2013, our 18th Fall Family Days
A Fantastic Week-end and a Great Idea
Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

In 1996, Dave Babcock, Bob Hirn & Rose Putnam had a wonderful plan and idea for the Thumb Octagon Barn. We had held several Festivals in Gagetown that were designed to create an awareness of the Barn and the terrible condition that it was in and the Friends plans for SAVING the Octagon Barn. These fund raising Festivals were very successful and we thank the Village of Gagetown for co-hosting these Events that did indeed accomplish the original goal. But in 1996 some felt that it was time to demonstrate to the community what life was like on the farm in the 1920’s and actually have some of the antique farm implements used during that period operating. So Fall Family Days was planned and the first Event was held September 14, 1996. That first FFD brought 500 interested folks to the Barn in the pouring rain for this experience. Since then the Event has grown through the years so that we now plan a two-day Event that brings around 15,000 to the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

Through the years Martin Kubacki could see that, as the Event grew, Bob Hirn could use some help organizing and planning Fall Family Days. So Martin volunteered to Co-Chair the Event. Bob said, “That was the best thing that ever happened to me. Martin is a great back-up person and a true friend. FFD attracts so many people by word of mouth and is a battery charger for our organization as people come to see what life was like in that era. It was infectious for me. We take the positive things and expand on them and the negative things we try to fix. The tremendous group of Volunteers certainly has played a big part in the success of FFD.”

Now Bob has decided that it is time to step down from co-chairing this Event after 18 years and hand this responsibility to Martin. Bob said, “Now I’ll cover his back.”

Mary Ann and Bob Hirn have worked together for 18 years to assure the success of FFD. Sometimes we forget that the spouse gives a great deal of their time supporting their husband or wife. Mary Ann has been right at Bob’s side as he spent hours planning and preparing for FFD. We thank her for sharing her husband with us for all those years and we know that the Hirns will continue to be a major part of FFD. Hats off to a great couple.

(FFD continued on page 4 & 5)

A Letter from Martin Kubacki

Hi, Friends of the Barn. Well it was another successful year at Fall Family Days. The weather was a challenge on Saturday but beautiful on Sunday. The Fish Fry was another success thanks to George and LaVonne Pettinger for working hour after hour, to Greg Talaski and his crew for the delicious fish, and also to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen.

Thanks also goes out to everyone who worked very hard to make this show run so smoothly. There had to be 400 plus volunteers who helped to put on the event. A community that comes together makes great things happen.

As many of you know, our friend Bob Hirn stepped down as Co-chair of Fall Family Days after this year. Bob and I worked together for 15 years on the show, but Bob started long before that and I have some big shoes to fill. Bob will continue to help and his leadership was priceless. I always call him my big brother (even though I’m bigger than he is) because I look up to him. Through the years, he was the teacher and I was student. Thank you once again Bob, for the endless hours you gave to Fall Family Days. A huge note of appreciation also goes to Bob’s wife, Mary Ann, who so generously shares her husband’s time.

The next FFD Meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the Gagetown Fire Hall starting at 7 p.m. Theme for 2014 is Michigan Apples. I have some new ideas and I am inviting EVERYONE to come. Please come and be a part of this great Event.

Thank you & Merry Christmas to all!!
Martin Kubacki, FFD Chairman
**Letter From the President**

**FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN**

*Rose M. Putnam*

Dear Friends,

Thank you one and all for your contributions to the success of Fall Family Days. Once again we had a very successful event. I cannot express how grateful I am for the many, many volunteers who have stepped forward for this wonderful opportunity to showcase the Thumb Octagon Barn project. There are many who have worked all year long to organize for the big weekend, but we certainly couldn’t have done this without the leadership of Bob Hirn and Martin Kubacki. Please be sure to give them a handshake or pat on the back next time you see them. I get an annual hug, which may work for some, too.

Fall clean up has been underway. This year we had the privilege of a great group of employees from the Chemical Banks in Caro and Cass City come out and help. Please see the related article on this page. Thank you everybody.

The sign at the end of Richie Road indicates that we are closed for the season until May 15, 2013. That may be true for our visitors, but not for all the busy work crews. The storage building is under construction. As I drove down Richie Road and see the exterior shell, I am still truly amazed at what has been accomplished. It will be with a big sigh of relief when we can move so many things into storage from the outdoor elements.

Excitement is in the air for our 2014 theme “Michigan Apples”. We will be selling apple butter and making homemade apple pies. There is talk of a baking contest, too. If you have any ideas that you would like to share, please contact a barn committee chairperson.

Another activity that is growing and expanding is the countywide museum’s open house weekend. There were a lot of positive comments about the live entertainment that was amplified throughout the whole site. Look for more details about the 2014 event in our next edition of the newsletter.

It’s time to give thanks for a great 2013. So, Thank You! Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends.

*Your Friend and President, Rose* 

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**Chemical Bank Cares Day**

*Rose Putnam reporting*

On Monday, October 14, 2013 over 1,700 Chemical Bankers volunteered to communities across the state for their inaugural Chemical Bank Cares Day! The bankers made a difference as they participated in 230 initiatives such as reading to classrooms, preparing lunch for the elderly and beautifying neighborhood parks and sites.

Twenty-one employees of the Caro and Cass City branches of Chemical Bank chose the Thumb Octagon Barn as their project. They worked very hard raking leaves, black walnuts, pine cones and branches. They cleaned flower beds, picked apples, and then prepared them for freezing and later use for pie baking. One group helped to assemble an antique loom that will be used to demonstrate this lost art. There were 21 Chemical Bank employees and 21 Barn Volunteers working on projects all over the site.

Several bank volunteers bravely used Jerry Auten’s clever homemade lift to pick apples. Jerry has built a platform that is attached to his Bobcat and is 12’ long and 4’ wide with a 38’ railing that provides a great safe way to pick apples. Another group prepared the apples for later use in pies.

Maybe the best part of the day was the homemade luncheon prepared by Louise Buehrly, Marilyn DeSimpaleare and Diane Battel. Thank you, too, to Katie Jackson, Joan Koch and Rose Putnam for their homemade goodies. The weather was perfect and we all had a fun day. Thank you, Chemical Bank Employees.

Chemical Bank employees gathered in front of the Barn for a group picture. They were wonderful workers and seemed to be very proud of their efforts to help the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn.

**Annual Meeting/Dinner & Benefit Auction**

*Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson*

Our 2014 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, April 12th at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. with Dinner served at 5:45 p.m.

There will be a short business meeting followed by our Auction. So mark your calendar and start looking for those interesting items that will be attractive to bidders.

A reservation form will be included with our Winter Newsletter that will be mailed in late February. Any questions about our Annual Meeting should be directed to Nancy Hrabcak, Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City 989-551-6495.

**2013 FFD Annual Raffle**

*Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam*

Our Raffle was once again a success. We thank all who participated especially our membership. Paula Paterson, Sandusky, one of our members was very excited about winning and said that it was the first time that she had ever won anything in a raffle.

The other lucky winners are:

- Queen size quilt donated by Ruth Ann Brown, Kingston, MI won by John Dewyse, Bay City, MI
- $300.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by Mrs. Conrad Latuszek, Midland, MI
- John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by Tri-County Equipment won by Sandy Parrish, Bad Axe.
- $150.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by Ken Steffer, Columbusville, MI
- $100.00 Menard’s Gift Certificate donated by McAlpine Insurance Co. won by Ron “Too Tall” Hensley, Lehigh Acres, FL
- Handmade Afghan donated by Gwen Poole, Essexville, MI won by Rebecca Cambridge, Sandusky, MI
- Craftsman Mechanics Tool Set donated by *FOTOB won by Paula Paterson, Sandusky, MI
- Case Intl. 4WD Steiger Tractor donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment-Pigeon & Bad Axe won by Della Hillman, Romeo, MI
- $100.00 Menard’s Gift Certificate donated by Green Acres Farm of Akron won by Lillian Gerstenberger, Caro, MI
- Handmade Afghan donated by Pat Hester, Cass City, MI won by Toni Ventline, Cass City, MI
- $50.00 Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City, MI gift certificate won by Rosie Lesoski, Caro, MI
- $75.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by Dan Netzley, Essexville, MI

* FOTOB Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn
Teas in the Purdy Home
Judy Wallace, Chairperson

There were three Teas/Luncheons scheduled in the Purdy Home this year but the July Tea had to be cancelled due to a family medical emergency. Judy Wallace has been a hostess of our Teas for several years and then assumed the responsibility of coordinating the schedule and details for all the Teas the last few years. Because of some upcoming surgeries she feels that she will be unable to be involved in the Teas as a Hostess and Chairperson in 2014. We thank Judy for all of her help and for creating a very high standard for the quality of the experience for visitors to the Purdy Home.

The schedule and hostesses for the 2014 Teas has not yet been determined but will be announced in our Winter 2014 Newsletter or on the website at thumboctagonbarn.org as soon as the schedule is set.

August Tea
Chris Allen was the Hostess for the August Tea and her theme was the “Mad Hatter”. She invited all tea goers to wear their favorite hat to the Tea. Most were then pleasantly surprised when who should appear but the Mad Hatter and Alice who stayed in character the entire time and brought much laughter to the Tea goers. We thank Chris for hosting this Tea and providing a memorable experience for those in attendance.

The volunteers that helped with the August Tea are front row: Emily Arnett, Rose Putnam, Hostess Chris Allen & Vicki Story, wearing a beautiful butterfly hat. In the back row are Nathan Arnett, Joyce Sheldon, Paula Gardner and Marilyn Phillips.

June Tea
Donna Lowe from Bay City, a frequent Tea guest and Friends member, had arranged for the members of her Olde Thyme Herb Society of Bay County to attend the June Tea. Judy had chosen as her theme “Antique Dishes” and encouraged guests to bring an item that they wondered about the value of their treasure. Judy arranged seating and appetizers in the Barn and Gail Smith, an Antique Dealer and Appraiser, evaluated the pieces.

Judy’s helpers gathered on the back porch of the Purdy Home. They prepared food, served or washed dishes to help make the June Tea a success. The volunteers are, front row from the left, Lois Hollister, Glenda Wilson and Stephanie Priestley. Middle row, Marilyn Phillips, Paula Gardner and hostess Judy Wallace. Bernette Schwalm and Rosie Quinn are in the back row.

Judy invited Gail Smith, from Cass City, to the tea. She has been an Antique Dealer & Appraiser since 1970. This was the first time that Gail had ever done an appraisal at a Barn. She was very generous with her time and demonstrated her wealth of knowledge about antiques. She also had brought several lovely pieces with her that some lucky folks won in her drawing.

Christmas Open House in the Purdy Home
Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Our second Open House in the Purdy Home will be held on December 14th & 15th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Every room in the Home will be decorated, with prizes awarded to the decorators of the top three voted rooms. Folks have signed up to decorate the room of their choice and have been spending considerable time getting everything just the way they want it to welcome visitors. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and will include: Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and mulled (to heat & sweeten with spices) cider in keeping with our 2014 theme of Michigan Apples. The cost for the Open House is $4.00 per person and will be collected at the door.

So mark your calendar for a visit to the Purdy Home on December 14th and 15th and enjoy the beauty of this lovely home filled with Christmas atmosphere. We’ll even have the old phonograph playing some of Bing Crosby’s Christmas music.

Also, the Friends will have a float in the Cass City Christmas Lighted Parade on December 7th with prizes awarded at 5:30. The float will be advertising our Open House at the Purdy Home. Martin Kubacki volunteered to help and bring others in his family who “love building attractive floats.” Previously they have been very successful designing winning floats for the Thumb Two Cylinder Club.
**Fall Family Days 2013**

(continued in pictures from page 1)

During Opening Ceremonies on Sunday, Bob Hirt Co-Chairman of FFD, is welcoming visitors and Becky Learman, Caro, MI is preparing to sing the National Anthem and beautifully did so.

Greg Talaski, Filion, and his crew of hard workers are busily using Greg’s special breading for the fish that Greg is now ready to deep fry to perfection. Greg has been preparing the fish for our Fish Supper for many years and he delivers a very, very delicious product. People come from far and near to enjoy the meal but especially the fish.

Five generation of the Amasa Anthes family gathered at Fall Family Days. Amasa is 94 and was born and raised in the Gagetown area and was involved in farming and the family of Building Movers. In fact the Anthes family moved the Mast School from Sebewaing to the Barn Site several years ago and that was actually the second time that they had moved the structure. In the front row are Kaylee & Bryce Koch, the very proud Amasa Anthes standing straight and tall and his daughter Joan Koch our Souvenir Chairperson & Treasurer. In the back row are Marie & Bryan Koch and Brad & Lauren Koch sons of Joan and their wives.

Martin Kubacki brought family members to the Barn the Saturday before FFD to help with the marking of the various fields for parking of visitor’s vehicles, mobile homes and tractors. They have been working all morning and now Martin has prepared lunch for the group and they are waiting for the Brats to be ready for eating. Martin knows how to treat his workers. Those volunteers are Martin’s brother, Ron Kubacki, Brad Kubacki, and behind Brad is Martin, David Geiger, Jack Hill (not officially part of the family) and Aaron Guza.

The Ziehms, local farmers from Gagetown, agreed to plant a small plot, .25 acres of soybeans, for our 2013 Theme, that would hopefully provide a harvesting demonstration during FFD. So they purchased soybean seed from Eastern Ontario that had the shortest maturity group. Unfortunately, they were not ready for harvesting until a month after FFD. Pictured is Chris Ziehm combining the beans with the 30’ header that his Dad, Larry, brought over on a header cart. He made one pass down and a half pass back and the plot was harvested. Following the harvest he immediately knew that the crop yielded 33 bushels per acre and the moisture level was 14.

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The Caro Knights of Columbus #3224 prepared the Country Style Breakfast for the first time at FFD. They will be back next year and are looking forward to returning. They enjoyed the experience and felt that folks were pleased with their breakfast.

Family and Friends Coming Together at Fall Family Days

It seems that Fall Family Days is a time for Family and Friends to come together for a visit. On pages 4 & 5 stories are told of people renewing old friendships and families attending together to enjoy the two-day Event.

Cass River Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary, USAF presented the colors and raised the American Flag during Opening Ceremonies on Saturday. Those participating were: John B. Johnson, Colt Jacobs, Chris Hammac, Lucas Brown & Beth Johnson.

Basil Ziehm started farming in the area in 1910 and the Ziehm Family is now farming eighteen hundred acres of sugar beets, corn and soybeans. In fact, our James Purdy loaned Basil $75.00 so he could purchase some horses when he was just starting to farm. From the left are four generations of Ziehms: Ginny, and husband Larry Ziehm, Evelyn Ziehm, wife of the late Richard and Larry’s Mother, Chris, son of Ginny & Larry, is holding the youngest Ziehm, Amelia and Chris’ wife, Tonya. Chris and Tonya were honored as the 2012 Michigan Young Leader Representatives by the Michigan Soybean Assoc. Chris is convinced that Amelia is going to carry on the tradition of farming in the Ziehm Family as she loves riding with him in the very, very big combine.

Pictured at left are students that identified themselves as the Caro Schoolhouse Re-enactors. They were so happy and having such a grand time. They loved performing at the one room country school and they were very good for such a small group. They are from the left: Zach Voss, Allison Learman, Scarlet Bringard, Tricia Sharp and Mackenzie Reno, all of Caro.

Pictured is a family enjoying the sights and sounds during FFD and having a nice day at the Thumb Agricultural Museum and indeed they were very much enjoying their visit. Their family has been involved in farming in the area for over one hundred years so they love the demonstrations of antique farm equipment and the memories. From the left they are John Patrick Timko, from Unionville and Band Director of Akron, Fairgrove School, Jennifer Barst, Unionville, Susan & John Barst, St. Charles, and Donna & Jim Coleman also from St. Charles, MI

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Thank You

The following businesses and individuals made a special donation for FFD that enabled the Friends to save considerably on expenses. Many have been donating for a number of years and we especially appreciate all who give us this extra support with their special donations.

**Michigan Milk Producers Association, Dave Wittkop**, donated two 55 lb. boxes of cube butter used for the Fish Fry and the Farmer’s Breakfast.

**Bill Chippi**’s, Cass City Oil & Gas donated at least 70 to 80 gallons of propane used to fill 20 tanks at no charge. The tanks were used for food preparation. Bill also loaned the Friends a limousine style golf cart that seats six.

**Pigeon Cooperative Elevator** donated 300 lbs. of beans used for the bean soup.

**Country Fresh**, arranged through Bruce Hartman, donated 244 quarts of half and half used to make the homemade ice cream.

**Hampton Potato Growers** donated 2500 lbs. of potatoes used for the Fish Fry, Farmer’s Breakfast and the Fries to go with the Chicken Strips.

**McDonald’s Family & Food Center**, Bad Axe gave special pricing on purchased items.

**Michigan Sugar** donated 50 lbs. of brown sugar and 265 lbs. of white sugar used for the homemade ice cream, donuts and cotton candy.

**Northstar Bank, Huron & Tuscola Counties**, donated 150 lbs. of popcorn, popcorn bags and several quarts of seasoning.

**Erla’s Food Center**, Cass City made all the arrangements with Country Fresh for the donated half & half and provided extra when needed at cost.

**MMR (Mobile Medical Response)** Supervisor, Scott Smeader, Saginaw, MI arranged for four people to be available on the grounds for emergencies each day of FFD.

The following businesses donated items that were put in bags for exhibitors and vendors participating in FFD. Folks love receiving these bags and we hope they provide some advertising for those donating as well. Contributing businesses were: Thumb National Bank, Independent Bank, Chemical Bank, Plain & Fancy Decorating, Knight’s Insurance, Hills & Dales General Hospital, ACE Hardware, Sebewaing, Thumb Cellular, Caro, Narayhan Rehabilitation and Coach Light Pharmacy. Mary Ann Him assembles these bags as she has for many years.

A family gathering in front of the Barn found three generations having a special visit during FFD. On the left is Grandma Luci Kubacki, a FFD volunteer for many years. Jill Kubacki Ogryski, our public address announcer on Sunday for many years, and Hope Ogryski, the cute little girl featured on our commemorative 2013 button.

Here’s a great story. **Sue Beck** was becoming a member at the membership table handled by **Doris Schember** who encouraged membership by sharing a past newsletter with interested folks. Sue just happened to pick up the letter that had a picture of **Ena Reintjes**. Sue went to New Haven High School with Ena and graduated in 1976. Sue was visiting during FFD because she is a member of the Richmond Antique Club that sold a 1960’s Vener Mill to the Friends and she was curious about its use. The venerate mill has been a wonderful addition to the Sawmill and Lumber Museum and draws big crowds when it is being operated. Well, Sue tracked Ena down so that she could have a visit with her former classmate. Around the same time a couple that knew Ena from the time that they worked together at Home Depot appeared. What a reunion - and all came together at the Octagon Barn’s FFD. Pictured are **John Tyson**, Richmond Antique Club member, **Debbie VanDriessche**, Home Depot, **Ena Reintjes**, St. Clair Shores & Gagetown. **Bob VanDriessche**, Casco and Ena’s high school classmate **Sue Beck**, Richmond.

**News Letter Editor Needed**

The Friends are looking for a person or team to take over the duties of composing, editing and mailing the quarterly newsletter. If interested contact **Rose Putnam** or **NewsLetter@chemicalbankmi.com**.
Wedding Coordinator
Carolyn Sorenson, Chairperson

Carolyn reports that there are several weddings scheduled for 2014. She is getting many requests and some would reserve the site if they could also have their reception at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Currently we are not scheduling any receptions as we are not equipped to handle all that is involved in a reception. If you or someone you know would like information regarding reserving the site for their wedding, contact Carolyn at 989-912-0449 and she will answer all of your questions.

Site Donation Box in the Barn
Ray & Carol Caverly, Chairmen

The Friends have a donation box at the entrance to the Barn. We encourage donations as this is how we fund projects to further develop the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum & Village. Ray & Carol Caverly faithfully check the box daily and deposit the donations in our account. The final totals for 2013 are as follows, May - $64.97, June - $806.00, July - $1,576.00, August - $1,240.00, September - $1,211.38 and October - $497.85. Total for the year is $5,396.20.

We thank our Host Couples for encouraging donations and the Caverlys for handling this responsibility throughout the months that the Museum is open.

Michigan Blood Drive

During FFD at the Friday Fish Fry, Michigan Blood had their mobile unit on site and were pleased to report that they registered 21 donors and collected 16 lifesaving pints. There were 4 first time donors.

FFD Recycling Report

Rose Putnam, President has encouraged recycling since the beginning of FFD. Each year she emphasizes the importance of recycling as much material as possible rather than continuing to fill up our landfills. She is pleased to report that many pounds of stuff was collected. The totals are: 165 lbs. of cardboard, 49 lbs. of plastic and 52 lbs. of metal and aluminum cans. Rose thanks all for their efforts to recycle.

On July 5, 2013 Nancy Braun, Annual Meeting Chairperson and owner of Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City, married Kevin Hrabacak, Dryden, MI, in the arena of the Barn. They met when Kevin came into her store to get change so he could pay his rent and the rest is history. Pictured are Nancy Walsh Hrabacak and her husband Kevin Hrabacak following the ceremony.

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Souvenirs
Joan Koch, Chairperson

Joan was pleased with the souvenir sales during FFD and thanks all for their willingness to help promote the Thumb Agricultural Museum by wearing our shirts and caps with the Barn logo. Joan reminds folks that our souvenirs make great Christmas gifts for kids including stocking stuffers to T-shirts and sweatshirts appropriate for all ages. You can call Joan to place an order at 989-325-0041 and items can be picked up at her home in Gagetown or she will mail them to you.

For the first time, Joan will have gift certificates available for those special people on your Christmas list so they can do their own shopping.

School Tours 2014
Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2014 will be held Wednesday, May 7th, Thursday, May 8th and Friday, May 9th during the school day by appointment only. Several schools have already reserved their date and those interested should contact Diane at drapsongabil@charter.net or for more information about School Tours and how to sign up using our website go to www.thumboctagonbarn.org. This is an exceptional educational experience for students from Pre-K through 8th grade.

Modern Woodmen of America

The local chapter of Modern Woodmen of America chose the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn as their community partner organization. On October 22, 2013 David Janson, Financial Representative of Modern Woodmen of America, is pictured presenting President Rose Putnam with a check for $1,250.00, their maximum donation, that we easily were able to meet as a match for the profit from our Friday Fish Fry.

David Janson, Financial Representative of Modern Woodmen of America, is presenting a very large check for $1250.00 to President, Rose Putnam.
Boys and Gals Day Out
The Boys, Chairman

Mondays are very busy at the Barn and you can find volunteers doing all sorts of tasks. It is amazing to see what they accomplish and we are so fortunate to have this great group of volunteers. They truly are the lifeblood of our organization and the envy of others. They plan on working throughout the winter months but it would be a good idea to check and make sure there will be workers on site. Newcomers are always welcomed. You can request receiving Dave Jaroch’s weekly update at tdjaroch@yahoo.com or call Wayne Lenton at 989-553-3349. The Boys have several projects that they are anxiously waiting to accomplish in the new storage building under construction as soon as the siding is installed.

Steam Power School
Paul Deo, Chairman

Paul Deo, Snover was delighted with the participation at the Second Steam School hosted at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. He said, “It’s a great day when the sun is shining and the Steam Engines are being prepared and building up steam.” He loves his steam engine and enjoys sharing the experience of steam power with others.

Dave Kemler from Stanton, MI provided instruction on the operation and safety of steam engines. He has been involved with steam engines since he was fourteen when his Dad gave him his first steam engine. It was a 16 horse Advance engine that his Dad bought for paid $300.00. Recently, Dave was offered $25,000 for his steam engine and he said it was NOT for sale. Then he added, “Steam Engines don’t depreciate, they APPRECIATE.” Paul Deo and Dave are instructing the class outside by the steam engines while waiting for the steam to build up. Paul is in thebib overalls facing the students and that’s Dave Kemler in the white cap leaning up against the steam engine.

Museum Committee
Doug Monroe, Chairman

The Museum Committee is continuing our goal of creating a Museum atmosphere on the entire site. In that effort Doug is looking for several volunteers to help develop our Museum concept. During Chemical Bank Cares Day a group of volunteers assembled the loom donated by Bob Good & Bob Mackay in 2010. The loom is approximately of the Civil War era and is made of black walnut and held together with pegs. Doug recently did some needed repairs on the loom and feels that it is now operational. So now that it is assembled the committee would like to find someone who would be willing to learn how to operate the loom and ultimately demonstrate it during our Events. Contact Doug at 989-665-9948 if interested.

The committee is also looking for a Communications Coordinator who would create an Orientation Theatre using technology to accomplish uniformity of information as well as provide an aide for our Host Couples when they conduct tours. If interested, contact Doug at the number listed above.

MUSEUM DONATIONS
Gerald Auten, Museum Records

When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation form so that we will have it in our records and can acknowledge your gift in our newsletter. The following donations have been made to the Thumb Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter.

Ray Armstead, Jr. Conroe, TX donated a wide variety of items from his closed antique store in Cass City that included a wooden cigar box, a paper oriental fan, domino game, variety of canning jars, Victorian multi level ornate picture frame, one pound Kroger coffee can, New Era potato chip tin and a cast iron waffle maker and much more. He requested that the Barn have first choice at selecting whatever they would be able to use for the beautifully restored Purdy Home.

Pat Bezemek, Ubly, MI donated six old Scott Foresman reading series books for the School Museum.

Joe Bezemek, Ubly, MI donated a Bad Axe Stockyard wooden canoe that will be displayed in the Lumbering Museum in the Sawmill Building.

Don & Dolores Wolverton, Reese, MI donated a seven foot curved church pew, a 30 gallon oak barrel, captains chair, white dunce rocking chair, hand grinder corn sheller and a wheelbarrow for wood barrels.

Steve Orther, Reese, MI donated a floor model drill press.

Russ & Doris Holmes, Troy, MI donated 1920’s fruit, lard and sausage press.

LeRoy & Virginia Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI donated John Deere 4 row midmount cultivator, pipe fittings, electrical fixtures and a trailer type sprayer.

Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI donated a Quinn Clothing and Shoes coat hanger.

Ted Freiach, Owendale, MI donated a AutoFyr Stop Fire Extinguisher.

Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubly, MI have loaned a four head molding machine built by L. Houston Co, Montgomery PA with a 1875 patent date.

Russ Holmes, Troy, MI donated this 1920’s Enterprise Mfg. Co, Philadelphia, PA press that is unique because of its many uses as a fruit, lard and sausage press. He purchased this press from an antique store thirty years ago.
We’re on the Web!: http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org

You can visit our web site for additional information about all of these events and reservation deadlines can be found throughout the newsletter or can be obtained from our web site at www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

We thank Mary Ann for continuing to find ways to raise needed funds for our Agricultural Museum.

Raymond J. Abraham, Chesterfield, MI
Roger Acker, Birch Run, MI
Curtis K. & Mary Ada Bell, Carthage, MO
Dorothy Billis, Cass City, MI
Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI
Donald & Sally J. Brauer, Wilmington, NC
Sally Brauer, Troy, MI
Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbusville, MI
Louise Buehly, Cass City, MI
Pat Colman, Blackfoot, ID
Richard & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Cheryl Corsini Smith, Sausalito, CA
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI
Daniel D. & Jean E. Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Jack & Carol DeSimpere, Unionville, MI
Arthur & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI
Alex Fischer, Saginaw, MI
Maris & Judy Favel, Bainbridge Island, WA
Mr. John Gallagher, Carsonville, MI
Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI
George & Ariene Harding, Pinckney, MI
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI
Nile L. & Ruth E. Hayden, Sand Lake, MI
Joseph B. Hickey, Bad Axe, MI
Dean & Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
Orin (Bud) & Mary Inbody, Snaver, MI
Carolyn Jackson, Dearborn Heights, MI
Flemming & Delores Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Carolyn Craves Johnson, Saginaw, MI
Tom & Jane Johnson, M.D., Washington, MI
Fran Kanabey, Bad Axe, MI
Fred & Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI
Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Knopf, Marietta, MI
Ronald A. & Jean E. Krazek, Kingman, AZ
Pat Kuhassa, Northville, MI
James Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI
Vera E. Milz, Troy, MI
Stanley R. & Barbara J. Oulakowski, Snaver, MI
John & Paula Paterson, Sandusky, MI
William & Deborah Posak, East China, MI
Barbara Schanich The Richard Schanich Trust, Burton, MI
Jenry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI
Dorothy (Dotty) Scollon, Cass City, MI
Robert & Barb Stickel, Cass City, MI
Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI
David Turner, Mayville, MI
James Ware, Cass City, MI
Marvin & Mary Wilcox, Clifford, MI
Beverly Zelis, Cottonwood, CA

BENEFACORS: The following have made a donation of $10.00 or more since our last newsletter through Nov. 18, 2013

Raymond J. Abraham, Chesterfield, MI
Roger Acker, Birch Run, MI
Curtis K. & Mary Ada Bell, Carthage, MO
Dorothy Billis, Cass City, MI
Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI
Donald & Sally J. Brauer, Wilmington, NC
Sally Brauer, Troy, MI
Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbusville, MI
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Richard & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Cheryl Corsini Smith, Sausalito, CA
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI
Daniel D. & Jean E. Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Jack & Carol DeSimpere, Unionville, MI
Arthur & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI
Alex Fischer, Saginaw, MI
Maris & Judy Favel, Bainbridge Island, WA

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
Christmas Open House in Purdy Home
Annual Meeting, Dinner and Benefit Auction
V.F.W. Hall Cass City 5 p.m.
Spring Clean-up Day
School Tours by appointment only
Concert in the Barn, Lonesome Mountain Boys
Annual Fish Supper
19th Annual Fall Family Days

Additional information about all of these events and reservation deadlines can be found throughout the newsletter or can be obtained from our web site at www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

VG’s Community Share Point Program

Mary Ann Hirn, Chairperson

The Friends have just received another check from VG’s share point program that supports projects in the community by donating a portion of each receipt of purchase to the organization of your choice. Since Mary Ann began collecting the share point portion of the receipt, the Friends have received $1,380.49 from VG’s. Now that VG’s has their new Cash for Class program that is all automated, customers no longer have to cut the bottom portion of their receipt off and send them to Mary Ann. However, you must have a card that will be used when you shop and will automatically credit your points to the organization of your choice. You can register on line at their website www.myyesrewards.com.

Now Mary Ann is encouraging folks to earn dollars for the Thumb Octagon Barn by saving the UPC label from Spartan products. These labels appear on all products and if you simply cut off the UPC label from Spartan products purchased from any Spartan store and return them to Mary Ann Hirn at 6622 Kelly Rd. Cass City, MI 48726 we will get credit and dollars for those returned UPC labels. Thank you again Mary Ann for continuing to find ways to raise needed funds for our Agricultural Museum.