

# 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 up-  
dates-----  
<http://www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org>

FHD Photos

Happy Birthday Rumely

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All I can say is WOW! It seems as though just yesterday we were stoking the fire and warming the chili at the sleigh ride event. And now both the 4-H fair and the 38th Fall Harvest Days events are history. Looking back on these events we have a multitude of people to thank for their efforts in making both a success. I am not even going to try to list everyone's name as

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - DAVE BENNIS

If you stroll through the Dairy Barn part of the Museum and wander to the second floor, you may come across a pleasant gentleman keeping a watchful eye over the many exhibits located throughout the



that list would include most of the active membership and many non-member family and friends, but I would like to highlight a few. First of all would be Diane Peasley who invested countless hours organizing and selling tickets for the very successful golf cart raffle. What an amazing job she did in this role. Thank you Diane. Next on the list is Yvonne

Museum. This fellow has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to curate the variety of exhibits in the Museum collection.

As a retiree of Chrysler Corporation, Dave Bennis makes time to pursue his favorite hobbies of researching local history, crewing with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and winter traveling, usually to someplace warm. In

Markel who not only stepped up to fill our void but spent many hours making sure that the concession stand was providing good food for all to enjoy while providing needed funds for Museum operation. Thank you Yvonne. What would the Farm Museum be without a farm and the efforts of the "farming crew". Fred Peasley, Terry Dunn and Bob

Continued on Pg. 2 -Thank You

springtime he can be found in Lakeland, Florida at the Tigers spring training camp.

Dave has been a member of the Museum for about 15 years and has fond memories of visiting the Fall Harvest Days show with his father. When his dad was confined to a wheelchair, Dave would wheel him around the show on the flat ground while taking

Continued on Pg. 6-Dave Bennis

## T H A N K   Y O U

C O N T I N U E D - F R O M   P G . 1

Sullivan should be recognized for their continued work at bringing in the crops and maintaining the farm and equipment. Plow days, working the fields, planting, spraying, monitoring the deer feed, spreading manure, harvesting the crops, organizing the pumpkin fest. Wow, a farmer's work is never done. Thank you Fred, Terry and Bob. Then there is the reason we are here, the Museum itself. Dave Bennis deserves a huge thank you for all of his work curating the exhibits in the barns. Dave invests both his time and money to make the collections a show piece of the Museum. Thanks Dave. Bill Schultz should be recognized for organizing and keeping track of

the financial matters of the Museum. The Museum could never operate without Bill's efforts to keep track of the membership, money, operations, and organization. Kim schultz should be thanked for sharing Bill, and her horses, Parker and Misty, (who never complain about lugging people around) and for all of her work to make sure everything runs smoothly at FHD. I thought I was trying to keep this simple but guess I got carried away so I can't stop now. Ken and Theresa Romak, Dennis VanNuck and his extended family, Beth Sawdon, Bob Lewandowski, Mark, Joanne, & Steven Schwab, Dennis Derby, The Preston Family, Chris Tabor, Keith Barnhart, etc. etc.

I know there are many more people that have worked several hours to make all aspects of the Farm Museum great. Please don't think that you have been overlooked. We appreciate all of your labors. The best thing we can do is, if you know of someone who even helped a little bit, thank them and let them know that their efforts are appreciated. After all, we are all making and interpreting history. Think of the threshing bees and barn raising of years past where everyone joined in to help others accomplish a task. That's kind of what we do. Thank you and WOW!

## U P C O M I N G   &   P A S T   E V E N T S

### Membership Meetings

October 18, 2022  
November 15, 2022  
No December Meeting

### Pumpkin Fest

Oct 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23,  
12 -5 pm

### Breakfast with Santa

December 4, 2022  
10 am - 1 pm

### Sleigh Day 2023

TBD in Jan. or Feb.

### Museum Work Days

The Museum Board of Directors have scheduled a monthly work day at the Museum. This is for all members and non-member volunteers and will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Participants should meet at the Museum at 6 pm. A variety of jobs will be tackled including cleaning, maintenance and restoration of buildings and equipment. Contact Terry Dunn for details.

### Board of Directors Election

It's election time at the Museum. The October membership meeting is the opportunity to nominate can-

didates for the board of directors. Candidates will then be selected at the election held at the November membership meeting. Currently there are three vacancies that need to be filled in addition to the members who's term expires. Please help fill these positions and exercise your franchise to vote.

### Renewal Time

It's that time of year when memberships expire and are due to be renewed. Be sure to keep your membership current. Yearly dues are only \$20 and a lifetime membership is \$200. Look on the Fall Harvest Days tab of the Museum web site for membership forms.

# HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY RUMELY

Our Collection

By David Bennis

The Rumely Oil Pull Tractor residing in the Farm Museum's Mechanic's Barn was manufactured in 1922 by the Advance-Rumely Company of LaPorte Indiana. It is engineered to be operated with all grades of Kerosene which is a hydrocarbon petroleum based product. It is not as well refined as gasoline and as such is less expensive. The Rumely is designed to be started with the more volatile gasoline, but when warmed up, its fuel supply is switched to the more economical kerosene. Our Rumely is a model "G" unit rated at 20 hp at the drawbar and 40hp at the pulley.



The Farm Museum gratefully acknowledges the long timed efforts of Mr. Glen Schade who operates the Rumely with his sage expertise.



The following is an account of the history of the Farm Museum's Rumely:



Charles Long of Lexington, Michigan purchased this tractor new and used it for threshing grain and beans and for sawing lumber. His sawmill was operated continuously throughout the year except for threshing and deer seasons.

In the late 1940's, Stanley Simpson and his brother George of North Street, Michigan hauled logs to Charlie Long's sawmill to be sawed into lumber. A short time later, their dad, Frank J. Simpson bought the Oil Pull from Charlie. Frank and a hired man, Ed "Happy" Miller drove it to its new home.

They had to choose their route carefully as the tractor was too heavy for some of the area's bridges. The tractor was taken to Stanley's farm and belted to a sawmill out in the woods. Frank, "Happy", and John Lewis sawed lumber with the Oil Pull for a couple of years, then Frank replaced it with a Hart-Parr tractor purchased from James Keegan of Emmett,

Michigan. He sold the Oil Pull to Francis "Pat" Trumble in about 1951. Frank and "Happy" drove it to Pat's home on Division Road near St. Clair, Michigan, passing over the Wadhams Road Bridge on the way.

Frank's wife, Flossie, packed a lunch for them and one of Frank's daughters drove down to bring them home. Pat, his brother Myron, and a friend, Ed Sass, also used the Oil Pull for sawing lumber as well as shredding corn and threshing. When Pat died in 1967, he had willed the tractor to Merlin L. Trumble Jr.

In 1972, it was taken to the Trumble Homestead on Division Road where Lester Trumble lives now (1990). In 1981, it was exhibited at the Richmond "Good Old Days" fair.

Merlin died in December of 1981 and had willed the tractor to the St. Clair County Farm Museum in Goodells, Michigan.

Ken Dickenson and Harry Michaels contacted Lester Trumble and together with Art Kuney moved the tractor to Goodells in 1985.

Restoration of the Oil Pull began in the spring of 1987 and was completed in May of 1990. The Trumble family had a brass plaque made to commemorate the donation of the

Continued on Pg 7. - Rumely



# FALL HARVEST DAYS 2022 IN REVIEW.



## "THE ADVENTURES OF DOG & BEAR"

DISCOVER 100'S OF ADVENTURE STORIES, ON THEIR PAGE, CREATED TO INSPIRE & ENCOURAGE EVERY ONE WHO NEEDS TO SMILE. EACH STORY OF FUN & EXPLORATION, IS NARRATED BY LITTLE BEAR. GOOD FOR ALL AGES. YOU CAN ALSO ENJOY THEIR VERY BIT STORIES, IN THEIR BOOK.

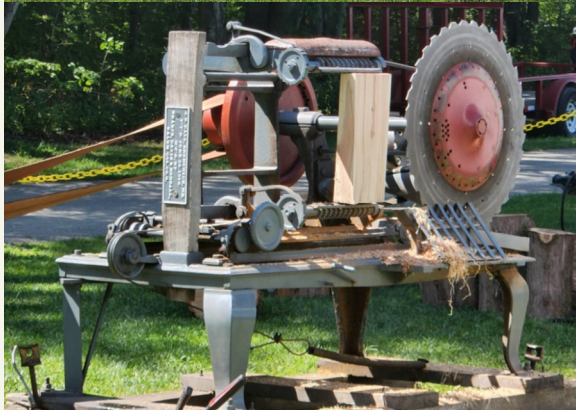


THE ADVENTURES OF DOG & BEAR





# FALL HARVEST DAYS 2022 IN REVIEW.





## DAVE BENNIS

CONTINUED - FROM PG. 1

in the exhibits. Recalling those times, Dave thought everyone at the show was so kind to his father and his dad always looked forward to a cup of bean soup.

Dave met Museum member Chris Tabor through their work at the Steam Railroading Institute and the Huron Lightship in Port Huron. Dave began working with Chris on the Farm Museum's A.D. Baker steam traction engine and the Steam Whistle Show. Working with the steam team, Dave eventually assisted Bob Bennatts with his Port Huron Portable Steam Engine which was once owned by a fellow by the name of Henry Ford. Later, Dave became interested in the Farm Museum's collection and with the organization's president's permission, began the task of cleaning, sorting and organizing the artifacts found in the Museum barns. Dave was solely responsible for the displays of store fronts, country rooms and interpretation of the collections as we know them today.

Dave's hobby of researching history is evident in the work he

does and is why he enjoys being a Farm Museum member. He has always been intrigued with the history of the Poor Farm and the St. Clair County Medical Center and is amazed at the ingenuity of people behind the development of farm implements and the hard work that farmers performed in the past and continue to perform in order to grow crops and raise livestock which provides the food for all to consume.

That pleasant gentleman on the second floor finds that having the Museum open to the public at big events is the most satisfying part of being a member. In the Spring, Earth Day brings over 7000 local students to the Farm Museum. Dave notes that it is a treat to see students getting a break from class and enjoying a day at Goodells County Park and viewing exhibits of agricultural history found in the Museum. The 4-H Fair is another time that Dave enjoys seeing thousands of visitors to the Farm Museum. But probably Dave's favorite event is the Museum's Fall Harvest Days. It highlights the

efforts of the Farm Museum's hard working volunteers as they demonstrate early farm implements and machinery and entertain guests with wagon rides and special events. Interesting crafts and trades are also demonstrated with the general theme of early American farming life. Couple all of this with great food, "darn good musical entertainment" and the addition of the Lumberjack Show makes it "Terrific"!

Must be that Dave doesn't spend all of his time on the second floor since he indicates that he must have seen the Lumberjack Show 4 or 5 times.

If you do make it to the second floor of the Dairy Barn, make sure to say hello and tell Dave that you are grateful for his work making the Museum the interesting venue that it is. After all, it is because of Dave that we can all say we are "Preserving a Bit of Yesterday for Tomorrow". Thanks Dave.

### Sharing Sweet Success

In the tradition of the Poor Farm once located at Goodells County Park, the Farm Museum has continued the theme of helping others. With a bumper crop of sweet corn this season, Museum members have helped by harvesting the corn and donating it to local organizations. Members Fred and Dianne Peasley and grandson John Burgess along with members Terry and Derick Dunn picked close to 100 dozen ears for charitable organizations. It was then delivered by Fred, Dianne and Johnny to Harbor Impact, Hillside Wesleyan, First United, SOS, Safe Horizons, Harbor for Youth, Soup Kitchen Port Huron, Food Depot, First Baptist Port Huron, MidCity Nutrition Port Huron, and Talaski Group Home in Bad Axe. In addition, over 27 dozen ears were harvested and cooked for Fall Harvest Days. Thank you Fred, Dianne, John, Terry and Derick.

## OUR 2022 SPONSORS THANK YOU!

Fall Harvest Days as well as the Farm Museum could not exist without the support of many sponsors who donate financially to help us produce the show. We would like to acknowledge these sponsors as well as the advertisers in our show book. Please seek out a 2022 Fall Harvest Days show book and support those that support us. The show would not go on without the many volunteers who help throughout the year to produce the show and keep the Museum operating. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time to help out. A variety of opportunities for a variety of interests exist. Whatever your passion, we can use your help.

24 st. Pizza  
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Ball Equipment  
Biernot's Carpet  
Capozzo & Sons Excavating  
Chaps - Richmond  
Choice One Bank  
Damsel in Defense  
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Flooring Edge  
Foam All  
Fonten Auto  
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Hammers  
Johnstons Meats  
JRT Thumb Reality & Auction  
Kohlers Propane  
Lakeport Tavern  
Lixey  
Loxton Radiator  
Moran Bluewater  
Moran Chevrolet  
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Sawmill Creek Farms LLC  
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Steiner  
Tropical Smoothie  
Viking Towing  
Wadhams Equipment  
Yale Steel

### RUMELY

CONTINUED - FROM PG. 3

### The St. Clair County Farm Museum Presents: **Fall Pumpkin Fest 2022**



Take a wagon ride to the farm's pumpkin patch,  
pick a pumpkin, and enjoy a fall day at the museum.  
Stroll through the museum buildings and view the collections.

Corn Stalks, Indian Corn,  
Sunflowers & Gourds  
For Sale



Concessions available

**October 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23**

**Saturdays & Sundays 12 noon-5pm**

**Cost:**  
**\$4.00 per ride**  
*Pick yourself a pumpkin*

**While Supplies Last**

Find the Farm Museum at:  
Goodells County Park  
8310 County Park Drive  
Goodells, Mi. 48027

[www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org](http://www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org) 810-325-1737

The museum is a 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization operated by volunteers.



Please consider joining to help us preserve the heritage of the farming communities of rural St. Clair County

tractor to the Museum. It was presented to the Museum by Mrs. Merlin Trumble in 1989 and was mounted on the tractor during the Museum's 1990 Threshing Bee with both Mrs. Trumble and Lester present. Afterward Lester rode the Oil Pull in the first parade to be run as part of the Threshing Bee show.

We at the Museum extend a special thank you to Mrs. Trumble for the plaque and her help in tracing the history of this Rumely Oil Pull Tractor and to Avery Long, Stanley Simpson, and Lester Trumble for Providing the information.

In the fall of 1990, a new machine shed (the "Mechanic's Barn") was built near the other Farm Museum buildings to house the Oil Pull, the A.D. Baker steam engine and a threshing machine.

If you have additional information on the Rumely Oil Pull, please send it by email to:

[dbennis248@gmail.com](mailto:dbennis248@gmail.com)

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



## ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

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Goodells, MI 48027

810-325-1737  
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### Museum Board

Yvonne Markel, President  
V. President (open)  
Secretary, (open)  
Bill Schultz, Treasurer  
Beth Sawdon, Acting Secretary

Terry Dunn  
Kim Schultz  
Fred Peasley  
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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE