

Dedicated to educating the public and preserving the rural heritage of Illinois.

Grand Opening a Complete Success!

After months of anticipation and countless hours of work, the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum is now OPEN!



The Illinois Rural Heritage Museum officially opened on Friday, June 1, 2012. The grand opening was celebrated with a crowd of over three hundred people anxious to see what awaited them inside the "phase two" building.

In August 2011 the Museum held a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of completing phase one: The Signature Red Barn. Since that time Charlie and Mary Greer, the Museum board, volunteers and donors have been busy preparing for the day of the official opening.

The Museum focuses on the educational aspect of rural Illinois history from beginning as early as the late 1800s, a glimpse back in time that most of us rarely get to see. In addition, with the help of major contributors such as Monsanto, the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum has incorporated many aspects of technology into the exhibits found in the museum.

Exhibits are now open to the public during regular Museum hours: Thursday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm.

AUGUST 16-19: Monsanto Mobile Experience, Quilt Show



August 16-19, 2012 the IRHM will host two special exhibits! In the Museum parking lot visitors will find the Monsanto Mobile Experience. This 53' 1,000-square-foot educational exhibit teaches about America's Farmers.

Continued on reverse.

Beautiful Day for the 2012 Tractor Drive



As part of the Grand Opening celebration of the IRHM, the fourth annual Tractor Drive and Banquet was held on June 2, 2012. Sponsored by Becks Hybrids and H&R Agri-Power, 34 tractors participated in this year's event.

Continued on reverse.

Museum Hosts Book Signing Event ... for kids!



Friday, July 20, IRHM organizers were happy to host a book signing for *Tractor Mac* author Billy Steers. The evening's event was well attended by local youngsters and boy were they entertained by Mr. Steers! A doodler by nature, the *Tractor Mac* books began as bed-time stories for his own children. After his 'how to draw' presentation Mr. Steers was happy to oblige the children in personally autographing their books.

Monsanto Mobile Experience, Quilt Show (continued)

In addition, inside the Museum, visitors can marvel over the lost art of quilt making. Both historical and new handmade and machine pieced quilts will be on display. Museum organizers are expecting 40-plus quilts to be entered for the show.



Each exhibit runs in conjunction with the American Thresherman's Show at the Pinckneyville Fairgrounds. Catch a quick ride from the North gate to the Museum. All regular Museum exhibits will be open during the same week. Museum hours August 16-19 are 9am-5pm daily.

Tractor Drive (continued)

Max Armstrong from "This Week in Agribusiness" (pictured on the front page on an IH Super M) was the guest speaker at the evening banquet. The 2012 was well attended; Museum organizers hosted 160 people. The event was attended by two visitors from Australia who were passing through the area.



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