

# FROELICH FOUNDATION

## 2012 NEWSLETTER

### “Friends of Froelich”

#### *Dear Friends of Froelich Members:*

*We haven't forgotten you! After Denny Eilers' sudden passing in 2011 we've been trying to follow up and fill in on all that he did here at Froelich. He was a great man with an immense talent to take care of the finer details. One such detail is that of our newsletter.*

*Our Froelich Foundation Board of Directors are a great group of eleven individuals. They cannot ever truly fill Denny's shoes, however they've worked really hard to take up where he left off mid-stream during the planning of "Fall-Der-All". 2011 "Fall-Der-All" was held as everyone pulled together and made it happen!*

#### WE WELCOME A NEW COORDINATOR 2012

Denise Schutte, Monona was hired as our new coordinator June 1, 2012. Denise states, "I began this new job realizing I had many things to learn. I started learning about the awesome history of the 1890's Village of Froelich and the most important significance being that John Froelich invented the very first gasoline powered tractor that propelled itself both forward and backward in 1892. Then I began giving tours to our guests that come from throughout the United States. Our guests are a delight and I enjoy sharing the history of our Museum site with them. I'm also covering the correspondence of emails, phone messages, setting up scheduling of tours, preparations for special events throughout the year including "Fall-Der-All", and scheduling of our "Barn Reception Hall". I've also gotten all our financial records for 2012 put into the accounting program provided. Then I'm working on multi grant applications. I continue to work during the winter months on many tasks that need attention." The Froelich Foundation welcomes Denise Schutte.

#### WILLA HELWIG ESTATE DONATION

**May 2012 the Willa Helwig Estate donated \$325,749.85 to the Froelich Foundation. The Froelich Board of Directors chose to place \$200,000. Into the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque "Endowment Fund". This allows growth of the money to increase and perpetuate income for the Museum ongoing into the future. The other portion of this Helwig donation was invested at some local banks. Then in 2013 a share of that locally invested money will be placed into a type of mutual fund.**



The picture above shows the Froelich Windmill. It was taken down to be repainted by Ken David. It was decided to reset it in a new home up on the hill of Froelich for more tourists to see as they pass by. This photo was taken by Patricia Connor. The windmill is surrounded by a lineup of the John Deere greens, most of those belonging to Board Member Gary Moritz. This is "Fall-Der-All" 2012.



SPECIAL EVENTS OF 2012  
 Hard Surface Tractor Pull  
 Museum Tours <-> Barn  
 Receptions  
 "Fall-Der-All"  
 TRACTOR PULL

June 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Tractor Pull. It was a nice day with many tractor enthusiasts attending!  
 We are planning to host our next "Hard Surface Tractor Pull" Saturday, June 15, 2013.

MUSEUM TOURS & GUIDES

June : Bus Tour by Michael Zahs' group of 20 graduate students from Ainsworth, called "Iowa: Eye to I". Roger Swanson volunteered to help Denise that day.

September: Bus Tour by Kathy Krupa's group of 30 people from the Denver Bank from Denver, Iowa.

The Froelich Museum was toured by 574 adult guests and 33 children from throughout the United States.

Our Guides for the 2012 Tour Season were: Denise Schutte, Glenda Bodensteiner, Tammy Reynolds and Nadine West.

"STEFFENADO'S MYSTERY RUN VI"

Another special event occurred September 2<sup>nd</sup>. A group of over 35 people came riding into Froelich in their old vintage cars and some on their motorcycles. This created a newsworthy event covered by some of the local newspapers. Thirty-five of them toured our museum site before they headed off to their next destination.

PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

One of the most notable projects completed was the General Store basement of the Museum. Our Board worked hard to clean out the basement, then a crew came in coating the walls with a cement application to prevent moisture from coming in as it had in the past. Then another group came in to tuck point the exterior walls of the basement foundation. Others: new windows in the basement, painted front of store, painted two rooms in the 1920's Warehouse, fix walkway to the John Froelich Monument, improve stairway in the 1903 Barn, and other necessary maintenance and improvements done.



Kelby Moose & Cory Donlon pressing apples for cider



1967 John Deere 110H donated and restored by Albert and John Matt. Taken during "Fall-Der-All" 2012

# “FALL-DER-ALL”

## September 29 & 30

### 2012

The festivities began on Saturday with a “Hard Surface Tractor Pull” starting at 11 AM. We had a great crowd of those participating in the pull and those viewing the excitement.

The Old Fashioned Barn Dance was held in the restored 1903 Barn/Reception Hall. This began with Square Dancing then followed by “Lil Dale & the Legends” that evening.

On Saturday our menu included: pork loin sandwiches, turkey dressing sandwiches, icecream, homemade pies, and many other delicious foods.

On Sunday the first annual “Pancakes & Sausage Breakfast” started at 8 AM. Wagon Rides were provided by Clip Clop Wagon Rides.

Peddle Pull Tractors began at 1PM. The little ones and their parents enjoyed this fun. Trophies and awards were given out.

Dedications were held for the families of Denny Eilers and Don Sass. Special memorials were presented to both families. Denny and Don were two men that volunteered many hours of the time to the Froelich Foundation. They realized the need to perpetuate the history of John Froelich’s invention of the very first gasoline powered tractor as it became a significant part of the history of farming as we know it today.

Our Annual “Fall-Der-All” Raffle was held. We had many wonderful businesses and individuals that donated raffle items to Froelich. We sold many raffle tickets creating additional income to help run our museum site. Fun announcing the winners!

During both days of “Fall-Der-All” many demonstrations of days long ago were shared by **many wonderful volunteers!** The demonstrations were: blacksmithing, rope making, small bale making, stationery engines, pressing apples for cider, old time knitting machine, old saw milling lumber, threshing oats, among others. Fun for the kids included Barrel rides, Little Oil Pull rides, the Peddle Pull, and viewing Jim Cowell’s display of the small scale Semi collection. Other folks shared their stationery engines, a craft show and flea market.

We also had many visitors tour our museum while they attended these festivities.

**We greatly appreciate all our many wonderful volunteers during this weekend and all throughout our tour season!!!!!!!**



The Don Sass Family gather for the dedication of the memorial bench and plaque on September 30, 2012.



Denny Eilers Memorial dedicated on September 30, 2012. Denny’s sons shown on each side of the Memorial David and his wife Brianne Eilers on the left and Jon Eilers on the right. The pictures framed on this display were taken by Denny Eilers. This memorial is on display in the 1903 Barn that is used for receptions and dances.

2012 Board of Directors  
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