

The Rusted Plow

Newsletter of the
Howard County Antique
Farm Machinery Club

February, 2013

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President's Report

by **John W. Frank**

Seems like it's time for another edition of the Rusted Plow, and that means it's time for another Presidents Report. With so many things happening and so much going on, it's a challenge to try and be brief. So here goes. I'll start by saying that as we head into the 18th year of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club and the eighth year of developing and operating the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum, it's always interesting to look back at our many accomplishments. I could list them but if I did it would expand the size of this edition of the Rusted Plow by at least 20 additional pages. Instead, I believe I'll let each of you, the members and supporters of our organization reflect on our many accomplishments in your own time. So, I'll just start by congratulating the incumbents for the position of Vice President, Treasurer and two Board Members on their reelection to their respective positions for an additional term. I would also like to thank each of our club's Board

Members and Executive Officers for the work that they all do and their commitment to our organization. The affairs of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, for many years now, have been equivalent to most substantial size businesses. As a result of the support from all of our club members as well as our neighbors and community at large we continue to thrive even in these challenging economic times. At our January 2013 Board of Directors meeting the board adopted a 2013 operating budget that exceeds \$80,000. In addition we scoped out anticipated budgets for 2013 fundraising program of approximately \$6000. Add this to an ongoing capital project budget expected to exceed one hundred thousand dollars this year; it's easy to see that our organization continues to grow as the demand for funding oversight and administrative constraints continues to grow with it. With all this in mind our need to continue our efforts to identify alternate ways to raise funds, in addition to our traditional fundraising efforts, is of the utmost importance. With that in mind I'm asking that each of our club members

share their thoughts and ideas for generating funds. Any thoughts regarding grants, monetary contributions and fundraising programs should be explored.

I'd like to take this time to thank each of our committees, the chairpersons and committee members for all of the work that they do each year in support of our Club and Museum efforts. It's not only the finances of our operation that continue to grow but so does the physical work. Fortunately, because of the very programs that we are engaged in, the workload, regardless of how physical it is, in most cases carries a sense of satisfaction in a job well done and in many instances downright fun. As an organization we are very fortunate to have members willing to participate to the extent that you all do to achieve our organizations overall mission.

2013 marks the start of our 18th year in existence. Here's hoping for a safe and successful year and all the good luck that we can muster. Keeping in mind that in most instances good luck is directly proportionate to planning, preparation and hard work and that's something we know an awful lot about.

Thanks for all that you do.
John Wesley Frank

Calendar of Events

February 18th - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Howard County Fair Grounds Dining Hall 7:00pm - Social 7:30pm - 9:00pm Business Meeting

March 18th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Howard County Fair Grounds Dining Hall 7:00pm - Social 7:30pm - 9:00pm Business Meeting

April 15th - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Howard County Fair Grounds Dining Hall

7:00pm - Social 7:30pm - 9:00pm Business Meeting

April 17th thru 19th - Drop off items for consignment sale 9:00am – dusk

April 20th - 18th ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION CONSIGNMENT SALE - Howard County Fair Grounds Parking Area - 8:00 am registration, 9:00am - Auction starts.

May 4th-5th- 40th annual Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival at the Howard County Fair Grounds across from the Living Farm Heritage Museum www.sheepandwool.org

May 11th - Spring Field Day - In conjunction with the Maryland Draft Horse and Mule Association. Join us at the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum as we prepare fields using draft horses and mules as well as tractors and implements for corn planting, 10:00 a.m. until ?

May 20th - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Howard County Fair Grounds Dining Hall 7:00pm - Social 1/2 hour, 7:30pm - 9:00pm Business Meeting

Membership

By **Judy Singley**

Annual Membership Dues are \$15.00
Life-time Membership Dues are \$100.00

It is so easy to do!

* **AT MEETINGS [cash or check]**

* **ONLINE BY PAYPAL**

<http://www.farmheritage.org/Membership.htm>

* **BY MAIL [check]**

The Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 335

West Friendship, MD 21794

If you were not at this year's Farm Heritage Days, come see the displays on both floors of the Dairy Barn and the House Before Electricity! Come be a part of this year's **exciting projects** [Like Daisy Schoolhouse]

Has your Membership lapsed?

If you have let your Membership lapse, please renew your **Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club** membership to stay active and continue receiving membership benefits; like camaraderie, Rusted Plow, voting rights, Club trips & more! One does not have to pay for any year except the current year!

Annual Dues are still only \$15!

We all look forward to seeing you again!

Death of Stewart K. Wisner Sr.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Stewart Wisner who died on November 20, 2012. He was a life-long resident of nearby Carroll County and an antique tractor collector. He was 79.

Mr. Wisner promoted himself as a "Buyer of Antique Tractors". He was also an auctioneer, and worked for many years at the Westminster Livestock Auction.

On October 22, 2011 our Club made a field trip to his museum located between Finksburg and Hampstead MD where he proudly displayed his many restored tractors, a large collection of tractors yet to be restored, and a large building of antique memorabilia of all kinds.

He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Field Trip 2012

The Club field trip this year was on Sunday November 11 to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. The journey began at the Hebb House where 18 attendees boarded the bus and travelled through Baltimore City at the same time that traffic and pedestrians were headed to a Ravens football game.

At the museum we had unlimited rides on three original Baltimore streetcars. The operators are former Conductors of streetcars; today they "volunteer" their services. Also at the museum is a gift shop, many exhibits both large and small, and a streetcar restoration facility.

Of special interest to us was the whereabouts of the No. 9 streetcar that served Ellicott City in bygone days. The Curator said it is currently in the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk Maine. He also stated that Baltimore has been trying to negotiate a deal to get it back, but to no avail - so far.

On the return trip we stopped at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 40.

Art Boone made the arrangements for the trip, and Hillar Ilves shot many beautiful pictures including the group photograph here.



Club Hosts Benefit Race Event

On November 18, 2012 our Club provided the facility for a 5K Run (3.1 miles) and a 1 mile Fun Run/Walk as an Eagle Project to benefit the Howard County Food Bank.

In August the Club was approached, through Judy Singley, by a youthful Joe Keating of Boy Scout Troop 757 who envisioned organizing this type of "Leadership" project to earn his Eagle Scout badge. Club member Art Boone, who is a member of the Howard County Striders running club, worked with Joe and his dad for several weeks to organize the logistics.

On a cold Sunday morning at 8 AM 115 participants were registered and ready to go. The course was primarily on our hardtop roadways. The Striders provided the race packets, the time clock, and the officials. The awards and prizes were donated by many local businesses.

The event collected 1,030 pounds of food and \$460 to benefit the Howard County Food Bank.

Congratulations to Joe for a job well done.

For Sale

1923 Model "T" Touring Car, immaculate condition, runs like new, \$12,000, worth many times more. Gil Hillsinger. Sykesville, MD. (410) 795-3734.

Repair Services Available.

Tractor magneto repair (Wico, American Bosch, IH, Fairbanks Morse). Some exchange units available. All work guaranteed. Fast service. Also carburetor, generator and starter repair (including Ford Model "A" and Model "T"). Gil Hillsinger, 1538 Buckhorn Road, Sykesville, MD 21784. Call (410) 795-3734.

Coming Soon

Look for an article about Organized! by Romanic in the March 2013 issue of Baltimore Magazine: Top Picks. The issue will be available near the end of February.

Recipe

Has anyone tried making CORN COB JELLY or JAM? What is your recipe? Contact Judy @ info@farmheritage.org - I would like to try some and it would be fun to show visitors!!

CORNCOB JELLY

<http://www.cooks.com/rec/view/0,1823,151178-245202,00.html>

12 lg. dry corncobs
3 pt. water
1 (2 1/2 oz.) pkg. powdered fruit pectin
3 c. sugar
1 tbsp. lemon juice
Few drops of red food coloring when necessary

What you need is dried corn on the cob, the kind you find in farm corn cribs. Shell off the corn, use cobs only. Rinse cobs to get rid of all chaff. Break cobs in half, and boil gently for 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Strain through a wet cloth or jelly bag. A dry one sops up too much of the valuable "sap". Measure to get 3 cups of juice. If necessary, add water to make that amount. Those dry cobs do soak up the water in cooking. Add pectin to juice, bring to a full rolling boil. Add lemon juice and sugar. Heat to dissolve. Bring to a boil again, boil for a full minute or until it starts to jell a bit on the spoon. Might even take 2 minutes or so. Skim and pour into

sterilized glasses. **The cobs may give off an odd aroma while cooking but don't let that bother you. Just wait until you taste the finished product.**

Did you know?

The origin of "Piss Poor".

NOW THIS IS A REAL EDUCATION

Us older people need to learn something new every day...Just to keep the grey matter tuned up. Where did "Piss Poor" come from?

Interesting history. They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot. And then once it was full it was taken and sold to the tannery...if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor". But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot...They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low. The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500's
Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June.. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies.

By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't

throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing..

As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.

Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme:

Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old." Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special.

When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat. Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom; holding a wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave.

When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell" or was "considered a dead ringer."

And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring!!!

So get out there and educate someone! Share these facts with a friend. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, "What the heck happened?" We'll be friends until we are old and senile. Then we'll be new friends.

Smile, it gives your face something to do!

The Club's Website

Don't forget to check out the Club's website – www.farmheritage.org. See for yourself what increasing numbers of visitors are checking out. Read [The Rusted Plow](#) online. While there, if you find that something should be added or revised, please contact, or send a note, to any of the officers, or send an e-mail to the site's webmaster, Jenny Frecker, at jenny_frecker@yahoo.com. NOTE: there is an underline (_) between "jenny" and "frecker".

Got Internet Access? Why Not Receive The Rusted Plow Electronically?

If you have a computer with access to the internet, then why not help the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club save "a bundle" of money on the cost of postage and paper by choosing to receive [The Rusted Plow](#) electronically? Just go to the Club's website, www.farmheritage.org and access the current, or even past issues. It's quick, easy, economical, and sometimes even in color. The electronic version also makes it easy for you to copy, print, and save certain articles, even the entire newsletter if you so choose. Why not give it a try? Also, if you would prefer to receive your monthly meeting reminders by the much more economical email route, then please inform Virginia Frank at JSRSTAR@verizon.net. Simply indicate in a short

e-mail message that you prefer to receive your future meeting notices AND The Rusted Plow now by email. It's easy, efficient, "green", and you will be making a significant positive contribution to the Club's finances.

**Club Officers, Board of Directors
and Committee Chairpersons**

The names of club officers and their telephone numbers can be found under the masthead of The Rusted Plow. Current members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons are as follows:

Board of Directors:

Art Boone 410-531-2644
Dick Claycomb 410-549-2171
Phil Greenstreet 410-489-0403
Walt Toney 301-854-6398
John Mihm 410-489-7704
Chris Feaga 410-531-3307

Club committees and chairpersons:

Technology/Web Site

Jennifer Frecker.(contact her by e-mail at jenny_frecker@yahoo.com) (NOTE: There is an underline (_) between "jenny" and "frecker".)

Hebb House

Virginia Frank (410) 531-2569

Site Development & Layout

Dwayne Singley (301) 596-9723.

Bank Barn

David Haugh (410) 489-4728.

Main Display Building

Phil Greenstreet (410) 489-0403

Storage and Outbuildings

John Mihm (410) 489-7704 and

Dick Claycomb

(410) 549-2171.

Sunshine

Dorothy Frank (410) 531-5555

(Notify Dorothy regarding the need for cards in the event of sickness, death, birth, etc.).

Asset Management

John Foertschbeck (410) 795-1490.

Activities

Art Boone (410) 531-2644.

Membership Secretary

Judy Singley (301) 596-9723 or wood_sing@verizon.net. (NOTE:

There is an underline (_) between "wood" and "sing".)

For the betterment of the goals of our organization, your club leaders would welcome any helpful ideas, your constructive suggestions, and especially, your active participation. Please feel free to contact them