

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

Historic Maeystown Hosts Antique & Garden Show

Maeystown hosted an antique and garden show as part of its annual Fruehlingsfest (Spring Festival) on Sunday, May 7. The show, which began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m., took place around the stone mill in the heart of town.

The Fruehlingsfest featured more than 40 quality antique dealers from Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and Kansas, specializing in country, folk art, garden, and architectural antiques. In addition, various nurseries sold annuals, perennials and herbs.

This show, held rain or shine, has rapidly become one of the best and most highly anticipated antique shows in the Midwest and with the number of people attending is providing a rival for the Oktoberfest. The weather cooperated to provide a wonderful atmosphere for the event.

A variety of food was offered including bratwurst, barbecue, German potato salad, kettle corn, funnel cakes, pretzels and strawberry shortcake.

Additional activities included historical displays and a creek-side wine garden.

The Globe

There was a neat old house across the street from us that was built by the Wilhelmj family. Some of the Wilhelmjs used to live there and kept the house and all the outbuildings repaired and neat. But as with everything else, the last of the family moved to Nebraska, and of course the

place was somewhat neglected. For many years local people lived there and it was kept up. Later on there were some of the local bachelors and other families, mostly from Missouri, who lived in it. Two families in particular that I remember was one who had a lot of children but were nice people, but very poor. When I was a teenager I stayed at my aunt's house (the Krone's) and one evening someone came into Krone's store and said that one of this family's children, a little baby, had died. Some of us went up to the house and the family lived upstairs in the Globe. It was very sad and their belief was that the baby should be laid facing the east so they laid it in one of the rooms in that position. To my knowledge there was no undertaker involved, and I suppose the family buried the baby themselves.

Another family who had eight children moved there when we first moved to Maeystown. I think they had the whole upstairs. There were two bachelors living in the downstairs. Their names were George Meister and Henry Taake. They used to sit together on the front porch of the house and talk.

The names of the eight children of the Patterson family all began with the letter J. They had four girls and four boys. I remember some of the names – Jimmy, Judy, Jerry, Janet, Joe, and Joyce. The children of the neighborhood all played together. Mr. Patterson worked in St. Louis and his wife was a homemaker and was very nice and neighborly. Helen Wetzler and I used to talk to her a lot as she would be out in the yard several times a day. She planted some pink flowers all along the rock wall which would bloom every spring until just a few years ago,

when they disappeared. One time she, Helen, and I were in Helen's yard talking and talking and when Helen's children came home from school they informed Helen that it smelled as if something was burning in the house. Helen exclaimed, "Oh, my beef roast in the oven." When she opened the oven door her roast was burned black. Her husband, Emil, said that the next time she should check the meat during our talking sessions. Also one day, our neighbor, Frieda Rahn called Wip and asked him to go over to Pattersons because Mrs. Patterson said the stove pipe had come out of the wall and the house was filled with smoke. Wip went over and put the stove pipe back and Mrs. Patterson opened the one door to one of the other rooms to get rid of the smoke and Wip said she had wash lines of clothes she had washed hanging up there. I bet that the clothes were nice and black and smoky. In those days there was usually a kitchen stove and maybe one heating stove in one of the rooms, and the rest of the rooms were cold and the doors to them were kept closed. There were no clothes dryers and on rainy or snowy days in winter the clothes were hung on wash lines strung in a vacant room. It took days for it to dry because the room was usually not heated. The Pattersons lived in the Globe several years and were nice neighbors. They were poor but friendly and neighborly. They moved to Cedar Hill, Missouri. Wip, Helen Wetzler, and I went to see them one day, but no one was home. I often wondered what happened to them. The sad part is that I don't think I ever knew them by their first names – just Mr. and Mrs. Patterson.

My mother used to say that the

Globe was a “show place” when it was kept repaired and beautiful, but when it was neglected and in disrepair, she would say, “It sure is a show place”, but in a different way.

I have many memories of that old house and it was sad to see it being torn down, but we all knew it needed a lot of work inside and out to make it livable. The Wilhelmj from Nebraska sold it and all the Wilhelmj property. I guess on one has ever heard from him since.

I cherish the memories of all the good times I had with all my neighbors. Of course, some days I didn't get much of my work done as we visited a lot “over the back fence”, but everyone knew everyone and neighborliness was very important. Now most of the women work and in the evenings are busy with their housework and children and really don't have much time. I guess that's why neighborliness is becoming obsolete. I don't miss all the hard work and lack of modern conveniences of the “good old days” but I do miss the social life and contact we had with all the people in this town.

I never did know why this house was called “The Globe.” If anybody knows, I would like to hear about it.

Florence Hesterberg

Ed. Note - For those of you who do not remember “The Globe”, it was a located on now vacant lots at the northeast corner of Main and Hanover. The Wilhelmj family was well known in Maeystown. There were two doctors in the family and they practiced in Maeystown. One of them later practiced in East St. Louis.

Enjoying a New Neighbor

One time I had a new neighbor who lived where Marion Knobloch lives. I used to do my laundry in the basement with a wringer washer and very hot water and bleach for the white clothes. I was hanging up laundry outside, and my new neighbor came over and we chatted and chatted for about an hour.

After she left and I took my children's white underwear out of the washer. All the elastic was worn out from the hot water and washing so long. Wip said that the next time I should check my laundry or take it out and shut off the washer before I start talking. I didn't forget about the laundry. I just didn't want to insult her by telling her that I had to stop talking, as it was her first visit.

Florence Hesterberg

Jars

A special “thank you” to all those individuals who provided canning jars to replenish our supply. More pint jars are needed. Contact David Asselmeier (281-7441) or any other society board member.

Display Cases

The Society has been in the process of repairing and restoring several old antique display cases that we had have stored on the third floor of the mill. We hope to have these ready soon to expand the museum displays.

The Society is very grateful to the Maeystown Civic Association for the loan of three antique display cases that they had used over the years. These cases also came from stores in Maeystown. We are in the process of getting them ready to use for displays. Again, our thanks to the Civic Association.

Telephone Poles

Remember the “Good Old Days” when the Society built a bridge over the creek for the Oktoberfest? We used telephone poles for the bottom framework. Since we no longer build the bridge, we no longer have use for the poles.

There are two poles that are 40 feet long and have a base diameter of 13

inches.

There are another two poles that are 40 feet long and have a base diameter of 9 inches.

If you have any interest in these poles or know someone who might, please contact David Asselmeier (281-7441) or David Henerfauth (935-2354).

Rock Wall

In case anyone noticed, the rock wall on the north side of the Mill collapsed recently along with another section of the wall near the drainage area by the steps. We are pleased to announce that the complete wall has been repaired and looks better than it ever did. Gary Larsen did the work.

Calendar

May 26 & 27	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00 p.m.-Close
August 5	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 7:00-11:00 a.m.
October 8	Oktoberfest 9:00-5:00 p.m.
December 3	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.