

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Fruelingsfest

Even though the weather was cloudy and sometimes rainy, the Fruelingsfest Antique and Garden Show which was held on Sunday, May 3, was a success. The turnout for the event was 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.

### Update on Maeystown High School Buildings

This is the information that was furnished in regard to our article in the last issue of the Volksblatt as to what happened to the old Maeystown High School buildings.

I checked the files of Gloria Bundy that we have at the Mill. Gloria compiled a real history over the ongoing struggle to vote out the high school. It is worth reading. The Maeystown High School District was formed in 1920. Also in Gloria's files is an original bill of sale at the auction for the school buildings and equipment of the high school on August 12, 1933. It lists everything from the two 76' X 24' portable school buildings down to one cistern pump and 50 bushels of coal.

Everyone views this as the end of the school. It was not. The desire to retain a high school lived on in Maeystown even though it was voted out by outlying residents.

The directors of the Posten School, a one room elementary school found out that they, as a school board, could operate a three year high school. The directors of Posten School were Ed Maeys, Albert Faus and Herman

Schatte. They voted to maintain it as a three year high school.

At the auction someone bid for the Posten School Board and bought the buildings and all contents except for a piano. The 1934 seniors had to go to other high schools to graduate and so did other three year classes behind them. The school continued as a three year high school until 1943, when due to a new state law prohibiting three year high schools in non-high school districts was passed and state funding was stopped. Much of this was a forerunner of the rural school consolidation that came in the early 1950's. The school closed and the buildings and contents were again sold.

So much for the needed background to understand the history. Now, the answers to the question of "What happened to the buildings?"

Three of our members were eager to supply a lot of the missing information. Here is information supplied by Ruth Stumpf, Ellen Kuergeleis and Willard Meister.

Ruth Stumpf called about the buildings. We are not sure of the date, but sometime after 1943 a man named Bill Welch, a tavern owner in Valmeyer, bought one of the buildings and moved it to Moredock Lake north of Valmeyer. It was cut in two and two clubhouses on the lake were made from it. Ruth has pictures of them which she has provided to the Society. The buildings remained as fishing club houses until they were taken out by the Flood of 1993.

Ellen Kuergeleis recalls that one building was probably bought sometime after 1943 by Elliot Altes of Maeystown. Eliott ran a seed and feed store in Chalfin Bridge. He moved one building behind his store and used it as a warehouse.

Later in the early 1950's Elliot dismantled the building and used the lumber to build a warehouse next to his home at the corner of Mill and Franklin just across from the Mill. Later on, the warehouse was remodeled into a house and was occupied by Loretta Hoefft. The house still stands on Mill Street with the alley running alongside it.

(Editor's Note) In Gloria Bundy's files is a picture and information on Elliot Altes being the first graduate of Maeystown High School in 1922.)

I believe that these two events involving these buildings would hold up very well today in our desire to recycle and "go green".

Willard Meister called me with more information. He said the buildings couldn't have been removed after the sale in 1933 because he went to school there after that. Willard was born in 1925 and his family moved to Maeystown in the 1930's. They lived in the Corner George Inn building and ran a store there. He recalls walking up to school there in the late 1930's and early 1940's. He has a picture of his 1941-1942 class at the three year school.

David Asselmeier

### Joanne Goeddel Videotape

At the monthly meeting in April held at the Corner George Inn, Joanne Goeddel 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 Joanne very much.

Other tapes we have done are Florence Hesterberg and Dorothy Brandt.

### New Life Member

Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Schmuck have upgraded their membership to the Society as Life Members. Judy is the daughter of the late Charles and Doris (Faus) Kuergeleis. Judy's parents were long-time supporters of the Society.

### Information received by Elizabeth Rau

In our last issue Elizabeth was seeking information on her Great Grandfather Jacob Jobb.

Florence Hesterberg, one of our members, was able to locate a picture of Jacob and Gertrude Jobb in front of their original stone building which housed a harness and saddle shop on Mill Street. This building is now owned and run as a Bed & Breakfast by David Braswell.

Ruth Stumpf, one of our members, was able to call Elizabeth to say that she recalled Mrs. Jobb often playing dominoes with her Grandmother Miller who lived next door. She described Mrs. Jobb to Elizabeth.

David Asselmeier found a copy of an old newspaper ad in Gloria Bundy's files that read "Jacob Jobb, SADDLER, Buggies, Wagons, etc

Anita Muertz, our Vice President furnished Elizabeth with additional information from our files.

David Asselmeier

### From Gloria Bundy's Files

Electricity comes to Maeystown!!!!

In 1938 electricity came to Maeystown. Illinois Power extended its lines to Maeystown and six street lights were put in. One at the rock bridge on Mill Street, one at Franklin and Hanover, one at Main and Hanover, one at the corner of Main and Mill, one on the middle of Main at Krone's store and one on Mill Street at the rock wall at the creek on the south end.

On the first night that they were turned on many residents gathered beneath each one and visited about the joy of electricity in town.

Before electricity homes were lighted with kerosene lamps, gas lights, carbide lamps and candles. Some homes, businesses and the church had purchased their own Delco light plants run by gasoline motors.

When it started the fees for home and businesses was 75 cents a month. Every family got a card each month with the amount on it and bills were paid monthly at Ed Maey's store.

David Asselmeier

### Deaths

#### *Elizabeth Hoffman*

Elizabeth Hoffman, a longtime member of the Society died February 7, 2009, at the age of 96. Elizabeth was well known in Monroe County for her artistic water color paintings. Many of her paintings were of the Maeystown and Monroe County area.

Surviving are her daughter Ann Hood of Arizona and daughter-in-law Carol Burton of Waterloo. She is also survived by many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Elizabeth was the wife of the late Albert Hoffman. She was preceded in death by her son Robert Burton.

### Calendar

May 22 & 23	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00 p.m. to Close
August 1	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale
September 25	Apple Peeling Rock Mill 8:00-1:00 p.m.
September 26	Apple Butter Stirring Rock Mill 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 11	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 6	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.
February 16	St. John Church Fastnacht 5:00-8:00 p.m.