

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show

The Annual Fruhlingsfest Antique and Garden Show was held on Sunday, May 6. During the week before the event we were not too sure that the weather would cooperate because it rained almost the entire week.

Sunday turned out to be a nice day. A good crowd of people turned out for the event. It was a good day for the visitors, the food stand vendors and the antique and garden vendors.

This event is growing each year and has become a popular and anticipated event.

### Obituaries

During the last several months we lost several long-time members and friends of Maeystown.

#### Ken Kaufman

Ken Kaufman died on May 7, 2007. Ken was a long-time member and dear friend of Maeystown. He served as President (Mayor) of the village for several years and was instrumental in many village improvements and the rebirth of Maeystown. Ken was a Life Member of the Society. Ken was also the original founder of the "Maeystown Volksblatt" which he published for several years and then turned the newspaper over to the Maeystown Preservation Society as its official newsletter. Due to his failing eyesight, Ken had to move away from Maeystown to live near his son in Wichita, Kansas. Ken always had a

sincere and loving interest in Maeystown and we know the years he spent here were the most cherished ones of his life.

Ken is to be cremated. A service will be held in Wichita. A memorial service will be held in June in St. Louis.

#### Ed Bierach

Rolland E. (Ed) Bierach, husband of Mary Cook of Ballwin, Missouri, died on February 7, 2007. Mary and Ed were members of the Society from almost the beginning and never missed an Oktoberfest. The last few years, along with Ed's sister, they participated in the apple peeling at the Mill. Mary's mother was Olinda Krone Cook. Mary spent a lot her childhood days at her Grandpa Louis Krone's and Aunt Irene Krone's home in Maeystown.

#### Diana U. Lewis

Diana passed away on February 15, 2007. Diane was a resident of Maeystown and a Life Member of the Society. She also served as our Treasurer for several years. Diana was very active in various local organizations. A daughter, Claire (Michael) Beck, resides in Maeystown.

#### Louis Gauen

Louis Gauen died February 22, 2007, in New Berlin, Wisconsin. He was the son of George and Edna (Krone) Gauen. He had a twin brother Charles and they spent a lot of childhood days at the home of Grandpa Louis Krone and their Aunt Irene Krone. Louis was the first cousin of Florence Hesterberg.

### Information Needed

We have been contacted by Karen Porter of St. Louis to see if anyone knows the location of the burial sites of her great grandparents, George Joseph Klumb and Kathryn Seibert Klumb. She would like to know where they are buried and if their graves are not properly marked she would like to place a proper marker. If anyone has information on this, please contact David Asselmeier at 618-281-7441 or write the Society at P.O. Box 25, Maeystown, IL, 62256.

### Recent Donation Items

#### Kellogg 50 Line Switchboard Cabinet

The Rahn family of Maeystown recently located and donated an exact duplicate of the main switchboard that served Maeystown through the Maeystown Telephone Co. from the early 1900's until the company was purchased by Harrisonville Telephone Co. in 1961. Frieda Rahn, mother of Ken Rahn and mother-in-law of Jeanne Rahn, members of the Society, located the switchboard and donated it to the Society. Not only did they donate it, but made a trip to southern Missouri to get it and deliver it to the Mill.

Thanks to the Rahn family. For more detailed information see the attached article and history of the Maeystown Telephone Co.

#### Horse-Drawn Cultivator and Harrow

Louis Lich donated an antique horse-drawn harrow and cultivator.

Candleholders

Two large wooden antique candleholders were donated by Willard Meister.

Wippermann Carvings, Plate & Platter

A number of small intricate wood carvings done many years ago by Adolph Wippermann, our local artist, were donated by Carol Gillilan of Reisterstown, Maryland, along with an antique plate and platter related to Maeystown. Mrs. Gillilian had also previously donated the old rope bed which we have in the museum. The bed had been previously used by early pastors of St. John's Church. Carol is the daughter of Rev. Otto Schroedel who served St. John Church from 1938 until 1946. Carol was born in Maeystown.

Drawing by Adolph Wippermann

A drawing done by Adolph Wippermann of the William Asselmeier homestead was donated by Carol Simpson.

Feedbag & Advertising Item

A well preserved feedbag printed "Nanson Commission Co., Maeystown, Illinois, 1938" and an advertising item of cooking tongs labeled "Louis Krone General Store" were donated by Ron and Rose Marie Upchurch.

We thank all of the donors.

**Photos Needed**

If anyone has any old photos listed below please let the Society know. We would just like to scan them for our files and immediately return them to you while you wait.

- \*\*\* Photos of sled riding and bobsled riding on the Maeystown hill.
- \*\*\* Any photos of the outside and the inside of the State Bank of Maeystown.
- \*\*\* Photos of the old interior murals of St. John church.

Contact Nancy Uhl, our Museum Curator, at 618-277-8030 or David

Asselmeier at 618-281-7441

**Responses to Previous Article**

In the last issue we had a short article called "Who Are We and Where Are We."

We had a response from Jay Hoffman, Sr. of Woodridge, Illinois. Jay tells us that he is one of three children of Alfred and Leona Hoffman. His mother Leona was a daughter of George A. (Eck George) Hoffman who owned the store that now houses the Corner George Inn. His brother is Carlyle Kermit Hoffman who currently resides in Fairfield, Illinois. His sister, Helen Leona Hoffman Marlen, lives in Chester, Illinois.

Jay states they have made several trips to Maeystown in the past to introduce their children to their heritage. He thanks the Society for what we are doing to preserve Maeystown.

Thanks for your letter, Jay.

**Maeystown Telephone Company**

In 1907 the first party-line was installed in the Maeystown area and subsequently the first telephone switchboard was installed. The first switchboard was a Wesco switchboard purchased in St. Louis.

After 1907 telephone lines were installed in rapid succession. These were party lines and some party lines had as many as 21 phones on a line. Party lines had their own officers. These officers were in charge of any type of maintenance for the telephone lines.

When there was a disaster such as a fire, the switchboard operator would ring five long rings and announce the disaster. Six long rings would announce the time of a funeral or other special events. Everyone scrambled to their phones when they heard those rings.

Past telephone switchboard operators were: Clara Cargill, Mary Bollet, Mrs. Louis Schilling (1911) @ a salary of \$25.00 a month, Mrs. George Edler (1916), Ida Burkhardt (1923), Mrs. Charles Hoefft (1923), Minnie Paper (1923), Mrs. Max Scheibe (1942), Frieda Rahn (1943-1946), Reedis Thompson (1946-1949) @ a salary of \$70.00 a month, Frieda Rahn (1949-1960), Goldie Bise (1960).

In 1949 the switchboard operator's salary was \$70.00 per month and the operator was paid an additional \$35.00 for the monthly mailing of billing statements.

**Additional Apple Peelers**

In a previous edition we thanked various people who helped peel and stir apple butter. Due to having so many people, we apparently missed some people who helped peel. Our apologies and thanks go to Vici Eader, Sallie Dawkins and Andrew Dawkins.

**Thank You State Bank of Waterloo**

The society wishes to extend its appreciation and thanks to Mark Altadonna and the State Bank of Waterloo for their willingness to post information on their highway signboard regarding our events.

This gesture is greatly appreciated.

**Calendar**

May 25 & 26	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00 p.m.-Close
August 4	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale
October 14	Oktoberfest Craft, Antique & Food Fair
December 2	Old-Fashioned German Christmas