



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—
<http://www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org>

NEW AT THE MUSEUM

The St. Clair County Farm Museum's concession trailer has a new look. In memory of past president Garry Spencer, the trailer received a wrap to make the trailer more visible and on help identify our organization. The wrap

was donated and installed by Thorpe Printing of



Marysville. Please stop by and see the new look.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT -

ALLEN BURT

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You may have never heard of Allen Burt but you probably know Al Burt, (as most of us call him) as that pleasant gentleman who has been a Farm Museum member since 2005. Al can be seen at the Museum helping with a variety of tasks, from cooking, to operating tractors, to taking or selling tickets on the Pumpkin Fest weekends.

Al became a member of the Museum to help with the cooking and because he enjoys working with all of the old machinery. He continues to utilize his culinary skills by cooking sausages at the Easter Breakfast and Breakfast with Santa where he enjoys the fellowship of other members. In addition to the breakfast events, Al's favorite events at the Museum are Fall Harvest Days where he enjoys watching and visiting with people and Pumpkin Fest where he

derives enjoyment from watching all of the young people enjoying the wagon rides and daily activities.

It stands to reason that the Pumpkin Fest is a favorite activity as Al's favorite color tractor shares the color of pumpkins. His 1939 Allis-Chalmers B tractor is part of his hobby interest along with restoring old lawn mowers, cars, and tractors. Al's mechanical ability probably is derived from his years working for Mueller Brass as a machine operator.

As a life long resident of Goodells, Al has a close relationship with the Farm Museum. As a matter of fact, he is probably more knowledgeable than most about the history of the Museum and Poor Farm where Goodells County Park is located. Al's mother worked at the building when it was a Medical Center.

The next time you see Allen (Al), ask him to share his remembrances of the Medical Center and Farm Museum. After all, the Museum's mantra is "preserving a bit of yesterday for tomorrow" and what better way can we do that than through stories that we pass down to future generations.

Thank you Allen for your continued help and support of the Farm Museum.



THANK YOU

Work Details

Thank you to members Mark Taylor, Ray Theut, Terry Dunn, and Fred Peasley along with Jeff and Tommy Wilson who attended a work day on Jan 7th and continued work on the Ford tractor and the International 806.

Also thanks to Ray Theut, Terry Dunn, Fred Peasley, Ken Romack, and Al Burt for continuing the work detail on Jan 14th.

Mechanics Barn

The mechanics barn became a little neater thanks to the efforts of Dennis VanNuck. The South wall shelves have been replaced and reorganized, helping to make the location of supplies easier.

Majestic Heart

The museum would like to extend a huge Thank You to members Kim and Bill Schultz for their participation in Sleigh Days this year. Kim, along with her horses Misty and Parker and drivers Cate Wilson and Terry Dunn donated time and energy to provide sleigh rides for many museum visitors. Kim's business, Majestic Heart Carriage Rides, provides this valuable and fun service to the museum. Please follow Majestic Heart on Facebook.



Mechanics Barn Vol. 2

Member Dennis VanNuck along with Ron VanNuck continue to organize the mechanics barn this time by building storage shelves for the bins that were donated by a company called Leon Speakers in Ann Arbor. The bins and shelves make it much easier to find needed supplies quickly. Thank you Dennis and Ron.



UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meetings

April 18, 2023

May 15, 2023

June 19, 2023

Reminder the July membership meeting will be held on the 11th of July due to the 4-H fair.

Keeping in touch with the Museum happenings has never been easier. Information can be found on the Museum Facebook page or on the Museum's web site. As always, please consider joining us at one of our events.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny for a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings on Sunday April 2, 2023. Breakfast will be served up from 9 am until 1 pm at the Goodells County Park Community Center. Family fun with crafts, raffle baskets, good food, and an Easter Egg Hunt.



Enjoying the Easter Breakfast 2022

Sleigh Day (S) 2023

Mother nature provided us the opportunity to host two sleigh rides this year. One on February 4th and the other on March 11th. Both of the days had a good turnout of participants and a good showing of museum members working together to make sure all enjoyed the day. Thank you to all of the members who helped to make these days a success.



INTERESTING FINDS

AMERICAN WINDMILL MUSEUM

I recently received a package in the mail from a long time friend and former colleague of mine, David. Upon opening, I discovered he had sent a book and brochure of a museum he had recently visited. The museum, located in Lubbock, Texas, focuses on windmills and is aptly named the American Windmill Museum. (www.windmill.com) It was nice of Dave to think of me as he recalled I have a windmill that I, with help, restored and erected over an old well in my backyard.

The American Windmill Museum is a non profit museum founded in 1993 to educate about the history and technology of wind power and bills itself as the largest public collection of wind-driven machines in the world. The windmills and displays of artifacts cover a time period between the firsts American mill erected in 1621 to the

present day. Included in the collection is a modern wind turbine which supplies power to the museum. Covering twenty-eight acres and 70,000 square feet of indoor buildings, the museum was the brain child of Ms. Billie Wolfe, a professor of home economics at Texas Tech. Ms. Wolfe along with Executive Director, Coy F. Harris, collected over 200 windmills which are on display both inside buildings and on the museum grounds.

The museum also shares the story of the connection between the railroads and windmills with a 3,000 foot long G-scale size train rail line. Steam locomotives needed to replenish water every 20 – 25 miles and windmills provided that water supply. The rail line display runs throughout the buildings, along the walls and over doors and recreates the historic landscape with 3-D printed

wind mills, hand made historic buildings and realistic scenery.

After purusing the literature, I kind of felt like the old saying which goes: “my parents went on vacation and all I got was this tee shirt”. I too would have liked to see the museum, but then, maybe someday I can travel West to Texas and maybe I can spot my Woodmanse, eight foot windmill in this extensive collection. Thank you David for sharing these booklets.



REVISITING THE PAST

MICHIGAN'S COAL INDUSTRY - PART 1

A long time member of the museum, Bob Nicholas, recently shared some information that he came across concerning coal mining in Michigan. Looking into this, I found an interesting topic that I had never thought of pertaining to that industry. This information is important for everyone who follows the development of steam engines and the materials used to power these fuel hungry beasts. As Michigan entered into the industrial age, the use of coal would become an important resource to power not only machines, but the transportation industry as well.

Coal was first discovered in Michigan in 1835 as early pioneers were digging the foundation for a gristmill west of Jackson. In 1837, the riverbed and banks of the Grand River at Jacksonburgh were found to have a bed of bituminous shale mixed with thin layers of coal. By 1840, settlers extracted 1500 bushels of coal but due to the lack of steam powered engines and

large coal utilizing factories, there were few markets and the coal was only used locally. But how was this location important in the discovery of coal?

Looking at the geology of the State, Michigan forms the Great Lakes Basin with coal deposits deeper in the center of the state. These coal deposits formed between 270 and 330 million years ago when oceans flooded the area and then dried out becoming swamps and then dry lands. This process repeated many times leaving layers of decaying vegetation that was eventually compressed between layers of rock. Taking 60 feet of vegetative matter to compress to 5 feet of coal, most of the Michigan veins were found to be less than 5 feet thick.

The coal seams found near Jackson tapered off at both ends and were broken into pockets by limestone and sandstone. Most of these deposits were found near the surface because

the Michigan basin's tilted edge runs between Albion and Saginaw and is close to the ground surface. Most of the historic Michigan coal mining has been done along that edge. To the west, the deposits were found to be too deep to mine economically. It would take some 20 years to turn that around.

<https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/coal.html>



FIGURE 6.5. Potential coal resources. (Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Coal Resources of Michigan, Circular 77 [Washington, D.C., June 1950].)

Continued in next issue.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

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Terry Dunn, V. President
Linda Taylor, Secretary
Bill Schultz, Treasurer
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Wayne Coon
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Melissa Wilson
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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
P.O. Box 202
Goodells, MI 48027

PLACE
STAMP
HERE