

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

Oktoberfest

The 2007 Oktoberfest was a wonderful success. The weather was great, which helped to make a fantastic day. Friends of Maeystown enjoyed the many craft stands, antique stands, a variety of foods, visiting the Museum at the Old Mill, and visiting with friends during the day.

I want to thank the many who helped and participated in the Oktoberfest. As you know it takes "a village" to put on a festival that size.....and some sunny weather. As many of you are aware, simply by the Koomer Craft Malls closing, the number of craft items found at retail stores, and the fewer number of crafters participating in craft shows, quality crafters are becoming more difficult to find. Because this is an outdoor show, and we charge a space fee, some crafters declined to participate. We were pleased that this juried show of 57 vendors, included 44 crafters and artisans. We will continue to recruit quality vendors. Anita Muertz

Country Store Thank You

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! You've outdone yourselves again! I have never seen so many wonderful items donated to the Country Store for Oktoberfest '07. We sold out of our famous apple butter around 10:45 a.m. But, people were also flocking to our booth to buy delicious and beautifully decorated cakes, cookies, breads, candies, and hand-made potholders.

Another huge hit were the surprise

lilies and daffodil bulbs donated by Harvey Ries. A huge thank you to everyone who helped set up, work at, and clean up the Country Store. You are terrific and we could not have had such a successful day without your help and the help of all who donated items to sell. Thank you for supporting the preservation of Maeystown.

Nancy Uhl

Kettle Sponsors

We wish to thank those members who sponsored a kettle at our annual apple butter cooking. Kettle sponsors were:

Lynn Bersche
George & Linda Green
Charles Kuergeleis
Twyla Luhr
George & Nancy Uhl
Anne Weidmann
Robert Zeitinger

Thank you again. We are looking forward to next year's event.

Apple Butter Peeling and Cooking

There were two wonderful days of apple peeling and cooking apple butter. Everyone enjoyed both events.

Judging by the number of people who donated their time on these two days, it looks like this is becoming a popular and major event in Maeystown.

If this sounds like this would interest you, and you would like a day of good fellowship, light and fun work

and good food, put this on your schedule for next year. It is usually two

weeks prior to the Oktoberfest. Thank you to everyone listed below that helped with the apple butter.

Emma Altes, David Asselmeier, Shirley Asselmeier, Susan Barker, Carol Bay, Lynn Bersche, Mary Bierach, Mark Bradley, Dorothy Brandt, David Braswell, Andrew Dawkins, Sallie Dawkins, Jesse Embring, Bear Embring, Linda Feder, Brad Finnerty, Elise Finnerty, Hannah Finnerty, Kathryn Finnerty, Michaela Finnerty, Mary Galle, Joanne Goeddel, Linda Green, Tiffany Green, Diana Haynes, B. J. Henerfauth, Dave Henerfauth, Florence Hesterberg, Whip Hesterberg, Vivian Horn, Kyle Kipping, Marian Knobloch, Gloria Knoke, Anita Muertz, Karen Osterhage, Jane Peters, Anita Louise Poole, Grace Poole, Lilly Poole, Paige Poole, Patrick Poole, Nancy Altes Reed, Harvey Ries, Sharon Ruiz, Marlou Schewe, Jane Schmitt, Terry Schuchman, Tom Schuchman, Robert Schulz, Joe Siekmann, Loretta Siekmann, Sharon Sparwasser, Maxine Steingrubey, Dawn Strode, Jon Strode, Connie Turner, Bill Tutka, Sandy Tutka, Nancy Uhl, Ron Upchurch, Rosemarie Upchurch, and Arthur Wirth.

Please accept our apology if your name was omitted. Let us know and we will give you special recognition in the next Volksblatt.

Membership Renewals

It is that time of the year when it's time to renew memberships for the year 2008. Enclosed with this newsletter is a

renewal form for your existing membership for 2008. We would appreciate it if you would review this and renew your membership as soon as possible. It will save the Society both time and expense if renewals are made promptly to avoid future follow-ups, postage and duplicate forms. We thank you for your support and understanding.

If you are a Life Member of the Society you did not receive a renewal notice, but you have received an envelope to be used if you wish to make a donation to the Society. We again thank our many Life Members for their support over the years.

Raffle Winners

The following persons were winners in the Oktoberfest Raffle:

- 1st Prize – Maeystown Fly-Over –
Julia Olszewski, St. Louis, MO
- 2nd Prize - Maeystown Creek Tour –
Gail Beckman, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd Prize - Night at Corner George –
Charles Birk, Fufts, IL
- 4th Prize - Maeystown From on High
Picture – Jay Huetsch , Waterloo,
IL
- 5th Prize – 2 Quarts of Apple Butter –
Carol Bay, Maeystown, IL

Thanks to all who supported our raffle.

Visit from Zeitinger Relatives

This story begins back in August 1993, when Jackie Zeitinger had been on a bank tour that was scheduled to tour Fort de Chartres. Instead, because of the flood, the tour ended up in Maeystown. Here Gloria Bundy gave the talk about the Zeiting Mill. Gloria informed the group that Anton Zeitinger had been the miller in 1868, but little more was known of him. At that point, Jackie remembered her husband's great grandfather had been named Anton, and possibly there was some connection. It came to be true. From that time on, Bob and Jackie Zeitinger, Kirkwood,

Missouri, residents, have been faithful friends of Maeystown.

It was this chance encounter that eventually brought Joe Joas from Chippewa Falls Wisconsin, to Maeystown on this hot and humid Sunday in August. Bob's grandfather and Joe's mother were brother and sister. That makes this spry 93-year-old, who was quick to correct that he was "still 92 for two more weeks", the grandson of Anton Zeitinger. Joe wanted to see the mill that his grandfather had operated. These cousins were gracious enough to share their family history and stately photograph of Anton Zeitinger. Joe has the original still hanging on his living room wall in Wisconsin.

Joe and his traveling companion, who he had met a few years ago at a botanical and naturalist lecture, made the seven day trip down the Mississippi River to St. Louis on the American Queen. They were treated to fine meals, interesting dialogues on Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer, and Huck Finn, and dancing from 9:15 to 1:00 p.m. nightly. Joe seemed somewhat disappointed when he mentioned that he did not get to dance the last evening before they docked...he had already packed his dancing shoes.

On the day before their visit to Maeystown, Bob and Jackie took Joe and Eleanor on the tram ride up into the Arch. Following that the foursome stopped at the Strassenfest. While listening to the Waterloo German band, they ate brats and had a beer. We asked if the beer was good and cold. Joe's response was, "I never found a beer I didn't like. I drink one every day."

Joe is retired from real estate now and resides alone on his tree farm. He still enjoys driving his car, but was quick to add, "Only during the day." What a joy to spend the afternoon with this remarkable 93-year-old man! He left us with his optimistic outlook on life. Joe said, "I always say tomorrow will be better than today." If Anton Zeitinger had the spirit that his grandson Joe Joas has, we can see why he attempted to run a flour mill from the

gently rolling Maeystown creek.

Anita Muertz

Maeystown Quarries

There were actually five quarries in the Maeystown area. The history of the first quarry was told to Gloria Bundy by Conrad Horneffer when he was 90 years old. He told of a quarry that was in the hill near the rear of the Rosa Brandt house (now occupied by Mark Bradley, the last house on the left, leaving Maeystown heading south). The quarry was an open quarry where rock for buildings, etc. was obtained. The rocks for St. John's Church were quarried here. Gloria mentions that when she wrote the article that when the leaves are off the trees you can still see the outcropping where the rocks were taken. The creek flow and the creek bed behind the rock wall were changed when the wall was built.

The second quarry was on Brandt Road just a short distance up from Maeystown Road on the left hand side of Brandt Road. Remains of the quarry can still be readily seen. Records show it was called "Asselmeier Quarry" only because it was on land owned by Fred Asselmeier. The land is now owned by Virgil Brandt. There is no date when the quarry was started, but news clippings in Gloria's file note that the quarry was once the Maeystown Branch of the Columbia Quarry Company and that it was turned over to Al Stotz in 1926. In the 1920's, Al Stotz moved to Maeystown from St. Louis and ran this quarry along with another quarry. He was also instrumental in starting sawmills in the Maeystown area and bringing in people from Southeast Missouri to work in the sawmills. Stotz was also a good musician and took over leading the Maeystown Band. The quarry was a big operation for crushed rock and limestone. There are pictures in Gloria's files showing the large buildings and rock crusher. An undated news clipping in the file states that "Al Stotz has his quarry and crusher going full blast crushing rock for the state aid

road. Rock is also being placed on the road from Rudy Klein's Corner (Chalfin Bridge) to Maey's Station." We do not know when the quarry shut down.

The third quarry in Maeystown was also run by Al Stotz. This quarry was just north of Maeystown on the east side of the Maeystown Road on the old Louis Faus farm. The quarry was off on a road leading to the old Melvin Faus home just north of the home now occupied by Charles and Faye (Faus) Birk and south of the old Posten School. (The editor remembers the quarry from years ago when he hunted squirrels on the property with Karl Breidecker, Melvin's nephew.) We have no date when the quarry closed.

The fourth quarry was run by Conrad Straub on his property located now on Baum Road just a short distance from the intersection with Mill Street. The outcropping of the quarry may still be seen when the leaves are off the trees as you drive up Baum Road just behind the Maeystown Civic Association Park. It is not certain when the quarry opened or closed, but a news clipping in Gloria's files from April 1919 says "Conrad Straub went to East St. Louis Wednesday to see what causes the delay in getting out his limestone crusher and pulverizer. We are anxious to see it work and see what it does, as Conrad has a good many orders already for limestone dust." Another clipping from 1928 says "Conrad Horneffer and August Wild reopened the quarry and are crushing rock for lime dust."

The fifth quarry was the one owned and operated by the George Burkhardt family. It was located just north of the old rock bridge and access to the property was at the north end of the bridge and ran along the creek behind the Maey's house to the quarry. According to Gloria's files much of the rock from this quarry was used by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC under the FDR administration) and was used for CCC projects to build dams and waterways on small farms and also used to rebuild and restore Fort de Chartres in the 1930's. There was not

much more information on this quarry so I contacted Clyde Burkhardt, son of George Burkhardt, who worked at the quarry and also John Goeddel, who along with Dale Rippelmeyer, used the property for mushroom growing in the late 1970's. The following facts were obtained from them.

Clyde Burkhardt: The quarry was originally opened on the Burkhardt property in the 1930's. The property at that time was leased by an Otto Wolf who in conjunction with the CCC operated the quarry. The quarry at this time was open pit and no tunnels. A lot of stone was used by the CCC for dams and waterways and was also used to restore Fort de Chartres near Prairie du Rocher. Wolf and the CCC stepped out of the operation in either 1938 or 1939 and George Burkhardt operated the quarry with his two sons Clyde and Quinley. In about 1942 it became harder to obtain clean rock (no clay attached) and Burkhardt began the underground quarry to obtain clean rock. The main products at this time were crushed rock and limestone. (The Society has an original invoice from the Burkhardt Quarry from 1950.) The quarry closed in 1957.

John Goeddel: In 1979, John Goeddel and Dale Rippelmeyer leased the property for mushroom growing. The outside or open pit portion was leased from a Mr. Garrett and the underground portion was leased from Quinley Burkhardt. The underground portion was approximately two acres. A new road was cut in from the upper part of the Maeystown hill off the Maeystown Road by Willis Brand. Dennis Trost installed the water line and Gaitsch Electric installed the electric. John says they built structures both outside and inside the quarry. He remembers the quarry ceiling being very smooth and formed a three foot thick seam. The floor was very rough and wavy making it difficult to maneuver. The first mushroom crop was planted in early 1980 and continued until 1982. The company dissolved at that time with John continuing mushroom growing with

Ralston Purina. Rippelmeyer moved operations to Valmeyer in the old Knaust Mushroom Farm. John said it was worth mentioning that at the time business loans ran at about a 20% rate of interest. The editor, being a retired banker can concur with that figure as in the early 1980's the prime rate rose as high as 21%. Everyone else, of course, remembers the 12% 13% and 14% rates received on certificates of deposit at that time. Those are times to forget.

Information in this article was obtained from the historical files of Gloria Bundy and also follow-up interviews with related parties.

David Asselmeier

Wash Day in Maeystown

I read somewhere that the hope is that people start hanging their laundry on a wash line in the future instead of using the dryer so much. I am certain if it would be necessary to save our environment most people would cooperate but it would be difficult to do after being spoiled with all our modern wash day conveniences.

Neither rain nor snow nor any other weather conditions could alter the housewife's habit of washing on a MONDAY in the good old days. Early on a Monday morning the fire was built under the old black butcher kettle and it was filled with water. Some people had wash boilers which they could fill with water and heat on their wood burning kitchen stoves or later on some people heated the water on a kerosene burning stove. The scene of the washday was usually in an outbuilding often referred to as a smokehouse, which was freezing cold in the winter and blistering hot in the summer with wasps and bumble bees buzzing around to protect the mud and paper nests they occupied under the rafters. In winter the housewife was garbed in a heavy winter coat, a scarf on her head, and boots. In the very early times they would have to wash all the clothes on a washboard, which was a metal ribbed copper or brass board.

They would have to rub them very hard using homemade lye soap to get them clean. Can you imagine washing bib overalls, which all the men wore, by this method? There was no spin dry cycle just the hardworking hands of the women as they wrung the water out of the clothes after washing and rinsing them. I was fortunate enough to have a washing machine which was powered by electricity, but the earlier washing machines were equipped with a handle which was moved back and forth manually to agitate the clothes and later some of the machines used gas-powered motors. The washers were filled with very hot water and some detergent and some shavings of homemade soap. Whites were washed first, sheets, pillowcases, dishtowels etc. followed by dresses, aprons, skirts, and men's shirts and other colored clothing. The bath towels came next, and last the jeans and overalls that were not so soiled, followed by the heavily soiled ones. All the clothes were laundered in the same water. There were two tubs of water to rinse the clothes, one clear water and the other with bluing in it to whiten the clothes. The machine had a wringer to get the water out of the clothing. Frequently, the bed sheets would wrap around the roller of the wash ringer and the whole thing would pop apart as you tried to unwind the sheets and often the wringer didn't work for the rest of the clothes so you had to wring them all out by hand. That happened to me a lot of times and not being too mechanical minded I had to wait until my husband came home from work in the evening to repair the wringer. Needless to say, by the time I had wrung out the laundry by hand for seven people, I was not in the best mood by evening.

Each load of laundry was lugged to the wash line and there was a certain way of hanging up the clothes as you kept certain things together. Another mishap was the breaking of the wash line after you had it filled with clothes which often landed in the dirt and had to be rinsed over.

In the winter, hanging the clothes on a line was quite a challenge. If it snowed, a path had to be shoveled to the clothesline and if it was very cold, the laundry froze as soon as you hung it up. I remember well, the cloth diapers were often frozen in the laundry basket before you had a chance to hang them. A lot of times it was so cold that the jeans especially didn't dry but froze so stiff that you could stand them in a corner when you brought them into the house. Fun, fun!

Your washday chores were not complete until you carried the water outdoors in buckets from the washer and rinse tubs and cleaned them for the next washday. If you had a large family, you spent all day doing laundry. You certainly didn't have to go anywhere to get your exercise. You got all the walking, bending, and stretching exercises you needed.

I am amazed as to how clean and white the clothes were after washing them all in the same water. The wash water that was left after the clothes were washed was usually used to scrub the inside of the outhouse. The outhouse was the outdoor toilet. There were no indoor bathrooms nor even running water.

One washday I was chatting with a new neighbor who had come to visit. I had white laundry in the washer and I was getting more jittery by the minute as I knew they were agitating much too long but I didn't want to be rude and tell her I had to quit talking and take my clothes out of the washer. I guess it was in there at least an hour and when I took the boys' underwear out, all the elastic was stretched completely out so I had to buy new ones. Needless to say, my husband wasn't too happy.

Florence Hesterberg

Bandstand ??

Two of our members recall that there was some type of bandstand at St. John's Church many years ago. Do any of our members have information that

they can share with us or perhaps even a photograph of it? If so, contact David Asselmeier, Maeystown Preservation Society, P.O. Box 25, Maeystown, IL 62256.

Restroom Dangers

The next time you see Loretta Siekmann or Anita Muertz, ask them about a new way to use walkie-talkies. They found out that they are very useful when you are locked in a restroom.

Calendar

December 2	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.
February 5	St. John Fastnacht 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 8 & 9	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 4	Fruehlingsfest/Springfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.