

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Twenty-Seventh Annual Maeystown Oktoberfest Set for Sunday, October 14

On Sunday, October 14, the historic village of Maeystown will host the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest featuring crafts, arts, antiques and food from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at the 1881 stone bridge.

More than 50 artisans and dealers and numerous food stands will be featured. Crafts will include rug weaving, soap making, artists, woodworking and a country store.

Food will include turtle soup, ham and beans, and popcorn cooked in old-fashioned kettles. Bratwurst, potato pancakes, funnel cakes, baked goods, apple butter, cider, coffee and soda will also be available.

The village specialty shops, bed & breakfast, restaurant and museum will be open throughout the day. Proceeds from the Oktoberfest will be used by the Maeystown Preservation Society to develop the museum and visitor center in the restored 1859 stone mill.

### Learn to Make Apple Butter

Instruction in the art of making apple butter will be provided at the restored 1859 rock mill in Maeystown on Friday and Saturday, September 28 & 29. Members of the Maeystown Preservation Society will demonstrate various apple peeling and stirring methods in preparation for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 14. Apple peeling will take place at the mill between 8:00-1:00 p.m. on Friday,

September 28. Apple stirring will begin at 6:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. Friends of Maeystown willing to help peel apples or donate two hours of stirring time are asked to contact David Braswell at 618-458-6660.

### Kettle Sponsors

Interested in sponsoring a kettle of apple butter? We are seeking either individuals or groups to sponsor a kettle of apple butter at the annual cooking. There are six kettles that can be sponsored for \$100 each.

The sponsorship will entitle you to be recognized in the paper and at the Oktoberfest, a free quart of apple butter, and a year's membership to the Society.

Best of all, the kettle that you sponsor will have a special label prepared for each jar noting the name of the sponsor of the kettle.

Sponsorship can simply be the cash sponsorship or if you wish, you may organize your own "apple butter stirring crew" for the day. We will be happy to provide you with all the knowledge, assistance, and all needed ingredients and equipment.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Linda Green (618-458-5698), David Asselmeier (618-281-7441), or Anita Mertz (618-458-7463).

### Raffle Tickets

Enclosed with this mailing is a set of 10 raffle tickets for each member to sell or purchase. Please return the stubs and your check in the envelope provided. Be sure to return the stubs and money by October 10 or bring them to the Country Store on the day of the Oktoberfest. Additional tickets will be available at the Old Rock Mill and at the Oktoberfest on October 14.

### Country Store

Just a reminder to everyone to bring their fantastic, delicious baked goods, etc. or other items to the mill on Saturday, October 13, or Sunday morning, October 14.

Also, I need lots of volunteers to work in the Country Store beginning at 7:30 a.m. to help set up and until 5:30 p.m. for clean up.

Volunteers can call me at 618-277-8030.  
Nancy Uhl

### Work Day at Mill

As is done every year, we will again have a work day at the Mill on Saturday, October 13, in order to ready the Mill and the grounds for the upcoming Oktoberfest. Everyone is welcome. No experience is required. Show up at the Mill at 9:00 a.m.

## Ken Kaufman

As many of you are aware, Ken Kaufman passed away May 7, 2007, in Wichita, Kansas.

Ken was a true friend of Maeystown and did many things for the village while he lived here and during his terms as mayor. Through his efforts Maeystown received several grants for redoing the stone gutters and other projects. Ken was also responsible for upgrading and expanding the water system, creation of a new village park, beginning of the sewer system, and various other projects.

Ken was the founder of the original "Volksblatt", which he later turned over to the Maeystown Preservation Society.

Several members, Anita Muertz, David Braswell, and David and Shirley Asselmeier attended an interment service for Ken's ashes at Sunset Cemetery in St. Louis on June 30, 2007. A luncheon followed the ceremony. Everyone enjoyed visiting with Ken's family and friends to reminisce his wonderful life.

## Donated Item

Recently the Society received the donation of a copy of an old picture of the Maeystown Baseball Club. The date is unknown, but our best guess in regard to the age of the picture, would be late 1800s or early 1900s. We are basing this on the names in the picture and their birthdates and how old they look in the picture.

It is an interesting story how we received the photograph. Larry and Elaine Heatherly, Columbia residents, had the picture in their family. One of the parties in the pictures (Charles Heatherly) is Larry's grandfather. Charles Heatherly lived near the old settlement of Mitchie (located southwest of Maeystown near Outlet and Levee Roads. Mitchie once had a school and a post office.

The Heatherlys knew Ellen Kuergeleis and talked to her about the

picture because they knew she was familiar with Maeystown. A copy of the picture was made and Ellen contacted David Asselmeier to pick up the picture.

The photo will be at the Mill Museum for everyone to see the baseball players pictured in the photograph. The team is wearing complete uniforms including jerseys with the letters "M.B.C." on them and hats. Tradition at the time shows knee-high stockings as part of the uniform.

Team members shown are Ed Maey, George Jobb, Herman Hesterberg, Peter Hoffmann, William Bodenbach, Henry Feldmeier, Gratz Goodmann, Jack Feldmeier, Charles Heatherly, and Louis Zimmer.

Thanks to the Heatherlys and Ellen for this wonderful piece of Maeystown history.

## Other Donations

The following items have been donated recently to the museum.

Leon DeMond

Antique Wooden Level

Alan & Maribeth Eschman

Old Newspapers Found

in Wall of Old Home

Mark Bundy

Military Papers of

Guy Bundy

Ross Mueller

Antique Postcard of

Perry's Hot Air Balloon

Landing in Maeystown

in 1911

Mueller Family Batismal

and Confirmation Records

## Items from Maeystown Civic Association

In February 2006, the Maeystown Civic Association gave the Preservation Society on loan three antique display cases that were originally from the stores in Maeystown. The Civic Association had been using them

probably from the days of the Maeystown Centennial, which later became the Maeystown Homecoming. The cases were used to store the pies and cakes that were sold at the homecomings.

The Civic Association has now also given to us on loan, three antique wooden tables that were used as the bases for the display cases.

The cases will be used for display purposes in the museum. The Society appreciates this addition to our museum.

## Other Donations Did You Know?

Beginning with the November "Volksblatt", we will include an article in each issue regarding something unique or interesting about the village. The numerous files of Gloria Bundy will be utilized to write these articles.

## Maeystown Post Office

Maeystown has always been fortunate enough to have a post office even though it was questionable at times whether we would be able to keep it. I am glad it continued to be a part of our village.

My grandfather, Louis Krone, served as postmaster for over 40 years. He was surprised when on a Sunday morning, John Schneider, the Republican committeeman, came to his barber shop and said, "Louie, you've got to be postmaster. Here's the petition for you to circulate." My grandfather protested, saying he didn't have time but his protest was overruled and Conrad Wippermann circulated the petition for him. At that time the post office job was a political position, but both Democrats and Republicans signed the petition. Grandpa was a Republican all his life. He set up the post office in his little store in Maeystown where he was a shoemaker, barber, storekeeper, and postmaster. My grandpa's father

had come over from Germany and had learned the shoemaking trade there. His son Louis was born in the United States and soon learned the shoemaking trade and set up a shop in Maeystown. He did well as there was a need for heavy shoes and boots. The post office was set up in the front of the store behind the counter and the mail slot where people could mail letters from the outside can still be seen on the Krone store building, which is now a shop owned by Delores Guettermann. The post office was open from morning until the little store closed in the late evening. Only once was Louis Krone required to take an exam and that was when Woodrow Wilson became president.

The mail had to be picked up from the train depot at Maeys Station, where the train from St. Louis would deliver it twice a day. When Grandpa was postmaster, a friend of his, John Welsch, who lived down the street, would meet the train and bring the mail to town. The neighboring farmers would bring their five gallon cans containing cream from their farms to the Krone store and Mr. Welsch would take the cans along to Maeys Station to be transported by train to St. Louis. There was a train named "The Dinky" that brought passengers from St. Louis, as some of these people worked in St. Louis all week and would come to Maeystown to see their families on the weekends. They would ride to Maeystown with Mr. Welsch on Friday evening and go back to the depot to board the train on Monday morning to return to work in St. Louis.

After Louis Krone retired, Edwin Pfeifer succeeded him. The post office was moved to the Pfeifer house which is located next to the Corner George Inn. William Lueking succeeded Mr. Pfeifer after he retired. The post office was moved in the Lueking's new house where the Kennedys now reside (next to the present village hall). Mr. Lueking and his wife, Alice, also had a gasoline station and a garage where they would change tires for people and do other light mechanical duties. After Bill

Lueking retired, Lillian Pieper was appointed postmaster and the post office remained in the same house. When Lillian Pieper retired, Jean Rahn became postmaster and the post office remained in the Lueking home until they sold the house. Then the post office was moved to the present location. Jeanne Happel became our postmaster and served until recently when she decided to serve the post office in Baldwin, Illinois. Judy Juelfs is the substitute postmaster at present. When William Lueking was appointed postmaster, the post office, which had been a fourth class post office, was changed to a third class post office. The postmaster then had to have a person to work on Saturday because he was not allowed to work more than five days a week.

Things have changed from the old postal days. The old "Dinky" with its coal-fired engine, its two-passenger cars, and its little red caboose, has long been retired. The depots that were in all the small towns along the Missouri Pacific rail route no longer exist.

These little buildings were the drop-off points for the passengers, mail, and anything else that was sent on the trains. The only depot remaining in this area is the one in Waterloo, but this building was for the Mobile and Ohio training. This railroad track was removed many years ago and the depot is being used as the Nice Twice Resale Shop.

Trucks began delivering the mail twice a day in the last years that Mr. Lueking was postmaster and have continued to the present time.

The post office has certain hours it is open now and is also closed for the postmaster's lunch break.

Some of the people who substituted on Saturdays and when the postmaster was on vacation were Lillian Pieper, Elfrieda Wetzler, Helen Juelfs Koch, and at present, Judy Juelfs.

I know my grandfather Louis Krone enjoyed the many years he served as postmaster in the village of Maeystown.

Florence Hesterberg

Editor's Note: The following is a listing of all the Postmasters of Maeystown and their appointment date:

Jacob Maeys – June 1, 1860  
 William Maeys – May 18, 1895  
 Louis Krone – May 11, 1899  
 Edwin Pfeifer – Feb. 1, 1940  
 William Lueking – Oct. 15, 1965  
 Lillian Pieper – June 18, 1977  
 Jean Rahn – October 15, 1983  
 Jeannie Happel – July 13, 2001

## Looking Good!

Have you noticed the flowers in all the planter boxes around village? There are flowers in the planters all over the village, by the church and by the post office. These flowers are all courtesy of Tony Zucha, Maeystown resident living in the old Schatte house. Thank you Tony for beautifying our little village.

## Calendar

September 28	Apple Peeling 8:00-1:00 p.m.
September 29	Apple Butter Cooking 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 14	Oktoberfest Craft, Antique & Food Fair
December 2	Old-Fashioned German Christmas