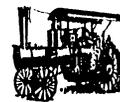


Minnesota Valley



Antique Farm Power & Machinery Association

5030 Twentieth Avenue Southwest
Post Office Box 226
Montevideo, MN 56265

FEBRUARY 2015

Website: www.heritagehill.us

President

Wesley Thompson
320-269-8470

Vice-President

Orlynn Hegna
320-894-8698

Secretary

Marlys Heath
320-769-4638

Treasurer

Leslie Bergquist
320-226-7878

Directors

LuVerne Bangsund
320-843-3836

Chip Grube
320-815-5791

Floyd Kanten
320-793-6633

Gerald Kleene
320-367-4000

Ronald Molde
320-226-2542

Ex-Officio

James Roe
320-269-7507

PRESIDENTIAL STATE OF THE HILL ADDRESS:

Greetings from Heritage Hill. For whatever reason, adverse weather seems to prevail every time a Heritage Hill meeting is scheduled. The weather throughout January 2015 was remarkably good, except for Thursday, January 8, when the HH board meeting was scheduled. All agenda items were deemed non-critical and could wait another month. Therefore, the January Board of Directors meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled. The last three winters have not been easy on the HH meeting scheduling. Fortunately, the Board of Directors was able to meet as scheduled on February 5.

Recently, I came across an extra 2014 Heritage Hill show poster and noted it was the 34th annual show, which of course means that the 2015 Heritage Hill Threshing Show will be the 35th show. If I did my math correctly the organization would have held its first Threshing Show in 1981, which all makes sense since Minnesota Valley Antique Farm Power and Machinery Association was incorporated on 23 June 1981. In 1999 the organization purchased its own land from Richard and Barbara Oleson. Soon after the frost was out of the ground, the development of the new show grounds began. Thanks to countless hours by a ton of volunteers the new Threshers' Kitchen, McCormick-Deering Engine Building and the new Blacksmith Shop were all constructed. At the same time the Swenson Building, Log Cabin and a few other smaller buildings were relocated to the new site, just in the nick of time to host the first Threshing Show in 2000. In three more years the 2018 Threshing Show will mark the 19th annual Threshing Show hosted at the new show site. At that point an equal number of Threshing Shows will have been held at Heritage Hill as were held at prior locations. That is a huge milestone for Heritage Hill. Maybe this will be cause for a little celebration at the 2018 Threshing Show.....a celebration of rapid growth and great success.

Saturday, February 7 was the unofficial start of the raffle ticket sales. Raffle tickets were sold on Saturday morning at the Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Granite Falls, as part of the winter Ole and Lena Days celebrations. Heritage Hill was among about 20 vendors selling an assorted variety of crafts and other goods. In addition the Granite Falls Kiwanis organization hosted its annual pancake breakfast fundraiser which drew good attendance. Thanks are extended to Ron Molde for coordinating the 2015 raffle and for his past services doing the same. Coordinating the raffle is not an easy task mostly due to the Minnesota Gambling Board regulations. At the end of the raffle all tickets sold, and not sold, along with money received needs to be accounted and reported to the state. Record keeping is of the utmost importance. As in past years ticket sales at the Great Minnesota Get Together, scheduled for February 14 and 15, at the Lac qui Parle High School, will hopefully be very successful.

Plans for the April 24, 25 and 26 Montevideo Xpo are taking shape. Thanks are extending to the Montevideo Area Chamber of Commerce and specifically to Emily Sumner for their extensive planning. The first year of anything becomes a bit of trial-and-error. Much was learned in 2014 - including a reminder that winter can last late into April. In any event the Chamber has been busy tweaking and adjusting plans to make the 2015 Montevideo a bigger and better trade show.

Thank you, Wesley Thompson, President

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Just a reminder to all members who pay dues annually, that your 2015 membership dues were payable on January 1. If you have not yet paid, please send your dues to: Heritage Hill, Box 226, Montevideo, MN 56265. \$15 for one person; \$25 for member and spouse. Children under 18 years are free. Thanks.

MEETING NOTICES & COMING EVENTS

Heritage Hill Membership Meeting - January and February
Heritage Hill Directors' Meeting - Montevideo Chamber of Commerce
Great Western Minnesota Get Together - LqP Valley High School - Raffle Sales
Heritage Hill Membership Meeting - Montevideo Community Center
(Servers: Wes/Dorraine Thompson; Carmen/Steve Haugen; Floyd/Waunita Kanten)

Montevideo Xpo - Heritage Hill
Lawn Mowing - Heritage Hill
Montevideo Chamber of Commerce - After Hours
Annual Threshing Show featuring IH Tractors & Gas Engines
Christmas Party - Montevideo Community Center

Cancelled
Thursday, March 5, 2015
Sat & Sun, February 14 & 15, 2014
Monday, March 16, 2015

April 24, 25 & 26, 2014
Tuesday, May 4, 2015 - 9 am
Monday, July 20, 2015
August 21, 22 & 23, 2015
Saturday, December 12, 2015

DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES: February 5, 2014 Marlys Heath, Secretary

President Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce Office, Montevideo. Quorum: Present - Thompson, Hegna, Bergquist, Heath, Molde, Grube, Kanten, Roe. Absent: Bangsund, Kleene Guests: 4 Secretary Heath read the minutes of the December 4, 2014 meeting. M/S/P Bergquist/Grube to approve the minutes. Treasurer Bergquist presented the January 2015 financial report. M/S/P Kanten/Roe to approve the report.

- Membership Dues: Bergquist sent out 49 postcards to remind members to pay their dues. There has been good response to the reminders.

- **Web Site:** Thank you to Grube for all his work to get the web site updated and operating. Kristin Noble is the new website organizer. The membership roster has been removed from the site and the director e-mail addresses will also be removed. Grube will be the contact person listed on the site. Steiner Tractor Company has requested to put an ad on the website and will be making donations to HH in return.
- **Office Cubicles:** Ruth Ann Lee has 8 to 10 office divider cubicles for sale. Jim Roe will inspect the cubicles and decide if they can be used somewhere on HH.
- **Cockshutt Banquet:** Sally Phillips will be the coordinator for the banquet to be held on Saturday, August 22, 2015.
- **Memorials:** A thank you was received from the family of Orel Jane Loe. Donations totaling \$160.00 was received in memory of Dennis Olson.
- **Coming Events:** Ole and Lena Days in Granite Falls is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 from 8:00 am to noon. The Great Western Minnesota Get Together at Lac qui Parle Valley High School is scheduled for Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sunday February 15, 2015 from noon to 4:00 pm.
- **Chamber After Hours:** Heritage Hill will host the Montevideo Chamber of Commerce After Hours Social on July 20, 2015, 5:00 to 6:00 PM. HH will provide food and beverages and also will be sending invitations to the chamber members.
- **Flag Pole:** Due to the initial costs and annual maintenance, the flag pole project has been deemed too expensive. M/S/P Bergquist/Kanten to discontinue future plans for the flag pole.
- **Office Building:** Estimates were obtained by Roe for the updating and repairs needed on the office building located at HH. The costs of the estimates for Vinyl Siding, Roofing, and drywall were approximately \$1,650.00. The option to convert the building into a storage shed for extra kitchen supplies was discussed. M/S/P Bergquist/Molde to budget \$2,000.00 for the material and have the volunteers complete the labor. It was also decided to use the building for storage and have the clothing and souvenir sales relocated to an area more noticeable to the public.
- **Clothing Sales:** Merlyn Hanson has resigned from chairing the clothing sales. Thank you to Merlyn for all his years of service. A new chairperson will be needed.
- **Maintenance Jobs:** A coordinator is needed to organize and update a work list for all the maintenance needed at HH. The coordinator is responsible for identifying projects and tasks that are in need of completion, and report to the board of directors accordingly.
- **Facility and Equipment Usage:** Mary Bertram has reserved the kitchen for February 22. A 60th class reunion will be held in the kitchen on August 29. The white tables are reserved for May 30 and 31.
- **Montevideo Xpo:** The Montevideo Chamber of Commerce is planning the Xpo to be held at HH Friday through Sunday April 24, 25 and 26, 2015. The hours will be Friday 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sunday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Emily Sumner attended the directors' meeting and reported about all the arrangements made at the present time. The grounds and buildings need to be prepared by the membership. The chamber members will be setting up on Thursday and the vendors will be allowed to set up on Friday morning. The buildings to be used are: Chippewa, Ost, Phillips, Hanson, Threshers' Kitchen, shelter house and outside on the grounds. The toy building and the Hagen House will not be used this year. The HH membership will host a bake sale in the Threshers' Kitchen and a food vender may be secured for the kitchen area also. The Montevideo Chamber of Commerce is in charge of securing all the vendors and entertainment. HH could display some tractors and help with security if needed. The trailer with the lettering will be used for advertising and the use of the people mover and the barrel train rides has been requested.
- **Chamber of Commerce Dues:** M/S/P Roe/Grube to pay the Montevideo Chamber of Commerce Dues for 2015.
- **HH Chapel:** Jim Roe reported that a chairman is needed to coordinate the HH Chapel.
- **Threshing Show:** A discussion was held about upcoming events for the Threshing Show in August 2015. Bob Christensen is interested in securing a barber chair to be used by him for a barber shop display.

MSP Molde/Roe to adjourn the meeting

APRON MEMORIES.....and other random thoughts

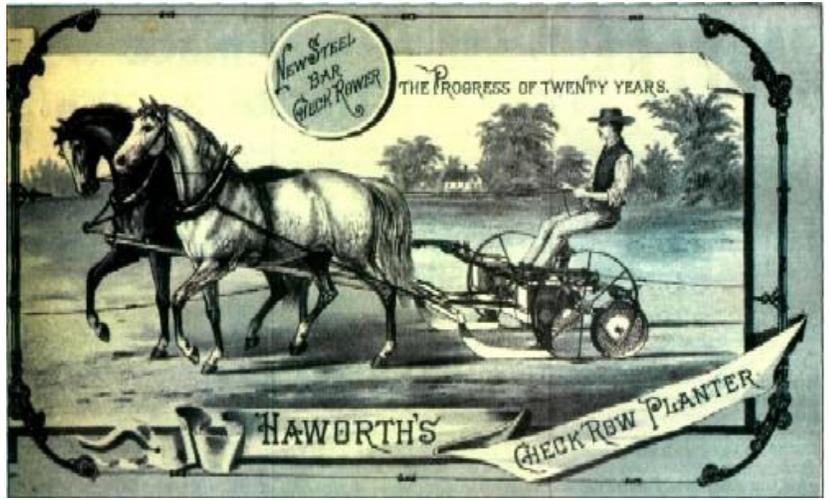
The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few and because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons required less material. Along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. When the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes. Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool; her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. The government would go crazy now trying to figure out how many microorganisms were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron....but love...



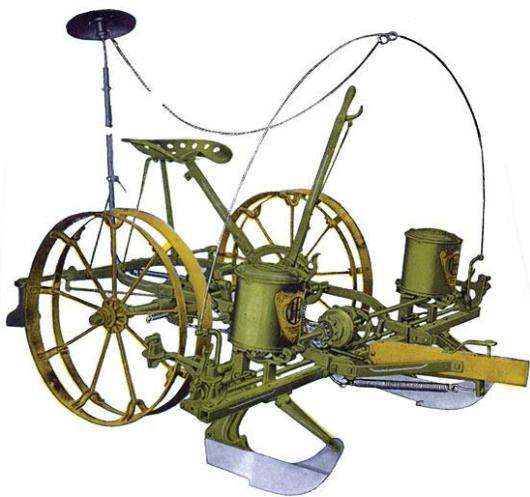
Check-Row Corn Planting

Although it is only February, the spring planting season may only be a couple months away if we encounter an early Spring. The 2013 and 2014 planting seasons were ones to forget. The delays were extensive due to the excess moisture conditions. On one hand the wet precipitation patterns are welcome as the moisture is needed, but the wet conditions also seem to be accompanied by cool conditions, and the combination of both, not only delays the planting process but also delays seed germination and minimizes the needed growing degree days.

Planting methods have evolved over the centuries. For years corn planting by hand was the only method available. The earliest mechanical means was the use of hand corn planters. Soon corn was planted with drills, a method popular in the eastern United States where acreages are small. Unfortunately, these methods all required extensive manual back-breaking methods of weed control. The Corn Belt farmers with much larger farming operations were in need of alternative corn production methods as weed control was essential. Soon the concept of check-row planting began to take traction. Check-row planting inventions and improvements began to take shape shortly before the Civil War. One of the first such check-row planters included a separate seat for a second person, usually a young boy, to ride and trip the seed-dropping mechanism each time the planter shoes crossed pre-marked lines. The 42-inch corn row spacing was no random measurement. The average width of a draft horse was 42 inches, and a horse had to fit between the rows of corn to pull a cultivator, so the rows were planted 42 inches apart. As tractors became the most common source of farm power, and the draft horses were put out to pasture, the long tongues were removed or shortened to become compatible with tractors. Check-row planters put corn fields on the straight-and-narrow. Other planters were



designed so the driver tripped the seed dropper himself, reducing the labor from two to one person. Farmers who didn't want to pre-mark his fields with a row marker tied a rag on the planter wheel. Every time the rag hit the ground, the operator tripped the planter and dropped a hill of seeds. The rag idea went further when a knotted cord was stretched across the field and then manually dropped the seeds each time a knot appeared, thus eliminating the need for a pre-marked field. Initially, the knots only signaled the operator to manually drop the seeds. By 1860, the knots in the rope were used to mechanically trip the seed droppers, allowing the operator to concentrate on driving in a straight line. Unfortunately, rope stretched when dry, and shrank when wet. It also broke easily, and the knots wore rapidly with repeated use. Thus, the knotted rope was not a perfect technique. Literally hundreds of patents were issued during the last half of the nineteenth century for check row planter mechanisms, check-lines and the knots or buttons that tripped the planter. Eventually, cord or rope, or chain and jointed rods were abandoned in favor of heavy-knotted wire, which became a Corn Belt standard by the 1870's. There was a price to be paid for those neat, checkerboard-like corn fields, since check-row planting required more time than drill planting. First, the wire was stretched



across the field and staked. Then, at the end of each row, after the planter was turned and put in position for the return trip across the field, the wire was removed from the stake, thrown over to a new position, staked behind the planter and replaced into the check head. Finally, the check wire was gathered up after the field was finished. The whole process was a huge hassle but at the same time a necessity. John Deere books instructed farmers to 'whip' the wire, moving at least 50 buttons or about 11 rods (16 feet or so), over to its new location at each end of the field. There were reports of farmers who could 'whip' 80 rods, 1/4 mile, of check wire. That would be truly a difficult task for the strongest of men. If there were an obstruction, such as a tree in the middle of the field, it was handled in the following way. The farmer would plant to the tree, then walk to the far end of the field and pull the stake to slacken the wire. He would then walk back to the wire. Next, he walked back to the end of the field, reset the stake into its hole and adjusted the tension. Finally, the farmer drove the team around the tree, put the wire back into the trip forks and resumed planting, giving the team a nice rest. Photos of check-planted corn fields reveal a pretty sight, especially because cultivating fields in two directions leaves the rows clean and free of weeds.

The check-row corn planter has gone the way of the threshing machine and the farm horse, replaced by four, six, eight, twelve, on up to 54-row today, planters that usually drill 22-inch and 30-inch rows, often with very little soil preparation. Check-rowed corn was the victim of chemical weed control, as well as corn pickers and combines, which work much better when the corn is planted in continuous rows rather than clumps of three or four stalks.

In a few more years, hardly anyone alive will remember what it was like to slowly ride across a field behind a good horse team, feeling the warm spring sun on the shoulders and listening to the rhythmic click of the planter, while watching the crows discover that the creosote-based Crow-Tox with which the seed corn had been treated makes it taste awful. At least there are a few handsome check-row planters left in private collections to bring back those many fond memories.

Caring for the Aging and Needy – Poor Farms

When land was homestead in the early years of Minnesota, the immigrants were relatively young and sturdy in nature as was needed to survive unthinkable challenges of their new pioneer life. There were few aged among these new residents, as age is defined today. There were significant number of "Inmates", as they were known then, included the very poor, the elderly, the disabled, the mentally ill, epileptics, abandoned children, unwed mothers and the occasional drunk and petty thief; many were penniless emigrants finding it impossible to make a living in the new country. A few lost their savings to the "demon rum". From the earliest days the care of the sick and afflicted poor rested upon county and township governments. In 1864, faced with large volumes of returning injured Civil War veterans, the Minnesota government established a system for caring for the elderly and disabled. The Minnesota County Commissioners became responsible for such care. County



boards were mandated to provide relief and to maintain poorhouses or make other suitable provisions for their charges. In Yellow Medicine County a poor farm was purchased by the County Commissioners in June 1887 for \$10 per acre. The farm was a 160-acre tract, the estate of the late Martin Johnson, two miles east of Hanley Falls. The farm was located in the South half of the Southwest quarter of Section 5 and the North half of the Northwest quarter Section 8 of Wood Lake Township. Surrounded by the meandering Yellow Medicine River, the farm at the time was said to contain 10 acres of good timber and 60 acres under cultivation. The Yellow Medicine County owned farm was share rented to neighboring farmers generating revenue to provide financial assistance to the inmates. The inmates were urged to do their bit to help maintain the grounds and poor house, assist with the cattle and hog chores, milk cows and tend to the vegetable garden, all as needed to produce food for the table. Several fruit trees were planted for the same purpose.

According to Granite Falls Tribune Editor Jay L. Putnam, who acquired the county farm register, the second person admitted was a boy 17 years of age. Poor health was given as "reason for pauperism". He remained at the farm for one year. "Idiot" was reason given for several admissions. Others were admitted as "lazy" and "crazy". Many were admitted as "too old to work"; more than half for "drunkenness".

Local carpenter N. N. Rudy built an addition to the poorhouse in 1906. The farm had 13 charges in the fall of 1908. There were 14 people registered in 1936 when the poor farm was discontinued; the remaining inmates were placed in private boarding homes. At the closing out auction the poor farm sale grossed \$2,200 for four horses, a cow, some sows and other chattels. Yellow Medicine County sold the 160 acres of real estate on 22 October 1945 to Roy J. and Edna O. Bestland for \$12,000 - \$75.00 per acre. The farm land is currently owned and occupied by Mark and Zee Anne Reishus.

Information obtained from *An Unlamented Era: County Poor Farms in Minnesota*, Ethel McClure, author; *The History of Yellow Medicine County Minnesota 1872 to 1972*, Carl and Amy Narvestad, co-authors; and, the Yellow Medicine County Recorder. Thanks to Hannah Bergquist for suggesting the story.

TREASURER'S REPORT: January 2015

Financial Statement: January 1, 2015

<u>Internal Accounts</u>		<u>Investment Accounts</u>	
\$14,024.81	General Fund	\$1,102.38	Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking
\$2,279.07	Building Fund	\$29,901.04	CAB - Preferred Money Market
\$3,487.39	Chapel Fund	\$0.00	CAB - Certificate of Deposit
\$11,212.15	Farming Fund	\$31,003.42	TOTAL
\$31,003.42	TOTAL	\$0.00	Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank

Operating Statement

\$31,003.42 **Balance: January 1, 2015**

Donations	
	Dennis Olson
\$160.00	Memorials

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	
\$160.00	Donation	(\$269.27)	Electricity
\$185.00	Dues/membership	(\$132.74)	Postage/Office Expense
\$3.88	Interest	(\$3.00)	Sale Tax Remittance
\$348.88	TOTAL	(\$150.00)	Septic Pumping
		(\$555.01)	TOTAL
\$30,797.29	Balance: January 31, 2015		

Financial Statement: January 31, 2015

<u>Internal Accounts</u>		<u>Investment Accounts</u>	
\$13,658.68	General Fund	\$892.44	Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking
\$2,279.07	Building Fund	\$29,904.85	CAB - Preferred Money Market
\$3,647.39	Chapel Fund	\$0.00	CAB - Certificate of Deposit
\$11,212.15	Farming Fund	\$30,797.29	TOTAL
\$30,797.29	TOTAL	\$0.00	Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank

Leslie K. Bergquist, Treasurer



Case SI Military Airborne Tractor with very rare loader.

Owner: Dan Peterman, Webster City, Iowa