



Spring 2019 Newsletter

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

We invite you to join us on Sunday, June 2, 2019, for the noon luncheon and Tractor Drive. Watch as they leave the Museum for the 30 mile ride through the countryside. Or, bring your tractor and ride with the group. Call 618-571-1854 to join us for the luncheon or drive your tractor .

 ILLINOIS RURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM	Presents Our 11th Tractor Drive	
	Sunday, June 2, 2019	
187 Fairground Rd Pinckneyville, IL 62274 618-357-8908 618-571-1854 irhmuseum@gmail.com	Friends of the Museum and Tractor Enthusiasts! Please join us for an afternoon drive through the Countryside with your Tractor friends. Or come by and see the Tractors and join us for lunch and fellowship!	Sandwich & Salad Luncheon served Between 12:00 noon-1:00 pm Tractor drive will follow At 1:15 pm Cost is \$25 for Participant & \$5 for Buddy Seat Rider

Thank you to Murphy-Wall State Bank for their contribution toward making a replica **1940-1950's Farm House**. Come visit this new or our other exhibits. There is no charge for the Museum tour.



How many of you have slept in a rope bed?

Did you or your grandparents live in a house like this?

The Most Rewarding Moment

of being the care taker of the Museum is when visitors come to see an exhibit that was once a big part of their life. The dragline simulator from SIU's Coal Research Center is becoming an exhibit. Frank Schmechel, the gentleman in the operator chair below, kept the simulator operating as it was used to train dragline operators. Coal Companies from all over the world would send future operators to learn the complex hand-eye moves needed to efficiently run these 4 – 12 million pound machines.

The Program accommodated 5 or 6 students in a 10-day period providing approximately 15 hours on the simulator. The exhibit is partially complete, with the small dragline functional and the larger simulator a work in progress. McDonnell Douglas Electronics built the simulator, which used the same hands on approach as early flight simulators.

From left to right In the picture below, we have the instructor Randy, Charlie, Brian Greer who also worked with the exhibit at SIU, and Frank Schmechel.



Matt & Erica Riechmann loaned this horse drawn carriage to the Museum for display. It was built by the Velie Carriage Company, founded in 1902 in Moline, IL by W.L. Velie. Willard was the maternal grandson of John Deere. He was an executive at Deere & Company before starting the company, which built buggies, carriages, driving wagons, and spring wagons called the "Wrought Iron Line" of vehicles.

The Velie Company made 21,000 buggies and surreys alone in the year 1907. In 1922, the company introduced a truck line. They also started producing aircraft in 1927. Willard died in October, 1928. Willard, Jr proved unable to keep the company afloat and sold it in January, 1929. Unfortunately, he passed away in March of 1929.

Thank You

To the individuals and companies that have helped the Museum progress to where it is today. Their names are shown on the donor wall of the Museum.

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