

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Twenty-Ninth Annual Maeystown Oktoberfest Set for Sunday, October 11

On Sunday, October 11, the Maeystown Preservation Society will host the 29<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, weaving, 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.

### 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 5 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 11.

### The Steeple

A historical event occurred in Maeystown on Saturday, August 1, 2009 when the church steeple was removed for repairs. Some of the men from our church worked for weeks getting things ready for the big day. A large group of spectators assembled to watch the procedure. Preparations that morning were that the crane boom was counter weighted with two 2,000 pound blocks to prevent the crane from tipping. A crane with a platform was used to lift the workers up to the steeple to loosen the bolts around it. Heavy straps were attached to the holes that were drilled into the steeple. There was complete silence and some anxiety as the boom ascended to the top of the church and successfully hooked the steeple. It glided over the cedar tree by the church, over the power lines, and without any problems was set down in the church parking lot. There were cheers from the crowd.

A huge iron plate weighing several tons was used to temporarily cover the hole on the bell tower where the steeple had been. It was lifted off a flat bed to the top of the church to mark the holes that needed to be drilled. When it was brought down the holes were burned into the plate with a torch. It was then suspended in the air to cool the metal.

The steel plate was lifted up and placed on the bell tower. Some of the men were inside the bell tower to make sure the holes on the plate were placed

correctly and the plate was bolted down by the crane operator. The workers all knew what they were doing and everything went smoothly. Another cheer sounded and the church bells were rung in celebration. Everyone gathered around the steeple to inspect it. It was easy to see that the old tin roof needed to be replaced.

Some of the members of our church removed the old tin and put plywood on the steeple. A layer of stainless steel will be applied by Bill Eheler's manufacturing company from Waterloo, Illinois.

A very special thank you to Mark Hoffmann and Brian Edler who did a lot of work on this project, as well as to anyone else who helped.

When the steeple has been repaired it will again be placed on the bell tower.

According to old records, the steeple was built in 1877 by Alphonse Smolkart and Thomas Fink for the cost of \$1,300. The church building was completed in 1867. Pastor Umbeck laid the church cornerstone in 1865. (This information was obtained from the book AEROHEADS TO AEROJETS.

Addition to above article:

After weeks of hard work of replacing the old wood with plywood and applying the stainless steel to the steeple by volunteers of the church and community, the steeple was ready to place on top of the church on October 1, 2009. Again there were a lot of spectators who were all interested in watching the procedure and again preparation by the very capable operators of the equipment before the operation began. The steeple was successfully lifted from the parking lot and onto the top of the church building after the removal of the iron cover on

the church. It was again bolted down and the beautiful cross was attached to it. What a glorious feeling that everything went so smoothly without any problems. There was a shout of joy and applause. The church bells were again rung for a mission completed.

The steeple looks beautiful and can be seen peeking over the hills as one enters the little village of Maeystown. It is an awesome sight. We invite any and everyone to worship with us. We also want to again thank everyone who helped in any way.

Florence Hesterberg

## Death

### *Marion Ries*

Marion Ries, a member of the Society, died on July 2, 2009. She is survived by her husband Harvey. Also surviving are her children Diana Hamilton, Duane Ries, Dean (Sharon) Ries, Donald (Debbie) Ries, and Debbie (Rich) Koch. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 3 sisters.

## Calendar

December 6

Old-Fashioned  
German Christmas  
11:00-5:00 p.m.

February 16

St. John Church  
Fastnacht  
5:00-8:00 p.m.