



August 2009

Wildwood Historical Society Newsletter

GROVER ● POND ● HOLLOW ● CENTAUR ● MELROSE ● FOX CREEK ● ORRVILLE ● ALLENTON ● WESTLAND ACRES ● KELPE ● MONARCH

Meeting Calendar

3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

7:00 P.M.

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

17500 MANCHESTER RD.

August 18

- **History and Restoration Efforts in Centaur**

by Mike Phelan

September 15

- **History of South County and ties to Wildwood**

by Ross Wagner

October 21

- **Freedom Flight and WWII Memories**

by Rusty Pendleton

Membership

Join the

Wildwood Historical Society

\$20 per year single

\$25 per year family

Make checks payable to:

Wildwood Historical Society

P.O. Box 125

Wildwood, MO 63040

Wildwood Historical Society

10th Annual Bus Tour

Tours this year to the southeast side of Wildwood will leave from Wildwood City Hall at 9:00 am or 1:00 pm on Saturday, Nov. 14th. The 2009 tours (which will last about 3 hours) will include stops at the LaSalle Institute (inside tour), the Bird House (inside tour of this beautifully refurbished home), and an outdoor stop at the Mincke house (near Sherman). The tour price is still \$20.00 per person for members and \$25 for non-members. Literature on the historic nature of these facilities and other homes along the way will be provided to those attending the tour. Lunch will be available for an additional \$10 per person at a Town Center restaurant. For reservations please call Patty Schaeg at 636-458-3568 no later than October 20th because due to these unique stops the seats will probably go quickly again this year!



For the complete story on Steve Pizzitola's funeral turn to the back page.

THE WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOW HAS A WEBSITE!

www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

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A Historic Funeral

On Saturday June 6, 2009 Steve Pizzitola was laid to rest in the cemetery on the family farm on Fox Creek Road. Steve was killed in a tragic tractor accident on a neighbor's farm on June 1st. Born on Dec. 26, 1952 in New Orleans, he was a 5th generation descendant of William Horstmann. Steve, and his wife Julie and their three sons, lived in the farmhouse that had housed his ancestors since 1873.

As has been a tradition in Steve's family to carry the casket across Fox Creek on a horse-drawn carriage, similar arrangements were made in June. The family cemetery is set up on the side of an east-facing hill and hardly accessible by a modern hearse. Steve's casket was transferred from a motorized hearse (that had carried it from the funeral at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eureka), to a waiting horse-drawn hearse (see photo below) before it crossed the low-water bridge. Nearly 300 mourners walked behind the hearse as it slowly moved up the hillside to the gravesite. Steve was laid to rest in a wooden coffin similar to those in which many of his ancestors were buried.

William Horstmann, Steve's great-great-grandfather, who was born in Germany in 1827, immigrated to the United States through New Orleans. He traveled with his uncle who died at some point during the trip, and thus without any money William chose to work his way up the Mississippi by cutting wood used to fire the steamboats. He eventually made his way to the Dutch Hollow area of Wildwood and in May of 1857 he married Mary Kreienkamp, the daughter of Claumor Kreienkamp. They initially rented a home from Samuel Harris that stood near the current intersection of Fox Creek Road and Hwy. 100. In 1873 the couple moved onto property they purchased on the west side of Fox Creek Road, about a mile northwest of Allenton. Together the couple raised 9 children, although only one of them married and had children of her own to manage the family farm.

The Wildwood Historical Society had the pleasure of including this Century Farm, and the ceremony around the setting of a Civil War GAR marker, on its bus tour route in 2001. The Sons of the Union Veterans dedicated the marker and fired a salute in honor of William Horstmann, who served in the Pacific Battalion of the Missouri Home Guard in 1861.

*It's time to renew,
your membership!
Dues received by
June 30th will be eligible to
vote in September's
election.*

P.O. Box 125, Wildwood, MO 63040
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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