



# Friends of Froelich



## Exciting Events Lined Up For 2007

### Volunteers

#### Welcome at Froelich

Much of the work that gets done at Froelich is in the spirit of volunteerism.

Recently, we organized a large Saturday clean-up with more than 15 volunteers cutting brush and polishing up the exhibits. Another group sowed grass seed around the barn and third helped install the ramp entrance to the hayloft.

Another big need is tour guides to present the Froelich Story to visitors.

If you'd like to volunteer this summer, just call Diane Malcom at 563-536-2841 and let her know what you'd like to help with and the days you're available.

And thanks to all from the board who have helped so generously in the past!

#### Summer Hours: 11- 5 Six Days a Week

Jot this down.

Summer hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. We're closed on Wednesdays. And from Sept. 5 to 30 we're open on weekends only.

There's a lot to see at Froelich—if you have out of town visitors this summer, bring them by for a great afternoon of enjoyment with a visit to a historic rural Iowa 1890's Village.

The Froelich Museum and grounds are all spruced up and ready for another summer of welcoming visitors to a historic 1890 rural village, and the birthplace of John Froelich's gasoline powered tractor, which led to the modern farm tractor for today's agriculture.

"Official opening of the Froelich Museum will be on Memorial Day," reports Diane Malcom, museum curator, board secretary and foundation director. "We're always excited about getting into the summer swing and welcoming tourists."

While Memorial Day is the official opening, the site has already attracted more than 130 students. On May 11 it became a history classroom for MFLMarMac second and sixth graders, sixth graders visited from 10 to noon and second graders from 1 to 3 p.m.

Three touring stations were set up - the general store, the one-room schoolhouse and the train depot -classrooms in the field!

Volunteer tour guides for the day included Larry Cox, train depot expert and former Froelich Foundation president; Diane Malcom, general store; and Roger Swanson, one room school. Roger is a founding member of the Froelich Foundation and former MFL school teacher. New Board member Denny Eilers substituted for Larry at the depot station in the after-

noon so Larry could make his school-bus run.

Another highlight was Don Sass volunteering his time and rope-making tools for demonstrations. Many students got a chance to make rope the "old fashioned" way from baling twine.

In addition to regular tourists and visitors, tractor and car clubs often stop by. An Open House is planned when the barn basement work has been completed. At press time we received word that another large Tractorcade is making plans to stop at Froelich.

And, of course, there's Fall der All, scheduled for the last week in September. It promises to be another hay-day as plans include rural village exhibits and a special run of a vintage "Threshers Day".



Froelich became a classroom in the field on May 11 as second and sixth graders took in the history of the Froelich Tractor, general store, one-room school and railroad depot. Here Larry Cox explains the depot story to MFLMarMac sixth graders.



## Work Underway on Donated Dettmann Dairy Barn

The big news this spring is work on our new barn.

As most of you know, the large white dairy barn now residing proudly at Froelich was moved last summer with great fanfare -- and three miles of blocked traffic -- down U.S. Highways 18 and 52 to its new home.

The barn is a donation from Froelich Foundation members Joyce and Julius Dettmann, of Monona, and the Foundation has big plans for it – including expanding the tractor and farm display area as well as having room to view our historic films, office space and modern restroom facilities.

“The big task this spring,” says Ivan Meisner, vice president and board member, “is to complete work in the basement area.

“We’ll be putting in the windows, doors, overhead doors, and the finished restrooms,” Meisner outlined at a recent board meeting. “Also, a viewing room and office space.”

Meisner reported that materials were “speced” and ordered in mid-May and a carpenter is lined up to start as soon as materials are delivered.

Meisner, who is coordinating this key step of the construction, says work should be completed in June, and ready for most of the summer tourist season. At its May meeting the board approved plans for purchasing materials from UBC in Elkader and hiring local carpenter Stan Klutzbach.

After moving the barn last summer a new foundation was added along with pouring a concrete floor in the basement. Earlier this spring volunteers sowed new grass seed in the bare areas around the barn, plus a ramp of heavy planks, also coordinated by Meisner, was added for entry into the hayloft area on the west side.



This spring doors, windows, a viewing room, office and restrooms are being added to the downstairs farm display area.

## New Grant Helps Barn Renovation



Froelich Foundation representatives accept a \$10,000 grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation (UMGC). From left are Ivan Meisner and Alan Feldman, board members, Todd Kann of the UMGC, and Diane Malcom, foundation director. Photo courtesy of Monona Outlook

May was a great month for the Froelich Foundation. The foundation was awarded another grant by the Upper Mississippi Gaming Commission (UMGC) at a ceremony in Marquette.

The grant, for \$10,000, will be put to good use in further developing the donated Dettmann barn as a display attraction.

The UMGC based their decision on a number of factors, including the educational value and tourist interest in the Froelich Museum and its growing collection of historic attractions.

Accepting the check on behalf of the Froelich Foundation were board members Ivan Meisner, Alan Feldman, board members, and Diane Malcom, board secretary and foundation director. Diane also prepared the grant request on behalf of the foundation.

This is the second UMGC grant received by the foundation. The first, for \$23,000 in 2006, created funds for moving the 1904 dairy barn to Froelich and constructing a new foundation and floor.



## The Windmill Story

### Presenting feature articles on Froelich's Past

Pumping water for stock and household use from a deep well is hard work. Most of the wells in Giard Township had to be drilled deep to get a good supply of water. When windmills became available to furnish the power for lifting the water to the surface, they were in great demand.

#### Cistern Built Nearby

After the original cost of erecting the windmill, only occasional oiling of the mechanism was necessary, and the only expense.

When the wind blew, the big wheel turned and operated the water pump. A cistern was built nearby and the water piped into it. Thus, on calm windless days, there would still be an available supply of water. The windmill became a well known feature of the rural landscape. Every farm had one. The first towers were made of a wooden framework. They were 20-30 feet and higher to more readily catch the lighter winds.

During the 1880's and '90s, the windmill agents had a big business. We read reports of nine Aermotor mills being sold by Ed Froelich in 1894, in a short period.

Again, we read "Henry Wahls, Thos. Co-deck, and Fred Penneck all bought windmills in one week's time.

Clint Stearns worked for Froelich for several years, erecting windmills. In 1894, he and Froelich got into a disagreement over \$2.59 and Stearns quit and went to logging.

#### Tallest Tower

John Hartwick's windmill, erected in 1893, had the highest tower in Giard Township at that time. Later, Frank Jones bought a 12-foot wheel and 50-foot tower with a special pump for this deep 275-foot well.

William Helwig and Will Schellhammer put up an Aermotor mill for Mr. Thomas, it was reported. Ed Froelich sold windmills as far away as Castalia, Iowa. Bert Gorrell became an agent for windmills in 1899.

It is believed that the Froelich windmill was built in 1880 to furnish water for the creamery. Subsequent buildings and property deed ex-

changes included rights to the water from the well. This included a 333-foot 3-inch pipeline to the stock yard (located behind the present site of Burlingame's General Store in 1923.) Water cost for the year was \$8.00.

Water from the windmill also went to an east cistern north of the stock yards for use in the store. Reuben Tayek remembers having to clean it out yearly through 1930. The east cistern held soft water.

*(Compiled from historic records and newspaper reports.)*



Current windmill at Froelich.

**NEWS FROM THE  
FROELICH FOUNDATION**

**Froelich Foundation  
Board Members**

Frank McMillin, President  
McGregor, Iowa

Ivan Meisner, vice President  
Farmersburg, Iowa

Alan Feldman, Treasurer  
Farmersburg, Iowa

Deidre Vick-Froehlich, Board Member  
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John Schilling, Board Member  
Colesburg, Iowa

Gary Moritz, Board Member  
Monona, Iowa

Dennis Eilers, Board Member  
Luana, Iowa

Diane Malcom, Board Secretary and  
Foundation Director

**Got a question?**

Call us at:  
563-536-2841

E-mail us at:  
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**Visit Our Web Site!**

[www.froelichtractor.com](http://www.froelichtractor.com)

Mail us at:

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McGregor, Iowa 52157

*If you have Feedback on our  
newsletter, send us your thoughts or  
story ideas.*

***Message from the President...***

We're excited about the upcoming summer tourist season for the Froelich attractions and are also excited about continuing the work on our new barn. Once again we thank Joyce and Julius Dettmann for donating the barn, and everyone had a great time on "moving day" last summer when we hauled it to a new home.

That day will be remembered for a long time.

As you can see by our story on page 2, we're making good progress on the barn, with another big step being taken this month to get it "ship-shape" for summer visitors. The downstairs will have modern restrooms – which is a must when tour buses stop by. Also, the viewing rooms will be open and moving the Froelich Tractor Display will provide more space in Burlingame's General Store.



Members for life—Frank and grandson, Aedan.

One of the great things about Froelich: it's a lot more than the place where John Froelich invented the first gasoline tractor. With general store, country school, blacksmith shop, depot and other attractions, it's a re-created 1890 historic village.

Froelich captures that period in time when we transitioned from a new nation of pioneers to the Iowa we now enjoy. Many members of the Froelich Foundation believe that what we have is truly a rural treasure.

As you know, our maintenance work and new displays are powered by your timely annual dues and generous donations. I ask to please keep them coming and promise that your board will work hard to make the Froelich attractions better and better.



One of the main attractions at Froelich is Burlingame's General Store, a step back in time to an 1890's rural village center, complete with authentic merchandise of that era on display.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for improvements, please contact us. Thank you again for your continued support, and we look forward to your next visit to Tractor Town.

**Frank McMillin,  
President**

**The Froelich Foundation**