

Spreading the.....

Farm Museum Newsletter

ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM
 "PRESERVING A BIT OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- General Membership Meetings: Please check the website for updates.
- Planning Fall Harvest Days 2022
- New acquisitions

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FALL HARVEST DAYS PLANNING

Plans are underway for the 2022 Fall Harvest Days event and we need your help. If you would like to be involved in the organization and planning of a portion of the show, please call a board member and get involved. New this year is the addition of a lumberjack show, a flea market, an artisan alley, as well as a farm life experience for the youngsters.



The museum is excited to add a lumberjack show to the existing variety of events at the Fall Harvest Days in August. Lumberjack Enterprises, a Minnesota based organization produces the "All American Lumberjack Show" and will treat all to 2 to 3 shows daily. The show may include events such as log rolling, spring-

board tree topping, axe throwing and hot saw races among others. There will also be an interactive time where lumberjack "wannabes" can try out some of the events. Check Facebook and the website for details as they evolve.

This year our annual tractor raffle is again taking a twist. For first prize we will be giving away a golf cart. Second prize will be \$500 while third place will take home a collectable model toy tractor. As always, we need members to step up and help sell tickets for this raffle. Individually, at the 4-H fair, Armada fair or at other events where we participate, there is always a need to help with the sales. This is a huge fundraiser which helps to support the many activities in which the museum is involved, be it farming, equipment repair, museum

collection restoration or helping to fund the free events we provide. Please call one of the board members if you would like to help out.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT -

WAYNE COON

If you need to buy a raffle ticket or purchase an ad in the Fall Harvest Days show book, chances are you will see a familiar face from the museum. That would be the face of Mr. Wayne Coon. Wayne has been a member of the farm museum since the early 1980's and is a retiree of the Port Huron Area School District. In his spare time, Wayne enjoys the hobbies of working on engines, tractors and "building things". Wayne likes to divide his fondness of tractors between red, green and orange as he owns a Farmall, a John Deere and an Allis Chalmers.

A fondness of working on things like antiques, working

with and meeting new people, learning about and sharing the history of our community are the reasons why Wayne became a member of the museum. He continues to enjoy working the concession stand and a little known fact is that Wayne was the person responsible for starting the stand. The original concession was built from an old pop up camper into which Wayne installed windows. A while later, upgrading the stand to a larger size, Wayne and his family continued to operate it for several years. Wayne was responsible for locating the pop corn machine, a hot dog steamer and a pop cooler for use at the museum.

Track Wayne down to purchase a show book advertisement or buy some raffle tickets for the harvest days annual raffle. He will be happy to meet you, and that is his favorite reward for being a member.

Thanks Wayne, for all you have done for the past forty some years of museum membership.



A HUGE THANK YOU!!!!

The farm museum would like to thank all of the people that help to keep the organization running.

First on our list is Bob Curtis of Casco, Michigan who donated several oak logs and limbs for use with the sawmill and to keep the steamers fired. Thanks also to Dennis VanNuck for creating the deal and to Dennis, Bob Sullivan, Fred Peasley, Ray Theut, Ron VanNuck, and Dennis Derby for their help in transporting the logs to the museum.



On Nov. 20th, a group of 12 members worked to store the equipment for the winter. Thanks to Fred Peasley, Bob Sullivan, Dennis VanNuck, Dennis Derby, Terry Dunn, Ray Theut, Ken

Romak, Chris Tabor, Bill Schultz, Wayne Coon, and Garry Spencer for helping to house the equipment.



Fred and Ray Moving the Steamer

NEW ACQUISITIONS



Moak Machine and Tool Company Lathe

A wood lathe and a work bench were donated to the farm museum by the children of Ronald George Wilhelm in his memory. The lathe was built around 1920 by the Moak Machine and Tool Company in Port Huron, Michigan. The Moak gray iron foundry supplied parts to the Ford Motor Company and built other wood working machines as well as lathes in several sizes. This lathe is a great addition to our collection of wood processing machinery as well as an excellent example of local historic artifacts. A big thank you to Eric P. Wilhelm, Greg R. Wilhelm and Jennifer J. Wilhelm for their generous donation to the museum.



*Picking up the Moak Lathe
L-R Eric Wilhelm, Greg Wilhelm, Scott Eisele, Steven Schwab & photographer Mark Schwab*



*Improved
Spring Valley
Sheller*

Another donation was received in memory of Cliff and Arlene Schweiger. Son, Pat Schweiger gladly donated a corn sheller to be used by children at various museum events helping visitors understand life in the late 1800's to early 1900's. This "Improved Spring Valley" corn sheller was made by Donaldson Brothers Agricultural Implement Co. in Mt. Clemens, MI and is in fine working order.

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meetings

January 18, 2022
February 15, 2022
March 15, 2022
April 19, 2022

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.

Sleigh Days

TBD
Late January to Late February
Depending on snow conditions
Check the Web or Facebook

Easter Bunny Breakfast

Sunday, April 10, 2022
9am-1pm

Plow Day

May 7, 2022
Rain Dates—May 14 or 21

Breakfast with Santa

By all accounts, the Breakfast with Santa was a huge success. The breakfast, raffle baskets, bake sale, crafts, decorations and of course, Santa, all made it a wonderful event. Thank you to all who enjoyed the day and to all of Santa's helpers throughout the day.



ORTTENBURGER HORSE

Safely tucked away in its stall in the Farm Museum Horse Barn is a local equine icon. Rather than spending its early days on the trail or range this horse proudly spent its days and nights posed 12 feet above Military Street in downtown Port Huron.

The Orttenburger family began their ventures into leather goods when Ernest Orttenburger opened a shoemaking shop on Water street in the 1800's. Their first harness shop was on Erie Square. In 1885 the shop moved to 929 Military in the block where the Times Herald Building now stands. Early on, a model horse would display harness, tack and saddlery in the street level window.

Beginning around 1910, the first of 3 life sized fabricated horses were

placed in a specially constructed awning over the front door. Over time, the first horse disintegrated and the second was damaged by Mackinaw sailboat race revelers reportedly trying to mount and ride the artificial steed. Our resident Orttenburger Horse was the third to grace Military Street and is made of fiberglass.

As demand for harness and tack decreased, the Orttenburger Store diversified by retailing other leather goods such as purses and luggage. They moved their store north on Huron Street and the horse was donated to the Farm Museum.

If you have additional information on the Orttenburger Horse, please send it by email to: dbennis248@gmail.com



This is the Farm Museum's Orttenburger Horse picture on a post card of Port Huron proudly showing the 900 block of Military Street. The block was torn down in the late 1970's to make way for the USA Today/Times Herald Building



The wooden store sign hints that this picture is possibly of the first of the three Orttenburger Horses atop the awning of the shop at 929 Military



This appears to be the Farm Museum's resident Orttenburger Horse. Notice the opening near the mouth where a showroom harness bit can slide through. The museum's horse has these bit openings as well.



The neon sign in this picture indicates that this horse may be the second of the three iconic Orttenburger Horses



The Orttenburger Horse as it appears in the farm museum horse barn today

ONGOING PROJECTS AT THE MUSEUM

Farm museum members always have a list, longer than Santa's list, of projects in need of attention. A few of them are covered here to help keep everyone up to date on our activities.

The Bull Pen

No, it's not major league baseball, it's that vacant, cement walled area on the North end of the bull barn. "Like a bull in a china shop" comes to mind when I think of the original use that area. That area is currently being prepped for a new base on the ground to turn it into an enclosed display area. All items have been removed, the "top soil" which is riddled with all kinds of debris is soon to be excavated in preparation of road matting and a limestone topping.

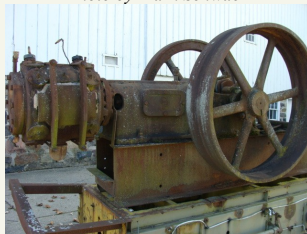
Chicago Pneumatic Compressor

In preparation of the bull pen cleanup, the Chicago

Pneumatic compressor was hoisted onto a trailer by S & S Towing in conjunction with Mark Peterson of St. Clair Collision Center. The compressor, originally from the Moak Machine and Tool Company, is in need of restoration work starting with a good cleaning and hopefully sand blasting and painting to prevent further deterioration. Member Chris Tabor is researching the history of the massive compressor.



Photo by Mark Schwab



Poor Farm Truck

The truck is still under restoration and is awaiting fenders.

Ford 9N Tractor

No update on the status of the assembly of the Ford 9N tractor which was donated to the museum.

Farmall A Tractor

The Farmall A tractor still needs some repairs to make it useable at the museum.

John Deere 60

The John Deere tractor will soon be moved into the mechanics barn and is slated to be restored.

Port Huron Steam Engine Tanks

The water tanks had been removed from the steamer to have them rebuilt. Rusting caused the tanks to leak. The tanks have been taken to Yale Steel for replacement.

Rumely Oil Pull

In talking with Ray Theut about the Rumely, we looked into how to proceed with fixing the oil leak in the front "cooling system". The first task is to remove the housing and try to determine where the leak is actually occurring. This will be looked at this winter when we have free time.

Sawmill

The sawmill is getting some needed repairs so that it can be made ready to saw logs that are being obtained by farm museum members. The lumber is going to be used for the repair of the bed of the Poor Farm Ford truck and a rebuild of the small people mover. Hopefully we can hold a "Saw" day in conjunction with the Sleigh Day in order to get started on these projects.

As you can see, there are many restoration projects in the works and opportunities

INTERESTING FINDS -

COOLSPRING POWER MUSEUM

<http://www.coolspringpowermuseum.org/index.htm>

An interesting find on the internet is a museum that looks to be worthy of a trip to central Pennsylvania. After all, who doesn't need to see more engines? This 501 (c) (3) founded in 1985 looks to have a vast collection of many types of engines. Similar to the SCC Farm Museum, it is closed in the winter and only open a few days each month from April to October. A couple of

special days round out the schedule. Copying from their website, information about the museum is written here.

"Coolspring Power Museum presents an illuminating history of the evolution of internal combustion engine technology. The museum's collection includes hundreds of stationary engines housed in more than 35 buildings and

outdoor displays. Stationary gas hit and miss engines, throttle governed engines, flame ignition engines, hot tube ignition engines, and hot air engines are among the permanent exhibits at the Coolspring Power Museum in Coolspring, Pennsylvania. Engines in the museum's collection range in size from fractional horsepower up to 600 horsepower."



Has anyone been to this museum? If so, I would certainly like to hear about it. After all, 35 buildings of engines can't be all bad.

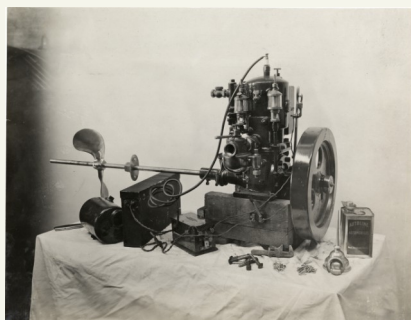
REMEMBERING THE PAST

WADSWORTH & THE DETROIT ENGINE WORKS

WWW.ANTIQUEENGINES.COM

Sometimes I feel like a young child, just learning things for the first time. Other times, I think I am so old that I must have forgotten everything I once learned. Either way, it's always a new adventure. In researching something, can't remember what, I came across information on the Detroit Engine Works. It seems the Detroit Engine Works has quite the history story in the production of two cycle marine and stationary engines.

It was written in 1922 that Michigan at one time was manufacturing more marine gas engines than any other state in the country and Detroit had more expert gas engine workers than any other city. It was also written that around 1910 there were a large number of automobiles produced but gasoline marine engines outnumbered automobile engines by 2 to 1. Popular Mechanics magazine advertised a 2hp Detroit engine with only 3 moving parts for \$29.50.



Located on East Jefferson Ave. in Detroit, Detroit Engine Works was operating under the umbrella with several other companies owned by Wadsworth Manufacturing Co. This was an excellent location due to the rail lines and shipping on the Detroit

River which allowed transportation of iron ore and coal for use in the foundry, Detroit Forging Co.

Hugo Scherer, a major stockholder in Wadsworth Manufacturing, made his money from a pharmacy business which expanded into hardware and carriage goods. By 1904, Scherer's own company, H. Scherer & Company, had switched from making carriage bodies to making automobile bodies and changed the name of his company to Detroit Motor Car Supply Co. By 1906 it was claimed to be the country's largest manufacturer of automobile bodies. The Detroit Motor Car Supply Co. not only manufactured and sold bodies but by 1910-1911 was also manufacturing and distributing 2 cycle stationary and marine engines called "SANDOW".



Frederick Wadsworth, who along with Scherer formed Detroit Engine Works in the early 1900's, was instrumental in formation of the National Can Company which not only pro-

duced tin cans but stamped sheet metal automobile parts. Another of Wadsworth's companies was the Columbia Engine Company and in conjunction with Detroit Engine Works and the Detroit Motor Car Supply Co. produced the 2 cycle marine and stationary engines from 2 to 50 hp. Also produced was a light kerosene powered 6 – 18 hp Wadsworth farm traction Engine.

One style of engine that Detroit Engine Works produced was unique as it was the first low pressure fuel injected engine and was produced around 1907. This engine was designed to run on multiple types of fuel, gasoline, kerosene (coal oil) alcohol, naphtha, and distillate with no change of equipment.



Information for this article was taken from www.antiquengines.com and the research of John C. Davis. More of the story can be found there. It is a good read.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

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Museum Board

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	Wayne Coon
	Bill Zegelian

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 operated entirely 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 in the Community Building at Goodells County Park.

St. Clair County Farm Museum
P.O. Box 202
Goodells, MI 48027

