

WEMP BARN DEDICATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

The well-attended annual meeting of the DBPS was held on the threshing floor of the Greater Wemp barn at noon, Saturday, October 13. The treasurer's report was read and names of trustees and office holders for the following year were announced; Harold Zoch (president), Chris Albright (secretary), Mike Bathrick (treasurer), Peter Sinclair (vice president), and George Turrell (trustee).

At one o'clock, a formal dedication of the newly erected barn was given at the roadside nearby. Over 150 people were in attendance. Carl Touhey, the new owner of this early 18th century Dutch barn and the host of the occasion, spoke of how he had come to bring this historic and well preserved building to his estate on the Onesquethaw Creek. The Wemp barn would be a good companion to his 336 year old house whose barn was gone. He spoke of his plans to establish the barn and its five-acre setting as a museum.

Vince Schaefer spoke of the events which led to the moving of the Greater Wemp barn and of his good feelings for the work of the Babcock family, to Richard, the master barn builder and his son David who directed the moving of the Wemp Barn.

The dedication ended when Ev Rau released a cluster of colored balloons to the spirit of the Wemp barn and welcomed it to its new home. The pageant began as the 4th Albany Militia dressed in the costume of the American Revolution fired their long rifles and advanced against the enemy on the wooded hillside. This was followed by crafts, food, fellowship, music, and dance.

Especially noteworthy was the venison stew cooked in two cast iron pots over an open fire by Ev and Peg Rau, and all the other good food prepared by Robert and Amelia Anderson, Irma Hoose, Greg Giorgio, and Chris Albright, and to the work of Sheila Audet, the chairperson of the event.

TWO DAY BARN TOUR IN NEW JERSEY

On September 22, Greg Huber and Ursula Brecknell led a tour of Dutch barns in Sommerset County New Jersey. There were eight attendees and nine barns were visited. On September 23, Greg Huber and Claire Tholl led a tour of Bergen County barns. There were eleven attendees and six barns were visited. Greg submitted a seven page report giving a summary of some of the comments and impressions of the attendees.

A number of features were noted such as the hinging of the wagon doors which opened out and the absence of the pentice roof which seemed to distinguish the New Jersey barn from those of New York.

Two of the barns visited in Bergen County are presently used as museums and another planned for that use. The Wortendyke barn in Park Ridge is a restored barn of the early or mid 18th century with a good collection of local tools and an interested and a helpful staff. The Van Riper/Tice barn in Upper Saddle River is a barn reconstructed by George Turrell, a local conservator, from the interior frame of an early local barn. It was moved to the Hopper/Goetshius House Museum, an interesting and well preserved 18th century house with an attached Summer kitchen. The small house remained for many generations in the same family.

#### DBPS TRUSTEE MEETINGS

August 21, 1990 (formal) Guilderland Center, Albany County

The minutes of the last meeting were read and the treasurer gave his report. Vince Schaefer told of two new Dutch barns he had learned of. David Graulich, a dairy farmer from Sharon Springs is building a 60'x60' barn with 16' side aisles on his farm. He is using the design of the Wemp barn as his model. Louis Caputzal a DBPS member from Massachusetts has just completed a Dutch barn using parts salvaged from a covered bridge.

Harold Zoch read a letter from Don R. Stevens of Old Bethpage, Nassau County, requesting information for an article he is writing. It seems that the "East of Sharon" barn, number 33 in Fitchen's book, and a barn that Clarke Blair could never find, was moved in the mid 1970's from Schoharie County to Long Island.

Harold Zoch was musing about how farmers could have managed to milk cows in the dark side aisles of their Dutch barns, especially in winter. To this Clarke Blair added his touch of ancient Montgomery County knowledge that old time farmers there didn't milk cows in winter. "Oh, maybe one", he said. They had no silage, only dry corn, and that made poor fodder for the cows so the cows dried up.

He later mailed the Reporter the following "They (old time farmers) purposely dried the cows up at the start of winter. There was no market for raw milk and too cold to make cheese or butter. Mid winter they added a bit of good grain to their feed so the cows would be able to produce a healthy calf in the spring and produce milk to feed it. The calving was planned to occur at the start of spring grazing. The cow, on good pasture, could feed her calf and produce a surplus of milk. This milk was sold occasionally, but usually made into butter and cheese through the Summer."

October 23, 1990 (formal) Guilderland Center, Albany County

Mark Peckham and Mike Bathrick talked of their meeting with the Gallery Association who will be constructing the travelling exhibition. It will be a general introduction to the subject with text supplied by the DBPS.

November 13, 1990 (informal) Guilderland Center, Albany County

There was a reminder that dues will soon be due. There was discussion about the design of the Dutch barn display which is to be completed by the end of the year. It will be set up in public places according to a schedule. It will be transportable by car and is planned to last about five years.

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN BARN TOUR

On November 13, Elmer Van Der Kalk, a new member of the DBPS and a native of the Holland area conducted a barn tour for the editor of the Reporter. A dozen barns and one log cabin were examined. An extended examination of barns in mid-western Dutch settlements is being planned for the Spring of 1991.

Dues are Due January 1, 1991

Please mail dues to... The Dutch Barn Preservation Society  
Box 176  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Regular: \$10.00	Contributing: \$20.00	Supporting: \$25.00
Student: \$5.00	Organization: \$20.00	

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For further information on the above or news items of interest to the Dutch Barn Preservation Society please write...

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