

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

Spring Art Show

The annual Spring Art Show, sponsored by Historic Maeystown and the Preservation Society, will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Works will be displayed in the ballroom of the Corner George Inn and in the mill museum. There will be no admission charge for the show. The public is invited to attend. Donations will be accepted to help defray expenses. Some of the art work will be for sale by the artists.

The artists to be featured this year will be Joyce Blanquart Neutzling and David Henerfauth. Both artists have been featured in past Maeystown shows and bring a vast depth of experience to the show. Joyce Neutzling is a native of Belleville, Illinois, and has lived in Red Bud since 1988. She has loved art since high school, but did not begin painting until later in her life. She has studied at Belleville Area College under Dale Thelkeld and Wayne Show, among others. She has entered shows in Belleville, O'Fallon, Fairview Heights, Greenville, Mt Olive, Red Bud, St. Louis, Webster Groves, St Charles, Maeystown and Highland. She has also attended workshops in the Southern Illinois area and has most enjoyed painting with a group of ladies formed from Waterloo area. She draws and paints in various media, and one will often find her with her sketch book in hand. Joyce's works have been featured at the Mt. Vernon Mitchell Museum, the Belleville 175th Anniversary Calendar, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, The Waterloo Republic Times, the Belleville News Democrat and the Clarion Journal, as well as in

other art shows throughout the area. She is a member of the Gateway East Artist Guild.

David Henerfauth returns to the Spring Art Show with current works reflecting the beauty of the Maeystown and Old Valmeyer areas in a multimedia display of painting, drawing and photography. All of the works in this show were created within the past year. David had previously presented a retrospective of art of Maeystown which he created through the years, starting in 1957 at the age of nine years.

David is a retired art educator from Mehlville Senior High School where he served as department chair and assistant drama director in charge of sets and tech. He has also served as a scenic artist at the Muny Opera. David presently enjoys working with the students and teachers at Valmeyer on school plays, events and special projects. Marcia Braswell

Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show

Maeystown, Illinois, will host its annual Fruehlingsfest Antique and Garden Show on Sunday, May 4, 2008. The show, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m., will take place around the stone mill in the heart of town.

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

"The Maeystown Fruehlingsfest is my absolute favorite show!" says Tim Chambers of Missouri Plain Folk Antiques. "I sell every year at the Heart of Country show in Nashville and the Triple Pier show in New York City, but nothing compares to the Fruehlingsfest for fun, ambiance, and the ultimate setting for antiques. Really quality dealers, as well." Chambers is author of *The Art of the Game*, a coffee table book on antique game boards.

This show, held rain or shine on the first Sunday in May, has rapidly become one of the best and most highly anticipated antique shows in the Midwest.

"It's amazing how the Fruehlingsfest has become a full-day's destination and event," says John Rehling, event coordinator. "At most antique shows, people arrive early, shop quickly, and leave for other events. At the Fruehlingsfest, people tend to arrive early, shop leisurely, and stay the entire day to soak up the Maeystown magic. They relax at the wine garden, walk the creek, explore the town, and revisit the show to see the new items dealers bring out throughout the day." The event is free, so attendees can check out the show as often as they like.

A variety of food will be offered at Fruehlingsfest, including bratwurst, barbecue, potato pancakes, kettle corn, funnel cakes, pretzels and strawberry shortcake. A creek-side wine garden, served by Ravissant Winery, will also be featured.

For more information, call the Corner George Inn at 618-458-6660 or visit www.maeystown.com.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2008. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2008. If we do not receive your renewal by April 15, we will assume you do not wish to renew and will drop your name from our list.

Maeystown's Winter Wonderland

Winter in Maeystown proved to be very exciting for all the children and young people and even for many of the adults. There were shouts of glee when the first snowflake fell and anticipation of a deep enough snowfall to go sledding down the Main Street in town. The wooden sleds were taken out of storage, the runners were sanded and oiled and needed repairs were made. There was a lot of action in each household as the great search for coats, hats, gloves, and boots took place. At last the snow was deep enough to have loads of fun. Sometimes the hill had to be packed because if the snow was too deep the sleds wouldn't work. That's where the adults appeared on the scene as someone always had some sort of apparatus that would do the job.

Daytime, evenings, and sometimes late into the night the hill was buzzing with excited voices and laughter and noise of the sled runners as they zoomed down the hill. The sledders would usually start at the church and go all the way to the creek. If the creek was frozen you were lucky, but if it wasn't, you would get a free bath unless you rolled off before you hit the water.

Often we would make a train by hooking our feet into the front of the sled behind us until we had four or five sleds that would be ready to slide down. Most of the time we didn't make it to the bottom together as the sleds reeled

from side to side and if one person's feet were unhooked, that would send the rest of them in all directions. Piling two and three people on one sled was also great fun, but the sled runners would moan and groan from all the weight and sometimes they would even bend and need to be repaired.

We were fortunate enough to have two bobsleds. They were handmade from wood and one had a steering wheel on it and held about four people and was made by Sylvester Burkhardt, who lived in town and had two sons who went sledding. The other one was guided by one's feet and eight people could ride on it and it was constructed by the blacksmith who had a shop at Chalfin Bridge, namely Ben Heitner. It was amazing how knowledgeable the driver and the brakeman were before the ride and how little they knew once we started from the church and got to the first corner, where we usually ended ramming into the sidewalk and from then on we would skid around every corner and reel from side to side on our journey often running into the rock walls along the way.

We had lots of speed and went across the town square and proceeded across the ice and to the other side of the creek. What a thrilling ride! The bobsleds were usually occupied by the young and even the older adults. We lived dangerously too back then as often the guys would hook the bobsleds behind a car or truck and pull it back up the hill or even pull the sled with all of us on it for a ride to Chalfin Bridge. Luckily, we never had any serious injuries, but a lot of laughs.

Cold temperatures didn't stop any of us from sledding. Someone would build a fire at the top of the hill across from our house and everyone stood around it warming themselves. We also went into the taverns at the bottom of the street and the owners were always so gracious and kind to us no matter how much snow we dragged in on our shoes and even offered us hot chocolate while we warmed our half frozen feet and hands. There was a barrel on each side of the street at the square with a

wood fire in it where the watchmen could warm themselves as they halted the cars so it was safe for the sledders to go through. We had also made metal signs that said "STOP FOR COASTERS" and everyone cooperated.

When the sun melted the snow in spots, you could see someone pour water on those places after the temperature dropped in the evening and the ice would make it slicker than ever. Our temperatures dipped below zero more often in those days and we had a lot more snow. On a Sunday afternoon it was not unusual to see 40 or 50 people on the hill and even in the evenings there was always a good crowd.

Ice skating was also a favorite pastime. The youth group from our church frequently went skating on the local ponds where the ice was thick enough to safely skate much of the winter. "Crack the Whip" was one of the favorite and more dangerous games we played on the ice. I remember one of our young ladies was at the end as we swung around and when she unclasped her hand from the rest of us she practically flew across the ice and fell and hit her head. She looked sort of green and I guess she was almost knocked out, but she finally got up. No one thought much about it and the skating resumed as before.

Another humorous incident was when three of the girls who were sledding decided they were going to play in front of the tavern now owned by Eschy's. There was an iron pipe on top of some iron posts where people used to tie their horses. These three girls were pretending that the iron post was an ice cream cone and one of them licked the post. There were sub zero temperatures that evening and you can guess what happened. Her tongue froze to the post and the grownups had to pour warm water on her tongue and this young lady ended up with a strip ripped off her tongue which was quite painful for a few days. I won't reveal any names or I might be in deep trouble.

The cooperation of all the townspeople as well as the entire

community of these winter events was overwhelming. The days of sledding and ice skating will always be a happy memory for me.

Florence Hesterberg

Web Site

The Society is in the process of designming and establishing a web site. If you have any thoughts or suggestions as to what you would like on it, please drop a note to the Society at POB 25, Maeystown, IL 62256

Deaths

Charles W. Kuergeleis passed away on January 28, 2008. Charles was an avid supporter and benefactor for Maeystown. He was a Life Member and supporter of the Society and an avid supporter for St. John's church at Maeystown.

Charles was buried in St. John UCC Cemetery next to his wife Doris (Faus) Kuergeleis who preceded him in death.

He is survived by a daughter Judy (Jim) Schmuck and a sister Marie Stinchcomb. Ruth (Burton) Stumpf, nee Faus, is a surviving sister-in-law.

Maeystown's Artesian Well

This is information taken from the files of Gloria Bundy in regard to the old artesian well on the south side of Main Street in Maeystown.

An article from the Waterloo Republican dated April 2, 1896, says as follows: "Maeystown now has an artesian well with a strong flow. For some seasons past, water became scarce in Maeystown during the summer season and last winter the leading men of Maeystown decided to sink a well for the use of the public. Money was accordingly subscribed and the well sunk in the street near William Maey's store. The well is 186 feet deep and fitted with a six inch casing."

Also in the file are some pictures

probably taken in the late 1980's or early 1990's showing the remnants of the well pipe ring in the stone gutter. This ring was removed when the stone gutters were redone on the south side of Main Street.

We would appreciate any information on this well that can be given to us. We would also like to have any old pictures you might have of the well. Contact David Asselmeier, c/o Maeystown Preservation Society, POB 25, Maeystown, IL 62256 or call 618-281-7441.

Article from Elaine York

Attached at the back of this issue is an article written by one of our members, Elaine York of St. Lake City, Utah.

Elaine is a great granddaughter of Herman and Mary Klostermann. The article was written in 1960 and the Wetzlers no longer own the house at the corner of Hanover and Main. It is owned by Lisa Schwarze.

Thank you Elaine for the article and a glimpse into Maeystown's past.

Responses from Readers

We received a number of responses to past articles in the Volksblatt regarding the Maeystown Quarries and the old church bandstand.

Elveria Miller called to say she remembers the bandstand as being across from the church. She said she recalls a flat wood platform with no roof and you stepped up onto the bandstand. She recalls it being used for the church picnic and parade.

Carrie Asselmeier remembers a bandstand and remembers the Diehl Concert Band playing there.

Ruth Stumpf furnished us with a lot of information on the Stotz Quarry that was located on the Faus property north of Maeystown. She provided us with an old picture of the quarry in operation in the 1920's. The picture shows the rock crusher, the office and scale, the

dynamite shed and workers in the quarry with horse and wagon to take the stone to the crusher.

Another picture is the quarry's second life when it was used for raising hogs.

Ruth also provided us with old newspaper articles about a robbery at the quarry in the 1920's complete with a stolen car from Missouri and local folks with guns tracking the felons..

Thanks to all who replied.

Pictures Wanted

The Society is looking for old pictures of the following places listed below. If you have any of these please, contact David Asselmeier, c/o Maeystown Preservation Society, POB 25, Maeystown IL 62256 or call 618-281-7441. We will pick up the pictures and make a copy and scan it for our files and return it to you.

- (1) Pictures of coasting on the Maeystown Hill
- (2) Pictures of the old church bandstand
- (3) Pictures of Maeystown's Artesian well
- (4) Wilhelmj House – The Globe
- (5) Any other pictures you think would be of interest to us

Calendar

March 8 & 9	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 4	Fruehlingsfest/Springfest Antique and Garden Show 9:00-4:00 p.m.
May 23 & 24	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00 p.m. to close
August 2	Trash and Treasures Village Yard Sale
September 26	Apple Peeling at the Rock Mill 8:00-1:00 p.m.
October 12	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 7	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.