual that happens this time of year that just makes me want to cry. It's not the loss of the cold weather, or the return of the robins, it is the ritual of making horseradish.

The process is simple, during any

month with an "R" in the spelling, go to the garden, find the greenening sprouts, and dig deep enough to extract the long white roots. After the washing, the fun really begins and the crying starts. With the sharp edge of the knife, the roots are scraped and any brown spots removed. The tops are cut off with enough remaining to replant for future years. The long slender roots are then cut to fit into the food processor, a little white vinegar added to the container, and as the crying continues, the roots are pulverized into a fine mix. More vinegar is added to make a

fine slurry. The mixture is then placed in glass jars with tight fitting lids and stored in the refrigerator. Have I mentioned that at this point I can hardly see due to the tears streaming from my eyes? It is as simple as that and oh what a treat to go with a nice corned beef. In talking with other "criers" over the years, there are many variations in the mix. Some say grind with water, drain then add vinegar and some say add a bit of sugar to make the sauce whiter, but all agree that it takes a while to stop crying.



REVISITING THE PAST -

POOR HOUSE ACCUSATIONS

The St. Clair County "Poor House" was not without troubles as far back as 1878. It seems that accusations were made, to the board of supervisors in October of 1878, about the conditions of the institution. An article published by the Port Huron *Commercial* (a Port Huron newspaper from 1851 until 1888) on October 13, 1880 plus a complaint by George Granger on October 21, 1880

concerning the management of the poor house were referred to the committee for investigation. In January of 1881 the committee of investigators reported on the charges of 1) cruelty to inmates," 2) using the County's cloth by the matron for her children's clothing", 3) giving away meat or flour belonging to the county, 4) patrons dying through ne-

glect and 5) a charge that a music teacher and other visitors were boarding at the poor house. After investigation, all of these charges were unproven. Another charge that "Mrs. Cope" was allowed to jump from the third story window to the ground below was a fabrication but it was found that she along with several children did jump from the second floor window while playing

as it was a short distance to the ground.

1. [History of St. Clair County, Michigan, containing an account of its settlement, growth, development and resources, its war record, biographical sketches, the whole preceded by a history of Michigan.](http://name.umd.umich.edu/ARX2236.0001.001) Chicago: A.T. Andreas & Co., 1883
E book created: Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Library 2005
<http://name.umd.umich.edu/ARX2236.0001.001>

WE'RE ON THE WEB
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



**S T . C L A I R C O U N T Y
F A R M M U S E U M**

8310 County Park Drive
Goodells, MI 48027

810-325-1737
sccfarmmuseum@gmail.com

Museum Board

Garry Spencer, Pres.	Bob Sullivan
Yvonne Markel, V. Pres	Terry Dunn
Lisa Thacker, Sec.	Kim Schultz
Bill Schultz, Treas.	Fred Peasley
	Wayne Coon
	Bill Zegelien

The mission of the St. Clair County Farm Museum is to provide an understanding of our heritage, add to our areas cultural base and enhance regional tourism. This is achieved by acquiring, preserving and presenting agricultural and domestic equipment and related artifacts in structures and settings which will portray the origin and evolution of farming and rural living from when the area was first settled until about 1960.

The museum is a 501c3 charitable non profit organization which is totally operated by volunteers. The museum always welcomes new volunteers to join us in achieving our mission. An agricultural background is not a requirement to become a member. Please join us at our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Goodells County Park.

St. Clair County Farm Museum
P.O. Box 222
Avoca, MI 48006

