

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Florence Hesterberg Videotape

At the monthly meeting in April held at the Corner George Inn, Florence Hesterberg was videotaped in a session where she talked about her life in Maeystown and numerous things she remembered about growing up and living in Maeystown. It was a wonderful evening of stories and memories. The videotape will become a part of the Society's museum for viewing by current and future generations. The Society plans on doing more of this type of event to get the real life history of Maeystown documented for future generations. We thank Florence very much.

### Fruelingsfest

The weather for the Fruelingsfest Antique and Garden show held on Sunday, May 4, was fantastic. It could not have been a better day. The turnout for the event was also great. Everyone had time to absorb the "Maeystown Magic" and relax, enjoy the vendors, eat good food, walk by the creek and explore the town.

### Generator Installed by Maeystown Fire Protection District

The Maeystown Fire Protection District is installing an 80 kilowatt standby generator. This generator will be used to power the fire station in the event of a power failure. Because of the size and capacity of this generator, it can run the entire station. It is being

wired into the existing electrical system by a certified electrician. It will have an automatic transfer switch installed. This will allow the generator to start on its own after the electric has been off for one minute. No one has to manually start this unit. The unit runs off LP gas, and the district has installed a 1,000 gallon LP tank to supplement it.

Since this area has repeated occurrences of disaster there has been a need for an emergency shelter. Therefore, the Maeystown Fire District has decided to use the fire station as such a shelter. Whenever an incident occurs such as ice storms, tornados, severe thunderstorm, floods, earthquakes, etc., the Maeystown Fire Department will open the station to the Village of Maeystown residents as well as the citizens of the surrounding rural area. With assistance from the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, and other outside emergency entities emergency supplies will be brought in. The fire station can provide a place for the citizens to go to. The shelter will provide information to the public and provide assistance for medical treatment. They will set up a medical triage center if needed, even bring in emergency medical personnel. The shelter will provide water and supplies brought in from outside emergency agencies. The fire department will provide information to the public about what has happened and what condition the surrounding areas are in.

The Village of Maeystown and the Maeystown Fire Protection District have signed together an Emergency Operation Plan that will be used in conjunction with the shelter. Village officials, along with firefighters and law enforcement officers, will notify people of the severity of the incident and the

status of the shelter at the fire station. Officials will go door-to-door if necessary to alert people and will assist in getting them to the shelter.

None of this could have happened without the generous donations from the other civic groups and organizations that helped offset the cost of installing this generator at the firehouse. Even the generator itself was donated by Pfizer Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri. The following all donated to the project: Maeystown Preservation Society, Maeystown Sportsmen Club, Maeystown Civic Association, Unimin Corporation and Village of Maeystown.

The Board of Trustees and firefighters of the Maeystown Fire District are thankful to everyone who helped out. They are proud of the fact that they can help the community and serve its citizens.

### Maeystown Flowers

If you have been to Maeystown lately you should have noticed all the beautiful flowers (especially tulips) by the bridge, the church and various other locations in the village. These flowers are the work of Tony Zucca, a Maeystown resident. His yard located at the intersection of Hanover and Franklin just down from the church is also worth seeing. Thank you Tony for beautifying our village.

## Lime Kilns

From the Files of Gloria Bundy

According to Gloria's files there were several lime kilns in Maeystown. What is a lime kiln?

A kiln was a stone structure located above ground and built like a cone oven. Limestone rock was placed into the kiln and usually wood was burned to "fire" the rock over a prolonged period and eventually turned into a powder that was mixed with water and sand to plaster rooms and also for mortar between rocks and bricks.

In Gloria's files she quotes George Pape, a former resident of Maeystown, who was familiar with the process. "Put limestone rock in the oven kiln and fire it night and day for a week or more and when the rock is heated enough it will crumble. It was taken out of the fire and closed up and left until the rock cooled. Take it out then and the kilned lime was complete and sold. If no air got to it, it stayed in chunks. It boiled and smoked when water hit it. If air hit it where it was stored it got powdery and they called it air-slaked lime. In either case it was used by mixing it with water and sand and used to plaster walls or put between rock or bricks when building walls, cisterns or wells."

Gloria goes on to say that Jacob Maeys had lime kilns. The remains are still there today. Conrad Horneffer also told Gloria that Tom Fink had kilns in the hill at his property (frame house at the bridge now owned by John and Pam Rehling). Tom Fink was one of the masons who built the rock bridge and other structures in the village.

Conrad Straub had a kiln at his home where the Civic Park is now located. Gloria reports a man named Wessel also had a kiln at some location.

As usual, we would be interested in any pictures that anyone might have of these kilns or any information or history you might have about them.

David Asselmeier

## 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) Pictures of the old lime kilns
- (6) Any other pictures you think would be of interest to us

## Deaths

### *Carrie Asselmeier*

Caroline (Carrie) Asselmeier nee Krone, passed away on March 1, 2008. She was born November 27, 1907, in Maeystown and celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November 2007. She was a retired teacher having taught in several one-room country schools and the Valmeyer and Dupo Districts. Her husband Alfred Asselmeier died in 1962. She is survived by a son, David (Shirley) Asselmeier and a grandson David (Buzz) Asselmeier, Jr.

### *Frieda Voelker*

Frieda Voelker, nee Mueller, passed away on April 24, 2008. She was born in Maeystown on June 23, 1919. Her husband Harold J. Voelker preceded her in death. She is survived by her son Glenn (Nancy) Voelker. She is also survived by her grandchildren Chris (Kristine) Voelker, Aaron (Sherri) Voelker, and Renee Voelker. Markee Voelker is her surviving great-granddaughter

Frieda will be remembered for the many years she worked at Hoefft's and Eschy's and also for being an avid Kloeppe player.

## Calendar

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.