



# DEKALB ALUMNI NEWS

July 2010

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TO: Former DEKALB Ag Employees  
and Friends of the Ag

FROM: Em Wells, President DEKALB Alumni

This edition of DEKALB Alumni News features the info you will need to register for our annual gathering September 14 and 15. We have many exciting things planned and have some information to pass on about your board's efforts to preserve the history of DEKALB Ag.

The Tuesday meeting will again be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau center where we have been comfortable for the last few years. It is at the corner of Peace and Bethany Roads, just East of our old Sycamore Road office complex.

After coffee and rolls Tuesday morning, we will have a short business meeting and our featured speaker will be a presentation from the Ad Hoc Committee charged with forming the non-profit corporation that will manage our history's permanent home. This will be exciting news. Plans are being completed by this group of 5 from your board and 10 from the community-at-large. Your input will be welcome.

You will have a choice of activities after lunch...viewing and bidding on the silent auction items, playing bingo and socializing, touring the DEKALB AG MEMORIES exhibit at the Nehring Center in DeKalb, or playing in the golf scramble.

Everyone enjoyed the skit so professionally presented by the Stage Coach Players last year and they have been invited back again to entertain us after the evening dinner with a skit from their cur-

rent production.

This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> year for our silent auction. We encourage you to bring items to donate. Proceeds will benefit our general fund and help in the cost of establishing a permanent non-profit organization and exhibit. If you have items too valuable to donate, you can set a minimum price and you will receive 80% of the sales price.

On Wednesday, we will again be enjoying a bus trip to the White Pines State Park for a great lunch buffet and an afternoon performance of the musical comedy, "Best Little Chicken Ranch". This happy-go-lucky view of rural area vice recounts the good times and demise of the Chicken Ranch, known since the 1850's as the best pleasure palace around. Politicians and victorious college football teams love Miss Mona's cozy bordello, but they are no match for the righteous indignations of a television reformer!! Lord have mercy on our souls...

Please review the agenda and information presented. If you cannot attend consider mailing your check for \$15 to sustain your membership.

If you need help with hotel rooms, contact me at 815-757-5959 or [elemwells@aol.com](mailto:elemwells@aol.com). We look forward to seeing you.

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK AND  
REGISTRATION BY AUGUST 15th.**

I hope to see you in September!

DEKALB Alumni Website: [www.dekalbalumni.org](http://www.dekalbalumni.org)

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of Monsanto Technology LLC."

## **2010 DEKALB Alumni 32nd Annual Meeting Program**

### **Tuesday, September 14th**

- 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Silent Auction items accepted
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau  
(located on the Northeast corner of Bethany and Peace Roads)
- 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting with the election of Board Members
- 10:45 a.m. Guest speaker: DeKalb Area Agricultural Historical Association (DAAHA)  
Group Representative
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch and Auction Bidding begins
- 1:00 p.m. Bingo - in Farm Bureau lunch room  
Tee times start for 9 hole 4 person scramble at Sycamore Golf Course
- 1:00—4:00 p.m. Nehring Gallery open for “DEKALB Ag Memories” Exhibit tours
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour  
Auction Bidding continues
- 5:45 p.m. Auction Bidding ends
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner buffet (serving assistance will be available)
- 7:15 p.m. Entertainment – The Stage Coach Players

### **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:15 a.m. Buses will be loading at the Farm Bureau for White Pines Dinner Theatre in Oregon, IL. We will be seeing “Best Little Chicken Ranch”.
- 9:00 a.m.—  
12:00 p.m. Nehring Gallery open for “DEKALB Ag Memories” Exhibit tours

### **“DEKALB Ag Memories” Exhibit a Hit!**

Over 875 people attended the DEKALB Ag Memories Exhibit at the Nehring Gallery in DeKalb from February to May, 2010. Articles and information about the exhibit appeared in *The Midweek*, *Daily Chronicle*, *Northern Star*, *Illinois Agri News*, *DeKalb County Farm Bureau Point of View*, *the DeKalb County Park District Winter Guide*, *Farm World*, and various emails sent by visitors and alumni members.

**RESERVATIONS for the DEKALB Alumni Association 32nd Annual Meeting**  
September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Please Print: Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 or 2) Business Meeting & Lunch – Tuesday 10:30 a.m.. – The cost is \$7.50 each.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 or 2) Golf Scramble - \$25.00 per person to be paid at Tee Time.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 or 2) Dinner Buffet – Tuesday 6:00 p.m. – Cost \$15.00 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 or 2) White Pines Dinner Theater – Board bus at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau parking lot at **10:15 a.m.** on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$40 per person, which covers transportation, lunch, and theater ticket.

**REMITTANCE: MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO DEKALB ALUMNI AND ENCLOSE WITH THIS RESERVATION FORM.**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (\$15.00 per family).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday Lunch (\$7.50 per person).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday Dinner reservations (\$15.00 per person).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ White Pines Dinner Theater (\$40.00 per person).  
Reserve early – limited seating.

**ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO DEKALB ALUMNI.**

Please return your reservation form and check **BEFORE AUGUST 15th**. If you cannot attend and wish to be kept on the active membership list, mail your annual dues along with this form giving your address information.

**MAIL TO: Doris Riippi**  
15145 Willow Run Drive  
DeKalb, IL 60015

**Phone/ e-mail:**

**Doris Riippi**  
(815) 756-5247 / [driippi110@tbc.net](mailto:driippi110@tbc.net)

or

**Warren Holdridge**  
(815) 756-7567  
[warrenh171@aol.com](mailto:warrenh171@aol.com)

## **2010 DEKALB Collectibles 9th Annual Silent Auction**

A silent auction will be held the first day of this year's annual meeting where members can bid on DEKALB items. This notice provides the information about our plans for the auction.

### **2010 DEKALB Alumni Silent Auction Procedures:**

- Items for the auction need to be received at the DEKALB County Farm Bureau on Tuesday, September 14th starting at 9:00 a.m. and no later than 10:30 a.m.
- Winning bidder will be established on September 14th by a 5:45 p.m. cut-off of item bids using the form provided for each item. Winners will be announced before the evening entertainment.
- Buyer will pay by check or cash following dinner on September 14th. All checks are to be made out to the DEKALB Alumni Association. Please pay Doris Riippi.
- Proceeds from all donated items will go 100% to the DEKALB Alumni Association for future alumni activities and events.
- The DEKALB Alumni Association commission on non-donated items will be 20% of the final bid price.
- Please come with your items and your cash in preparation to bid and buy.
- Suggestions for future auctions are always welcome.
- Thank you for your participation in donating, selling, and/or bidding!
- Have fun!!

### **"DEKALB Ag Memories" Presentation DVD's To Be Available:**

With overwhelming success and standing room only on many dates, seven presentations were given at the "DEKALB Ag Memories" Exhibit from February 10 to May 5, 2010. These presentations were videotaped and are being put on DVD's for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to Duane Rubendall and Dan Rozzen for their assistance with this project.

Presenters and topics include:

- Dave Smith: "The Seeds are Sown".
- Al Golden: "Early Production Plant Expansion: The Roberts Touch".
- Greg Olson: "Sales and Marketing Innovation".
- Bill Crum & Em Wells: "The XL Explosion: Research pays big dividends".
- Rich Ryan & Jack Nelson: "DEKALB Ag: More than corn".
- Ed Eggers & Charlie Krull: "The Winged Ear: It's flight around the world and into the future".
- Mari Duchaj & Rosemary Evans: "The Women of DEKALB Ag".

We hope to have these DVD (s) available at the annual meeting. If they are not quite ready, we will take orders at the September annual meeting and ship them when they are available.

## **EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 14th PERMANENT HOME FOR DEKALB AG HISTORY SECURED DEKALB ALUMNI TO REMAIN A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION WITH A NEW BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GROUP FORMED**

The DEKALB Alumni Association Board discussed at length over several meetings on what the focus of our organization should be in view of the challenge of operating a permanent exhibit of the Ag history. It was unanimously decided that the Alumni should remain primarily a social organization.

That meant that another group needed to be organized to manage the fantastic opportunity that was presented by the DeKalb Park District when they offered the use of the Nehring Center as a permanent home to display the history of DEKALB Ag.

It was determined that a non-profit corporation would need to be formed, commonly referred to as a 501(c)3. This would assure needed administrative and tax status to benefit the group as well as contributors.

The Alumni Board reviewed a list of possible board members and community leaders to form an Ad Hoc committee that would determine a course of action. The board members selected to serve on the ad hoc committee were Al Ratfield, Daryl Rolland, Sue Breese, Emerson Wells, and Larry Mix.

Non-board members that were asked to serve and accepted are:

- Allan Aves: Farmer. Former President of DeKalb County Farm Bureau and Former member of DEKALB GENETICS Board of Directors.
- Joe Bothe: Ag Loan Officer, Resource Bank. Former Ag employee.
- Doug Dashner: Retired Executive Director of DeKalb County Farm Bureau.
- Ron Klein: Attorney. History buff. Immediate past President of DeKalb County Historical and Genealogical Association. From Hinckley Farm family that always planted DEKALB.
- Ann Koski: Retired Executive Director of the Wisconsin Museum at Madison. Daughter of Lauri and Ev Koski.
- Linda Linden: Assistant Director of Kishwaukee Health Foundation. Former Director of DeKalb-Sycamore United Way. Former DEKALB Employee.
- Greg Millburg: DeKalb County Farm Bureau Executive Director.
- Frank Roberts: Vice President of Castle Bank. Son of John and Betty Roberts. President of Re-New DeKalb, our neighbor at the Nehring Center.
- Jerry Smith: Retired Executive Director DeKalb Community Foundation Founded by Mary and Charlie Roberts.
- Terrie Tuntland: Owner of Waterman Vineyards. Retired teacher. Member of Monsanto Community Relations team.

This group has met several times and has divided into three sub groups to better focus on the task. The 3 committees have met and continue to meet individually and will meet as a group on August 2 after this Alumni News goes to press. At that time a presentation will be formed to present to the Alumni on September 14.

We would hope to present a slate of officers and a board; proposed by-laws; and a 10 year budget of income and expenditures; but most importantly the vision and mission that gives meaning to all our efforts.

This is a fantastic opportunity. This ad hoc committee is made up of an excitable and talented group of people. As individuals they have been invaluable in many of the positive strides that have been made in the DeKalb-Sycamore area over the last 20 years. They are fun and challenging to work with. We are fortunate to have their input. You can be a part of the excitement by being at the September 14 announcement and providing your input.

~Em Wells, Ad Hoc Committee interim organizational director: GOFER; RFEE; DSFE

## “Alumni News

**George and Joyce Townsend** are spending part of July in CT visiting their first great-grandchild, George. Could there really be another George??? After George was run over in his golf cart 5 years ago and spent several months rehabbing, they moved permanently to Sun City, AZ. Those who use to work with George out west should be concerned. He has promised to write an expose “on all the great people I worked with over 30 yrs. with DEKALB.” They also sent a check to pay their dues and additional to help with our archive expenses.

15621 W. Heritage Dr.  
Sun City West, AZ 853775  
623-680-5259

Lindsay Irrigation retiree **Bob Snoozy** contacted Em to announce that he is writing a history of Lindsay and would be interested in seeing what info we have.

**Erland Carlson** reports that **Dennis Alberts** passed away on July 10 in Dassel, MN. Willa Mae’s phone number is 320-275-2274.

**Dean and Ellen Froelich** are looking forward to seeing as many as possible on Sept. 14. They are bringing with them some items for our collection that were donated by a dealer in Ohio. They urge others that know of possible dona-

tions to bring them along in Sept.

**Rosemarie Ostberg**, a DeKalb resident called Em to say she had attended several of our presentations at the DEKALB AG MEMORIES exhibit. She had just returned from an Architectural tour in Spain. She had not known that DEKALB Chix existed until attending our exhibit. There on the counter of a gift shop in Spain were post cards with the DEKALB Chix logo. She bought 20 of them for us.

**Paul Holliday** reports he is anticipating retirement but without naming a date. However, he commits that when that time comes and they move to the Carolina’s he will sort through the DEKALB material his father, Mel, and he have collected and make a donation. Mel was one of the (almost) original, Ag employees and passed away a couple of years ago. [paul.holliday@beckerunderwood.com](mailto:paul.holliday@beckerunderwood.com).

**Don (got your ticket?) Seitsinger**, is home after spending several weeks in the hospital and nursing home. Those of us that used to fly in and out of O’Hare were always asked by Don when he picked us up at 5 a.m. or 5 p.m. if we had our ticket. He got his ticket home today from the nursing home. He has to do a lot of rehab yet to regain the use of his legs. Don has sorted through his collection of memorabilia and has donations to make to our collection. Phone 815-756-7206.

### Raffle Winners from Exhibit

Anna Marie Coveny and Mari Duchaj drew the winning tickets for the raffle at the close of the “DEKALB Ag Memories” Exhibit on May 5th. Eileen Dubin was the winner of the winged ear and Nita Challgren was the book winner. Nita already had a book so graciously asked us to redraw. Jerry Malin is the winner of the book. Thank you to all who donated to the raffle and congratulations to the winners! Proceeds went to the Nehring Gallery.

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

We would like to **welcome** the following people who have become new members since our last newsletter:

- Roger Avise
- Anna Marie Coveny
- Doug Dashner
- Ronald Klein
- Jerry & Ging Smith
- Linda Sons
- George Townsend
- Paul Zander

### “DEKALB Ag Memories” Exhibit To Be Open

The “DEKALB Ag Memories” exhibit will be open on Tuesday, September 14th from 1:00—4:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 15th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

The Gallery is located at 111 S. 2nd Street, DeKalb, Illinois.

Stop by to see our updated exhibit, share memories of working at DEKALB, and enjoy the winged ear logo!

Special tours are available by calling Em Wells at 815-757-5959, Al Ratfield, 815-758-3635, or Daryl Roland 815-758-8223.

## 2009 – 2010 DEKALB Alumni Board Members

Emerson Wells	President	815-756-5959
Al Ratfield	Vice Pres.	815-758-3635
Mari Duchaj	Secretary	847-683-0062
Doris Riippi	Treasurer	815-756-5247
Warren Holdridge	Membership	815-756-7567
Sue Breese	Director	815-756-4533
Bob Donaldson	Director	815-758-0918
Larry Mix	Director	815-899-2800
Daryl Rolland	Director	815-758-8223
Dan Rozzen	Director	815-756-6502
Marcia Thompson	Director	815-756-7599

If anyone has any information that they would like to pass along to fellow Alumni, send it to:  
Warren Holdridge  
519 Best Ave.  
DeKalb, IL 60115 or  
Email to: warrenh171@aol.com

### PLEASE NOTE...

If you have not sent in your dues for 2010, please send them to Doris Riippi. If you know other ALUMS that are not members, feel free to send them a copy of the newsletter and encourage them to join. *PLEASE don't forget to send your change of address to Warren Holdridge as you move from the old home-stead to new retirement quarters. We have lost contact with several people this way. Everyone is important to us.*

### KERNELS OF WISDOM BY SUE BREESE – VOL. 9

#### DeKalb County Agricultural and Mechanical Society

In the early days of agriculture, farmers organized to share information and improve farming practices. One of the earliest organizations was the DeKalb County Agriculture and Mechanical Society. On March 9, 1861 a meeting was held to organize this society. The objective was "the promotion of agriculture, horticulture, manufacture, mechanical and household arts." Successful exhibits were held on grounds purchased from Mr. Glidden in DeKalb, Illinois. Aid from the State of Illinois amounted to \$100 annually for these exhibits. This was the predecessor of the DeKalb County Agricultural Association whose offspring was DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. The document seen here is the original 1861 records of this meeting which is archived at the DeKalb County archives, Joiner History Room.

*At a meeting held at Gilbert's Hall  
In DeKalb County of DeKalb State of  
Illinois March 9 1861. Pursuant to  
notice on motion Harry Thompson  
was elected Chairman & W. M. Small  
a notice of the meeting <sup>being read</sup> and remarks  
made by several citizens the following  
resolutions were unanimously adopted*

*Resolve that we proceed to organize  
a agricultural society to be called  
the DeKalb Co Agricultural and Mechan-  
ical Society. The object of which  
shall be the promotion of agriculture  
Horticulture Manufacture Mechan-  
ical and household arts.*

*The society then went in the election  
In motion a committee was appointed  
to draft constitution for said society  
consisting of J. C. Vaughn J. F. Glidden  
& E. Nobles.*

*Committee reported a constitution on  
motion said report was adopted.*

*The society then went in to the election  
of officers with the following result*

*Pres J. F. Glidden Vice Pres N  
H. Saum & H. E. Allen Treas H. Thompson  
Sec W. M. Small Harry Thompson  
W. M. Small Sec*

DEKALB Alumni Association  
Doris Riippi  
15145 Willow Run Drive  
DeKalb, IL 60115