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*Friends  
of the Stockdale Mill*

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Summer 2009



## Around the Mill

*Dwight Fouts*

In the last letter I wrote about a gift to the mill of an old windmill. You know the old saying, “The windmill in the country goes round and round and round – it’s pumping water for the cows – it makes a creaking sound.” Well, we’ve got one of those and it is now installed. We even had a well dug, bought a hand pump that brings up water with 5 to 7 pumps and also hooks up to the big fan wheel on top. If you are over 60, you probably had experience with one of these. This seems to be one of the favorites when school age kids come through on tours – also with the kids over 60. You can also see where some rascals shot the fans with a rifle.

There is a song I remember that says, “And the beat goes on – and the beat goes on.” The same is true of the Stockdale Mill: that so many have had a big part of making sure that “the beat goes on.” Look at the list of the different projects that have been accomplished in the last few months, and some others that are underway.

This year we have refurbished and installed the windmill, restored the pulley and belting to drive the bucket elevators (elevators in process), have the wheat scourer operational on the top floor, and reworked safety rails. Add to this maintenance, clean up, removing logs from the dam, and a hundred other tasks. All of the contributions in time, planning, and money are so greatly appreciated. I am sure that many younger people have seen what can be accomplished by an interested, determined, and caring community.

Hubert Krom is now 94 years old. He lives east of Roann towards Urbana. He has a problem talking on the phone, but no problem repairing all of the wooden pulleys from the mill in his workshop. I asked him some questions this last week about his contribution. Addison Krom was his first cousin. Hubert’s father Elvan used to come to the mill and loved to hear the hum

and vibration. Hubert uses regular shop tools for woodwork on yellow poplar wood. Yellow poplar is not a heavy wood. The wood has to be lightweight because the wheels from the mill are usually bad on one side and a heavy wood to repair with would make the wheel “out of balance.” He uses a waterproof glue called Gorilla Glue. If he gets it on his fingers, it takes a week to wear off. The last big wheel weighed in at over 190 pounds and needed a hoist to lift up on his bench. None of the pulleys were a big challenge to him – just took time to do it right.

Thanks Hubert!

Have fun reading this and visit the mill again – maybe at the Roann Covered Bridge Festival September 11-13.

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## MILL HONORED

The Stockdale Mill Foundation and all of its volunteers were recognized as the 2009 Preservationists of the Year. The award came from the north central area of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

According to Cathy Wright, regional director, “This award is not only for your preservation efforts, but also for your outstanding community involvement and interpreting to the public.”

CONGRATULATIONS to all mill volunteers!

# Water Over the Dam

*Sue Dyson*

The Stockdale Mill hosts a variety of school groups. I was interested in learning a child's point of view. Some time ago we had the kindergarten classes from Sharp Creek Elementary School. Their teacher, Pat Brubaker, was a big help as she posed pre- and post-tour questions I had sent to them and presented their answers to me. Mrs. Brubaker remarked that some of the pre-tour questions brought only blank looks from the students. I guess you can't expect them to comprehend something they know nothing about. But, since their answers are fun to read, I've included them:

## *Pre-Tour Questions and Answers*

**What happens at the mill?** Caleb-When the wind blows, the things go around and around. Will-Put corn in it and the water makes the big wheel go around. Josh-They grind corn. Dylan-Cars are at a mill.

**What did they use to grind the wheat into flour?** Emma-a combine. Caleb-An opening and a fan that crunches up the wheat.

**How did the farmer bring his wheat to the mill?** Dillin-A tractor. Will-Little grain trucks. Gage-The farmer cut the wheat out of the ground. Parker-He makes the truck go.

**What is a miller?** Haylie Miller-Someone from the Miller family. Gage-A farmer.

**How old is the Stockdale Mill?** (We celebrated 150 years in 2007). Christie-100 years. Ella-50 years. Graydon-100 years.

**Why did they build the mill next to the river?** Josh-There's water inside. They pump the water. Devin-They might not have food, so they could go fishing in the river.

After a quick tour of the mill the kids had a much better understanding of what it's all about. Back at school Mrs. Brubaker asked her students to name their favorite part of the mill tour. Now, I have to stop and interject here that Mrs. B. and I were a little surprised at the outcome of

this survey. In the past one of, if not the most memorable, sites of the kindergarten tours has been the toilet on the lower level. An interesting note from Mrs. B. was that not one child mentioned it – what a letdown! Here is a list of what they remembered from their tour.

## *Our favorites from the Stockdale Mill*

\* I liked the "shakey thing". \* I liked the loud machines. \* I liked the pumpkins and the elevator. \* I liked going inside and seeing the elevator. \* I liked where the water went through. \* I liked the thing that made the water go down. \* I liked the water spinning. \* I liked the water. \* I liked the machines spinning.



- another school group -

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## EEL RIVER WATERSHED

Stockdale Mill volunteers are participating in the Middle Eel River Watershed Initiative. We have joined a coalition of Manchester College, Wabash and Miami county conservation agencies, and at least 17 other groups that have begun an initiative to improve the water quality of a 30-mile stretch of the Eel River. The program targets the Eel River from North Manchester to Mexico, Indiana.

"Our goal is to make the Eel River a better place for aquatic life and people," declared Manchester College scientist Jerry Sweeten.

## Remembering Roann Booster Days

*Robert Kirtlan*

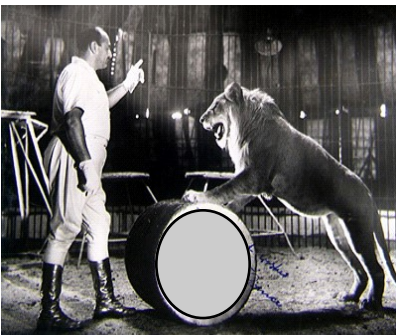
Remember those Roann Booster Days! I remember pulling the class float in the parade of '48 with our Farmall H. Because of farm work, I seldom made it in the afternoon, but would hurry and get the chores done so I could go in the evenings.

There are two performances that I still remember, but I don't know the years they were there. One was when two men rode motorcycles around the walls of a short silo. The other one was where they would climb straight ladders, 10 to 15 feet high, out in the middle of this platform. They would balance on them while doing juggling and other acts on top of them. It really amazed me that they could set this ladder up, out in the middle of the stage, and climb up it and keep it balanced. The bottom was not fastened, because they would move around on them on the stage.

The animal acts and rides were good, but they don't leave the memories that the above two acts did.

*Ellie Draper*

- \* Marching in the parade with our maroon wool uniforms and white bucks.
- \* Penmanship exhibits and art exhibits for the school children.
- \* Meeting Indian Chief Clarence Godfroy in his full garb with full feathered headdress.
- \* In 1953 and again in 1966, participating in the community pageant of "Roann Remembers"
- \* Terrell Jacob's free animal act on the lawn where the Cabin sits.
- \* Seeing all of our friends.
- \* Rides up and down the midway, which was main street.



\* Looking back at early Booster pictures, all of the ladies and girls had on skirts or dresses and many wore hats as well.

\* The little Photo Booth where we had our picture taken. Sometimes the picture included a best friend.

\* The huge Teddy bears that could be won at the game booths.

From "The Sound of Music" I quote the favorite song of mine, "These are a few of my Favorite Things."

*Susanne (Baber) Fouts*

I remember sometimes getting a new outfit to wear for Booster. One year when I was probably an eighth or ninth grader, I got a red corduroy suit at Wassman's in Wabash. I loved that suit and it was my good outfit for several years.

The ferris wheel was my favorite ride. It was so exciting to see it being put up. We would see it on the way home from school. We loved the high wire acts and the tiger and lion acts. Bingo was held in a big open tent in front of Giltner's grocery.



I worked at the drugstore owned by Dick and Donna Fisher and in the grocery store owned by George Fisher. I didn't have to work many hours during Booster. One year I won the bubble gum blowing contest making the biggest bubble. My mother was so surprised – such a talent. Lots of good memories though.

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## Founders Day Picnic

Calling all volunteers. If you have ever donated your time, materials, equipment, etc., you and your guests are invited to join in our Founders Day picnic at the mill on October 11 at 1:00.

Meat and beverage will be provided – bring a salad or dessert if you can ... or just come!

## STOCKDALE MILL HISTORIC TIMELINE

- 1816 Indiana becomes 19th state
- 1835-36 John Anderson and his family build a cabin on Squirrel Creek just off the Eel River (north and east of present mill)
- 1836 Pottawatamee Indians deed 9 sections (including Stockdale) to Ewing Bros. (plus four others) for \$7200 (5760 acres)
- 1838 Thomas Goudy starts sawmill on Eel River
- 1840-45 Thomas Goudy builds first flour mill out in the river - was washed away in flood (approx. 1852-56)
- 1853 Town of Roann is founded
- 1856-58 Baker & Rank build present mill on north bank of Eel River
- 1861-65 Mill produces flour for Union Army during Civil War
- 1881 James M. Deck and his father arrive in Stockdale - both are stone dressers - father returns to Pennsylvania and James stays
- 1883 Roller mill process begins with purchase of "breaks" replacing stone buhrs
- 1886 James M. Deck acquires interest in mill - paid \$1100 for 1/6 interest
- 1883-1890 New machinery to mill flour is invented during American Industrial Revolution
- 1907-1910 Three turbines purchased from Leffel Co. - replaces water wheel(s)
- 1909 Weigh shed and office added to mill
- 1915-17 Concrete dam replaces timber dam built in 1839-40
- 1917 James H. Deck assumes operation of mill at death of father James M.
- 1927 Vertical batten removed from mill and replaced with horizontal redwood siding
- 1938 Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act
- 1952 Addison and Norma (Deck) Krom assume management of mill at death of Norma's father
- 1964 Mill ceased flour production due to higher taxes, new laws and modern competition, but continues producing feed for animals
- 1972 Mill ceases production of animal feed and closes
- 2002 Mill and property is sold to Stockdale Mill Foundation for stabilization and reconstruction
- 2003 Turbines restored – Organized tours begin at mill
- 2006 Power restored to all floors
- 2007 Celebrating 150 years !
- 2009 Restoration continues . . .

**GREAT EEL RIVER DUCK RACE**  
*Sept 13 2:00PM At the dam*

**Public tours are available each Saturday  
from noon to 4:00 PM through October.**

**Special tours may be arranged for your  
family group or organization.**

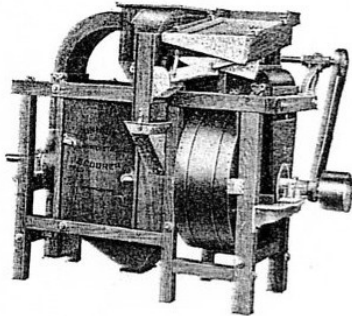
## Wheat Scourer

When wheat entered the Stockdale Mill, it first passed over a receiving separator (fanning mill with shaking screens). It was then stored in three large bins. When wheat was needed for milling, an amount was drawn off. It was then directed to the large scouring mill (recently restored) on the top floor.

The scourer consists of a turning drum covered by a screen. A stream of wheat was blown against the screen. This action “shaved” or “sanded off” the fine fuzzy outer portion of the grain. An exhaust fan removed the powdery dust.

The impact also crushed impure kernels which passed through the screen and were directed to a “screenings” bin. Screenings were purchased by customers to combine in livestock feed or to scatter in the barnyard for chickens to peck through.

The cleaned wheat was moved by an auger to a “tempering bin.” Wooden baffles in this special bin allowed air to circulate through the grain to provide a natural drying process. From the tempering bin the wheat dropped to a second smaller scourer located in the basement. The wheat was then ready to mill.



## Pulley Restoration

*Bob Janick*

Around the start of April, several people had noticed the condition of the main pulley on the top floor was getting a little more tattered, so it was decided that we take it down and give it a complete restoration. Our five man restoration crew: Phil Good, Roger Harmon, Bob Janick, Joe Krom, and Jim Watson showed up on our regular work day armed with all the necessary equipment to hopefully get the job done.

Now, the pulley is 5 feet in diameter and weighs approximately 200 pounds and is made in two halves, split at the axle. The shaft we took it from is about 15 feet in the air, not the easiest task we’ve done, but with a lot of muscle and spirited discussion it got done. We immediately loaded it into Roger’s truck and carted it over to master craftsman and wood worker Hubert Krom’s shop.

When we got the pulley back, we proceeded to get it all back together and I don’t have to tell anyone that it’s always a lot easier to take something apart than it is putting it back together. A lot more spirited discussion is involved!!!

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### *Letter from Ron Thrush*

In the summer of 1936 a severe drought covered the nation’s corn belt. Heat records were set in July that still stand. Hogs suffered terribly, and with no air conditioning, thousands of families slept on the lawn.

My father, Joe Thrush, always kept a crib filled with corn in case of an emergency. So in the summer of 1937, Jim Deck (owner of the Stockdale Mill) came to see my Dad and asked, “Joe could you spare a couple hundred bushels of corn? If you can deliver it I’ll pay \$1.35 per bushel.”

I remember shoveling the corn into that steel crib near the mill. At that time \$1.35 for 200 bushels of corn would pay almost half the price of a new car. Example: I purchased my first new car, a 1937 Plymouth coupe for \$603.

Thanks for the tour!

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## SPECIAL HOURS

*Roann Covered Bridge Festival* tour hours:

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sept 11</b>	<b>5-7</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sept 12</b>	<b>10-6</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>12-4</b>

Stockdale Mill Foundation  
c/o Dwight Fouts  
310 W 550 N  
Kokomo, IN 46901

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## Stockdale Mill Foundation

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The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit Indiana corporation with the purpose of preserving the Stockdale Mill. All donations are used 100% for historical preservation and restoration. We invite you to come experience what our dedicated volunteers have prepared for your visit.

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\* \* DONATION CARD \* \*

To: Stockdale Mill Foundation

Donation by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Note :

The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a 501©(3) organization, enabling donors to deduct contributions.

Stockdale Mill Foundation  
c/o Dwight Fouts  
310 W 550 N  
Kokomo, IN 46901  
(765) 457-9507  
[mill@eelrivertraders.com](mailto:mill@eelrivertraders.com)

[www.stockdalemill.org](http://www.stockdalemill.org)  
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