



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
- Toy Steam Engines
- Remembering Mike Sexton

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FALL HARVEST DAYS EVENTS

LUMBERJACK SHOW

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.

TRACTOR PULL

The tractor pull will be held on Saturday August 27th starting at 10

am and will feature several classes of tractors. Tractor pull rules along with pre-registration forms can be found on the museum's website under the Fall Harvest Days tab.



FESTIVAL OF FIBERS

Once again, Fall Harvest Days will feature the Festival of Fibers on Saturday August 27 and Sunday August 28th. This will be the third year that the fiber event will be a part of the show.

"TRACTOR" RAFFLE

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 three collectable model toy tractors. Tickets are available for purchase at a cost of \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20 from most active farm museum members or at museum events.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT -

GLEN SCHADE

As a long time member of the farm museum, Glen Schade has been involved with the Fall Harvest Days since the beginning. A member since the early 1980's, Glen's enjoyment with the museum comes not only from running antique farm equipment but from the many people that are connected with the museum.

Glen's involvement started when museum members went to Glen's farm to use his wheat for the threshing bee. Glen joined them and enjoys operating the Rumely Oil Pull to run the threshing machine each year at the Fall Harvest Days. Glen is always willing to help young visitors learn about the grain threshing process as well as helping younger members learn how to operate vintage farm machinery.

Threshing at Fall Harvest Days has become a "family affair" for

Glen as his sons Larry and Terry are often seen helping. Glen enjoys sharing the Fall Harvest Days with his great grandson Landon who always seems to love the experience. The family affair continues to Glen's wife and granddaughter who became museum members and organized and announced the tractor parade for several years. The museum collection includes a beaver threshing machine which belonged to Glen's father-in-law, George Smith, who was well known in the Goodells area several years ago.



Glen remembers his first tractor which he purchased in 1952, a shiny red Farmall M, which still runs very well and is still used on the farm. In addition to being a self employed farmer, Glen is a retired truck driver and enjoys hunting and traveling.

It's a pleasure to know Glen and have his expertise which he is always willing to share with visitors and museum members.



THANK YOU

While it seems like the dead of winter has set in at the farm museum with not much happening, there is a bunch of behind the scenes chores and activities keeping members busy.

Bean Harvest

The fall harvest was stretched into January due to sodden fields, so finally on the 20th and 21st, Fred Peasley, Ray Theut, Keith Barnhart and Terry Dunn were able to harvest the soybeans from fields 4, 5, 7, & 9. Field #3 turned out to not be worth the effort due to not being able to get in to spray last summer. Despite all odds, the harvest was fair thanks to the efforts of the museum members.

Saw Mill Repairs

February 9th brought three members together to make necessary repairs to the saw mill. Terry Dunn, Ray Theut, and Fred Peasley worked to level and shim the frame of the mill. The crew returned on the bitter cold morning of February 12th with reinforcements of other members and helpers. Fred Peasley, Dennis Derby, Tom Saborn, Ray Theut, Bob Sullivan, Keith Barnhart, Dennis VanNuck, Ron VanNuck, Terry Dunn, and Ken Romak all found that cold weather is not conducive to sawing lumber. According to Fred, "the equipment didn't want to work right and the dirt on the frozen logs didn't want to be sawed. Notably missing, were sunshine and good running tractors".

Sleigh Days

Museum members found that cold weather didn't bother the nearly 200 people who

chose to hop on an antique sleigh for a spin around the farm on February 19th. Horses, Misty and Parker, didn't seem to mind trudging through the snow or walking into the biting winds as they paraded around the field. With the help of members and volunteers Makeyla Romak, Theresa & Ken Romak, Beth Sawdon, Wayne Coon, Cate, Melissa and Jeff Wilson, Kim & Bill Schultz, Scott Eisele, Terry Dunn, Claire & Sophia Dunn, Garry Spencer, & Dennis VanNuck, many visitors enjoyed a sleigh ride and warm hot dogs, chili and hot chocolate.



Cate Wilson drives Misty while giving sleigh rides

Rumely Tractor Repairs

On February 14th, members Fred Peasley, Ray Theut and Scott Eisele worked to start the repairs of the oil leak in the radiator of the Rumley Oil Pull. The day was spent removing the radiator panels and learning how that oil cooling system works. Member Al Burt has agreed to clean the 28 panels in preparation of the reassembly.



Removing the radiator panels from the Rumely

Port Huron Steamer Water Tanks



Painting the Steamer Water Tanks

New water tanks have been made for the Port Huron steam traction engines and now the prep work for the new paint is starting. Members Terry Dunn, Ken Romak, and Fred Peasley along with Mark Pedersen of St. Clair Collision and Chris Willhite worked to prepare the new tanks and apply a coat of primer. Hopefully these new tanks will last well into the next century.

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meetings

April 19, 2022
May 17, 2022
June 21, 2022



Terry Dunn rolls the path for the 2022 sleigh ride

Easter Bunny Breakfast

Sunday, April 10, 2022

9am-1pm

Plow Day

May 7, 2022

Rain Dates-May 14 or 21

Earth Fair

April 28, 2022 9am-4pm

April 29, 2022 10am-4pm

Concession stand is open, come and help out or just have a bite to eat.

All Aboard !



The much loved barrel train is getting a make over. New paint, tires and a newly constructed caboose made by Dennis VanNuck.

The 4-H club, **Equestrian Express**, under the leadership of Linda Taylor, demonstrated a portion of the 4-H pledge prior to the museums March meeting. Pledging their "hands to larger service"... "for my community", the club spent a great deal of time filling Easter eggs to be used at the Easter Bunny Breakfast. Thank you to all of the helpers.



REMEMBERING THE PAST

THREE GENERATIONS OF STEAM ENGINES

It must be true of what is said about educational toys, that they do influence a child's future. I once read an article in a trade magazine entitled "*Everything I know, I learned from a toy train*". Toys...educational? This rings true for the three generations of steam engines of which I am a part. As a child, my father had a toy steam engine, I had a toy steam engine and my son, well, we bought him an antique toy steam engine. My father was very mechanically minded, sole proprietor of a welding shop and all around jack of all trades. It was said he could fix anything. I can hold my own when it comes to mechanical knowledge but have often said, I wish I knew what my father knew. My son was once described as a "mechanical genius" and even though he never really got into running the steamer, he did fiddle with the mechanical toys of the modern era like Lego's® and various electronic devices.

Researching these three engines, I found quite the network of hobbyists actively pursuing restoration of old toy steam engines and found an equal amount of information available on the topic. It seems the popular period in time for these educational toys was from the 1880's till 1930's, however toy live steam engines were built through the 1960's. These toys copied full-scale steam powered machines and allowed youngsters to develop engineering and mechanical skills while operating the toys. It was estimated that over 5 million model steam engines were built in the Nürnberg area of Germany, an area known for precision machinery, metal work and tin toy production. There were several major

toy engine manufactures in the Nürnberg area including Doll, Carette, Falk, Krauss Mohr & Co., Märklin, Bing, Plank and Schöenner each marketing their own version of the engine as both toys and instructive devices. The UK also contributed to the toy market from companies like Mamod, Bowman and Burnac.

It's kind of ironic that of the three toy steam engines in my life, the person who was the "most German" had the steam engine that was manufactured in the United States while the subsequent generations owned steam engines manufactured in Germany. My father's steam engine, model 641, was manufactured from the mid 1920's to mid 1930's by Weeden Manufacturing Company in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The company was founded in 1883 by William Nye Weeden and offered stiff competition to the Nuremberg companies.



Weeden Model 641

William Weeden, a jeweler, formed the company after being asked to design an inexpensive, quality toy that could be used as a premium to increase subscriptions to a children's publication called the *Youth's Companion*. The publishers were so impressed with the design and function of the upright steam engine that an initial order of ten thousand units was placed at a cost of one dollar each. The ten thousand dollars was used to start the company and Weeden's Upright Stem Engine No. 1, was advertised in the October 1884 issue of *Youth's Companion* for \$1.00. The company went on to produce other tin and cast toys such as trains, automobiles, steamboats, and mechanical banks. Weeden passed away in 1891 after 8 years of running the company. The company was sold in 1942 and production of the steam engines ended in 1952.



Fleishmann Model 120/2

The steam engine that I received as a child was a Model 120/2 made by the Fleischmann Company in Nürnberg, Germany from 1958 to 1968. Founded in 1887 by Jean Fleishmann, the company also produced toy ships and airplanes

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STEAM ENGINES - CONTINUED

and continued to grow through the 1920's and 30's by acquiring other toy companies. Interestingly, the Fleischmann Company took over the Doll Company in 1938 which also produced O-gauge model railways and steam engines. The Fleischmann Company stopped producing steam engines in 1969. This leads to the interesting connection to the Doll Company.

Having such an exciting childhood operating my steam engine, when we had the opportunity to purchase a steam engine at a local auction, we couldn't resist the temptation to pass along the joy of learning the workings of steam to my son. Little was known about this engine at the time other than the fact that the sight glass was missing and it was believed to be inoperable at the time. Now, doing research on this engine, I found that the sight glass holes had been plugged at some time in the past and is more than likely operable. By consulting the forum at <https://www.officeofsteamforum.com>, the engine has been identified as being made by Doll & Company, and made before WW II. The model is not quite clear as the base is similar to a model 318/1 while the single acting cylinder and rotary valve mechanism is like that found on a model 319/1. These models were manufactured around the 1930's.

Doll & Co. was founded in 1898 by Karl Doll, a plumber, and Isaak Sondhelm., a businessman. in Nürnberg and produced high quality operating model steam engines, quite possibly producing more oper-

ating models than any of the other companies.

Max Bein, Sondheim's nephew, joined the company in 1911 as a third partner, and, after his World War 1 enlistment, returned to eventually take over operations. Steam engine production continued along with the manufacture of toy trains.



Doll & Co.

In the late 1930's, the Doll Company changed ownership when it was taken over by another Nürnberg company named Fleischmann. Max Bein and his family were Jewish and the Aryanization laws of the Nazi regime did not allow business arrangements conducted with Jews. The Bein family sold the company to Fleischmann in 1938. Interestingly, the Fleischmann family was also of Jewish origins, but had managed to

obtain an "Aryan" certificate, whereas Bein did not. The deal that was made specified that the assets of the company would be returned to Bein at the end of the Nazi regime so the Doll name was retained and used by Fleischmann. Max Bein fled Germany and eventually ended up in the United States. At the end of the war, the company was offered back to Bein who declined and accepted a buyout of his shares instead. Steam engines continued to be sold under the Doll name until 1949, under Fleischmann from 1950 and are no longer in the catalog after 1969.

As I continue my research on these early toys, I find it interesting that after 120 plus years they still are providing educational value. Not only educational in a mechanical sense, but in a historical sense as well.

If you happen to have an educational toy from your childhood, a few resources have been listed. After all, you can always say, you're studying history!

<https://www.officeofsteamforum.com/>

<https://www.fabtintoys.com/doll-steam/>

<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/modelandtoysteamforum/>

<https://www.farmcollector.com/steam-traction/weeden-toy-factory-known-to-every-boy/>

<https://historytoy.com/spielzeug-Dampfspielzeug-Stehende-Dampfmaschinen-Doll-Liste-Aufstellung-aller-Artikel-Nummern>

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

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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
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