



# Prairie Mill News

## Mystery Dinner Theatre—October 24

### “Murder At the Deadwood Saloon”

As the festivities of a poker tournament conclude, a celebration party is planned at the saloon. With a smattering of bandits, bankers, saloon girls, sheriffs, gamblers, east coast debutantes, and of course a few of the locals, murder and mystery provide an interesting evening indeed.

Prairie Mills Windmill

Golden Illinois

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Wine tasting by Baxter Winery of Nauvoo at 5:30 p.m.

Mystery starts at 7:00 p.m.

Ribeye Steak Dinner

\$18.00 per person

Reservations required—Call (217) 938-4305

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### Upcoming Events:

- Oct 10 Golden High Alumni Dinner
- Oct 17 Good Shepherd Home Soup Supper Event
- Oct 24 Mystery Dinner Theatre
- Nov 14 Mike Gooding Benefit
- Dec 5 Christmas at the Mill

## A Word from your Society President

The 2009 season of hosting tours is drawing to a close. We've enjoyed visiting with people from as far away as Germany as well as many visitors throughout the U.S. A. On October 9 we will be hosting our 3rd group from Germany.

One gentleman earlier in the year from Germany helped with translation of some old Harm Franzen to H.H. Emminga while Mr. Emminga was back in Germany. We have included one of these letters further in this edition.

Thank you, Volunteers, for your time in 2009. We would not be able to open our doors to the public if not for you. We look forward to working with you again next year and if you know of someone who would like to help, please let us know.

## Windmill Repairs & Upgrade



### Sprattle Beam

The sprattle beam (beam in the middle of the cap) has been fabricated by Awerkamp Machine of Quincy. Greg Frese has painted the new beam to match the existing beams. The new beam will be installed in the Spring 2010.

### New Cooler for Kitchen

A new cooler in on order to replace the “less than energy efficient” existing cooler. We should see a significant change in electrical use. (hopefully)

### Windows

One of the windows in the hallway between the museum and hall has been replaced. The seal had broken and the window was foggy.

### Gutters

New gutters were installed on the banquet hall.

### Electrical/Culverts

Electrical service has been installed in the back of the hall near the storage shed and back lot. We can now make use of this grassy area for events as

we did for Heritage Days.

New culverts were installed and covered with gravel to allow vehicle access to the lot.

### Future Upgrades

New curtains for the stage area of the Follies are needed prior to our next event in late March. Curtains/shades/blinds are in need of upgrading also for the windows in the banquet hall.

The Board is also checking on new flooring for the banquet hall, either painting, refurbishing or carpeting.

## DO YOU KNOW why the Emminga Bank Building was not built square?

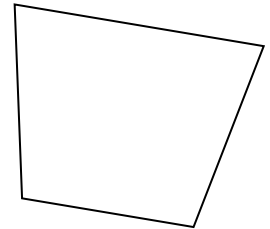
It has been brought to our attention that the Emminga Bank building is not square.

Many pages read and turned but no light has been shed so far explaining why it is shaped

similar to a trapezoid.

We are perplexed but will continue to look for the answer.

If any of our readers out there know why, do let us know.



Why was the Emminga Bank Building not built square?

## TYPES OF WINDMILLS



**Post mills**, top heavy unit with sails that revolved around a single post at its base.

**Tower windmills** are familiar to anyone visiting Holland. They consist of a large tower constructed of wood, brick or stone and

topped by a timber or thatched roof. Only the cap with the sails revolved.

The “**Smock**” mill was named according to tradition because it resembled a person wearing a smock. An alternative to the tower mill, it was usually framed

in wood and covered with boards in an octagonal design which gave the appearance of a giant figure wearing a smock or dress. Our Prairie Mill windmill is a “smock” mill.



## LETTER TRANSLATION by Andreas Altemueller

To  
Harm H. Emminga Wisemer Mill  
P.O. Aurich Province Hannover  
Kingdom of PrussiaEurope  
Koekuck Junction, May 30<sup>th</sup> 1869

Dear cousin and relatives,

One more time I am trying to write to you and to convey how we are doing here. We are all well and healthy. The weather is once again relatively nice today after having a lot of terrible thunder storms lately. In the last several days, all of our windows were damaged twice, some roofs of houses and stables were ripped off and displaced. The house of Gerd Post was dislocated by the storm and destroyed completely, except for one window. Only a few parts could be salvaged. It was a block-house. One of the beams flew more than a mile into a nearby meadow. The staircase and bathroom (toilette?) were ripped out through the

roof and were dislocated by about 75 steps. Everybody was at home at the time, but nobody suffered any injuries. We also had stored grain in bins, covered with planks at "Poppe Huels", that were broken and scattered by about 600 steps from "Ibes". The entire storm was nothing but swirls which one could see even from far away going into all directions. There was a load roar. The day before we had heavy hail and many streets and fields were rendered very wet or flooded.

Most of the grain has been planted and many others (farmers) are done, but we are not done. We still have 7 acres to plow and plant. The first planting almost always does not do so well, since it is still somewhat cold for wheat, the same goes for barley. Oats are doing well, rye was bad, winter wheat was even worse. We don't have either.

The letter which you had attached to uncle Jann Franzen's letter, was lost. Jann Jochen and Walter went to the post office immediately. Walter received the letter and put it into his pocket together with some newspapers. He most certainly

lost it when he pulled these things out of his pocket. I was upset, since you certainly worked diligently on it - as always. But we read uncle Jann's letter and also the greetings intended for me. We also saw the note inside of the envelope - as always. This is as good as a letter from you. You are writing: you want to send the books by mail if they are not too heavy. This is alright with me. You are also writing about the hand-organ (editor: recorder) to be send with U. Albers' mother in law and the rest of the things. This is ok, since a year more or less will not matter. Granddad is getting weaker and weaker. Uncle Jann Flesner's wife, which is my aunt Rita Flesner, died about three weeks ago. She had Pneumonia. Also, Tonsman's wife died of the same disease. And Karl Tenhaeff's wife and the old grandpa Garrelt died, too. Nicklaus' father in law.

I don't have anything else to write for this time.

Me, your far away cousin, Harm Franzen.

## New Membership Guideline Proposal Highlights

1. Membership year will run from January 1 through December 31 annually.

2. Two types of memberships: Individual and family

Individual: \$25.00

Family: \$40.00 (2 parents and children 18 years or younger)

3. Annual membership shall entitle members to receive certain defined benefits

A. Museum/Mill tours

B. 10% discount on gift shop items (cannot be combined with any other sale prices or discounts)

C. \$1 discount on Members dinners for Follies, Mystery Dinner Theatres and Heritage Days.

Discount will only apply to full price meals. Excludes food stand or other ala carte purchases.

D. Discount on Hall rental. Limited to 1 rental per year.

This is merely a proposal. The actual policy will be voted on at the October meeting.

## Christmas At The Mill—2009

Christmas at the Mill 2009 is coming soon! **December 5!** Santa will be there. Christmas Tree decorating by students will be featured again this year as well as vendors. New this year a community tree of Christmas Past will be added. Pictures of Golden area families celebrating Christmas taken prior to 1990 are **needed by November 1**. Names of people and date taken should included on the back. Photos copies are requested as these will be laminated. Pictures can also be of farms, homes, snow scenes, horses, etc. Prizes awarded. Send photos to Cheryl O'Halloran, 8726 State Street Quincy IL 62305 or by email to drwaterworks@adams.net. For more info contact Joan Tenhouse, joanrt@adams.net House Tours will also be featured again this year.



902 Prairie Mills Road  
Golden Illinois 62339

Phone: 217-696-2722

Open Saturdays & Sundays  
May thru October 1-4 pm  
Or by appointment

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We're on the web !  
[www.goldenwindmill.org](http://www.goldenwindmill.org)

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Formed in 1986, the Golden Historical Society is a group of volunteers dedicated to restoring and preserving the Prairie Mills Windmill. Our mission is “to secure the necessary funding and build the necessary community support which will enable Golden to achieve its goal of restoring the Windmill to functioning capacity. We will create a viable tourism environment which will sustain the Windmill and related businesses in the surrounding area