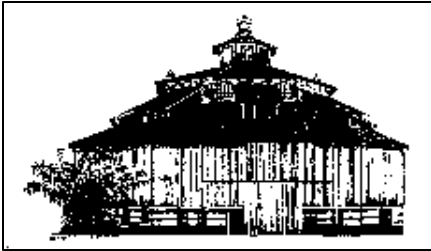


Thumb Octagon Barn News

Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum



The Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn are area volunteers committed to the restoration and preservation of the barn complex for the community.

FALL 2010

A Special Sunday Fall Family Days 2010

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairmen

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
David Jaroch

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Doris Schember

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Corresponding Secretary
Norma Wallace

Past President
Bob Hirn

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

One Room Country School Chairman
Leo Bob Gengler

House Chairperson
Marilyn Phillips

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Contributions to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible according to the IRS guidelines.

Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Another successful Fall Family Days Event was held in September with Sunday having the biggest Sunday visitor count in 15 years. People waking up to the overcast sky on Saturday must have decided to hold off until Sunday to make their visit to the Barn. The rain did not come in until after 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and by 6:00 p.m. it quit but the parking area was a little slippery. **Having twice the acreage this year for parking made it so much easier in many ways.** We could move people in off the road quicker; we had more options for designated parking; and with the rain we could pick and choose on Sunday where to park cars first thing in the morning. By 11:00 a.m. it was dry enough that we could park anywhere. The total attendance was up a little over 500 from last year making it the **biggest visitor count yet - just over 15,500.** The weekend went well and we again had **over 350 volunteers help put on this Event.** Without this volunteer participation we would not be where we are today.

The Themes this year brought a lot of attention. We had **14 Steam Engines on site.** We are told this was the biggest steam engine show in the Thumb Area since the late 60's. The **Vintage Toys and Dolls** attracted a lot of participation. People brought in many toys and dolls for display and the model train and village set up received a lot of positive comments.

New additions to the Event, including the **Grain Elevator, Sugar Shack and Animal Feed from Corn Demo,** had a lot of attendees. Also new were the **Lemonade Stand and the student half hour presentations** in the One Room County School. The students were dressed in early 1920's attire and put on a presentation of how school days were in that era. We had numerous positive comments about these additions. The children's activity area along with the

Boy Scout climbing wall and hands on workshops were well attended. We had **221 vendor** spaces this year, which is the largest number ever. Over half of the spaces are already booked for next year. The **Sawmill** attracted a lot of attention especially with the **working dowel machine,** which was flat belt driven by the overhead line shaft in the west addition. The **food concessions,** run by volunteers, did well again this year. In general, sales were down a little in some areas, but we feel weather had a lot to do with that, however, the **bean soup sales** increased by 50% over last year.

Next years Themes will be **Wheat,** with related exhibits & demonstrations, **Vintage Kitchens,** including cookbooks, utensils, etc., and a new idea for children - **Kids Farm Fun** - with special activities for our young visitors. The details are not worked out yet for all of these ideas, but we have the winter to work on it. So mark your calendar for **Fall Family Days 2011, September 10 & 11.**

(See additional FFD pictures on pages 4 & 5.)



Kevin Gracey from Ubyly set up his train display for our Vintage Toys & Dolls 2010 FFD Theme. Young and old could be seen standing for some time just watching the train on the track. That's Kevin with the Lionel Train Shirt. He spent hours setting up his display and then was available each day to answer questions and make sure everything was running smoothly. Special thanks to **Lila Arroyo** who made all the arrangements for our Theme Display of Vintage Toys & Dolls.



Richard & Michael Miller, father & son, from Clinton Township, brought their Steam Engine & Generator Display to FFD. The 5 HP O & S steam engine from the 1880's took Mike eight years to restore so it would be operational. The display also included a 1902 GE generator. Their display was one of the 14 featured for our 2010 FFD Steam Power Theme. They hope to return for FFD 2011 and be located close to the Powerhouse. Special thanks to **Paul Deo** who arranged for all of the Steam Engines to be on site for our Theme display.



Pictured are **Sharada Seurynek,** from Gagetown, & **Don Lotter,** Commander of American Legion Post 7 from Caro, preparing, early Saturday morning, for our Opening Ceremonies. The American Legion members presented the colors, raised the flag and Sharada touchingly, with no accompaniment, sang our National Anthem. Sharada said, "I'm greatly honored and blessed to be able to do this."

*Letter From the
President***FRIENDS of the THUMB
OCTAGON BARN**
Rose M. Putnam**Dear Friends,**

Wow! What a great Fall Family Days. We had over 15,500 visitors at the barn on Saturday and Sunday. The rain came on Saturday afternoon and drove some visitors away, but on Sunday, the sun hung on all day and we had our best Sunday ever "Super Sunday." Did you get a chance to experience the sight and sound of the steam engine at the sawmill when the engine released its pressure? I was holding my hands over my ears. It was awesome. We were so privileged to have so many people bring their steam engines. We are very grateful to **Paul Deo** for all his extra efforts to bring steam to the barn during all of our events throughout the year.

A new program was introduced this year at the one room country school. On Saturday students from Cass City and on Sunday students from Caro performed a very patriotic recitation and singing program. The students were in period clothing and brought the flavor of a one-room country school to life. They all did a fabulous job. I personally know the Sunday group and had fun watching them grow in their knowledge of times past. They even had a chance to ring our newly mounted bell. To top off the day, they participated in the fashion show and sang again. Thank you for all those who helped with this event.

There were so many more activities that I'm not sure what to mention. The new grain elevator was quite exciting. The noise and the motion of the "legs" is a fantastic experience. There were several neighbors who sat and shared stories from the past. The sorghum evaporator has a new home. The horse carriage rides were a hit. Aren't the horses amazing? There were so many things to see and experience. The donuts, the cider, the fish fry, the popcorn - all the wonderful smells and tastes. I could go on, but I won't. If you missed anything, please come back next year. Plans are already underway. Special thanks to our co-chairmen **Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki** for all they do to organize every last detail that makes FFD such a remarkable event.

Thanksgiving season will soon be here and it's time to officially thank you all for your help, whether it was in a large way or small way, whether it was all year long or only once. Your help is so very much appreciated. Our success depends on everyone working together. Thank you all.

I would like to extend my greetings to you for a safe, holy and happy holiday season.

*Rose***Fifth Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet***Lila Arroyo, Chairperson*

The 5th Annual Barnyard Sale will be held at the site on Memorial Day weekend, **Thursday, May 26th, Friday, May 27th, Saturday, May 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** each day. Please note that this is a change from our Friday through Sunday schedule as attendance figures indicated that Sunday shoppers were not as plentiful as the other days. So the decision was made to hold our Sale from Thursday through Saturday for everyone's convenience.

Since many items have been donated to our Agricultural Museum through the years, we have a number of duplicates. With the permission of the donor some duplicates will be sold at our Barnyard Sale to raise money to further our Museum goals. This has also been very successful in helping solve some of our storage concerns. However, we need more everyday items for our garage sale. We were very fortunate last year that we had some items donated after an estate sale as well as some items donated that were not being moved as families relocated. We will need this level of response if our

sale will be considered a success. So keep the Barn in mind and add to our sale when the opportunity presents itself.

It seems early but Lila encourages folks to start thinking about setting aside items that could be used for our Barnyard Sale in May of 2011. If you have some things in good saleable condition, you can contact **Lila Arroyo** at 989-872-2658 for information on when and where to deliver your treasures. Once again we will also have vendors on site displaying and selling their wares. To reserve a spot, please contact **Louis & Linda Wehrman** at 989-693-6743.

Souvenirs*Joan Koch, Chairperson*

We were pleased with souvenir sales during FFD and thank one and all that purchased some of our products that carry the Octagon Barn logo. We appreciate your willingness to wear our clothing and help advertise this most unique site. Many have told us of the fun they have had while traveling when others recognize The Thumb Agricultural Museum. It's great for starting a conversation.

We still have a good supply of items that would make excellent holiday gifts for friends and family. Call Joan at **989-665-0081** to order souvenirs or to schedule an appointment to stop by and shop. We have sweatshirts, hoodies, zipper-hooded sweatshirts, any size T-shirts and of course the history book - **The Story of the Mud Lake Estate**.

For Your Information

In previous newsletters we had mentioned that a coat was mistakenly taken home and one left behind at our Annual Meeting. We are happy to report that the coat has been reunited with its owner and the Battel Family of Cass City is pleased to have the coat and the very special set of keys returned. It was an honest mistake and the coat had been safely stored away all during the summer months and the error just discovered. Thanks to all for their efforts.

Oops!

Unexpectedly, some names appeared incorrectly on our listing of Bronze FFD Sponsors. We apologize for these errors and make the following corrections. The names should have read: Dale & Louise **Buehrly**, Ray & Carol **Caverly**, **Clemco** Printing and Marilyn **DeShano**.

School Tours 2011*Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson*

SCHOOL TOURS 2011 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday, May 12th & Friday May 13th 2011 by appointment only. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 per each person attending our school tours activities.

Those interested in reserving a place for one of those days should contact Diane by phone **989-892-3105** or better yet e-mail her at drapsongabil@chartermi.net. Information is also available on our web site at www.thumboctagonbarn.org. Also, Diane is planning on sending information regarding this educational field trip to all Thumb Area Schools at the beginning of the year. We encourage you to sign up as soon as possible as we can comfortably only accommodate so many students each day. Currently, we have 200 students signed up and we can handle about 1200 - 1500 youngsters over the three-day event. The guided tours are for Pre-school to 8th grade and we are hoping to schedule more classes from the 4th through 8th grades as this in an excellent educational experience.

We are always looking for more **VOLUNTEERS** to help out during these three days and you can use the above information to get in touch with Diane if you can volunteer some time to help out during School Tours 2011. Diane will be sending out post cards to previous volunteers reminding them of the dates for School Tours and encouraging them to mark their 2011 calendars so they can keep the days open.

MEMBERSHIP

Newsletters that have a membership form with **RENEWAL** written in **RED** are either past due or will be due before our next newsletter. If **FINAL NOTICE** is stamped on the form this means that this will be your **LAST REMINDER** to renew your membership before being **removed** from our mailing list. The levels of membership are: **Associate Membership** - \$5.00 and brings you our quarterly newsletter. **General Membership** - \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family, which along with receipt of the newsletter gives you the right and opportunity to hold office. A membership form can be obtained from our website at thumboctagonbarn.org. Also, when you receive notice that your membership needs to be renewed, please feel free to renew for more than one year and know that our records will reflect your wishes. It is important that you indicate how the money included is to be distributed. **Important notice** - If you have a new address or a seasonal change of address, it is important that you let us know as bulk mail is NOT forwarded.

Teas at the Purdy Home

Cora Purdy's beautiful home was showcased with four elegant social gatherings during the year. A Grandma's Tea in May hosted by **Marilyn King** was delightful and covered in our Spring Newsletter. In June **Louise Buehrly** hosted "Dinner at Cora's" with a special tribute to Cora and invited couples and singles to join in the fun. In July **Judy Wallace** hosted a Tea with Christmas in July as her theme with a special emphasis on Antique Toys. In August, **Michele Szostak** hosted a tea with "Antique Toys" as her theme and she created charming little vignettes of toys from her extensive collection throughout the parlor, sitting room and dining room. The following pictures give you a flavor of these lovely occasions in the Purdy Home and oh my Cora would be so happy that folks are enjoying themselves in her home of yesteryear. **Judy Wallace will be coordinating the 2011 Teas at the Purdy Home and can be reached at 989-872-2766 with any questions.**



It takes a lot of help to prepare & serve dinner for 24 guests and Louise had recruited some excellent folks and each one had a particular task to fulfill. Her helpers from the left in the front row are: **Glenda Wilson, Pat Hester & hostess Louise Buehrly** and in the back row are **George Wilson, Gail Osbourn, Joyce Loomis, Georgia Hammett & Elaine Thies**. Not pictured but helpful in setting up for the Tea was **David Loomis** from Bay City. David & Joyce brought many things from their Bed & Breakfast to create an even more appealing atmosphere in the Purdy Home.

June Tea



Louise and Elaine Thies artistically set the tables that were inviting guests to take a place and enjoy their dinner and they did.

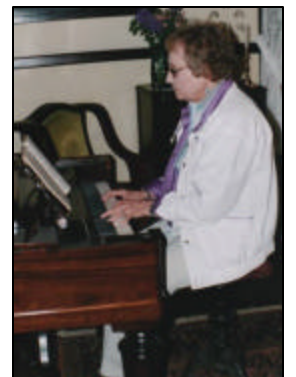
July Tea



Helga & Wally Schluckebier of Frankenmuth heard about the Teas at the Octagon Barn and planned a surprise mystery trip for their friends **Janet & William Wendland**, from Saginaw, who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The happy couple, shown above, loved the surprise.

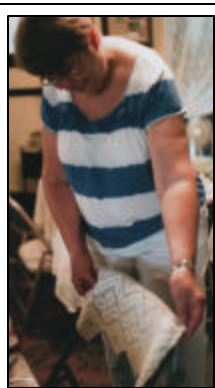


Judy's helpers took a moment from their serving responsibilities to gather for a group photo. Pictured from the left are **Michele Szostak, Glenda Wilson, Judy, Lyn Moonen and Chris Allen**. Judy was grateful for all the fine help and they all agreed that they had fun.



Following a delicious dinner Louise planned some entertainment for her guests. **Glenda Wilson**, wife of **George Wilson**, a grandson of James & Cora Purdy, played several songs on the beautifully restored Melodeon (circa 185-0-55) that has been in the Purdy family for years. The melodeon has always been passed on to the oldest grandson who was the late **James Purdy Wilson**. Jim graciously donated the melodeon to the Friends and **Alex Paladi** spent hours restoring it so that it is once again playable.

August Tea



Judy Wallace has a special request. She is demonstrating how a 20 inch by 12 inch wide dresser scarf or doily can transform a simple folding chair into something quite decorative. So she's looking for enough scarves to cover all the chairs needed for a Tea. If you can help Judy please call her a 989-872-2766.



Pictured from left are Michele's helpers: **Judy Wallace, Rosie Quinn, Judi Haas, Kim Nerkowski and Michele** herself. They all worked so hard preparing and serving the food and they had such a good time while providing a good time for one and all.



Tea guests included **Ann Kalis** and her daughter **Kris Spears**. On October 2, 2004, Kris married **Scott Spears** in the arena of the Octagon Barn that the family had beautifully decorated. It was great to have the mother and daughter enjoying, once again, a day at the Barn.

Relaxing and visiting following the delicious luncheon are from the left, **Doris Schember, Angie Krauth, Mary Thomas & Pat Hester**. All agreed that this was a wonderful way to spend a summer Saturday afternoon. Mary, who attended all three Teas, said the "Teas are AWESOME, very elegant but comfortable and it's such a joy to be in Cora's home and carrying on traditions." Already Mary plans on attending our Teas next year and will use the newsletter and our web site to get dates and times.



After lunch Michele shared some of her vintage toys that she had arranged around the house. Pictured is one of the cozy little groupings of toys that Michele had brought from her home where she has these toys on display all the time. You just had to smile as you looked at these vignettes.

Page 4 & 5 contain pictures of FFD that show BEHIND THE SCENES ACTIVITY, SOMETHING NEW & some SPECIAL HAPPENINGS.

Behind the Scenes

There is so much going on during FFD that we sometimes forget some of the behind the scenes activities and jobs that are taking place. Here are just a few of these tasks.



The Chicken Strips and Fries are a big hit with folks. **Janice Winter**, Cass City, has taken charge of this for the past few years. They are delicious (I tested them myself) and by Sunday afternoon, they just about sold out. Janice has helpers that make up teams for Saturday & Sunday. Pictured is the Sunday Team from the left **Jane O'Dell, Janice, Kelli Hendrick, JoAnn Alexander & Phyllis Baxter.**



With so many people on site, there are large quantities of garbage that need to be picked up on a regular basis. Pictured is **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe, who periodically, along with **Roy Reinke**, emptied the trash barrels on site throughout the weekend.



The field across from the Barn had to be set up to accommodate the large number of visitors that were coming to the Site. **Martin Kubacki**, co-chair, is responsible for getting the field organized for all this activity. It's a huge field (18 acres) and, believe it or not, there were times when it was almost filled. We thank **Chuck Dorsch** for allowing us to use his field that is directly across the road from the Barn.



Ron Kuenzli, Deford, is in charge of the sound system throughout the site. He first gets everything set up where amplification is needed then monitors it for quality throughout the event. He is very knowledgeable and conscientious regarding his responsibility.



Jack Hill from Marlette spends considerable time on the south mow talking with visitors. He loves sharing information about the Barn and pointing out special features of this very unique structure. That's Jack in the middle of the picture looking up and pointing out something that makes this Barn so special.

On Sunday, **Jill Ogryski**, from Ubyly, announced the highlights of the day and the schedule of activities. Pictured is Jill holding her little girl **Hope** who was very cooperative while Mom was talking.



Martin & Luci Kubacki of Ubyly have been handling the parking for many years. As FFD has grown, so has the demand on the parking operation. Luci organizes and oversees the collection of the gate fee from visitors and Martin gets the tractor drivers for the shuttles, lines up help for the parking area and handles the actual parking in the field with the many helper volunteers. There were 93 volunteers over the two days that contributed to this being a very smooth running, professional operation.



To the west of the Munro Building the most amazing parking for many years. As FFD has grown, so has the demand on the parking operation. Whole groups of young people were working at a fast pace to keep up with the demand for potatoes cut into Fries. They had an excellent production line going where they selected the potatoes, washed them and put them through the peeler and then, with a machine, cut them into fries. **George Pettinger** arranged for these young folks to perform this task. Their only complaint was that they were in the sun so next year they'll have a canopy.

something New



The animals are always popular and **Bobby Peters**, who now handles this display for FFD, brought many very young animals that were a hit with visitors. Pictured are **Nicole Peterson** and Bobby with week old lambs. They were adorable.



What a joy for **Bob Wood** and **Dale Buehrly** to be able to operate the syrup evaporator inside, under cover, for the first time in the new Sugar Shack. There is also appropriate memorabilia displayed in the building that has been donated to us.



The **Boy Scouts** who were celebrating their 100th anniversary had a display that hopefully will help in recruiting new scouts. They brought a rock climbing wall plus hands-on workshops and were pleased to be a part of FFD on Saturday.



Several teams of horses provided wagon rides on the other side of the creek so visitors could ride the wagons to move from the Schoolhouse clear across to the Sawmill Building or visa versa. **Doug Kramer** from Kingston owns this team and the **Gleaners Caro Arbor #106** made a donation to cover this expense.

Newsletter

- Database and labels.....David Eichler
- Editing.....Bob Hirn
- Design Layout.....Lois Moslander
- Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant

Something New (continued)



Franklin Dohanyos, Executive Director of the Scottish American Society of MI, entertained on Saturday with the **Raggle Daggie Band** of Oakland Co. They played Scottish, Irish and Country Western pieces. Since the original builders of the Barn, **John & George Munro**, have a Scottish background it was quite appropriate that they entertain. Folks enjoyed their music and the Band hopes to return next year.



Our **Grain Elevator Building** was an interesting, well-received new attraction. Folks loved listening to the sounds of the legs moving the grain for cleaning or to storage areas. **Ernie Buchholz**, of Elkton, enjoyed talking with visitors and explaining the workings of the Grain Elevator.



John Herzog donated a dowel- making machine and it needed some repairs so the "Boys Day Out" crew got it up and running off of a line shaft. **Arnie Maxfield** operated & demonstrated the machine and then he put the FFD stamp on the dowels and presented them to interested observers who voluntarily donated \$42.00.



Glenn Lyons of Standish demonstrated rug weaving on a loom that he made from scratch. He weaves placemats and rugs. This was his first visit to the Barn and he hopes to return next year.

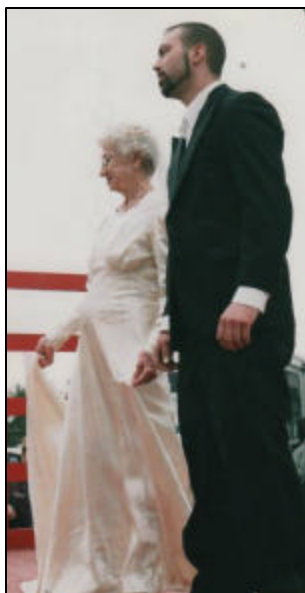
Special Happenings



Laurence Beatenhead from Unionville has been supporting the Barn for years. This year when his FFD Sponsor plaque was delivered he proudly showed his display of plaques and buttons from previous FFD. Laurence always says, "Hopefully when folks see that old Beatenhead is supporting this project, they will too."



Arthur Nitz from Sebewaing has been collecting our buttons from the beginning of the effort to SAVE the OCTAGON BARN. He comes to every FFD and proudly displays his button collection.



At 2:30 each day, before the parade of tractors, **Lila Arroyo** hosted a Fashion Show featuring vintage clothing. Modeling a wedding gown is **Bonnie Reene**, of Caro, and **Brad Kubacki**, from Uby, is the handsome groom. **Jean McComb** originally wore the wedding gown when she married **Arthur Walt** on February 7, 1942 and Arthur wore the tuxedo that Brad is wearing. **Kathy Ray**, Caro and **Marjorie Engelhardt**, Frankenmuth, daughters of Jean & Arthur Walt, donated the gown and tuxedo.



The line for the donuts was quite long and one woman commented when she finally got up to the donut counter that "I didn't even know what this line was for but it was the longest line anywhere so I thought it must be for something good." She wasn't disappointed. **Sharon Cummins** and her family once again made and sold thousands of donuts.



For years **Jason Wilder** has helped **Lawrence Longuski, Uby**, with his Russell Steam Engine just as he did this year. At the end of the day on Sunday, Lawrence surprised Jason by presenting him with the gift of his Steam Engine. Lawrence felt that the time had come to pass it on and, since Jason knew everything about the steam engine, he knew that it would be in good hands.

Site Donation Box

Ray & Carol Caverly

We have a donation box located in our Visitor Information Center at the west entrance of the Barn. **Ray & Carol Caverly** faithfully check the donation box daily, keep track of the amount received and deposit it in our account. The following dollar amounts were received while the site was open this year. May - \$220.00, June \$510.53, July \$699.75, August \$985.00, September \$475.82 and October \$236.21 for a total of \$3,127.31 down somewhat from last year. Thank you Caverlys for taking care of this important task for us.

Can you HELP us!

During the hustle and bustle of FFD, someone made a donation to the Barn at the Registration Table but we don't have all the information needed to recognize this gift. A "Stardust" Ertl deco Porcelain Barbie Doll, the 2nd in a series in its original box, was donated. If you know of this donation, please call our Barn phone at 989-665-0081 so we can acknowledge your gift.

Annual Raffle

Rose Putnam & Doris Schember, Raffle Committee

Our raffle was once again very successful and continues to be a good source of revenue that provides the needed funds to complete our many construction projects. **Sherry Kappen**, who has worked with the raffle for years, was unable to participate this year, but she will be welcomed back next year and Rose and Doris will be delighted. Following is a list of the raffle prize donors and the lucky winners.

- ✂ \$300.00 cash prize won by **Terry & Joanne Herban**, Frankfort, MI
- ✂ Handmade quilt made by **Marcia Hammerbacker**, Saginaw, MI & **Alzina Stratton**, Millington, MI won by **Margaret Sergeant**, Gagetown, MI
- ✂ International Pedal Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment** won by **Richard Jeric**, Pigeon, MI
- ✂ Craftsman Tool Set purchased by the Friends won by **Fred Barckholtz**, White Lake, MI
- ✂ \$150.00 cash prize won by **Betty Robinson**, Jacksonville Beach, FL
- ✂ John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment** won by **Jennifer Southam**.
- ✂ \$100.00 cash prize won by **Ed Nicholson**, Fairgrove, MI
- ✂ Craftsman Tool Set purchased by the Friends won by **Dennis Rievert**, Gagetown, MI
- ✂ Homemade Afghan donated by **Mildred Spiekerman**, Reese, MI won by **Bob Wilhelm**, Berlin Heights, OH

- ✂ \$75.00 cash prize won by **Shane Hoppe**, Cass City, MI
- ✂ Michigan Milk Producers Assoc. donated two cheese cutters that folks who visited the Dairy Display on the south side of the Barn could fill out a ticket to win. The winners of the cheese cutters are: **Darlene Werschky**, Sebewaing, MI & **Janet Rosenbrock**, Auburn, MI

Please note - Mildred Spiekerman from Reese has been making an afghan for our raffle for the past 10 years. At 94 she is no longer able to physically continue this for the Friends. We thank her for her dedication to our project for all these years by knitting these very beautiful afghans. These will be difficult shoes to fill but we hope that someone will come forward to see that one of our prizes for the raffle will continue to be a handmade afghan. Contact Rose Putnam at 989-665-0081 if you might be able to help us out.



Jennifer Southam won the John Deere Pedal Tractor in the Annual Raffle and gave it to her grandson, **Timothy Southam, Jr.** pictured at right on his new tractor.

Annual Meeting/ Dinner & Auction

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

Our 2011 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 16th** at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with a buffet dinner served at 6 p.m. There will be a short program followed by our Auction. Lila encourages folks to begin looking for that special something that would be perfect for our auction and to bring it with them the evening of the Annual Meeting.

A reservation form for the Annual Meeting /Dinner & Auction will be included with our Winter Newsletter that will come out in February. Any questions regarding the Annual Meeting can be directed to **Lila Arroyo at 989-872-2658**.

Special FFD Donations that make a Difference Thank You!

The following businesses and individuals made a special donation for FFD and thus enable us to save considerably on our expenses.

- ? **Michigan Milk Producers Association, Dave Wittkop**, donated two 55 lb. boxes of cube butter used for the Fish Fry and the Farmer's Breakfast. They also donated two cheese cutters that were offered as raffle prizes to those visiting the Dairy Display in the Barn. Winners listed with the raffle prizes.
- ? **Cass City Oil & Gas** donated propane lines, nipples and a tee cap and many pounds of LP gas used for food preparation valued at \$410.93. They also provided a limousine style golf cart that was used to transport visitors from the Sawmill Building to the One Room Country School.
- ? **Michigan Sugar** donated 255 lbs. of white sugar and 20 lbs. of brown sugar to be used for the homemade ice cream, donuts and cotton candy.
- ? **Hampton Potato Growers**, Essexville, donated 2,460 lbs. of potatoes used at the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast and Chicken and Fries.
- ? **DJ's Portable Toilets** provided the handicapped porta-john and a wash station at no charge valued at \$195.00.
- ? **Mark & Diane Battel, Richard & Loraine Enos** donated homemade pure maple syrup used at the Farmer's Breakfast.
- ? **Country Fresh**, through **Bruce Hartman**, donated 324 quarts of half/half for the homemade ice cream.
- ? **Northstar Bank** donated 150 pounds of pop corn, bags & several quarts of seasoning.
- ? **Brentwood Graphics**, Caro, donated \$504.00 in Octagon Barn merchandise
- ? **Erla's Food Center**, Cass City, offered special pricing on purchased products and approached **Country Fresh** to again donate half & half for the home made ice cream.
- ? **McDonald's Family & Food Center**, Bad Axe, offered special food pricing especially for the eggs used for the Farmer's Breakfast.
- ? **Leipprandt's Orchard** donated \$59.50 worth of fresh apple cider.
- ? **Cooperative Elevator**, Pigeon, donated 150 lbs. of beans used for the bean soup.

Thanks also to the **72 businesses and 83 individuals** who donated by becoming 2010 Fall Family Day Sponsors.

Correspondence

Thumb Octagon Barn - Sept. 13, 2010

I attended on Sunday and purchased a 2010 Shingle and left it at the donut stand. I have shingles, starting with 1998. I don't imagine it was turned in, but I would like to purchase another if possible. I will be 91 in another 3½ months and would like to continue it for another 10 years. Would appreciate it somehow if you could help me. I had been at the Barn when the weeds around it were about as tall as me.

Thank you is such a simple phrase but there's a world of meaning and appreciation in it.

Leonard A. DeFrain, Harbor Beach

P.S. The shingle was indeed turned in and Doris Schember tracked it down and was able to return it to him so he can keep his "string" going.

Boys Day Out

The Boys, co-chairmen

Work continues each Monday at the Barn Complex on various projects. Since Fall Family Days a lot of time has been spent on cleaning up, putting things away and getting the buildings ready for winter as well as new projects in the buildings. The southeast corner of the property, which has become a storage area, has been organized. A lot of the scrap metal that we have accumulated has been donated to the Bartnick Scrap Iron Yard because of all the trucking service he has donated to the Fall Family Days Event. Grain storage bins have been added to the new Grain Elevator and the legs are in the process of being hooked up to the bins.

Plans are underway for the Blacksmith Shop that will be added to the Village this coming year. Hopefully the building framework will be done this winter inside and then put up when early summer comes. We also want to get railing in place on the north loft of the Barn and a walkway from the south loft to the north loft done this winter. Once that is done we can begin to organize the north loft and make it a museum display area like the south loft.

So far this year, over 4100 man hours and "Lady Hours" of work have been done on Monday's Boys Day Out. This Agricultural Museum Project has been so fortunate to have this kind of support. Come join us! **Contact Bob Hirn, 989-872-3761, Louis Wehrman, 989-693-6743 or Wayne Lenton, 989-658-8283.**

One Room Country School & Museum

Bob Gengler, Chairperson

The Schoolhouse was very busy during FFD with two new activities being presented as well as the usual tours throughout the day. **Katie Jackson and Marlene Erla** had a plan to produce a presentation for young students similar to those that had been performed years ago in the Country Schools. So they prepared a program featuring patriotic songs and recitations, as well as information about the classroom itself. The program was performed by students from Cass City and Caro twice each day. The Cass City students who performed on Saturday were **Lauren & Erin Zdrojewski, Janey Ballard, Alexis & Sophie Mazure, Lauren Fernald, Christopher Fifer, Kalee & Kacee Gray & Emmy Zimba**. Katie and Marlene worked with the Cass City students and were assisted by retired Cass City teachers **Linda Gray, Marilyn Mastie & Michelle Leeson**. On Sunday, the Caro group from the children's choir at Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Caro under the direction of **Mary Gettel** performed. The students were **Brandon Messing, Trent Mullin, Nathan Frost, Jasmine Putnam & Marisol Reyes** and working with the students were **Troy Mullin & Rose**

Putnam. The students' performances were fantastic and it was too bad that more couldn't have enjoyed their songs and recitations. All students were in period attire and later participated in the Fashion Show in front of the Barn where they displayed their costumes and sang several songs from their earlier presentation much to the delight of the crowds.

Also, new this year was the Lemonade Stand that **LaVern Rutkoski** of Cass City constructed with Katie Jackson's directions to make it look like youngsters had put it together using discarded lumber. Visitors really enjoyed being able to get a cool refreshing drink from an Old Fashioned style stand served by young folks way out by the Country School.

Jerry Cleland, from Ubyly, has been loaning us a large school bell to have on display during our activities. He now has donated the bell to the Friends so it needed to be properly mounted. **Jim Ware** of Cass City took on the project and, with the help of the "Boys Day Out" crew, got the job done. Young and old had a grand time ringing the bell while visiting the schoolhouse.



Taking care of the Lemonade Stand while the students were performing were the granddaughters of FFD Co-chairmen Martin Kubacki & Bob Hirn. **Kylie Ogryski** from Ubyly and **Katelyn Hirn** from New Baltimore did an excellent job of serving and taking care of sales.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

The following donations have been made since our last newsletter.

- Don & Renee Atkerson, Caro, MI, donated a 1956 Gagetown State Savings Bank book, a milk Stripping cup and a 1959 diary from Douglas Parker, Gagetown.
- Paul & Barbra Burdon, Gagetown loaned us a Series 20 peddle tractor and a 14" wheel tricycle.
- Ed & Bonnie Bastain, Cass City, MI, donated a 3 ton wagon gear.
- Albert & Shirley Arnold, Caro, MI, donated a 30 year old New England clock, a homemade 1930's Hoop and an early 1900's quilting rail.
- Jean Maitrott, Cass City, MI, donated a Farmers & Merchants State Bank yardstick.
- David & Lisa Merz, TX, donated a 1940's telephone.
- Barb Miller, Bay City, MI donated a black beaded, velvet cape with a 1890's handbag, a 1930's full length black lace dress, a full length brown lace dress with shawl, a full length rust lace dress and a 1890's men's wine colored vest.
- Roger Root, Cass City, MI, donated a hopper scale for the grain elevator.
- Arnold & Jean Nickel, Pinconning, MI, donated a full box of Rawleighs bleach, a box of Cook's Gloss starch & a Maid of Honor soap-thetic soap bucket.
- Theda Seeger, Cass City, MI, donated tablecloths and doilies.
- Jeanne Osbourn, Cass City, MI, donated octagon shaped clear "Heisey" plates.
- Nancy Volante, Gagetown, MI, donated a red velvet couch that matches the chair she donated previously.
- Barb Wilson, Fort Collins, CO, donated a bait box, 8 gallon cream can, 2 gallon gasoline can, gallon milk can, hand corn knives, gas lights, box of 1930's magazines, a Victorian framed picture of downtown Gagetown, White refrigerator, hand sprayer & a wood step stool. Her husband, the late Jim Wilson, was a grandson of James Purdy.
- Bill & Bonnie Zeidler, Cass City, MI, donated an Esquire shoe cleaner, a Sunbeam brand neat's-foot oil, a Unguentine medical supply tin and a tin of saddle soap.
- Don, Donna & Bud Wildman donated, in memory of Martha Wildman, a 1992 painted picture of the Octagon Barn.
- Jack & Betty Laurie, Gagetown, MI, donated a camisole, a lace collar, a framed photo, salt & pepper shakers and two pairs of shoes.
- Jeanette & Jackie Goniwiecha, Harbor Beach, MI, donated a corncrib.
- The Hagan Family, Atwater Farms, Ubyly, MI, donated an F. E. Meyers & Sons sure grip hay carrier, a blacksmith forge with blower, a blacksmith peening hammer, scythe handle, a 5' Cant hook handle, hay knife, assorted pulleys, assorted tongs, a wagon tongue and 64ft. of covered barn door track.
- Bob Good & Bob Mackay, Holly, MI, donated a large 20 ft. power loom.
- Shelley Corsin, Bad Axe, MI, donated a Boudoir doll and an antique toilet paper holder.
- Fay Craig, Cass City, MI, donated Crispo Lily Sodas cracker tin & an 8 O'clock bank coffee tin.
- Alan & Emma Findlay, Reese, MI, donated a 14' blacksmith made chain & hook, a log hook, a galvanized tube hand potato planter & blacksmith tongs.
- Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI, donated an Elkton Lumberyard yardstick.
- Bud & Mary Inbody, Snover, MI, donated a Civil War accessory mourning bonnet, a black mourning cape, a Civil War mourning dress & three black purses with decorations.
- Dennis Bairski, Bad Axe, MI, donated a Hoosier brand kitchen wall cabinet.
- Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI, donated two wooden crafted, original sap buckets that hung on the tree for our new Sugar Shack Building.
- Lou Fehner, Bad Axe, MI, donated a bag cart with scale.
- Melvin Gay, Saginaw, MI, donated a well pump, line shaft with bearing posts, nail puller, kraut cutter & wooden tool box.

The securely mounted school bell was ringing and ringing throughout FFD. Youngsters of all ages couldn't just walk by the Bell without giving it a pull and delighting in the sound that followed.



Pictured are the Cass City students as they performed in the Schoolhouse for the gathered audience.



The Caro students are waiting to go up on stage for the fashion show in front of the Barn. They have completed their formal presentation in the Schoolhouse and then performed the patriotic song "It's a Grand Old Flag" for the crowd and encouraged the audience to join them in song.

**Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN**
PO BOX 145
GAGETOWN MI 48735

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gagetown, MI
Permit No. 3

989-665-0081

Up Coming Events

- ✂ April 16, 2011..... ANNUAL MEETING
- ✂ May 11, 12 & 13, 2011..... SCHOOL TOURS by reservation ONLY.
- ✂ May 27-29, 2011..... BARNYARD SALE
- ✂ Sept. 10 & 11, 2011..... 16th ANNUAL FALL FAMILY DAYS

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings are held at the Gagetown Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
June, July & August meetings are held on site in the Munro Bldg.

We're on the Web!
http://
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site.

Fellow staff members from Owen Gage Schools donated \$135 for flower boxes for the One Room Country School in memory of Eva Ellen Rockefeller. Donors are: Doris Billy, Bill Britt, Judy Campbell, Pat Enderle, Bonnie Gaeth, Rhonda Powers, Janet Retford & Carol Wildman.

Donation for the Country School Museum given by Barbara Shagena in memory of Glen & Betty Stewart.

Donation in memory of April Lynn Lenton (1976-2010) of Ubly, daughter-in-law of Wayne & Karen Lenton, given by Ena Reintjes and Margaret Sergeant.

Donation in honor of my 75th Birthday for the Country School Museum given by Jeannette McDonald, Owendale, MI.

2010 FFD Gold Sponsor (\$250.00) donated by Gleaner's - Caro Arbor #106.

Donation in memory of Willet "Doc" Rogers given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly.

Donations in memory of Willard "Bill" Seley (1921-2010), Carol Caverly's Dad, given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, George & Glenda Wilson, Eleanor Truemmer, Margaret Sergeant, Ena Reintjes, Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Pat & Karen Smithers, Hans & Peggy Hellwig.

Donation in memory of Albert "Butch" Frazer, Pat Burrell & Lynda Provoast given by Harold/Lynn Koenig & Family, Farmington Hills, MI.

Donation in memory of Margaret "Peggy" Sergeant Clinton Twp. MI, given by Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown.

Donation for the Country School in memory of my sister Genevieve Frieburger given by Joan Doyen, Lansing.

Independent Bank donated \$99.50 from Casual Day Friday.

Donation in memory of my cousin, Clayton Turner, given by Carol & Howard Zimmerman, Flint.

Donation for the grain elevator given by Edward & Tonya Tresco, Clio, MI.

Tuscola Co. Chapter MARSP donated for the Country School Museum.

Once again Keny Hazard, Leesburg, FL is the first 2011 FFD Sponsor.

Donation in honor of Walter Hagan's 70th birthday given by Wally & Helga Schluckebier from Frankenmuth, MI.

Chemical Bank donated 6 decorative stands and roping used for roping off areas or walkways.

Donation in memory of Bob Schmidt, my brother-in-law, given by Evelyn Schadd of Kinde, MI.

The Dream Becomes a Reality

A portion of a term paper written by Cass City's **Dan Manwell** was printed in our Summer Newsletter. Unfortunately as the newsletter was being set up the final eight words disappeared. Since these words were so important in making his point, we are reprinting once again the first and last paragraphs of his term paper as the thoughts were so meaningful and worth repeating.

"The year was 1924 and George Gershwin completes the song *Rhapsody in Blue*. Vladimir Lennon dies and Joseph Stalin becomes Premier of Russia. In New York City, the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held and President Calvin Coolidge becomes the first President of the United States to deliver a radio broadcast from the White House. Locally, in the village of Gagetown, Michigan, a banker and businessman, James L. Purdy, completes his dream of having an octagon barn built on his 560 acre estate next to Mud Lake. It would be affectionately referred to as his "air castle."

With over 800 members and growing, Mr. Purdy can be proud of the legacy that has lived on and the lasting impact his life and farm has had on an area in the heart of the Thumb. Being a "Friend" is more than coming together for the purpose of rebuilding a landmark. It's a long term goal of having made lasting friendships through the sweat, blood and tears of **seeing one project after another become a reality.**"

The Purdy Home - Join Cora's Cleaning Crew!

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The house has never had so many visitors as it did this year during FFD. It makes the committee feel really good to hear all the positive comments about the improvements that have been made in the Purdy Home from the days when it was in terrible condition. The most frequent comment heard is "This is a very comfortable home. I would love to live here!"

Just like any home, the Purdy Home needs cleaning throughout the year. The most intense cleaning takes place in the spring before School Tours and then again before FFD. The Home is showcased when Teas are held during the summer months and needs to be spruced up before and touched up after. We invite those interested in joining Cora's Cleaning Crew to contact Marilyn at 989-977-0025 or marilyn.p@att.net. Because we now have heat in the house, work can continue throughout the year. Please consider this opportunity to be a part of the continued effort to refurbish Cora & Jim Purdy's Home.

BENEFACTORS:

The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through November 11, 2010.

Raymond Abraham, Lenox, MI
Kay Ardis, Dimondale, MI
Winnifred Bauman, Royal Oak, MI
Jacqueline Bennett, Standish, MI
Brenda Besant, Burton, MI
Bruce & Char Bollinger, Oscoda, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Louise Buehrly, Cass City, MI
Donna Burke, Perrysburg, OH
Bernard & Ruby Chambers, Ubly, MI
Daniel & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Gerald F. Deeg, Sebawaing, MI

Leonard A. DeFrain, Harbor Beach, MI
Robert & Charlotte Dennis, Davison, MI
Clarence Depcinski, Bad Axe, MI
Art & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI
Paul & Phyllis Findlay, Caro, MI
Sherril French, Reese, MI
Nile & Ruth Hayden, Sand Lake, MI
Gary & Deb Heberling, Carsonville, MI
Marie Hobart & William Kadish, Worcester, MA
Flemming & Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Rich & Rita Jeric, Sand Point, MI
Fran Kanaby, Bad Axe, MI

Stanley & Rita Knopf, Marlette, MI
John & Carol Kochans, Hesperia, MI
Ron & Jean Krzak, Kingman, AZ
Fran Lovejoy, Cass City, MI
Jason & Carol McCarty, Ubly, MI
James McKelvey, Lake Orion, MI
Mark McKelvey, Morton Grove, IL
Vera E. Milz, Troy, MI
Eldine Parent, Bay City, MI
Joyce Pilgrim, Sterling, IL
Nicholas Posak, St. Clair, MI
William & Deborah Posak, China Twp., MI

Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe, MI
Muriel E. Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts. MI
Marge Schwarz, Unionville, MI
John Slachta, Bay City, MI
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
Bob & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI
Dan Toner, Cass City, MI
David Turner, Mayville, MI
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI
Michael A. Zagata, Sebawaing, MI