



1 Section Tuesday, August 18, 2026 Volume 67 Number 37

Memories and Honey Bees in Ottokee



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The Eicher Homestead in Ottokee, Ohio



Homemade cinnamon rolls are the best!

By Aaron Eicher

Our family the Eicher's, have owned the historic corner property located at County Road J and 14 for over 120 years – the center of what was once the town of Ottokee in Fulton County, Ohio.

Settled in 1850, Ottokee was the first county seat in Fulton County before Wauseon.

Geographically it is in the center of Fulton County and the Courthouse, a church, a schoolhouse, General Store, 2 Hotels and numerous other businesses were located in the town.

It was also a daily Stage Coach line and passengers could travel between Wauseon and Adrian, Michigan for a \$1.50 fare.

Nowadays, on the corner by the well pump, a person can still see the foundation marks in the grass from the original General Store.

Across the corner still standing is the smaller General Store many may remember; now turned into a home.

Originally the railroad was to come through Ottokee, but it bypassed the town and was established

(Continued on Page 9)

Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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August 19 - 25

For the Second Week of Late Summer

Now comes the time of rich purple in the fields and meadows, denoting not only a time but also a maturity. It is as though the whole Summer had been building toward this deep, strong color to match the gold of late sunlight and early goldenrod.

Hal Borland

The Phases of the Moon

July 29: The Katydid Moon is full.

August 5: The Moon enters its final quarter.

August 12: The Field Cricket Moon is new.

August 19: The Moon enters its second quarter.

August 26: The Field Cricket Moon is full.

The Sun

August 22 is Late Summer's Cross Quarter Day, the day on which the Sun reaches halfway to autumn equinox.

Almost an hour has been lost from the day's length just since the end of July, almost two hours since the year's longest days in late June.

Having dropped below the celestial equator in the first week of Late Summer, the Sun now leaves the stability of Leo and enters the more volatile sign of Virgo, the first of the most violent periods of change in the second half of the year.

The Weather in the Week Ahead

The weather in the third week of August is somewhat stable, bringing highs in the 90s on 15 to 20 percent of the afternoons, milder 80s fifty-five percent of the time, and cool 70s the remaining 25 percent.

The 19th of the month, however, breaks from the pattern many years, and it has the highest frequency of 90s (35 percent chance) of any other day in the week.

Chances of rain increase from 25 percent at the beginning of the period to 30 percent by August 21st, then drop abruptly to just 15 percent on the 22nd.

Natural Calendar

Throughout the remainder of the month, high Late Summer still holds sway. Cicadas and katydids and crickets are still boisterous in the night. Fold-wing skippers still chase each other in the morning sun.

Great colonies of ants migrate. Beds of false boneset and trellises of virgin's bower bloom. Tall blue bellflower and burdock and euonymus keep their blossoms, and fields glow with seven-foot wingstem, tall coneflowers, early purple ironweed, late bouncing bets and black-eyed Susans.

The latest wildflowers of the year, however, the heralds of Early Fall, are set to open. Bur marigolds, zigzag goldenrod, tall goldenrod, Jerusalem artichokes, broad-leafed swamp goldenrod, New England asters and small-flowered asters are budding.

The weakening sun accelerates its message to the monarchs and swallowtails and the fall webworms.

Sparrows form larger flocks. Robins emerge from their Deep Summer retreats. Great murmurations of starlings become more common.

Peaches, plums, grapes, blackberries, second-crop raspberries and elderberries sweeten, then close their seasons.

At the transition between Leo's vast plateau of heat and color and Libra's sudden collapse of the forest canopy, Virgo brings the first turning of the leaves and the first chance of frost to Yellow Springs.

Hickory nuts, buckeyes and pecans fall to earth. The first black walnut leaf turn and leaf drop began in the center of July's Leo, and now the walnut trees are shedding, yards and paths filling with their leaves. The horse chestnuts follow, and then the cottonwoods and then box elders.

In the Field and Garden

Scout fields for late-season pests, for larval feeding scars, a sign of rootworm damage, second brood corn borer, second generation of bean leaf beetles, and rootworm beetles.

The potato harvest is usually a fourth complete. Wild grapes are ready to pick. A few fields are being prepared for winter wheat seeding.

About a tenth of soybean foliage in the lower Midwest has turned by now; the stage of their leaves measure the maturity of the corn. Prickly mallow and jimsonweed are taking over an occasional soybean

Journal

A year ago, my wife and I dug a small pond in the back yard. With fish and plants, it has been a successful and rewarding habitat. What surprised me about it this summer was that, with its maybe 75 square feet of surface, the pond satisfied all my youthful passion for much larger bodies of water.

We made a short trip along the southern coast of Lake Erie early in August, and we walked a little on the beaches at Crane Creek and Headlands Park.

As I looked out over the curved blue horizon, I felt none of the great longing I used to feel when I visited the shoreline.

Instead of attracting me like it once had, I felt how impossible that vague dream of the water had become, how inaccessible the adventures, the infinite variety of creatures.

When we went to the ocean a few years ago, I felt the same emptiness, and I was disappointed that the thrill of the sea had disappeared before I had taken enough time to embrace it.

One evening a few weeks ago I sat, surrounded by trees and flowers, by the small pond I had dug by the side of the house.

As I fed the three koi, enjoyed the light breeze and watched a spider spinning its web above the lily pads, I realized that I now preferred this small pool to an ocean or lake.

Here was a place within my power. Here was wildlife enough for me to watch. Here the fish would eat from my hand.

Here were six kinds of plants blooming on their own schedules, plenty to keep track of, plenty to measure time with. I found myself comfortable and at home with this finity.

The horizon was not the globe's aloof, ever-receding promise. This horizon was accessible, touchable. My reach for once did not exceed its grasp.

At first I was saddened at what I felt, and then, after a little while, I accepted my emotions that were changing with my physical seasons.

Finally an autumnal peace filled me up, and I came to terms with my limits and the fading of grandiose expectations and aspirations.

This was sufficient for now, I thought, and I gave in to the attainable sea with its borders as fixed and as perfect as my own.

ALMANACK LITERATURE

Making Our Kite

By Mary Mersereau

Montgomery, Michigan

It was during the Depression days, and we lived in midwestern Kansas.

It seemed like those days of long ago things were more peaceful.

The fields were large, and the wind seemed to blow from the south most every day, and not fierce.

And there was always time on one's hands, so many out of work. My husband, Ted, was somewhat in this group.

Usually we lived in town. But sometimes, when work was to be done, we stayed out to the Raymond Rixse farm, 180 acres of wheat. I and two babies and Ted.

I did house work, and the lady did chores and took care of stock so the men could work longer in the fields.

Well, there came many days that Ted was out of work. And the man on the corner also. They decided to build a kite.

One could get brown paper at the grocery store by the yard, strong too. We traded some garden stuff for this and made glue - it was paste from flour and water.

Well, the men worked on the kite for several days. It was seven feet high by four feet wide, and it had a big tail besides.

Mr. Rixse gave us some twine, two big balls in fact. And one nice breezy day out we went with the kite.

It drew quite a gathering too, because some thought we wouldn't get it away.

But up and up it went! The end of the first ball of twine was tied to the next ball, and then that was tied to a tree.

We laughed with glee. The twine was so long that soon we couldn't see the kite any more.

Then came word: Wichita, Kansas thought it was a weapon or something the Germans had.

Then after a while, we cut it loose. And later we received a letter from Minnesota about its whereabouts.

Cold air and no wind must have brought it down. But, as I remember, the Minnesota man said he'd fix it and send it on its way again. FN

Jesus Christ: the Light of the World

Words of Inspiration

By Tim Taylor

Farmland News would like to apologize to Tim Taylor for listing the wrong name in last week's issue. We are so sorry.

In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, light powerfully symbolizes hope, truth, revelation, and salvation.

The New Testament frequently uses the word "light" to portray Jesus as the divine illumination that overcomes darkness and calls His followers to reflect that light.

The Gospel of John introduces this theme vividly: *"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone."*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1:4-5 NLT).

Jesus is *"the true light, who gives light to everyone"* (John 1:9).

He boldly declares, *"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life"* (John 8:12 NLT; see also John 9:5).

Jesus' light exposes sin and offers rescue.

"I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer

remain in the dark" (John 12:46 NLT).

He urges, *"Walk in the light while you can" and to believe in the light to become "children of the light"* (John 12:35-36).

Those who do right come to the light so their deeds are seen as done in God. (John 3:21).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells disciples, *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden"*

(Matthew 5:14 NLT).

Believers should not conceal their light: *"No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father"* (Matthew 5:15-16; parallels in Mark 4:21-22, Luke 8:16, 11:33).

Other references reinforce the image.

A healthy eye fills the body with light (Matthew 6:22; Luke 11:34-36).



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Paul's ministry fulfills prophecy: God made him *"a light to the Gentiles"* for salvation (Acts 13:47; see Acts 26:18, 23).

The Epistles apply this to daily life: *"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!"* (Ephesians 5:8 NLT).

This light produces goodness, righteousness, and truth (Ephesians 5:9).

Shine *"like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people"* (Philippians 2:15).

God calls us *"out of darkness into his wonderful light"* (1 Peter 2:9), to walk in the light for fellowship and cleansing by Jesus' blood (1 John 1:5-7).

Ultimately, the New Jerusalem needs no sun, *"for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof"* (Revelation 21:23).

Across dozens of occurrences, the New Testament proclaims Jesus as the unquenchable Light.

His Gospel invites all to leave darkness, follow Him, and shine brightly through holy living.

In Christ, we receive the light that leads to eternal life.

Let it shine today!

FN

Family

Words of Inspiration

By Rev. Jeffery J. Walker

Each of us comes into this world as part of a family.

Our first and foundational relationships are our mother and our father.

For some, that foundation is strong and remains strong.

For others, the brokenness of this fallen world cracks those foundational relationships from the very beginning.

Others still fall somewhere in between, experiencing the joy of a loving family intertwined with the brokenness of sinful humanity—*weeds and wheat growing together* (see Matthew 13:24-30).

I wonder if the word family is sometimes overused in our day—people on sports teams call each other a family ("my football family"), clubs and organizations use family language ("fraternity brothers" and "sorority sisters"), businesses will sometimes talk about their employees as a family ("our corporate family").

If any group of people is a family,

then no group of people is a family.

It loses its meaning.

The Church of God, however, is rightly described as a family and maybe we don't talk about that enough.

Or maybe we don't act like that enough.

Indeed, we learn to call God "Father," for He is the one "from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name" (Ephesians 4:15).

But Jesus didn't teach us to call

God "my Father" or "your Father," but rather "Our Father."

That means something!

If God is indeed Our Father, that makes me your brother.

That makes my fellow Christian true sisters and brothers.

The Church is meant to be a true family—the Family of God.

Some people experience the family of the Church as a strong and lasting foundation in their lives.

Others have experienced deep

hurt from the brokenness of the sinners who make up the Church of God. God has plans for his Church to be perfect in Heaven (the spotless bride of Revelation 19), but here on earth the weeds and wheat grow together.

In these recent weeks of summer, when school break and work schedules seem to allow for a little more time together, many have rediscovered the joy of spending time together with their families—on vacations, at the fair, in our homes.

I invite you to rediscover the joy of spending time with your spiritual family as well. "Do not neglect meeting together," the author of Hebrews (10:25) exhorts us.

Find yourself at "Sunday Dinner" with God's family in church each Sunday.

My mom's meatloaf is pretty good, but man does not live on bread—or meatloaf—alone.

Feed your soul with your family this Sunday.

See you in Church!

FN



**The Catholic Parishes of
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- St. John the Evangelist (Delphos):
Saturday 4:30pm,
Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:30am
- St. John the Baptist (Landeck):
Sunday 8:30am, 5:30pm
- St. Patrick (Spencerville): Sunday 10:30am

COME PRAY WITH US!

Blast From The Past...

SHOP HINTS 4-29-64

IF YOU CHAR fence posts they will have a longer life. Charred wood does not rot away as quickly as uncharred. This can be used particularly for the part of the post which is below ground.

UNDER CERTAIN PLOWING conditions it is hard to keep the rolling coulter turning. Try spot welding 5 or 6 inch spikes (with head removed) to the land side of the rolling coulter.

IF YOU FIND that after cutting your lawn, you have to get a broom to sweep cuttings off your walk, save this extra job by tilting your power mower backwards and push it up your walk. The wind from the mower blade whirling around will blow the cut grass off the walk.

A CLEAR PLASTIC garden hose filled with water can be used for finding levels. Fill hose with water and make sure all air pockets are out. Pour out enough water from the hose to leave about six inches of air at each end. Water seeks its own level.

IF YOU LOSE keys when you are on the water, attach keys to a cork. If they go over the side, the cork will keep them afloat. Try them in a container of water first to be sure that you have not put more keys on than the cork will handle.

CUT THE bottom off an old 5 gallons cream can, also remove one handle to make a good bag holder. Add a pail handle on what is now the open bottom of the can. Put a hook near the top, u-end the can and hang it on the wall of the granary. Mouth of the bag can be looped over the hook.

VINTAGE RECIPE 1981

Soybean Pie

3/4 cup honey or 1/2 cup honey and 1/4 cup real maple syrup

1-1/2 cup soybean puree
3/4 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon ginger
3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
4 tablespoon dry milk
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon or more cinnamon
2 eggs, slightly beaten

Make bean puree by grinding 2 heaping cups of very well cooked soybeans through the fine blade of a food grinder or in a blender.

Pour combined ingredients into a "Pat-in" dessert pie crust.

Bake at 450 degrees for 15 minutes, reduce heat to 350 degrees for 30 minutes longer or until knife comes out clean.

If using a microwave, cook at medium-high for 5 minutes, then at bake for 10 minutes longer.

Let stand at least 5 minutes.

NOGGIN KNOCKERS 1976

- * Putting a new knife in the five foot horse mower?
- * Picking wild elderberries?
- * Putting lime in the horse tank to keep down the algae?
- * Reading a Zane Grey western?
- * Using a plank scraper?
- * The sound of milk hitting the bottom the milk pail?
- * Dad mixing up a batch of whitewash - and you painting the fence and trees in the front yard?
- * When grocery stores delivered to the folks in town?
- * When you stood at the counter and the clerk did all the walking?
- * When your groceries were packed in cardboard boxes?
- * When the store stayed open on Wednesday and Saturday nights until all the customer's orders were filled?
- * The clerk reaching items on the top shelf with a long handled hook?
- * Fishing in a catch basin?
- * Digging tunnels in the straw stack?
- * When rear view mirrors were optional equipment on motor cars?
- * Storing clover seed in the storeroom upstairs?
- * Feeding fresh pumpkins to the cows?

Pat-in-Pie Crust:

1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 cup oil
1 tablespoon honey or real maple syrup

Mix with a fork until it resembles cornmeal.

Press over bottom and sides of a 9 inch pie dish.

Bake 5 minutes at 350 degrees.

If using a microwave, cook 4-1/2 minutes or less at bake level.

Note: To some this recipe may sound awful - but it's actually very delicious and nutritious. The soybean pie tastes a lot like pumpkin and it even resembles pumpkin pie.

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"Smells of Summer"

August...Deep in the throes of summer.

School will be starting for most at some point in the month.

On the farm, it's kind of a downtime, waiting in anticipation for the crops to sprint to a finish for the fall harvest...an in between time from the end of wheat harvest to the start of row crop harvest.

Recently, as we were enjoying a pleasant evening at our camping/quiet area along the river, the bride and I discussed the "smells of summer"...

This year, one of the smells of summer appeared in early August – corn tassels and the corn crop.

The tassels are needed to pollinate the eventual ears of corn, and the fresh, corn like smell is a very pleasant smell to be able to breathe indeed, that is unless one doesn't raise corn, then hopefully that person(s) planted sweet corn...

Another smell of sum-

Tales From The South Side Of Napoleon

by Sam Hatcher

mer I truly enjoy is the alfalfa crop in full bloom, and along with that, the smell of the alfalfa mill.

The purple flowers of a fully bloomed alfalfa field means it is ready for a cutting, and that flower smell is very pleasant for soothing the senses.

When the alfalfa mill used to be in Napoleon, on humid days and nights, the smell of the dehydrating alfalfa would permeate the entire town...a smell that just can't be replicated anywhere else.

Yet another smell of summer is the diesel smoke odor from a diesel powered tractor doing some late summer tillage in the wheat stubble fields.

Working the ground for the next crop year, or work-

ing it for yet another crop in this year, such as fall seeding of alfalfa, the smell of diesel smoke, (can probably cause lung ailments if sniffed too much) but it is a gentle contrast compared to brush fire smoke.

An added bonus to diesel smoke is when fair time rolls around, the diesel smoke from the tractor pulls is not only a great smell, but a visual one as well, when the diesel powered tractors come roaring down the pulling track.

Another passage of summer and its smells is the fresh smell of manure from the livestock barns, and the hauling of manure from the barns, onto vacant wheat stubble fields.

Not the current commercial chicken ranch kind of manure, but manure that was hand pitched into a waiting manure spreader, using a 4 tine pitch fork.

With the heat of August, it was always a welcome sight for a "full" spreader, since that was when a drink break could be taken, and the driving of the tractor to the field allowed for a breeze to cool off ones aching muscles...until the next load had to be pitched.

The county fair is yet another summer smell.

Depending on one's passion, there are:

- Horse smells,
- French fries,
- The smell of cotton candy,
- The awesome smell at the beef and pork stands
- The smell of sawdust in the show arena
- The campfires and food smells of the campers

- Yes, even the smell of a carnie or two who didn't know where the showers were located.

Summer canning from the garden is a smell that I never get tired of sniffing, as whenever produce or fruit from the garden is realized, the canning procedure and the in no particular order, the smell of toma-

toes, beans, peaches, beets and sweet corn, sometimes make the whole house smell like a garden.

Throw in some fresh, homemade bread and its smell – if there is a heaven on earth, it has to be one of those canning kitchens.

One smell that happens not too often is the smell of dead fish.

When the fertilizer spill hit the river in July, there was a week or so of dead fish in the Maumee River, a smell so strong that one

had to shy away from boat watching from the bank.

How anybody could water ski through that must've lost a sense of smell.

Yes, as we contemplated the smells of summer, we agreed that while we each had our favorite smells, summer is a great time to be living on a farm.

The smells of summer, another part of life on the farm.

Sam Hatcher is a freelance writer who grew up on a farm south of Napoleon and still farms there with his brother. He now lives near Cecil and has retired from teaching at Paulding High School.

FN



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2026 Fulton County Fair Schedule

Friday, September 4

Sponsored By:

Gerald Grain Center

9:00 a.m.: Gates Open

9:00 a.m.: Judging Agriculture, Fruits, Vegetables, Canned Goods

9:00 a.m.: **Out of Field & Antique Tractor Pulls** - Grandstand

10:00 a.m.: ALSA Open Llama and Alpaca Show - Spangler Arena

10:00 a.m.: Judging Poultry Open - Poultry Barn

5:00 p.m.: Baked Goods Auction - Veterans' Pavilion

6:00 p.m.: Judging Beef Breeding - Junior Fair & Open Class - Spangler Arena

6:30 p.m.: **Flag Raising Ceremony** - Veterans' Association - Grandstand

6:30 p.m.: **NTPA Sanctioned Tractor and Truck Pulls** - Grandstand

7:30 p.m.: Dairy Goat Milking Contest - Goat Barn

Saturday, September 5,

Veterans' Day

Veterans & Spouses

Admitted FREE to the Fair

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7:30 a.m.: Dairy Goat Milking Contest - Goat Barn

8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Hog Show - Sale Arena
8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Horse & Donkey Show -



8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Goat Show - Spangler Arena

11:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Breeding/Market Lamb Show - Sale Arena

12:30 p.m.: Junior Fair Dairy Cow Show - Spangler Arena

12:30 p.m.: Judging Open Dairy Cow - Spangler Arena (to follow Jr. Fair)

1:00 p.m.: Versatility Horse Show - Osthimer Horse Arena

1:00 p.m.: Corn Hole Contest - Mixed Doubles - Registration: noon - Park Area

1:00 p.m.: Pee Wee Sheep Showmanship - Sale Arena - immediately following conclusion of Jr. Fair Sheep Show

4:00 p.m.: Line Dancing with "Kick the Dust Up with Kim" - Veterans Pavilion

5:30 p.m.: *Citizens - Gospel Building - (FREE)*

6:00 p.m.: Post N' Rails Pleasure & Contesting - Ages 8 & Under - Osthimer Horse Arena

6:00 p.m.: Legends & Livestock - Spangler Arena

7:00 p.m.: **Dylan Scott & Cooper Alan** - Grandstand

(Continued on Page 7)

Osthimer Horse Arena

11:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Feeder Calf Show (Dairy then Beef) - Spangler Arena

11:00 a.m.: FREE Ham and Bean Dinner for Veterans - Veterans Pavilion

11:30 a.m.: **Harness Racing with Pari-Mutuel Wagering** - Grandstand (FREE)

6:00 p.m.: Classic Car Display - Sale Arena

6:30 p.m.: Junior Fair Steer Show - Spangler Arena

6:30 p.m.: Junior Fair King and Queen Crowning - South Stage

7:00 p.m.: **Pickup Truck Pulls & Tri-State Mini Tractor Pulls** - Grandstand

7:30 p.m.: *The Heart of Rock & Roll - Huey Lewis and The News Tribute Band* - South Stage (Free)

7:30 p.m.: Catholic Mass Service - Gospel Building

7:30 p.m.: Dairy Goat Milking Contest - Goat Barn

Sunday, September 6

Sponsored By:

Northwest State Community College

8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Horse Show - Osthimer Horse Arena

8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Poultry Show - Sale Arena

9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Rabbit Show - Spangler Arena

10:00 a.m.: *Sojourners Quartet - Gospel Building (Free)*

1:00 p.m.: Corn Hole Contest - Registration: Noon - Park Area

1:00 p.m.: Golden Wedding Party - Veterans' Pavilion

2:00 p.m.: Free Throw & 3 Point Basketball Shooting Contest - Sale Arena

4:00 p.m.: Michigan Miniature Horse Pull - Spangler Arena

4:00 p.m.: *Good News Guys - Gospel Building (Free)*

4:00 p.m.: Jr. Fair Dog Show - Veterans Pavilion

7:00 p.m. - **Crowder & Jeremy Camp** - Grandstand

7:00 p.m.: Bits & Harness Pony Pull - Spangler Arena

Monday, September 7

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FAIR SCHEDULE

(Continued From Page 6)

Tuesday, September 8 - Junior Fair Day
School-aged children are admitted FREE all day when accompanied by an adult.

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8:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Dog Show - Spangler Arena
 10:00 a.m.: Judging Open Horses & Ponies - Osthimer Horse Arena

11:00 a.m.: Line Dancing with "Kick the Dust Up with Kim" - Sale Arena

1:00 p.m.: Open Livestock Judging - Spangler Arena

1:00 p.m.: Corn Hole Contest (Youth) - Registration: Noon - Park Area

3:00 p.m. - Money Scramble - Youth 6 years and Under - Sale Arena

3:00 p.m.: Pedal Power Pull - Sale Arena - Registration 1:30 - 2:30

6:00 p.m.: **Harness Racing with Pari-Mutuel Wagering** - Grandstand - FREE

6:30 p.m.: Showman of Showmen Contest - Osthimer Horse Arena, then Spangler Arena

7:00 p.m.: Golden Gloves Boxing - Sale Arena

Wednesday, September 9
Seniors Day
Senior Citizens' Day
Citizens Age 65 & Over Admitted FREE

Sponsored By: Fulton County Health Center

9:00 a.m.: Open Goat Show - Spangler Arena

10:00 a.m.: Senior Citizens' Party - Veterans' Pavilion

11:30 a.m.: Draft Horse & Pony Show - Osthimer Horse Arena

1:00 p.m.: Women's Day Demonstrations - Veterans' Pavilion

6:00 p.m.: Junior Fair Small Animal Sale - Sale Arena

Sale Order: Chickens, Turkeys, Horse Item, Rabbits (Fryer/Roaster)

6:30 p.m.: Top Of Ohio Club Calf Classic Feeder Show - Spangler Arena

7:00 p.m.: **Rodeo Night at the Fair** - Grandstand

7:00 p.m.: *1 Voice Worship* - Gospel Building

Thursday, September 10

Sponsored By:
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9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair Large Animal Sale - Sale Arena

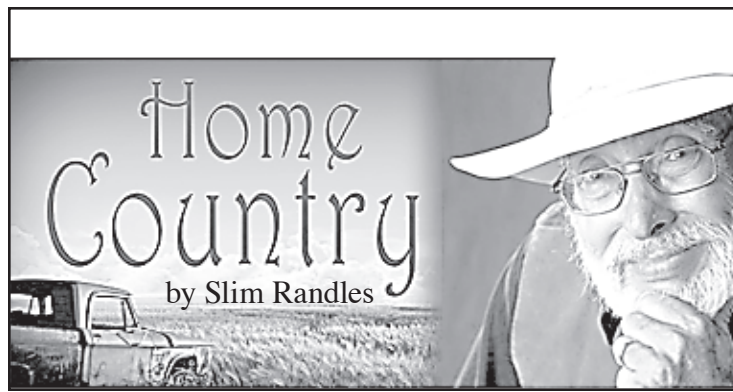
Sale Order: Hogs, Gallon of Milk, Sheep - Market/Born & Raised, Goats Boer/Dairy, Steers - Dairy/Beef/Born & Raised, Feeder Calves Dairy/Beef

6:30 p.m.: **Ohio's Greatest Demolition & Power Wheels Derby** - Grandstand

7:00 p.m.: *Aftermath - South Stage (FREE)*

9:00 p.m.: **Flag Lowering Ceremony** - Veterans' Association

11:00 p.m.: Close of the 2026 Fulton County Fair



I always wondered what it would be like to putter.

I don't mean golf.

I haven't done that kind of puttering since I played miniature golf in high school.

That wagon wheel always messed me up, so I decided to leave my golf career right there and participate in more active pursuits.

But now here I am puttering.

This came about naturally because my doctor told me to slow down, and I plan to enjoy every snail-like minute of this advice.

Part of it is my age (I'm in double figures now.

And they ain't small double figures.) and part is my doctor giving me advice I've been wanting to hear for a long time now.

This morning I was put-

tering around the ol' back yard doing a few chores, but I did them slowly.

Oh yes. Scoop some dog stuff and then rest.

Water some baby trees, then take a time out, just like I'd done something wrong.

Then there's putting bird food in the feeders we have all over the yard.

I didn't putter while feeding, either.

No, I slowed it down even more and moseyed.

Later, after the buzzards and finches had dined, I celebrated by meandering.

Meandering simply means moseying, but without any destination in mind.

Getting on in years can mean being celebrated for sedentary pursuits, like contemplating stuff.

I usually do my contem-

plations from a chair.

It helps.

What am I contemplating?

Well, when I'm asked, I just get a look on my face that says I'm helping Stephen Hawking out by figuring out the Grand Imperial Theory of Dang Near Everything.

But I don't actually say that, because that would leave me open to some nosy person asking me a question about it.

And the truth was, I was thinking about what to have for lunch, but it isn't as cerebral as Hawking's theory.

It isn't even as cerebral as a hemorrhage.

Now there's something worth a good contemplation.

The spelling of hemorrhage, of course.

One m and two r's?

Have to think on that a while.

Might even reflect on it while I deliberate.

No one said getting older was for amateurs.

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Saturday - Tuesday:

Comedy Farm Magic Review

Sunday - Monday:

Michael Misko Magician - Veterans Pavilion

Saturday:

Classic Car Display - Sale Arena
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Tuesday:

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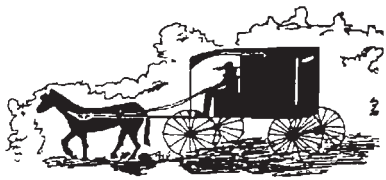
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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Walking Among The Chestnut Trees

The alarm clock was set earlier than usual.

We were all geared up to head north to visit several chestnut farms in Iowa.

Since that day six years ago when Daniel first told me of his brainstorm about filling our 11-acre field with chestnut saplings, it has been an amazing process of learning.

True to his goal, the nuts would be ready for harvest once the children were all old enough to learn to shoulder responsibility in a healthy way and make a difference with the work at hand.

Now that Daniel was no longer here, I prayed for the wisdom to lead and passion to follow through with the projects at hand.

Since that first day I walked through the grove after he had gone to heaven, the trees seemed to offer their own sense of comfort. Not only that, it was my place to go talk to God.

He would hear what I would tell Him audibly; no one else was around to hear or see me cry, pray, or sing.

Though the trees did not actually know my story, there was One who met me there every time, and the

trees reminded me to pray for the many souls our Lord would save through Daniel's death and God's master plan in it, which I am not yet able to see fully.

Thus the young grove became a place of rest and solitude.

One day, as I thought of naming the different sections of the grove, I thought of five letters in a row in the alphabet: "P, Q, R, S, T" as the beginning letter for their names.

The names just fell into place.

Peace would be the first section across the drive; beyond it would be Quiet.

The new section where Daniel had cleared an area in the woods to get ready to plant chestnuts would be Rest and then there's Solace — the exact area where Daniel got hurt.

Last but not least is my favorite section, back yonder: Tranquility.

As we're slowly growing more and more into the chestnut world, so to speak, I enjoy learning from others.

When I spoke with a gentleman from Iowa, asking if they would consider buying nuts from us this fall on a wholesale basis, he said we could come see their facility.

I was intrigued with the

Recipe Of The Week

Homegrown Pizza Sauce

3-4 medium size tomatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons chopped oregano
salt to taste

2 cloves garlic (Note - fresh garlic cloves should be hung up to dry for a couple of weeks before using.)

This is a recipe young people can help make.

Have an adult help you peel and chop the tomatoes (for a smoother sauce, put the tomatoes in the blender for several seconds.)

Chop the garlic cloves.

In a large pot, simmer the garlic in olive oil until it is golden brown.

Add the tomatoes and oregano.

Simmer at medium heat for 30 to 60 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add salt to taste.

The sauce is ready when it is thick enough to be a pizza sauce.

This Recipe of the Week is from the Archbold Community Garden, Archbold, Ohio

idea of seeing what we could find.

Daniel's brother and family, who also have a grove, planned the five hour trip and so we all did it together.

Thus we were on our way, early Thursday morning.

Upon our arrival at that first farm, we were quite impressed with the operation they had for taking care of 60-plus acres of trees.

The farm was picture perfect.

We walked through the lush green grass among the trees.

Us ladies and the children had our picnic lunch together of tortilla wraps, seasoned pretzels, and energy balls, while the guys took measurements of a sorting/washing machine in hopes of one day making their own.

The next farm was quite unique.

It is owned by an elderly couple who were among the first in the United States to start disease-resistant chestnut trees after diseases swept through, wiping out most or all chestnut trees over the last 100 years.

I enjoyed listening to their stories while touring

their farm, checking out numerous plants and trees I never knew existed.

This little sparkly lady did not lack in hospitality as she took us through the house she and her husband built together many years ago, and even gave us samples of gummi and English walnuts they had raised.

Last came the facility which buys chestnuts on a wholesale basis.

I'm excited to tackle the season this fall and see where it takes us.

If any of you out there would like to place an early order or are interested in finding out more about pricing, drop a letter in the mail to 10510 E 350th Ave, Flat Rock IL 62427.

We'd be happy to accommodate you in any way we can, and yes, we are able to ship out orders!

Now for a light snack on a warm summer evening.

My sis-in-law made yummy seasoned pretzels we munched in that picture-

perfect grove.

Here is a recipe for you to try yourself.

Enjoy a yummy twist to an ordinary pretzel!

Delicious Seasoned Pretzels

1 pound pretzels
1 cup canola oil
3 tablespoons cheddar cheese powder
3 tablespoons sour cream and onion powder (Ranch powder can be used also if you can't find this)

Mix together oil and seasonings.

Pour over pretzels (we prefer thin sticks).

Now mix thoroughly.

Bake at 250 for 30 minutes, stirring every 5-10 minutes.

Let cool and enjoy!

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427. FN



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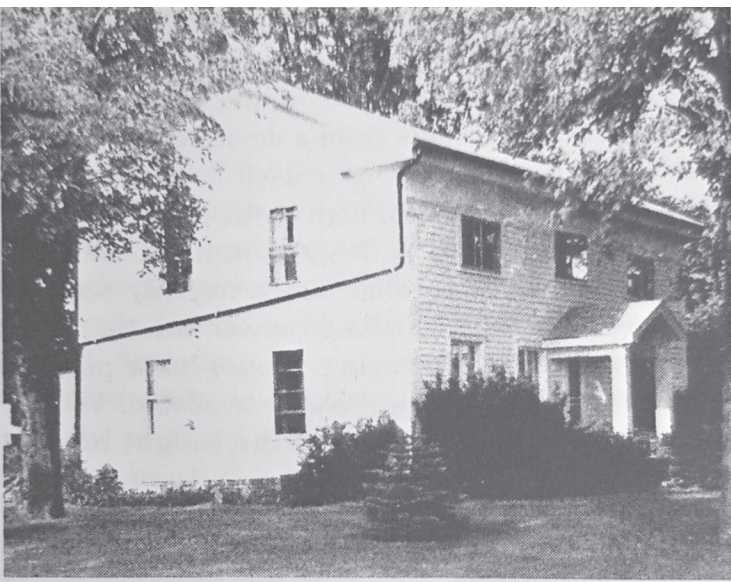
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The old “Taylor Hotel”

OTTOKEE

(Continued From Page 1)

further south in Wauseon.

When the second Ottokee Courthouse burnt around 1864, the new courthouse was built in Wauseon and this further added to the demise of Ottokee’s downfall.

With the addition of the railroad line and the new County seat being moved to Wauseon, businesses and people left Ottokee, and slowly it became a lost village.

The Taylor Hotel

The main house on the property at the corner of J and 14, was built in 1850 and was called the “Taylor Hotel”.

It was originally built in

the Greek revival style; a popular house style before the Civil War.

The Hotel is said to have been the winter home of a traveling circus troupe - “Stow’s Circus Troupe” and every year, they would come back and stay.

In 1901 the Smith/Eicher family purchased the old Hotel and modernized it into a private home – at one time it was briefly a private old folks home run by the family.

The house has had some recent updates, but the structure still has its original hand hewn wooden beams and some of the Greek revival exterior details, such as the cornice and faux columns on each corner.

My mother, Caroline Eicher (age 85) has childhood memories of the Saturday night dances and the Mayor of Wauseon would regularly attend them.

She recalls in her mother’s day during prohibition, the Mayor would also come to the house for drinks, because somehow they always had illegal alcohol at the house.

The home is also featured in the Fulton County History books published some years ago along with the history of when it was a hotel.

Cinnamon Rolls and Pizza Dough

When I was growing up, one of the best memories of the Eicher home, was when my mom Caroline Eicher started the tradition of making Sweet Roll Dinner Rolls for the holiday dinners.

The recipe she used is a much loved family favorite and was originally tucked away in Grandma Alicegean’s recipe box.

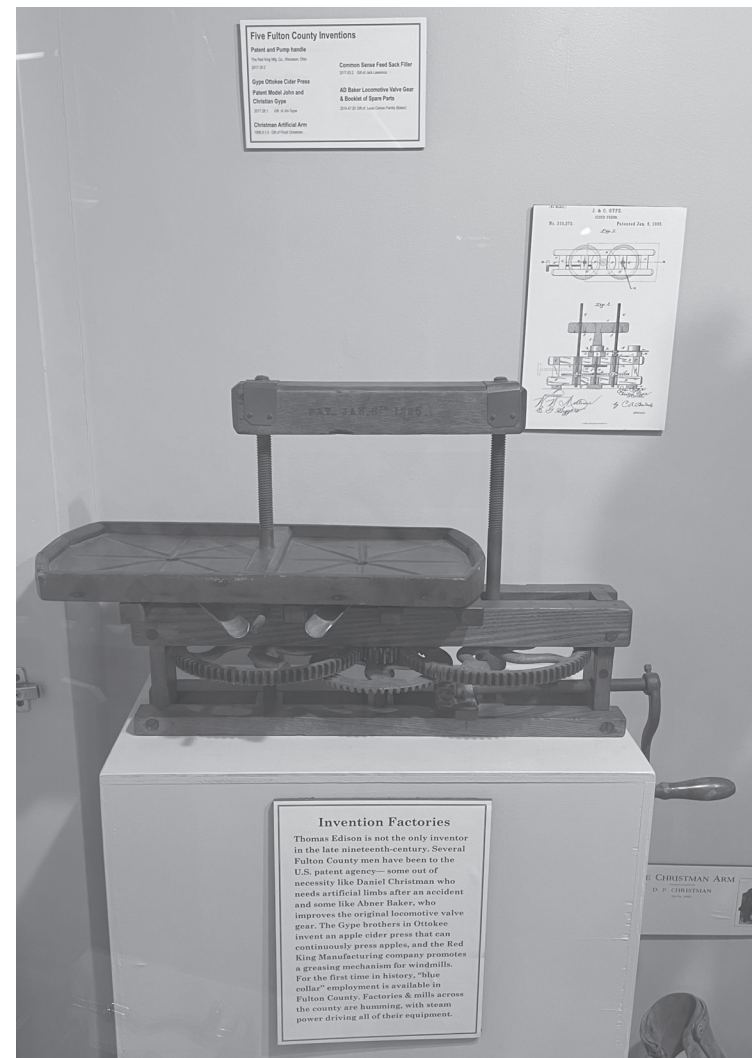
“From the time they were being mixed the smell of the yeast filled the house, and as they were rising you knew what was coming - a very special treat!”

Without those golden brown rolls those holiday meals just would not have been the same.

“Then if any were left over, one could make a sandwich, putting a Deviled Egg inside...that egg flavor mixed with the yeast roll flavor was wonderful!”

I also recall growing up how my mom would make pizza with all homemade ingredients, dough, sauce and all.

This was before Wauseon had its first pizza shop so there was nothing to com-



The Gype Cider Press

pare it to - it’s just what you liked.

My parents would make pizza sauce that would cook all day in the oven and then afterwards it was canned and we would have enough to last for the year.

That sweet Italian sauce just exploded with flavor!

I am not sure if the meat on top of the pizza was pepperoni or another similar style meat, but it was a “night in heaven” for me.

Today I still love a good pizza when I can find one and when you can’t get a good pizza - you have to make your own.

What I learned making yeast roll dough has helped me to make a great pizza crust.

It is a totally different recipe, from the Sweet Roll recipe, but the kneading and flour is critical to get a great

(Continued on Page 10)

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There's nothing better than homemade pizza.

OTTOKEE

(Continued From Page 9)

pick up slice of pizza and I've added my own little twist to the flavor.

You can start with a pasta sauce and make it your own special sauce with different spices, or you can use tomato sauce and add spices to it; either way it is better than anything you can buy.

Everyone has their own flavor and once you have tried my sauce, you will want it again.

Over the years, I have

been told that I should open a pizza shop.

These family memories have turned into family traditions that have changed my life.

I have learned through trial and error how to work with different types of doughs...over the years I have perfected my dinner rolls, which uses the same dough as the cinnamon rolls.

I've had people say "wow that's just how grandma used to make them".

I've even made bread bowls for chili.

If a person uses good yeast

and understands the amount of flour and proper kneading, you can impress anyone with your baking treats.

The Old Gleaner Hall

Located on the property there is an old Gleaner Hall that was built in 1917 and functioned through the Gleaners Fraternal Organization until the 1950's when it was purchased by the Smith/Eicher Family and over the years many special moments have happened.

I recall my mother saying that my Grandpa Dudley purchased the Hall around 1959 as a 30th anniversary gift for my Grandma Alicegean.

Now Grandpa Dudley was quite a character.

During the Depression years he drilled wells, worked on well pumps and was the local "Constable" and even carried a badge.

He ran the Cider Mill as did my dad Joe Eicher occasionally but Grandpa was the "go to" and in later years he worked at Bunting and Brass for 40 years after serving in World War II.

During the war years, while Grandpa was away, my mom told me my Grandma served as the "Constable" then.

My mom recalled one time when they were putting in a new water line from the corner well...they dug the trench by hand and one of her horses fell into the trench - what a "fiasco" that was getting the horse out.



The Eicher family: Caroline, Shelby, Joe and Aaron

Now the most recent residents of the old Grange Hall are honeybees where for 20+ years they have lived in the walls and between the floors of the old building.

"We don't bother them and they don't bother us" is the motto at our homestead; but the time has come for them to be relocated.

Instead of killing the bees, our family contacted the Maumee Valley Bee Keepers Association and they have been working to rehome the bees.

They use infrared equipment to locate where the greatest activity is in the walls in hopes of locating the queen bees.

The size of the hive is enormous - as is the sound of their buzzing within the walls.

It is not an easy task to do, but with some work the bees will thrive in a new environment.

At one time, back in the earlier days the Fulton County Extension Office hosted furniture upholstery classes at the Hall and other organizations also utilized the building off and on.

The Eicher's ultimately used the old Hall as a dance hall when the amateur folk band the "Fulton County Sand Sifters" was formed.

(Continued on Page 11)



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The Cider Mill



Shelby and Dad with a wagon of sweet corn.

OTTOKEE

(Continued From Page 10)

Shelby Eicher, Caroline's oldest son and my brother, was the fiddle player.

Grandma Alicegean played

piano in the Band, mom Caroline Eicher played mandolin, and my dad Joe Eicher played the upright bass and he also called Square Dances.

There were other family friends that filled out

the band off and on as they played every other Saturday night.

There were so many people dancing some nights that the ceiling on the lower level would noticeably bounce.

Keeping the dance hall ready to go each week was a lot of work as it was heated with wood, so there were many days spent chopping wood.

Sometimes different pickers would come in for jam sessions with the Band, and then they would take a weekend off and go to the Bluegrass Festivals - they loved music and if they weren't playing it they were listening to it!

Nobody realized at that time that Shelby would become a nationally recognized Fiddler and Musician.

Shelby

After graduation from Wauseon High School in 1978, my brother Shelby went to college in Claremore, Oklahoma for music.

After college he played in several bands until he met up with Roy Clark and began playing fiddle in his Band.

During Shelby's stint of 15 years with Roy Clark, he appeared on HeeHaw and The Grand Ole Opry, and has played music for the TV show SpongeBob SquarePants and numerous radio shows around the Tulsa, Oklahoma area.

He was inducted into the Fiddlers Hall of Fame in 2019 and in 2023 he was inducted into the Oklahoma



The Gleaner Hall

Music Hall of Fame.

Most recently Shelby made an appearance in the movie "Sarah's Oil".

You can search "Shelby Eicher Fiddle" on Facebook, Youtube and Google to see and hear his many accomplishments.

The Old Cider Mill

The third historic building on the property is the old cider mill, which was known as the "Ottokee" Cider Mill.

Today the old cider mill still sits in the back, behind the house, virtually intact

from the last day it ran 38 years ago.

The cider mill was built around 1870, and would press mashed apples to extract the juice, which could be sweetened and spiced to make cider, or be fermented into hard cider.

The mechanical press itself was invented and patented by John Gype, a farmer and carpenter near Ottokee, and his brother Christian.

He had the "press" patented on January 6, 1885 and also offered models of

(Continued on Page 12)



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Old honeycomb in the Gleaner Hall



Honey Bees

OTTOKEE (Continued From Page 11)

it for sale.

At the time, it was known as the "best custom press in the United States!"

It had a capacity of 75 to 100 barrels in ten hours work and was specially adapted for steam power, however it was later "modernized" with a 1960 Dodge slant six motor with a three speed transmission, spinning the live shaft in the second floor.

Note: (The Fulton County Historical Museum has the working model of the cider press and a model of the original Ottokee Courthouse and Grandpa Dudley's Constable badge" on display.)

Growing up I remember waking up and looking out the window to see the trucks and tractors lining the driveway and down the road waiting their turn to get their apples pressed.

My mom Caroline, also recalls how much she loved helping at the Cider Mill, helping dump the apples onto the conveyor that would carry the apples up to the grinder.

The crisp Fall air with the smell of apples was a daily enjoyment and having fresh cider with every meal was not uncommon.

I recall, there was always excitement in the air for everyone waiting to get their apples pressed!

"The farmers had worked all year for their apple harvest and finally their big day was here to get the re-



Dancin' the Night Away

wards of their labor...the taste they had waited for all year!"

"Cider season was such a great time of year".

I was actually the last person to ever run the cider mill press, 38 years ago on Halloween Day, as I was pressing apples I received a call that my first child was being born.

The press was shut down, and life took over.

Maybe one day someone can get it running again - wouldn't that be fun!!!

Below are some of our Family's Favorite Recipes we would love to share with everyone.

Hope you enjoy them as

(Continued on Page 13)

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OTTOKEE

(Continued From Page 12)

much as we do.

Noami Galbraith's Yeast Rolls

She was my Grandma's next door neighbor and they spent a lot of time together back when neighbors were family.

My mom started making these rolls for our holiday tradition.

2 cakes of yeast
1/4 cup of lukewarm water

1 cup milk
1/4 cup of butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon grated lemon

rind
2 eggs beaten (if desired)
5 cups sifted flour

Soften yeast in lukewarm water.

Scald milk unless its canned.

Add butter, sugar and salt; cool to lukewarm.

Add flour to make a thick batter.

Add yeast, eggs, and lemon rind; beat well.

Add enough flour to make a soft dough.

Turn out on lightly floured board and knead until smooth.

Place in greased bowl. Cover and let rise until

double in bulk.

When light punch down. Make rolls and let rise until double in bulk on tray.

Bake in moderate oven (375 degrees) for 25 to 30 minutes.

For coffee cake 20 mins. / for rolls 25 minutes.

*Can also use for cinnamon rolls.

Roll out your dough flat, spread with melted butter then sugar and cinnamon.

Roll it up; carefully slice it off and put in a pan to raise and bake.

Use a pretty basic powdered sugar frosting on them.

Grandma Eicher's Pizza Crust

One package of active dry yeast

One cup of warm water
3-1/2 cups of flour
1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 teaspoon salt

Mix ingredients together. Knead on floured surface for 2 minutes (but may take longer)

Punch down and cover.

Let rise for 1-1/2 hours.

Place in refrigerator until cold.

Note: Farmland News would like to thank Aaron Eicher and his family for sharing a bit of local history with this story. FN



Look what we found in the trench...



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Have Fun at the Fulton County Fair!

"Top Of Ohio" - The Fulton County Fair

What An Idea!

On a beautiful autumn day in 1857, Mr. & Mrs. Dresden Howard and their friends Mr. & Mrs. Henry Camp of Cleveland, Ohio were driving from the Howard homestead near Winameg, Ohio to Adrian, Michigan to enjoy the County Fair there.

It is told that Mr. Howard exclaimed "Why can't we have a fair; to which Mr. Camp replied that they could if they only said that they would."

It took such a hold on Mr. Howard that he resolved to start the ball rolling in Fulton County immediately.

As soon as they returned home he immediately invited their friends and neighbors to join them in organizing the Fulton County Agricultural Society.

This group would hold their first Fair the fall of 1858 on 10 acres of land that they rented east of Ottokee, Ohio from Dr. Welcome Robinson.

They immediately set about making improvements to accommodate the Fair and according to ac-



Family and friends visit at a Merchants Tent in 1949

counts there was no shortage of free labor and in no time the grounds were ready.

This first site was too small for a racetrack so some of the forms of competition were plowing and wood chopping.

The first horticultural display was the blossoms of a white tea rose as many did not understand the true concept of a county fair and exhibiting.

It was also thought that maybe perhaps another rea-

son for the lack of interest in bringing items to exhibit was due to the fact that money was lacking for premiums.

Only subscriptions to agricultural papers such as the "Farmer's Review" were offered for premiums.

The following year however, Mrs. Joe Willey saw to it that plenty of flowers were provided for the Hall.

That first fair had 4,000 attendees and was declared a success!

An 1865 Land Purchase

In 1865, 40 acres of land was purchased from Charles Hardy for \$500.00 on the "west road" (which is now known as St. Rt. 108.)

The Fair was moved to this location; it had found its permanent home, (even though as late as 1889 folks still referred to it as the "Ot-

(Continued on Page 15)



1914 Promotional Ad for the Fair



The many faces of the 2025 fair.

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Wednesday September 9th at 6pm

Sale Order:

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- Turkey
- Horse Item
- Rabbits - Fryers
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Large Animal Sale

Thursday September 10th at 9am

Sale Order:

- Hogs
- Gallon of Milk
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1948 Junior Fair Board



When infield parking was allowed

TOP OF OHIO

(Continued From Page 14)

toke Fair").

This location would accommodate crowds better and exhibits with room to grow.

The 40 acres was marshy ground with no improvement done to it and much covered in timber.

It was a daunting task but the swampy ground was

converted to a dry exhibition ground with an excellent race track - all completed in one year's time and ready for the 1866 Fair.

The initial improvements cost approximately \$1500.00 and many hours of volunteer labor as well as four yoke of oxen to fit the grounds and build the race track..

The racetrack was considered one of the best trot-

ting courses in Northwest Ohio at that time.

Guidance from the Ag Society

Over the next 30 to 40 years the Fair was guided by many original members of the Agricultural Society who founded that first Fair including Mr. Howard.

In 1873, the Northwestern Republican reported that "good order and absence of all drunken persons" were notable features of the Fair and in 1896 another article stated that "other fairs may have faster horses to speed around their racetracks but they also have more gambling and more wickedness...the old Fulton County Fair is always the same - conservative, even in its progress."

It was also stated, "it is impossible to refer in detail to all of the excellent features of the exhibits - the splendid fruit, the golden grain, the fine sheep, cattle, horses, and other animals, not omitting the excellent display of poultry and fat chickens which so entice our ministerial brethren."

In 1885 a log cabin was raised on the Fairgrounds by 84 pioneer residents.

Each pioneer brought a log which was either a buckeye, hickory, or oak.

The men built the cabin and the women brought rocks and ferns from their farms to make a "Rockery".

The Agricultural Society would hold its meeting in this cabin until 1906 - it eventually was replaced with a cement block Secretary's Building.

In 1883 the Northwestern Ohio Fair Company was formed as some individuals thought the grounds of the Agricultural Society were too distant from the railroad; could only be reached by carriage and there was

(Continued on Page 16)

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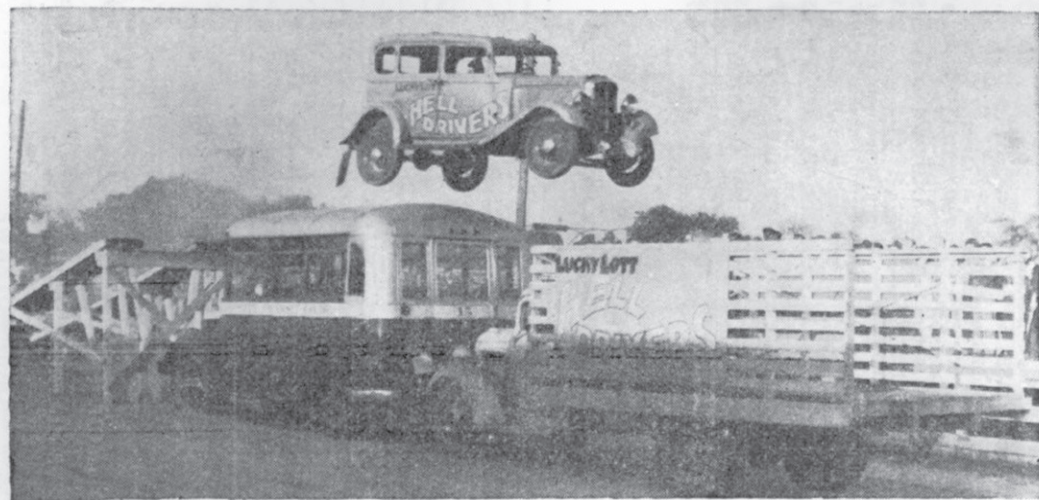
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Longtime tradition, Money Scramble in 1949

"LUCKY" LOTT THRILL SHOW TUESDAY, SEPT. 7th



A Spectacular Show in 1948

TOP OF OHIO

(Continued From Page 15)

no hotel or public house nearby.

The purpose of this organization was the same as the Agricultural Society; the grounds were within walking distance, just north of Wauseon and the trotting course was one of the best in Northwest Ohio at that time.

Meetings were held once a year for a few years but then for some unknown reason this organization went out of existence.

The Fair on "the west road" continued to grow each year and in 1894 the first grandstand was built to

support growing spectator events.

Mr. George Gasche from Pettisville was hired to construct the Grandstand.

It took 95-1/2 hours to build the Grandstand, and he was paid a total of \$1066.50, of which he paid his helpers Frank and Sam \$123.50 and \$126.25 respectively.

In 1895 the attendance was up with credit given to a new gravel road from Wauseon to the Fairgrounds.

The 20th Century

As the Fair entered the 20th Century many notable events occurred at the Fairgrounds including:

* The 1900 Fair featured a race between a horse and a new fangled contraption - the automobile.

The horse won the first heat, the car won the 2nd heat and then went on to set a state speed record in the 3rd heat.

* The 1914 Fair featured air ship flights each day by Harry Atwood.

* The 1st 4-H Club in Fulton County was founded in 1916 with roughly 50 members and Junior Fair began in 1918.

* In 1922 4-H premiums were \$2.00; in 1927 the average premium was \$2.09; in 1932 during the Great Depression it was just \$1.28.

* In 1926 the Fair was open at night for the first time and 6 years later 4 telephones were installed on the Fairgrounds.

* In 1932 Fulton County 4-H was the first in the State to judge girls' projects and the first to develop an attitude-grading system in the State of Ohio in 1935.

* The Fair was cancelled for WWI, WWII and again in 2020 due to COVID

however a youth Jr. Fair was held in 2020.

* 1936 a couple was married at the Fair.

* In the late 1920's/1930's FFA students began exhibiting at the Fair, as did the FHA students in the 1950's.

* During the early 1940's the Fair did not have a great deal of money so the Commissioners helped pay the bills. The Board that year paid \$250.00, plus half of the receipts after 5 p.m. to the "Boon County Jambo-ree" with Lula Belle and Scotty to be the main attraction that year.

* 1942 the Horticulture building burned and a new Arts and Crafts Building was built.

* 1946 lights were in-

stalled on the race track for night racing, and in 1947 it was decided to start the Fair on Labor Day in September.

* In 1948 "Lucky" Lott Hell Drivers performed the "rocket car leap" attempting to break the world's broad jump record of 169 feet, leaping over the top of a large transport truck and several automobiles; a record set by "Lucky" Lott himself.

* In 1949, games were added to the Fair and by the 1950's barn dances and circus acts were replaced with Grand Ole Opry Shows.

* In 1950 a new grandstand was built to replace the 1894 grandstand and

(Continued on Page 17)



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Food Stands are important at the fair.

TOP OF OHIO

(Continued From Page 16)

to host larger crowds for entertainment and harness racing.

Wood from the old grandstand was used to build a small show arena and a racehorse barn. Ed Green even crafted a rocking chair as a gift for Alan and Virginia Schaffer - nothing was wasted but was recycled.

The 1950 grandstand was constructed of concrete with reinforced steel and at that time seated 3,794 individuals.

*In 1957 the Fair celebrated it's 100th anniversary and was named the "Best County Fair in the State."

The Fair staged a histori-

cal pageant featuring Native American dancers and held a mustache and beard contest that was very popular.

It was also the first Fair to include a Saturday and Sunday.

The Aetna Grange started serving barbecued chicken in a tent at the Fair, selling 2,403 chicken halves; and in 2006 sold nearly 4,500 chicken dinners.

* Camping started at the Fair in 1964 and it was suggested to install showers for the concessionaires.

*In 1965 the Clark Helicopter Service dropped plastic snowballs over the towns in Fulton County on opening day of the Fair. Anyone who found a snowball received free admission to the Fair; in 1966 they



The Harmon Family in 1917 prepares for the Fulton County Fair: L-R: Glen Harmon, Chalmer Harmon, Harry Harmon, James Harmon and J.B. (Burt) Harmon

switched to wooden nickels.

*In 1968 the Fulton County Pork Producers began serving up their mouthwatering specialties in a newly constructed pole building.

*In 1972 the Fulton County Dairy Association began selling it's trademark milkshakes; and the Fulton County Cattle Feeders started selling burgers in 1994. (In 1997 all three groups erected a food pavilion to provide a shaded place to sit and eat.)

*In 1972 the weekly attendance crossed the 100,000 mark and 1973 seen the last of the outdoor privies replaced with modern facilities.

*In 1974, The Fredricks Motor State Show Rides, that had operated the Fair's midway rides for many years, donated 2 Roman-plated Merry-go-round horses in memory of Joe Fredricks to be hung under the Grandstand.

* Big name entertainment was featured for the first time in 1977 when Lynn Anderson was booked.

It was the biggest name ever to perform at the Fair, and the concert was a success with more big name entertainers to follow.

* In 2007 the Fair had expanded to nearly a total of 200 acres - balancing modern amusements with core agricultural livestock and home making exhibits.

*In 2011 a 3600 lb. Steel I-beam from the World Trade Center - Ground Zero was installed at Fulton

County's 9/11 Memorial at the Fairgrounds.

* 2025 the Fair set an all time record drawing 340,193 visitors - and is Ohio's 2nd largest County Fair.

* Another interesting tidbit...at the 2025 fair, Fulton County Cattleman Association sold 18,000 beef burgers - Pork Producers sold 26,340 pork sandwiches and Dairy Producers sold 34,453 milkshakes.

Memories

Some further memories of those early years of attending the Fair include:

Sideshows, games, fun-houses, rides and food stands.

Animal acts with tigers, apes, and parrots. Trapeze artists and high-wire acts

between the horse races and sometimes fireworks at night to enjoy, and eating ice cream bars and Eskimo pies.

Before automobiles, families traveled by horse and buggy to the Fair and meals were out of picnic baskets. Admission for kids was free and rides cost a nickel.

The Fair also used to hold a greased pig scramble with the winners taking a very greasy pig home from the Fair with them.

Some Fair attractions during the 1940's and 1950's included "Hayes, Higgins, and O'Day", "The Flying Melzoras", "Clown with a Wooden Leg", and "Three Atomic Bombs - a

(Continued on Page 18)



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TOP OF OHIO

(Continued From Page 17)

comedy trio”.

During Fair week in the 1940's kids would scour the grounds for pop bottles, which were glass to be returned to the Sterling Milk Company stand.

Parking was a problem so the center of the racetrack became a parking lot, and neighbors to the Fairgrounds also parked cars in their yards or fields for a dime.

(Also in the 1940's a group of German POW's stayed overnight on the Fairgrounds while they were enroute to their permanent camp and occasionally a caravan of gypsies would camp on the Fairgrounds, until the Sheriff would escort them to the County line.)



Dreams Can Come True

From those first humble beginnings back in 1858, the dream of a man and his vision for a county fair to be enjoyed by all.....to a county fair now in 2026 celebrating 168 years, “what would Mr. Howard think of his County Fair now - a showplace among Fairs in Ohio”.

Come on out and enjoy the Fulton County Fair this year from September 4 thru September 10, 2026. Hope to see you there!!!

Note: Thank you to the Fulton County Fair Board, Fulton County Historical Society and the Archbold Community Library. FN



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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 7:00 P.M. SHARP!

AUCTION LOCATION: The LEIPSIC ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER
@ 320 State St. LEIPSIC, OH 45856 ~ "WATCH FOR AUCTION TODAY SIGNS"

VERY GOOD PRODUCTIVE FARM
110.3+/- ACRES FARMLAND
Section 10 * Liberty Twp. * Putnam County, OH
Frontage on ST. RT. 109 North of Leipsic Ohio

PARCEL #1: 110.3+/- Acres in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 except the East Part in Section 10 of Liberty Twp., Putnam County, Ohio w/Mostly Hoytville Silty Clay Loam, Mermill, Haskins & Millgrove Soils, Access from St. Rt. 109, Family Keeping CRP Acres, FSA Info Available, Real Estate Taxes \$2,050.00 per 1/2 Year, Leipsic Schools.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 5% Deposit Down Auction Day w/Balance Due in 30 Days, No More than 45 Days from Auction. Deposit May Be Cash, Personal or Business Check. Property Sold AS-IS Per Buyers Own Inspections. Not Conditioned Upon Financing, Possession after Harvest of 2026 Crops, Seller to Keep 2026 Farm Incomes.

Owners: Mariana Rigel & Daniel Rigel
Jill Leopold, Attorney for Sellers

Contact:

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Bi-Monthly Auction ~ 2nd Tuesday!

Yoder & Frey, Inc.

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Machinery Auction
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www.yoderandfreyfarm.com

E-mail: sales@yoderandfreyfarm.com

HAY & STRAW AUCTION EVERY MONDAY AT NOON

AUCTION ACTION

LIVE PUBLIC AUCTION

202 Acres Fulton County Farmland

Friday, September 18, 2026 - 10:00a.m.

AUCTION LOCATION:

Ruihley Park Pavilion, W. Holland St., Archbold.

Note: Five tracts of prime farmland, located north of Archbold in Sections 3 & 34 Franklin Twp, Fulton Co. No homes or buildings are located on any of the parcels. To be offered by the multi-parcel method, which allows bidders to bid on one parcel, or any combination of parcels they desire, at any time during the bidding process. Call or email for buyer's info packet.

TRACT #1: Approx. 30 acres with frontage on Co. Rd. J & 21-2. Soil types are primarily Del Rey and is mostly tillable.

TRACT #2: Approx. 25.1 acres on the SE corner of Co. Rd. J & 22 with frontage on both roads. Soil types are primarily Lenawee. Mostly tillable.

TRACT #3: Approx. 86.2 acres between Tracts #2 & #4 with frontage on Co. Rd. 22. Soils are varied with Lenawee, Del Rey, Kibbie, Colwood and Latty. Mostly tillable but with a small woods of approx. 3 acres at the SE corner of the Tract.

TRACT #4: Approx. 24.3 acres farmland directly north of the turnpike and south of Tract #3, fronting on Co. Rd. 22. A ditch borders the tract to the north. Primarily Kibbie and Fulton with some Colwood soils. Mostly tillable.

TRACT #5: Approx. 36.5 acres at NE corner of Fulton Co. Rd 22 & H just south of the turnpike. Soil types are primarily Lenawee and Colwood with some Kibbie and Fulton. Mostly tillable.

TERMS: \$10,000 per tract non-refundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing within 45 days. Sold subject to seller's immediate confirmation. No buyer contingencies.

Sellers:

**Samuel Lauber Trust
Michele Green, Trustee**



Frey & Sons



**Kevin G. Frey, Broker & Auctioneer
Archbold, OH 43502**

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☐ 1 Week - \$7.50
15 words or less

☐ 2 Weeks - \$12.00
15 words or less

☐ 3 Weeks - \$16.50
15 words or less

☐ 4 Weeks - \$21.00
15 words or less

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SIGNATURE: _____

PHONE #: _____



TYPE OF AD (check appropriate box):

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| ☐ Antiques | ☐ Hay/Straw | ☐ Miscellaneous | ☐ Recreational |
| ☐ Auto Services | ☐ Help Wanted | ☐ Misc. For Sale | ☐ Seed |
| ☐ Cars/Trucks | ☐ Horse/Pony | ☐ Mobile Homes | ☐ Services |
| ☐ Farm Equip | ☐ Irrigation | ☐ Pets | ☐ Special Notices |
| ☐ For Rent | ☐ Livestock | ☐ Produce | ☐ Wanted |
| ☐ Garage Sale | ☐ Livestock Equip. | ☐ Real Estate | |

Write entire ad, including phone number, on lines below.

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