



Prairie Mill News

2014



Inside this issue:

A Bit of History	3
Annual Meeting	1
Do You Know Your Plattdeutsch?	2
Membership Dues Reminder	2
Storytelling	2
Upcoming Events at the	1
Windmill Follies 2014	1

2014 FOLLIES PRESENTATION

The second chapter in the lives of those hilarious “Golden Gals” is being staged for your enjoyment. The performances for 2014 are limited with only 4 presentations this year. Performance dates are April 4, 5, 11 and 12, 2014

During scenery and costume changes one of our actors will be asking trivia questions pertaining to “The Golden Gals”. A number of prizes will be awarded at each performance. A Grand prize and a Second Place prize will be awarded at the last performance April 12th which will be selected from all winners. You do not need to be present to win.

Doors open at 5:45 pm with dinner served at 6:30 pm prior to the play. Dessert will be served at intermission.

Prepaid reservations are required. Call Robin Ideus at (217) 696-2467 to reserve your spot.

Upcoming Events 2014

- **Follies: April 4, 5, 11 & 12**
- **Opening Day 2014: May 3th**
- **Sweet Corn Dinner: July 20**
- **Mystery Dinner: August 23**
- **Oktoberfest: October 28**
- **Christmas at the Mill: Dec 6th**

Prairie Mills News is a publication of The Golden Historical Society

Editors

Roger & Diana Flesner with contributions from our Members & Friends

For additional info about the Society send emails to dflesner@adams.net Or by USPS to GHS @ P O Box 148 Or, 902 Prairie Mills Road Golden IL 62339

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014

7 o'clock p.m.

Golden Windmill Facilities Banquet Hall

Doors open 6:15 p.m.

Speaker: TBA

Refreshments prior and after meeting

Four Directors will be elected during the meeting

A Directors' Meeting follows the conclusion of the Annual Meeting

BECOME A PART OF HISTORY—SHARE YOUR STORY



While on a recent trip to Tennessee we stopped at a McDonald’s restaurant for lunch. At a large table nearby sat a group of 8 men. I could see them directly but my wife had her back to them. One man began telling a tale about a “Big Orange belly washer”. Now being from Tennessee I had no idea what a belly washer was. My wife said it was a large size soda pop in a bottle and in this case it was orange flavored and what most people in the South called Nehi Orange Soda. As the story progressed and because I was in their line of sight, I did not want them to know I was listening or see me laughing. But try as we might we were both shaking with laughter. The gentlemen continued with several other stories and we found it very difficult to leave this fine entertainment.

Since returning to Golden in 2005, we have had opportunities to listen to many of your stories, both historical and entertaining. We should try to preserve them by either handwritten or typed.

Storytelling is becoming a lost art. Everyone has a story to share. Let’s hear yours!

You may send by email or USPS to Roger Flesner
email: dflesner@adams.net or Box 52, Golden, IL 62339.

Be a voice of history. Share your story and become a part of “living history”.



Time for Membership Dues

It’s that time of year again. Renew your membership using the enclosed form. Your support is always greatly appreciated. Membership runs from January thru December of each year.

Individual Membership: \$25.00 Family Membership: \$40.00

Membership Rewards Include: Discount on Gift Shop purchases, Select Windmill Dinners & Discount on Hall Rental

Be sure to indicate on the form which areas you would be available to volunteer a few hours a month.



Thank You!
A special “thank you” to
Emily Feel
For
Securing Volunteers for
our May-October seasons

Plattdeutsch: Want to learn a little of the language some of the first settlers used when they came to the Golden area? Try some of the following. Spelling is in English sounds.

R r: trill tongue g g: grate your palate underlined: say slowly Letters spread: say slowly

1. Laat uns maan a-ahste Oerl-ya uup dae L a a mp g gite’n.
(Let us first pour oil in the lamp.)
2. Dae Zeepel maakt meen Oog’n thraw’n. (The onion makes my eyes tear.)
3. Haal me ggrow ein Puett Ta-baak. (Get me quickly a bag of tobacco.)

Plattdeutsch is pronounced Plaatduuts. This refers to low German vernacular dialects spoken in northern Germany. Also called “Low German” or “Flat German” so called because of the land they inhabited in northern Germany.

Good humor isn’t a trait of character, it is an art which requires practice. — David Seabury

A Bit of History.

Christmas was a high festival in the Church year and East Fresians made the most of it. A week or so before Christmas, a living tree, cedar or firm, was cut and brought into the house. It was set up in the parlor or living room; this room was probably not heated. The door to this room was kept closed until Christmas Eve when there was a grand unveiling—usually after the Church service.

If there was not tree; remember there was limited living space children put out a china plate and hoped the “Christmas Man” (weinachtsmann) or “Christ child” (Christkindt) would leave fruit or candy and/or gifts.

Since these were pre-electric times, the tree was often lighted with candles. You can imagine the danger this presented so the candles were soon extinguished.

In the early 1900’s mail order houses (Sears & Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, etc.) offered an artificial tree made of wood and wire and covered with turkey feathers dyed green. These trees were decorated with baubles and ornaments, and popcorn and cranberries strung into long ropes. Aluminum tinsel could be bought but not during WWII years, as I recall. I remember finding paperwork that listed the price of a three foot tree at \$11.00. The Golden Historical Society Museum is fortunate to have a replica of the turkey feather tree,

The candle holders (see photo) are a recent contribution by Lucille Aden Flesner of Quincy, IL. Her father was Menard Aden and the family’s early home was a farm in the Bowen area. Lucille’s deceased husband, Harry, was an electrician when they lived at Golden. She remembers the holders being used in the Aden home. They are fashioned so they can be clipped to the tree branch.



All churches put up a large, live tree. This was usually the work of the Young People’s class. As you can imagine, it was “oohed” and “aahed” over by young and old. Before electricity, they too used candles. Several men, usually bachelors, got the job of sitting, facing the tree with their backs to the program being presented. They were armed with buckets of water and a long pole with a cloth sop attached to put out any threatening flame.

—Contributed by Norma Beckett, GHS Member

2013 Attendance: 234 from Vancouver BC, IL, NE, PA, KS, TX, CA, FL and as far away as Bonn and Stuhrgen, Germany. (These are just the ones who signed our Visitors Register. About 50+ more visited our Windmill. We are looking forward to 2014 and another great year.)

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition. — Henry James



902 Prairie Mills Road
Golden IL 62339

Phone: 217-696-2722
Open Saturdays & Sundays
May thru October 1-4 pm
Or by appointment
www.goldenwindmill.org

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 and maintaining the Windmill to functioning capacity. We will create a viable tourism environment which will sustain the Windmill and related businesses in the surrounding area.